

Commissioners -

My name is Carole Freed. I live about 1 and a quarter miles away from this proposed project. My home is the headquarters of our family agricultural operation that has been in my family for 70 years.

I believe I am the second closest inhabitant to this plant. It's not the reason I came here to today to testify, but I do want to note that I was not provided any notice of this hearing beyond that provided to the general public. Since I can see the associated previous project from my kitchen table, it seems that maybe there is some serious problem in how this Commission requires notice be given to neighboring residents.

My land and home place have been ground zero for development in the Bakken. Candidly, I have been forced to become a thorn in the side of development in order to preserve my little piece of the American dream. It is getting harder and harder. The good fortune that happened to Western North Dakota in the form of technology to unlock the Bakken shales has been a mixed blessing for those of us who were here through the entire transition.

I used to live on the edge of nowhere - our road was on a loop that never saw more than a half dozen cars a day. Now it has a constant stream of heavy trucks. My house is on a corner so every truck is seen, heard, and felt.

I know that most of my complaints about the development are not the problem of this Commission. However, my complaints about my neighbor - today's applicant - are your responsibility. I am cynical about the ability of any state agency to rein in oil companies in North Dakota, so I will keep my comments brief and related to three topics: 1) my Health, 2) my Safety, and 3) my economic well being.

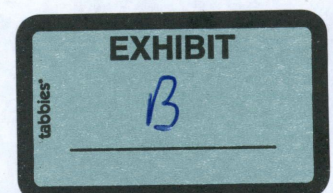
My Health -

Since the completion of the applicant's first facility to the east of me I have noted that any change in the prevailing wind will cause me to get headaches and a sore throat. I've read the air quality permit application here, but since I'm not an air quality scientist, it may as well be written in Greek. All I know is that I am having health issues as a direct result of the one facility; I can only imagine I will have more with two. I also am concerned about the effects of this facility on my livestock production. Oil booms have come and gone in North Dakota, but agriculture is our lifeblood. I do not see any analysis in the applications on what effects this will have on agricultural/livestock production.

My Safety -

Similar to my concerns about my health, this facility raises issues about my safety that I do not think are adequately analyzed in the application. First - what happens if this facility starts on fire? It is located along a road with the only ingress and egress being along that road. The only ways out are to the east and west, the lands to the south and north are mostly undeveloped and no road infrastructure exists. What happens in the event of an emergency that blocks road access to the West? It seems that the only way for emergency responders will be from the east along a long and winding route that ends to the east of Watford.

More important to me, there is no analysis of what happens in the event of a problem at the facility. No one has explained what the blast radius will be if there is an explosion at the facility. Nor is there any analysis of what fire prevention measures will be utilized. I think I am entitled to that as the adjoining landowner. None of the people involved in this project are from this area, but those of us who have been around can remember some terrible years for fires, and the thought of a grass fire running towards my home is not pleasant.



My Economic Well Being -

I read in the PSC code provisions that a factor to be considered is " Alternatives to the proposed site, corridor, or route that are developed during the hearing process and which minimize adverse effects." I have not heard much today as to why this plant is being placed where it is - along a sparsely populated road, just a few miles from the obvious industrial parks that have sprung up south of Watford City. This kind of piecemeal siting of energy facilities in Western North Dakota has the effect of maximizing the impacts on small agricultural producers. Our parents and grandparents placed their homesteads in such a way as to create a community. Now the state of North Dakota seems to be willfully throwing that sense of community away in order to accommodate huge out of state corporations. Where is the analysis as to why this facility is not sited to the southwest, next to the other gas plants? Or even further to the west near the highway, where Dakota Access and other energy producers are located. This facility is sited in the middle of an agricultural community. A look at the land ownership map will show you that there are huge contiguous land holdings completely surrounding this facility. So I guess all of the associated infrastructure to service this facility will be crammed down our throats through eminent domain and other state actions. Where is this analysis?

Finally - I note that the application to the PSC is awful light on specifics regarding road usage next to my place. The air quality application is not similarly shy. It outlines the thousands of truck trips that are going to be the ongoing reality of moving products into and out of this facility. Since the current road is a gravel road, the County will be doing all they can to accommodate these large corporations. It will all be under the banner of paving in order to help the landowners, but that line of hogwash is old and tired. Within the next year, some representative of the county will be threatening to take my land through eminent domain. This could all be avoided if you will take a long hard look at making sure that this kind of development should be sited with like kind development. I will do my part and keep my agricultural operation sited with like kind agricultural development - my neighbors.

This applicant has not acted like my neighbor and does not seem to be interested in being my neighbor. This makes me not want to be their neighbor either.

Carole Freed