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APR 23 2020

Public Service Commission

April 19, 2020

Brian Kroshus Julie Fedorche Randy Christmann

NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Burke County the Burke County Planning and Zoning Commission (Zoning) meets one hour prior to the Burke County Commissioners (BCC) meeting as one of the three BCC is chairman of the zoning.

On June 18, 2019, approximately 8am, a letter of notice was given to three of the six members of the zoning that their terms were up. Each member represents a different part of Burke County. The three were each asked if they would take the appointed position again and each verbally responded, yes. In the past, a verbal question and response had always been enough.

An hour later, after the adjournment of the zoning, when the BCC met, they appointed a person who had been asked to submit a resume, the same one who had signed an "Option and Transmission Easement" with Burk Wind, L.L.C.. The other two positions were uncontested as no one else was contacted.

To clarify, only one of the expiring positions was actively pursued to be replaced. The

reason, he was told, was that "he spoke up too much and asked too many questions".

I am not opposed to wind energy, but am opposed to the siting of such in a major flyway.

A detour on a highway can be managed, a detour in a flyway cannot.

In conclusion, I feel there has been an undercurrent within Burke County politics to purposely place into positions those who will push through the agenda for wind farms regardless of facts or fact findings

Arlo Griesbach

Arlo Griesbach
(701) 705-5790

PO Box 96

Powers Lake ND 58773-0096

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I have some questions in reference to the "facilitating native grass land and wetland restoration activities on private land."

- 1) Where is the location in the Northern Missouri Coteau?
- 2) If not completed in a timely manner by the "turn-key" offset provider, will there be a penalty, a fine?
- 3) In creating a pothole, for example, what other land will be disturbed such as roads etc.?
- 4) Who, besides NextEra, will be overseeing this project for compliance?

Also I have concerns on the timing of this project. If approved by the PSC, NextEra will be bringing in workers from other states who will not be quarantined. Burke County has been fortunate to have only two COVID-19 positive testings. As a first responder, I am concerned with a possible outbreak such as the one in Grand Forks at the wind factory. Is the PSC willing to take responsibility for rushing a decision on a non-essential project?

I still feel the online hearing April 17, 2020

was not a fair way to hold a public hearing. I, as well as others, were not able to view the hearing and my phone did not have good reception.

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