

From: Susan Leach [<mailto:sleach51700@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Eric Booth <Eric.Booth@co.hughes.sd.us>
Subject: North Bend Wind Farm

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

Mr., Booth,

I am writing to you to ask that you deny the permit for the North Bend Wind Farm in Hughes County. As a bird lover, I see the numbers of birds that migrate through our county every year, and also the birds that stay here year-round. Flying birds and bats whose habitats or migratory paths are killed if they run into the turning blades. Wind farms do terrible damage to bird populations, and our birds are already in decline, with nearly 3 billion less birds than in 1970. We know these towers kill many birds.

In April of 2022, a subsidiary of one of the largest U.S. providers of renewable energy pleaded guilty to criminal charges and was ordered to pay over \$8 million in fines and restitution after at least 150 eagles were killed at its wind farms in eight states, according to federal prosecutors. Prosecutors said the company's failure to take steps to protect eagles or to OBTAIN PERMITS TO KILL THE BIRDS gave it an advantage over competitors that did take such steps — even as ESI and other NextEra affiliates received hundreds of millions of dollars in federal tax credits from the wind power they produced. Prosecutors also said it was likely many more eagles were killed than those whose carcasses were found. Is the company applying to build the North Bend Wind Farm going to take step to protect our eagles and hawks? Or are they going to get permits and be allowed to kill them? How can that be allowed? I strongly object to them killing eagles and hawks!

Wind farms are not totally green, either. A wind turbine comes to the end of its lifecycle after about 20 years. It is estimated that in the USA there will be more than 720,000 tons of blade material to get rid of over the next two decades. Decommissioned blades, made of a mix of resin and fiberglass, are generally not recycled. How then are they disposed of? Decommissioned blades are difficult and expensive to transport. They can be anywhere from 100 to 300 feet long and need to be cut up onsite before getting trucked away on specialized equipment. Most are then buried in landfills. Where will the blades from this project go? Who will pay for the decommissioning? I have included an image of a landfill full of blades below.

Wind energy is not alternative energy, its supplemental energy. When the wind doesn't blow, there is no production. When the anemometer registers wind speeds higher than 55 mph it triggers the wind turbine to automatically shut off. Their projected ability to produce is always higher than actual production.

Wind farms also are a blight on our landscape. I love our beautiful prairies. Wind farms ruin the view. There is nothing aesthetic about them, they are a blight on nature.

Sincerely,
Richard and Susan Leach
1114 Lakewood Dr.
Pierre, SD

