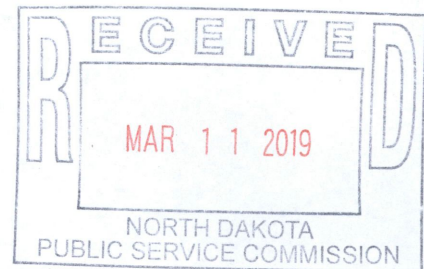


Public Service Commission
Energy Conversion Facility Siting Criteria
Rulemaking
Case No. PU-19-36



Citizen Comment:

I wish to make my comments known to the Public Service Commission that I strongly oppose removing prime farmland, unique farmland, and irrigated land from consideration in the siting criteria for energy conversion facilities.

The siting criteria current in place is to protect North Dakota's limited forest and fauna from exploitation from outside interests. These out of state interests pray on financially strapped farmers to sign away productive farmland for unrealistic land lease agreements of 50 years and more. They encourage landowners to strip the land of any landscape and cover, drain and plow under natural prairie potholes and nesting areas for the promise of a few dollars.

Maintaining and strengthening siting criteria is crucial to guarantee property values and the health and wellbeing of neighbors and the working relations they have with each other.

My concern is a proposed wind turbine farm planned for northwest Cass County. The farm is to include four townships (Ayr, Rich, Empire, and Erie) or 144 square miles of "prime farmland". Geronimo Energy, a Minnesota based company, is behind this boondoggle. 31 sections of land have already been signed up for a 67 year land lease. Conditional use permits have not been issued by township boards and many of those board members have conflicts of interest as they have signed up their own land for direct benefit. In my township alone (Rich) I have witnessed tree claim after tree claim being removed. Prairie potholes drained, burned and plowed under to increase land area. Natural drainage rerouted to benefit participating landowners while harming others. SODAR units and testing towers dot Rich and Ayr township. The landscape has an unnatural sickly look about it. Waterfowl once abundant in the spring is all but gone short of a duck or two. Daily raptor sightings gone also. Pollinator counts over the last two years are down sharply and detected in lower yields of harvested fruits and vegetables.

Expressing my concerns about the project to Geronimo Energy, I was advised, "the PSC would approve the site because of their great record with them" and told by one of their officials to "enjoy my view of the array from my patio".

Energy Conversion Facility Siting Criteria should also include protecting individuals from their neighbors as the promise of dollars has clouded their minds with greed and self-preservation.

I encourage the PSC to adopt stricter rules that requires any such facilities to be:

at least one mile from a nonparticipating landowner.

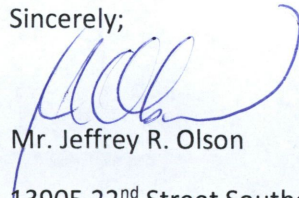
dba levels at one mile should be required to be under 30 dba.

Low level noise at one mile should be kept within medical acceptable levels.

Any property devaluation issues caused by such facilities are the sole liability of the participating landowner and the injured property owner has a right to sue for treble damages.

North Dakota is turning into an eyesore; a wasteland by out of state interests under the guise of tax relief and economic prosperity. The PSC has a duty to protect and prevent that.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Olson", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr. Jeffrey R. Olson

13905 22nd Street Southeast

Page, ND 58064