

Public Service Commission
600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Brian Kroshus, Chairman
Randy Christmann, Commissioner
Julie Fedorcek, Commission

This letter is in reference to Case # PU-19-376 and Case # PU-19-377, Northern Divide Wind LLC. NextEra Energy Resources, LLC/Burke Wind LLC was denied a wind farm in Burke County in June of 2019. The PSC cited the project's environmental impact as the reason. The primary reason was concerns voiced by US Fish and Wildlife and ND Game and Fish. They stated, "There could not be a worse location for a wind farm."

Now here we are again...what's changed? Well NextEra has a new name, Northern Divide Wind LLC, and they moved the project over a few miles, and YES, they have been busy. Lots of money, lots of promises and lots of pressure.

Here's what hasn't changed.

1. This is still the "Prairie Pothole Region".
2. This is still a GLOBALLY important migratory corridor.
3. This area still provides CRITICAL HABITAT for almost 200 migratory bird species including the Piping Plover and Whooping Crane that are threatened or endangered.
4. This is still a rare globally protected area with programs implemented by Canada, the US and Mexico. The NAFTA now USMCA and NABCI (North American Bird Conservation Initiative) agreement is committed to protecting and restoring habitats of migratory birds.
5. Wind turbines kill birds from golden eagles to migratory song birds
6. Studies CLEARLY show that grassland nesting birds and waterfowl avoid habitats in the vicinity of wind turbines.
Out of 9 species of grassland birds;
 - a. 7 species showed displacement
 - b. 7 species showed 76% negative immediate effects
 - c. 7 species showed 88% delayed effects
 - d. 5 species showed increased avoidance over a five year study
 - e. Grassland species showed greater effects in a 2-5 year time period indicating that effects accumulate over time.
7. Wind turbines don't make money, they do however transfer money from taxpayers to wealthy farm owners. NextEra is one of the five top recipients of federal grants and tax credits.
8. Wind power is not environmentally friendly because a coal powered and natural gas plant must be kept on backup to compensate when it's calm. These plants create carbon emissions reducing the environmental benefit of wind. Transmission lines in Texas cost state taxpayers \$7 billion dollars.
9. This area was previously denied because of the potential negative impact to prairie and wetland wildlife species, did NextEra convince you otherwise. Does PSC's "NO" mean maybe?
10. NextEra believes they have adequately mitigated. NextEra does not support the Game and Fish departments' collaboration effect. NextEra's representative Dr. SuedKamp Wells stated that the PSC is not required to accept and follow the recommendation provided by the Game and Fish and furthermore does not believe that the facts justify their guidelines.

YOU have the power to join NextEra and change a beautiful rare prairie ecosystem into an Industrial Zone. What legacy are you leaving our children? Please vote "NO" to NextEra's Northern Divide Wind project.
Happy Earth Day, Sharon Anderson, 8524 Hwy 50, Powers Lake, ND 58773