

Case No. PU-19-376

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APR 27 2020

North Dakota P S C ;

NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

My name is Emmet O'Neil. I live on section 26 of Harmonious Township. [161-94] I have ranched here for 50 years.

In 2016, I along with my brother and 3 sisters signed a wind farm lease with Nextera covering our property in Harmonious and Thorson Townships of Burke County.

We learned that the NDG&F would not allow towers on prairie so most of our land was off limits.

In the Burke Wind Farm project we were to have 6 towers all on tillable ground. These were all abandoned in the Northern Divide project to satisfy the NDG&F.

Throughout these hearings we have all heard the NDG&F claim that the prairie in this area was too valuable for wildlife, to put wind towers on. Before we signed the wind lease, right up to today, the NDG&F has been playing an active part in destroying our prairie. We are bordered by 4 ¾ miles of leafy spurge infested ground [with no control] that the NDG&F has enrolled in their PLOTS program. I blame their birds and animals for spreading this onto our land. Wind towers would not destroy our ground, leafy spurge does.

In the hearings the NDG&F compared this area to another area. This area had many more wetlands and many more nesting ducks than the other area. They did not make it known that this part of the state was under unprecedented flooding starting in 2011.

The enclosed picture is a 2016 Google image of diamond willow trees planted by Chistine Olesen on her homestead. These trees lived for over 100 years and died in 2011. 2011 and 2012 editions of the Burke County Tribune and The Journal from Crosby document this flooding well.

The last few days make it clear Burke County needs a diversification of income and jobs. I believe the PSC should permit the wind farm, but remove the agreement between Nextera and NDG&F and welcome future development of wind farms in Burke County.

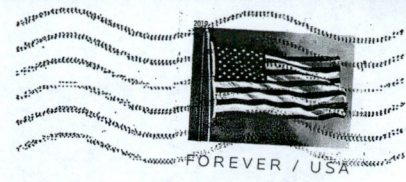
Emmet O'Neil
9798 92nd St NW
Columbus ND 58727

Sincerely,



Emmet O'Neil
9799 92nd ST NW
Columbus ND 58727

BISMARCK ND 585
23 APR 2020 PM 1 T



Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 408
Bismarck N.D. 58505-0480

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