

## **-Info-Public Service Commission**

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**From:** Valkyrie Publications <valkyriepub@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 7:20 PM  
**To:** -Info-Public Service Commission  
**Subject:** Request for public hearing on Glacier Ridge Wind Farm

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To the Public Service Commission:

I am writing to request a public hearing on the Glacier Ridge wind farm that is planned for Barnes County, since I am one of the neighbors affected by the wind farm who were not informed about it. As I understand, another neighbor, LeRoy Triebold, did not know about the project until April 16. I did not know about it until \*May\* 16, when I read about it in The Forum. Surely all the people who live near enough to be affected by the project's light, noise, and visual pollution have a right to have their opinions heard.

Personally, I am very unhappy with the project because of the light pollution, noise pollution, and visual pollution of the landscape. The wind farm near Ashtabula is ablaze with red lights at times, but is tolerable because of its distance. Dozens of similar lights only two miles away would be very hard to tolerate: they would spoil what is left of the dark skies here, where we can now see virtually all stars and the Milky Way. Regarding noise pollution, a longtime friend, Dennis Stillings, attempted to retire to his Barnes County family farmstead but he and his wife were tormented by constant noise from wind turbines. It would be even worse for me, because my ears were damaged years ago, probably by intravenous antibiotics, and are hurt so badly by this type of noise that if I am exposed to it I have to take Demerol for the pain. Visually, a large group of turbines spoils the beauty of the landscape, since for some reason they are designed to look like something that's intended to be launched into outer space.

There are other reasons to object to them. The project is an egregious example of corporate welfare. Even its proponents have said that it "doesn't make sense" without a government subsidy. Projects that are built for profit should not be built unless they can make the profit on their own merits. To do otherwise is robbing the taxpayers.

The wind farm would potentially raise the cost of electricity to consumers, in effect giving their money to the investors as well as the taxpayers' money. This project would rob everyone!

More wind energy is not necessary to achieving independence from fossil fuels. In fact, when solar energy is further developed, wind turbines are likely to become obsolete. Solar panels can be placed on rooftops and even parking lots, producing energy with no noise, no visual or light pollution, and no disruption of wild or farm land. The Cass County Electric Cooperative is already having great success placing solar panels with members and letting them sell their excess energy back to the Co-Op. Considering the enormous total area of rooftops in this country, solar energy, not wind energy, is the wave of the future. But once a major project like this is built, it will still impact people's lives far beyond our lifetimes.

I hope the permit for this project will eventually be denied. For the present, however, I am asking only for a public hearing so that Barnes County residents who were kept in the dark about the project will have a chance to express their opinions.

Thank you.

Shirley Starke  
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Valley City

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E-mail Comments and Request for Hearing

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