

From: lpom@venturecomm.net [<mailto:lpom@venturecomm.net>]

Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 9:41 AM

To: Eric Booth <Eric.Booth@co.hughes.sd.us>

Subject: North Bend Wind Farm Comments

Hughes County Board of Adjustment

July 22, 2022

c/o Eric Booth – Director of Planning

My wife and I are opposed to the North Bend Wind Farm Project for the following reasons.

There is a lack of proper ordinances in Hughes County to protect the citizenry.

By comparison Sully County is drafting their ordinances and here are some comparisons to those in Hughes County.

For example, ordinances being considered in Sully County;

1. The distance from the residence of the landowner on whose property the turbine is located is not less than 3000 ft or 6 times the turbine height vs Hughes County 1400 ft.
2. The distance from the occupied residences not in the wind farm is 4 miles vs Hughes County 2640 ft or ½ mile.
3. The distance from the right of way is 3000 ft or 6 times the height of the turbine vs Hughes County 1.1 times the towers height.

Hughes County ordinances do not contain any financial guarantee or bonding from the developer of the LWECS for Decommissioning. There is only a tax paid to the state each year and administered by the PUC for decommissioning, should the developer be unable to fund it. It amounts to approximately \$50,000 over a 20-year lifetime of the tower. This is not adequate to fund proper disassembly and recycling of the tower, and reclamation of the property. As per Minnesota based Xcell Energy, estimates of proper tower decommissioning and reclamation are \$400,000-\$500,000 per tower in 2019 dollars.

There is no adequate protection for wildlife like eagles, grouse and whooping cranes.

The safety zone for the federally endangered whooping cranes, in this project area, is only 2 miles, when it should be a minimum of 5 miles. This safety zone is established to protect the highly endangered whooping cranes during migration and requires the turbines to be shut down within the 2 miles of the sighting area. The 2 mile distance is not adequate enough to protect them when they travel several miles to go to feed from there resting areas. There are grouse leks located within the boundaries of the North Bend Wind Farm project area and eagles regularly migrate through and even overwinter in the immediate area. It is proven that prairie chickens and grouse will abandon their leks once turbines are installed, and eagles are the most common raptor to be killed by turbines.

Engie is a French company.

Are we going to allow a foreign company to dictate to us and control our landscape and quality of life?

There is no guarantee of who the owner of these towers will be. What if Engie sells to another foreign company or government like China? There is nothing preventing Engie from doing just that.

Human health and wellbeing.

Why does each landowner, who will have a tower on their property, have to sign a disclaimer that they will not hold Engie liable for damages from vibration, sound, flicker or electromagnetic forces? And also, within this disclaimer is the clause that the landowner cannot hold Engie liable for damages if they occur, and cannot be an opponent of the project.

The health hazards of wind turbines are so abundant that I cannot begin to explain them all here. But the biggest is Infrasound, which is the sound frequency below 20 hz. This is noise that is not audible to the human ear, but has devastating effect upon the human body. As early as 2009, the Minnesota Department of Health found that sleeplessness and headaches are the most common health hazards from nearby residents. Infrasound generated by the turbines can affect humans for many miles.

Declining property values.

It is proven that property values for properties surrounding LWECS will decline substantially. Estimates are from 12% -55% depending on the property and location. And the property value reduction extends to over 8 miles from the turbine site.

Possible increased electric rates for local consumers.

See attachment Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections, February 2022.

Visual Impact.

We must protect our quality of life and the serenity here in central SD. Tourists and hunters from across the world come here to enjoy what the local residents cherish, but sometimes take for granted. We cannot let this foreign company destroy our landscape. The pittance of tax revenue generated by this project does not begin to pay for the loss of the quality of life, not only for the next-door neighbors to this project, but the entire citizenry of the County.

This is the single biggest issue that you will face as a member of the BOA. Your decision will either preserve the quality of life we enjoy here in central SD, or chart us into unknown consequences that will last a lifetime and could possibly burden our children and grandchildren.

You are the Judge and Jury in this case and you have the legal right to say NO. The South Dakota Supreme Court has affirmed that in their decision of Arrow Farms vs Spink County BOA.

Please VOTE NO on the North Bend Wind Farm project.

Sincerely

Leonard and Carolyn Spomer
20476 Browning Road
Pierre, SD 57501