



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR, REGION VIII
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY OFFICE- WESTERN
US CUSTOM HOUSE
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March 22, 2019

Steve Kahl
Interim Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Department 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480
ndpsc@nd.gov

Subject: Comment Letter PU-19-36 Section 69-06-08-01 – Energy Conversion Facility Siting Criteria

As the Department of Defense (DOD) Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8, I am responsible for coordinating Armed Services responses to environmental policies and regulatory matters and ensuring our State partners are informed of any impacts to military operations that that might result from proposed legislation or regulation. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to share our feedback on the North Dakota Public Service Commission's Notice of Intent to Amend Administrative Rules under Section 69-06-08-01 (Case No. PU-19-36). Specifically, I am writing to ensure safety concerns at Minot Air Force Base (AFB) are taken into consideration as you consider revisions to your facility siting criteria.

The State of North Dakota and the Public Service Commission have always made an effort to take the mission at Minot AFB seriously and accommodate the unique land use and air space concerns that come with maintaining and securing our missile facilities. The State demonstrated its commitment to our concerns when it memorialized the 1,200 foot setback requirement for our launch control facilities and the 30ft electronic interference setback in its siting criteria in order to protect Minot AFB launch facilities from incompatible development. Because you are considering amending the criteria at this time we thought it was a good opportunity to inform you of the growing safety concerns associated with the close proximity of wind turbines to our launch facilities and request that while amending the criteria, you add the requirement to: (1) consult with affected military installations; and (2) clarify the 1,200 foot setback from launch facilities be measured from the end of the turbine blade rather than the tower.

The need to consult directly with our affected installations is critical given the sensitive nature of the mission, the emerging technologies and equipment used at our military installations and the hazards posed by the growth of the turbine industry in a terrain that is

regularly used by our helicopters to provide overhead security in sensitive locations in often dangerous weather conditions. Representatives from Minot AFB attended the March 13 2019 hearing outlining concerns related to the proposed rule. We appreciated your incorporation into the final rule the comments in this letter and those expressed by representatives of Minot AFB during the March 13, 2019 hearing.

DOD remains committed to partnering with the North Dakota Public Service Commission to ensure the safety of our missile fields and integrity of our mission. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our concerns in writing and participate in your public hearing. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Kevin Ward at kevin.m.ward@usace.army.mil or at 303.844.0955.

Sincerely,



Mark Mahoney
Department of Defense
Regional Environmental Coordinator,
Region 8