

To: Public Service Commission

Date: March 7, 2017

Regarding: PSC Case No. PU-16-775 and PSC Case No. PU-17-23

I was unable to attend the hearing on February 27, 2017 for the proposed rule changes related to wind farms. Here are my written comments relating to these changes.

I am in support of the proposed changes to Section 69-06-08-01 and Section 69-09-02-35 requiring new aircraft detection and lighting systems subject to FAA approval. It is my understanding that this will limit the amount of time that flashing lights are visible on a wind tower to only when an aircraft is approaching. I think this will greatly improve our night time skies by limiting the amount of flashing lights that are visible.

I am also in support of the proposed changes to Chapter 69-09-09 which strengthen the decommissioning requirements and requires decommissioning plans with financial assurances. I feel these changes are critical to insuring that our pristine North Dakota landscapes do not become cluttered up with obsolete structures. I also think it is very important to require the owner of the wind towers to be financially responsible for decommissioning the structures when they are no longer in operation.

I would also like to offer some additional changes to Section 69-06-08-01 subsection 2(a)(5) relating to setbacks from the property line of a nonparticipating landowner. I feel that the current requirement of one and one-tenth times the height of the turbine is not far enough. When you consider that these turbines can be up to 700 feet, a set back of 770 feet or less is not sufficient, considering these structures are more than twice the height of the North Dakota State Capitol Building. I live 30 miles south of Bismarck and the State Capitol is visible from my farm.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

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26 PU-17-23 Filed 03/07/2017 Pages: 1
Comments on proposed rules
Durant Schiermeister

26 PU-16-775 Filed 03/07/2017 Pages: 1
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