

March 8, 2017

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

Dear ND Public Service Commissioners,

We live in Southeast Burleigh County about 30 miles from Bismarck and live in the footprint of a proposed wind facility. We are very concerned the beautiful landscape of North Dakota is being overrun with wind facilities due to the excessively large federal subsidies wind energy developers are receiving.

We would like to ask your support for the proposed rule changes requiring the aircraft detection lighting systems for wind facilities and the requirement for a decommissioning plan with financial assurance prior to construction of a wind facility.

From our home, we can see the flashing lights at night of two wind facilities approximately 50 miles away. These flashing lights are a source of light pollution and visible for miles. Imagine how disturbing these constant flashing lights are when nonparticipating land owners of a wind facility are forced to live near them.

Although the new proposed rules require wind facilities to remove foundation, building and ancillary equipment to four feet, we believe all concrete should be removed and the land reclaimed as before the wind facility existed. If a land owner wants to develop a site for a building or a well, they would be unable to do so due to massive amounts of concrete. It is also unrealistic to consider the salvage value when decommissioning a wind facility. Due to the enormous size of a wind turbine, it would be extremely costly and require a great deal of labor to disassemble a wind turbine. Bonding should not only be required for decommissioning, but also to ensure financial means are available to make future improvements to existing wind farms as technology improves.

Please consider what is at stake when considering these proposed rule changes. Consider what effect this great influx of wind turbines is having upon our state, its residents, and the wildlife. When federal subsidies are no longer guaranteed, wind energy is no longer profitable, or existing wind energy technology is obsolete our state will be left with a multitude of non-functioning wind turbines littering the landscape if these wind companies are not required to bond.

Thank you for your time and attention. It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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