

April 23, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Julie Fedorchak
Public Service Commissioner

Mr. Brian Kroshus
Public Service Commissioner

Mr. Randy Christmann
Public Service Commissioner

Re: Proposed Industrial Wind Turbines in Burke County, ND – Round 2
(Northern Divide)

Dear Public Service Commissioners:

This is a follow-up to my comments called in on Friday, April 17, 2020 to you, the Public Service Commission and some of your comments.

You, the Public Service Commissioners, unanimously denied NextEra's Burke County Round 1 industrial wind turbine application for many reasons, but as I understand it, one of the main reasons was because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended that NextEra relocate the project entirety¹ and the North Dakota Game and Fish made it abundantly clear that NextEra "*could not have picked a worse spot in the state*"² with respect to potential negative impacts to prairie and wetland wildlife species. Let me repeat that because I think it is very important. NextEra could not have picked a worse spot in the state and the project should have been relocated in its entirety. So what has changed? The better question is what hasn't changed. The project was not relocated in its entirety, and it is still in the worst spot in the state for industrial wind turbines to be constructed. Just because they moved a few turbines around does not change the fact that they still want to construct industrial wind turbines in a major migration flyway. The birds will be negatively impacted as well as the wildlife, the grasslands, possibly the wetlands and last but certainly not least, the people. So what has changed? Nothing really. They still did not relocate the project in its entirety. I know after I provided my comments on the phone that Commissioner Fedorchak stated something to the effect that the agency had somewhat walked this back. I did find a letter on the PSC website from the ND Game and Fish where, as I understand it, they indicated that NextEra has mitigated to some extent the damage that will be caused if these are constructed. **However, I could not find a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the PSC website which says to me that that agency still believes that the project should be relocated in its entirety.** Sometimes what is not said speaks louder than what is, and I feel that this is the case. **Why did NextEra not get a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approving Round 2 of the project?**

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service November 25, 2018 letter attached to the March 6, 2019 letter to the ND Public Service Commission and NextEra

² Letter to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to the ND Public Service Commission dated March 7, 2019

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I watched with interest the piece regarding the men who were trying to make sure that if this project is approved that a certain percentage of people working on this project would be hired from ND. Some of the comments by Commissioner Christmann made it sound as if that should be taken up with Job Service or the Department of Labor. However, we all know that if it is not indicated in the application or supporting documents that NextEra will not be bound by it. Why would it not be a good idea to include that they have to provide proof of the number of North Dakotans interviewed for the positions, and if they were not hired, why not? Why do we want laborers from other states if people in our own state could fill those positions and need the work especially since the oil field has laid off many and coronavirus has ended many jobs?

If approved, I understand NextEra plans to start constructing these monstrosities in less than a month, probably sooner than that. I find it very interesting that North Dakotans returning to the state are supposed to quarantine for 14 days before going out in public, but that NextEra's workers can come from all over the country without any quarantining whatsoever. This could spread COVID-19 all over Burke County, not to mention the entire state. There are many people who live in this county who are over the age of 65, the most vulnerable age group, and we know COVID-19 also kills babies and anyone in between.

The decision you make could negatively impact us for many decades, some of us for the rest of our lives, and our next generations. Since NextEra did not relocate the project in its entirety, I ask that you **deny** NextEra's application for Round 2 of industrial wind turbines in Burke County. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tami Lucy

Tami Lucy
Burke County Resident and Landowner

[Signed copy to be sent by mail.]