

April 11, 2020

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

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

We have been anticipating news of the upcoming public hearing regarding the proposed Northern Divide Wind project. After Governor Burgum's announcement of an executive order regarding the use of online meetings, we have seen the notice now appear on the PSC calendar, as an online hearing.

Our strong opposition to an online meeting exists for the following reasons:

All concerned citizens should be allowed to participate in a hearing of this magnitude. This project has the potential to impact lives for many years into the future. The factors in determining whether or not to hold an online meeting should include participation by all concerned citizens, not a percentage of them. Additionally, our aged landowners are not the preferred demographic, in our opinion, as a test group for a very important event.

If the State of North Dakota has the resources to conduct this meeting with 100 percent participation, there should be a significant lead time to ensure that everyone wishing to participate can do so. This would include identifying and notification of all potential participants, as well as ensuring the proper equipment to allow participation. We do not accept that these steps are possible between now and April 17<sup>th</sup>.

It is our opinion that an internet broadcast of this type of hearing would limit testimony of the opposition side of the discussion. This inherently discriminates against the residents of Burke County.

We realize that the North Dakota Public Service Commission has the best interests of all North Dakota residents at heart. Due to the reasons we've listed here, and in our previous correspondence with your agency, and the Governor's office, we ask that you strongly consider a delay of this very important hearing, until such time that would allow complete participation, and a FAIR hearing.

Douglas Beard  
Doug Beard

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Exhibit PC13 - Douglas Beard

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