

Hamre, John G.

From: Eberl, Stacy L.
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:03 AM
To: Hamre, John G.
Subject: FW: Meeting about wind farm placement in Burke county

John, please docket the comments below for PU-19-376 and PU-19-377. Thanks!

From: Nicholas Burau <nickbminot@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 1:40 AM
To: -Info-Public Service Commission <ndpsc@nd.gov>
Subject: Meeting about wind farm placement in Burke county

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed wind farm placement in the area of my family's farm in Burke County. I believe the land description for the portion I own a part of is "Burke County, Keller Township: S 1/2 of NW 1/4 Sec 23-T162-R93; SE 1/4 of NW 1/4, S 1/2 of NE 1/4, NE 1/4 of NE1/4 of S28-162-94; NW 1/4 of Sec 22-T162-R94W, SE 1/4 of Sec 22-T162-R94W, NW 1/4 of Sec 27-T162N-R94W".

Before I start with my criticism I wanted to say that I am not against the idea of renewable energy being a large part of our economy. I look forward to a day when we no longer have to burn hydrocarbons to power our lives. I welcome companies to come to our state and help us take advantage of the natural resources we have as long as they do it in a respectful way.

What I don't like though, is companies coming in and looking to take advantage of us as we have seen the energy sector do for over a century now. Anyone that has been in the Columbus or Noonan area has surely seen the spoil piles or "mine hills" from the old coal mines. As far as I know, this was the first round of energy that came to take advantage of us. They took their profits and didn't clean up after themselves. After that was a couple rounds of oil production from the 60's to the 80's. These people also took their profits and left behind broken cable, pipes, and many other forms of trash. Everyone should remember the latest round of oil production that came through just in the last few years. This group of people has followed the same pattern of taking their profits and leaving behind a mess. This time it has taken the form of abandoned man camps, piping, wrecked vehicles, trash, an unknown amount of destruction of natural habitat by "waste water", and basements full of used radioactive well "socks". Everyone should be able to see that this is a long standing problem that continues to be the result of shady energy companies coming into our community.

NextEra originally contacted my parents and provided them a contract to sign. I was initially excited about it and after talking it over with them we all agreed they should take it to a lawyer to make sure it was as good as the representative made it sound. He pointed out several areas that we found unacceptable. He pointed out sections about the landowner not being able to publicly speak out against NextEra once the contract was signed, not be free to make modifications to their property such as planting of trees or modifications to buildings, a lack of studies and provisions for the local wildlife, and a lack of planning and funds to clean up the installation sites when the contract comes to a close.

Looking into it I found the portions the lawyer pointed out about not being able to publicly speak out against NextEra after signing the contract have been used in some incredibly distasteful ways, both here in North Dakota and elsewhere. While I was unable to attend the recent meeting in Bowbells, my father did. He relayed to me how one of the NextEra proponents used the fact that nobody that has signed the contract has spoken out as an argument in favor of passing of the proposal to allow them to continue their plans to install the wind generators. With only a small amount of research you can also see where they've used this in many other communities such as the one in [this article](#).

Continuing to look into NextEra I found a startling amount of suspicious goings on. They have things that look like legal bribes to Ducks Unlimited as shown [here](#). They have engaged in this same behavior at a much larger level than just what we see in our state. In [this article](#) you can see how NextEra and other energy companies have used this tactic to influence public opinion, change policy, and make more money. They also are not beneath using influence they have in congress to get their way as shown [here](#) where a member of the Senate is using his position to boost their profits and his own.

I also found that NextEra seems to have made a habit of bringing legal action against anyone that tries to prevent them from building what they want where they want to build it. [This article](#) shows where they were planning a wind farm and when they were denied they sued the township. [This article](#) shows several more instances of similar behavior as does [this article](#), [this article](#), and [this one](#).

There are also numerous articles about how NextEra and subsidiaries have issues with long term energy project such as their nuclear plants. [This article](#) and [this one](#) discusses how they are not looking after their Seabrook plant and [this article](#) claims they were doing a poor job at their St. Lucie Nuclear Plant. [This article](#), [this one](#), and [this one](#) show that their Turkey Point nuclear plant has leaked an unknown amount of salt and dangerous chemicals into the surrounding environment.

The point in bringing up all of these things is to show that these people are cut from the same cloth as the ones that have taken advantage of our community so many times now. I request you do what you can to stop them from coming in and continuing the same cycle of abuse that my community has endured for over a century now.

Thank you for your time,

Nicholas Bureau

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