

March 8, 2019

Ms. Julie Fedorchak
Public Service Commissioner

Mr. Brian Kroshus
Public Service Commissioner

Mr. Randy Christmann
Public Service Commissioner

Re: Proposed Burke Wind Industrial Wind Turbines, Burke County, ND

Dear Commissioners:

When faced with a difficult decision throughout our lives, we are told to weigh the pros and the cons and let that be what determines our decision. That only makes common sense, and here are the pros and the cons regarding this proposed project:

PROS

Money

CONS

1. **Death of Migrating and Native Birds**

The area where the Burke Wind project is proposed to be located is a main flyway for many migrating birds. I have seen with my own eyes bald eagle and golden eagle, whooping crane, swans, pelicans, hawks, geese and ducks of all kinds and many other smaller birds that migrate through the Coteau in Burke County and/or make their homes in Burke County. Why would anybody authorize industrial wind turbines to be constructed in a flyway and in and near wetlands where birds make their homes?

2. **Death of Bats**

It is a well-known fact that industrial wind turbines cause the death of many bats that are necessary to our ecosystem.

3. **Negative Impact on Wildlife**

Wildlife has been known to leave the area where industrial wind turbines are constructed.

4. **Negative Impact on Grasslands**

In the area proposed for the Burke Wind project is native northern mixed-grass prairie so unique to the Coteau that it is not found as intact



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elsewhere in most of North Dakota. Why would we want to permanently destroy these native grasslands for industrial wind turbines that could be constructed elsewhere?

5. Negative Impact on Wetlands

Even if it is unintentional, it is more than likely that the wetlands will be disturbed during construction of the industrial wind turbines, and even if they are not, all the birds and wildlife that use these wetlands will be negatively impacted by the presence of the industrial wind turbines near the wetlands both during and after the construction phase.

6. Noxious Weeds and Toxic Chemicals in Food, Water and Air

Some of the most noxious weeds gaining strength in this area are wormwood, leafy spurge and Canadian thistle. Wormwood, which can produce up to 50,000 seeds from one stem, is already an extreme problem in Burke County and anytime soil is disturbed, even just a scratch, it creates an "open wound" where noxious weeds begin to grow. Imagine the huge "open wound" that will be created if the project is approved. On the other hand, if established grasslands are left alone, it is more difficult for weeds to take hold. The more weeds, the more need for chemicals to kill them which leads to more toxins in our food supply, in our water supply and in the air we breathe. This affects both people and animals.

7. Noise Pollution and Shadow Flicker

No matter how you slice it or to what degree, there is noise pollution and shadow flicker associated with industrial wind turbines. Depending on proximity, wind direction and other factors, this can lead to loss of sleep and all sorts of health issues.

8. Health Issues

There are online testimonials and YouTube videos of many people who have experienced what it is like to live by industrial wind turbines and the health issues they are experiencing as a result. Many of these people are people who once approved of and wanted the industrial wind turbines in their neighborhoods and now regret that decision due to their health issues. All kinds of health issues have been reported from sleep deprivation being the most common all the way through and including heart problems. What kind of a home is this to bring up children in and to live in?

9. Decrease in Property Values

There are many articles online about real property having a reduction in value to being totally unsellable. Some who want to leave due to health issues from the industrial wind turbines cannot sell their homes so they are forced to just lock up their doors without receiving any remuneration for their property.

10. Safety Issues

Industrial wind turbines can cause harm to animals and people from ice that is thrown from the blades or blades breaking apart and fires.

11. Death to Our Way of Life

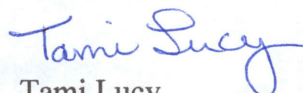
The reason we live out in this rural area of Burke County is the way of life that living in this beautiful part of North Dakota provides for us. If this project is approved, I, for one, will more than likely never see it without industrial wind turbines again in my lifetime. That is a death to our way of life.

There are many more cons to be considered such as liability, dust, wear and tear on roads, etc.

What I find so very interesting is that just about all if not all of the so-called experts who are for the project and are telling us what it is like to have and live by industrial wind turbines don't live by them and never have! Money is not everything and should not be. What should most be considered here is the fate of the Coteau in Burke County and everything it is and has to offer, not only for Burke County, but globally. It is an extremely important ecosystem, and we need unbiased people who are in authority that are willing to take a look at the facts and not approve industrial wind turbines to be constructed in Burke County due to those facts.

We need brave people in authority who are willing to stand up and say that money isn't everything and that what is most important is the preservation of this very unique part of the Coteau for all future generations. We need North Dakotans who are in authority to say no to out-of-state wind companies such as NextEra who want to come to our state and ruin our ecosystems and our way of life so they can make their wallets a lot bigger. Are we really going to allow this? As you can see, the cons far outweigh the pros, and for this reason, I ask that you do NOT approve the Burke Wind project. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tami Lucy
Burke County Resident and Landowner

24 February 2019

North Dakota PSC
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

To the North Dakota Public Service Commission:

I am writing to express my great concern and opposition to the planned NextEra *Burke Wind LLC* project in Burke County. Of all the places to site a wind farm, this ranks up there as one of the worst I have seen proposed. Please reconsider.

The project area is unacceptably close – six miles – to both a Globally Important Bird Area (Lostwood Refuge, as designated by the American Bird Conservancy and National Audubon), and a federally designated Wilderness Area (the 5577-acre Lostwood Wilderness Area). Both of these designations were made because of the exceptional high quality of the vast, native prairie and wetland habitat and associated wildlife found there. Prairie ecosystems and birds are the most threatened in North America – with prairie birds experiencing the steepest and most severe declines of any group of birds. The area where the wind farm is proposed contains some of the only remaining and best prairie habitat in the northern Great Plains.

I am a self-employed wildlife biologist who recently worked for several years conducting pre-construction surveys for wind energy companies in Montana. I also formerly worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service throughout the northern Great Plains region. I am very supportive of wind energy development, and have been pleased to participate in gathering the information necessary to determine the appropriateness of sites for wind development. I have also conducted post-construction surveys underneath turbines and picked carcasses of dead birds and bats. There are definitely *good* and *bad* places for wind farms in that respect, and the time to conduct a risk assessment is very early on in the planning. The proposed area of Burke County is NOT an appropriate place for wind development.

I received federal funding to study threatened grassland birds at Lostwood Refuge in the 1990s. This research funding was made available because so many of the prairie birds had become Species of Special Concern due to population declines from habitat loss and other sources. Several species (Sprague's pipit and Baird's sparrow) were candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Sprague's pipits ARE listed as a protected species in Canada, our neighbor to the north. These endemic species are found in only very limited areas in the U.S. anymore, due to huge declines.

In addition, federally threatened piping plovers find one of their last stronghold breeding areas in habitats in and around Lostwood Refuge. Piping plovers ARE protected under the ESA. Please be aware that Burke County is one of the dozen or

so North Dakota counties that contain designated "Critical Habitat" for piping plovers – and this proposed project would absolutely "adversely modify" this critical habitat. Piping plovers are mobile and migratory, and to place wind turbines in such an important use area for them is irresponsible. It would also add a great element of complexity to any federal permitting and administration of bird conservation planning for this site – a very expensive endeavor for wind energy companies.

Getting back to Lostwood's IBA designation, please note that there are only 720 Globally Important IBAs in the entire United States – so Lostwood is in the very top tier of bird population hotspots nationally – that is how critical this area is for breeding and migrating birds.

As you may be aware: a multitude of conservation groups and agencies have placed much emphasis over the years on protecting the Missouri Coteau prairie pothole habitats - Ducks Unlimited and ND Game and Fish, to name a couple. It is truly one of the last remaining tracts of native prairie, and sportsmen and women and other conservationists have invested much in your area over the years. Please honor what makes Burke County so special to them and protect it from this development.

I would also urge the Public Service Commission to consider the legalities of the Lostwood Wilderness Area designation, as it is a powerful federal protection, and a wind development so close by would degrade the Wilderness quality of that public land.

In closing, I believe this proposed project is not appropriate and advise the PSC to NOT allow this development to compromise Burke county's resources.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Madden
408 Overbrook Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715

FEB 15, 2019
N8386 County D
Belleville, WI.
53508

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have been spending falls on the Missouri Coteau in Montrail and Burke Co.'s for 32 years. I was drawn to the area by tales of beauty and abundant bird life. I am a professional artist (painter).

I write to urge you to deny a permit for Next Era Energy's wind generation project along the Coteau.

Geography makes this area of grasslands/wetlands a unique resource of tremendous abundance of bird life. The structures (turbines) and infrastructure (roads) would be detrimental to the populations, directly through strikes, and indirectly through disturbance/fragmentation of the habitat. The area is a major migration corridor. Many times flight patterns are low enough to be in direct line with the turbines. Besides the large numbers of waterfowl using and moving through the area, Whooping Cranes, Golden and Bald Eagles use this "Corridor" Annually.

I have come to know a number of ranch families in the area, wonderful people. This project threatens the community harmony, causes conflict between neighbors and disruption of a way of life. Just the increase in road use is disruptive.

Wind energy is becoming a way to generate electricity. Siting of such projects is often a reason for strong opposition. Wind generation does not belong on the Missouri Coteau. Again, please deny this permit

Sincerely Jonathan Wilde -

March 8, 2019

Ms. Julie Fedorchak
Public Service Commissioner

Mr. Brian Kroshus
Public Service Commissioner


Mr. Randy Christmann
Public Service Commissioner

Re: Proposed Burke Wind Industrial Wind Turbines

Dear Commissioners:

I am against the Burke Wind project and ask that you do NOT approve it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Lucy
Burke County Landowner

March 8, 2019

Ms. Julie Fedorchak
Public Service Commissioner

Mr. Brian Kroshus
Public Service Commissioner

Mr. Randy Christmann
Public Service Commissioner

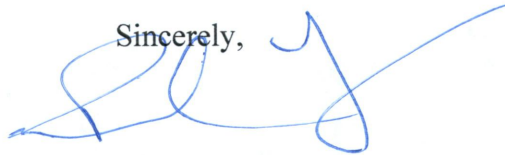
Re: Proposed Burke Wind Industrial Wind Turbines

Dear Commissioners:

I am against the Burke Wind project and ask that you **deny** NextEra's request to construct industrial wind turbines in Burke County, North Dakota.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RL', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raymond Lucy
Burke County Landowner

Feb. 20, 2019

Attn: PSC

Burke Co. Wind Project

We winter in AZ
^{take} & unable to attend
the March 8 meeting
in Bowbells.

We strongly oppose
this wind tower
project. We own land
in Burke Co. & make
our home in Larson,
N.D. We feel that
a big percentage of
the people that are
in favor of the project
do not live in Burke Co.

OR even in N.D. They
are not affected by
this project + are
only looking at the
money they will make.

We would really
appreciate a vote
against this project.
Our planning + zoning
committee voted 5-1
against it after their
hearing.

Then our 3 Co. Comm.
all voted for it +
ignored the vote
of the planning comm.

Elizabeth + Bob
Casteel

February 28, 2019

Dear Public Commission,

Since I first laid eyes on the land around Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge twenty years ago, it has been a sanctuary for me. Throughout the weeks, months and glorious seasons I have visited the Coteau, its beauty never ceases to amaze me. I wonder at the rolling prairie hills, endless pristine sky and countless wild things that we so lack back in the Midwest.

Now that I am older, I am delighted to be able to bring my husband to admire the jaw-dropping beauty and serenity of this landscape. We come every autumn and revel in this precious remnant prairie ecosystem and migratory flyway. We cherish every sunrise and sunset that we are blessed enough to witness while we are here. We eat our meals outdoors, surrounded by loved ones and a grouping of local ranchers that we have become to hold so dear. It is during these moments that a sense of great calm and rejuvenation washes over you as the expansive open sky goes on forever in its brilliant rainbow of pinks, oranges and blues.

Each year, after driving hours from Wisconsin to get to our final destination near Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge, we both sit up and ogle in rapt attention at the landscape as the populous fades and the prairie takes over. We grin at each other as the sky and rolling hills unfold before us. We comment on the beauty of the mixed grasses, the prairie potholes and the waterfowl that is so abundant at that time of year. Every single time, the radio goes off and we admire the creation that is this magnificent, largely untouched landscape.

Last year, after having heard of the potential for wind power on the Coteau the preceding year, we drove away with heavy hearts. Would we ever set eyes on such a magnificent spectacle again? Or was it doomed to be tainted by further, and this time vertical, development? When I first heard of the prospective wind power project in our beloved corner of the world that we, as family, hold so dear, my heart stopped beating. It was with tremendous sadness that we learned of the horrendous ramifications of such an invasive project. The catastrophic effects of building such incongruent and foreign machines on wildlife, birds in particular in the migratory flyway, is atrocious. The consequences of destroying the pristine, glorious, unending horizon are unimaginable. One has a sense that it would change everything about this land that. It would alter not only the integrity of the land, but the culture of the ranchers and farmers who are blessed to call this land home, as well as the basis for their livelihood.

I feel it would be a tragedy to erect massive, undulating metal machines and scatter them across the vast, exquisitely open vistas that the Coteau provides. The sky and contrasting, ancient prairie with its hardy flora and fauna are extremely beautiful and to be cherished for the present and future. There is untold value in the glory of such an ecosystem of which precious few remnants go undeveloped. As I am in my mid-30's and live in a densely populated area of the country, the importance of protecting one of the last few intact, sparsely populated and truly wild ecosystems is paramount. If, as a society, we turned our eye towards the future, it is clear that preserving the land for future generations holds precedence over immediate monetary gain.

My family looks forward to many more happy drives west on which we hope to be greeted by prairie, open sky and nothing in between. The smiles on our faces and sighs we emit driving into Burke County is one of the highlights of our year. Wind power would destroy those precious moments for us, which is minutiae compared to the horrendous implications it would have on the land, the wildlife and the people that make up this magnificent slice of heaven.


EMMA MALLON

Elaine Rhode
9340 Strutz Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

March 7, 2019

North Dakota Public Service Commissioners Ms. Julie Fedorchak,
Mr. Brian Kroshus, and Mr. Randy Christmann

Re: Proposed Burke Wind, LLC

Dear Commissioners:

I support renewable energy as vital to the future of our Nation and our planet. But wind turbines must be installed in the right place so as not to take one step forward and two steps back by destroying irreplaceable natural resources.

In my dozens of visits to area targeted for the Burke Wind Project, I am in constant awe of the richness of the land – from the prairie plants to wildlife it still supports in greater numbers and diversity than I've seen in my travels to other continents.

I hope you, too, can see the special gift North Dakota has in its unique Coteau country and move to deny Burke Wind LLC access and suggest it finds lands where there will be less detrimental impacts to the irreplaceable natural resources of North Dakota. That would be a true and forward-thinking public service decision for future generations.

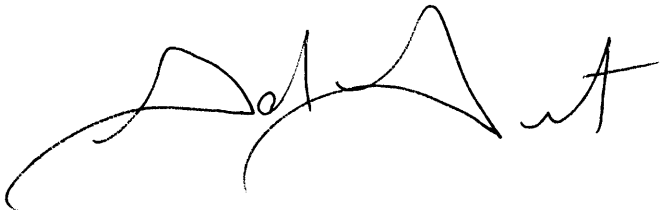
Thank you.

Elaine Rhode

ND PSC

My name is Galen Grote. I am writing this letter due to the fact I can not attend public hearing. I live in Thorson Township Burke County and actively ranch. I am NOT in favor of the proposed wind project in Burke County.

1. This project will adversely affect my way of living because it will be almost impossible for USDA Wildlife services to use an airplane to effectively control the predator problem we have during calving. The airplane flies a large area in a grid pattern searching for predators. Once spotted the plane will fly low quickly and humanely dispatching the predator. If these towers are built, it will put an end to the control of predators and that will negatively affect my income and way of life, not only for me but my wife and two daughters.
2. Micro Climate drying effects have been proven caused by interrupted wind currents. This will also adversely affect my way of living, because cattle need grass and crops to eat and live.
3. This area of Burke County is located in the heart of the Prairie Pothole Region. It is the nursery for over 50% of North America's waterfowl. Surveys show that a single square mile of marsh can support 140 ducks. These towers and industrialization of the Prairie Pothole Region will adversely affect the waterfowl production in this area.
4. Once a 500' plus tall tower is placed on a hill at an elevation of 2500, that tower is now over 3000' feet tall. The landscape and viewscape is now permanently lost.
5. Wind power is unstorable and unreliable. Utilities must cycle electrical generation facilities at all times to back up the nonreliable wind power.
6. Wind power can NOT stand on its own without the high percentage of federal and state subsidies.
7. These wind farms have torn communities apart. Neighbors have turned against each other. It's happening in Burke County.
8. The Burke County Planning and Zoning Commission had voted AGAINST the proposed wind project.
9. Traditional electric plants continually run to provide power whether the wind is blowing or not, still have payroll, maintenance costs and other associated expenses. Waste of money and time.
10. Wind towers, substations, extra transmission lines must be built which means land taken out of production.
11. Studies have shown wind towers adversely affect weather radars. Wind towers can lead misidentification of thunderstorm features and erroneous characterizations.
12. Paying for our electrical power twice. First with the extraordinary amount of tax money going to subsidize wind companies and the second paying for the use of the power.



3-7-19

3/5/2019

To whom it may concern, My name is Scott Grote.

I am against the proposed wind towers in Burke County,ND for the following reasons.

1. My first reason is the BULLYING. Everything a person sees or reads on the news is how to stop bullying. Wind tower companies seduce people to sign a lease. If the company does not get their way they bully their way in with court action. This very thing is going on near Bismarck,ND in Burleigh county.
2. This company has went so far to sue an individual for calling them a name which pretty much sent this individual in poverty.
3. I do not believe the tower companies should have the right to put a lien on the landowners property. This has happened in New York. Pipeline companies do this as it is listed on my abstracts of my property.
4. The landowner can be held responsible for damage to the wind tower and responsible for the dismantling when the company goes bankrupt or the tower has lived its life.
5. At times I use an aerial crop sprayer. Aerial crop sprayer will not spray a whole field with wind towers on them and sometimes not any of a field if there are several towers close by.
6. I have talked to the predator control person the flies to take care of predators. He stated he will not fly anything that has a tower with 3-5 miles. Predator control is a big thing in a livestock producing community.
7. I read from wind companies how "green" their energy is. This might be true after the tower is producing but the carbon footprint is huge getting it to production.
8. I have seen this personally. Land values with a wind easement or tower on it has about 25% less value.
9. The money wind companies pay landowners is not always what they are told. All of my friends that have towers have never been paid what the contract states.
10. Despite what the companies say this is not good for the community. I have seen several counties broken apart across the state of North Dakota.

11. Pitting neighbors against neighbors to the point they never talk or help each other again.
12. North Dakota is an AG state. Every tower that is put up is a little less production for the farmer and county.
13. Crop production problems as stated by ND Ag Commissioner. Wind towers can produce unnatural wind currents the can prevent crops from pollinating devastating yield.
14. Wind companies always say they have X amount of landowners in favor for the project. Although this may be true the majority of the landowners live outside of the state. I farm land near McGregor and my landlord lives in Washington. She fought hard to get towers on her property but thankfully they did not come.
15. Wind towers block "over the air" TV signal. I perfect example is the people near McGregor that had "over the air" TV lost their signal when the towers south of McGregor were operational. The signal go in and out as the blades turn. These are elderly people and can not afford a TV subscription.
16. This area of North Dakota is a major flyway for water fowl for the US for up to 20 species of waterfowl. These towers could disrupt the natural flyway for these birds.

Scott Swoti