

COMMENTS RECEIVED

BY

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ON

BENT TREE WIND PROJECT

IN

FREEBORN COUNTY

PUC DOCKET NO. ET6656/WS-08-573

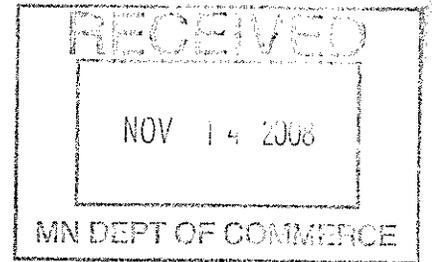
DECEMBER 5, 2008

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Katie V. Troe 27510 775 th Avenue Clarks Grove, MN 56017	Larry and Karen Ebert 29810 755 th Avenue Clarks Grove, MN 56016	Arthur Alders 29787 770 th Avenue Clarks Grove, MN 56016
Clare Vincent 26480 725 th Avenue Albert Lea, MN 56007	Karen Posthumus 76517 290 th Street Clarks Grove, MN 56016	Werner Zent 75636 270 th Street Clarks Grove, MN 56016
Cory & Colette Bauers 26500 750 th Avenue Clarks Grove, MN 56016	Alice Kluver 69020 240 th Street Albert Lea, MN 56007	Dale & Valerie Phillips 70311 300 th Street Heartland, MN 56042
Bernard G. Hagen 70286 290 th Street Hartland, MN 56042-4046	Cheryl D. Hagen 70286 290 th Street Hartland, Mn 56042-4046	Gene & Karla Tukua 71493 325 th Street Hartland, MN 56042-4118
Joshua Parks PO Box 143 107 Amsterdam Avenue East Hollandale, MN 56045	David A. Millang 72962 315 th Street Hartland, MN 56042	David & Kristine Johnson 28909 675 th Avenue Hartland, MN 56042
Ray W. Sternhagen 23513 740 th Avenue Alberta Lea, MN 56007-4772	Robert & Lori Kvenvold 73102 283 rd Street Albert Lea, MN 56007-6038	Judean & Carol Thompson 21170 775 th Avenue Albert Lea, MN 56007
Suni & Nancy Wong 28696 740 th Avenue Clarks Grove, MN 56016	Brett K. Crumb 28517 680 th Avenue Hartland, MN 56042	Louis H. Tomschin 22422 680 th Avenue Alden, MN 56009
David L. Peterson 74993 255 th Street Clarks Grove, MN 56016	Jason Jacobusse 29053 762 nd Avenue Clarks Grove, MN 56016	Jean & Bob Smith 26641 775 th Avenue Clarks Grove, MN 56016
Brian R. Wagner 79031 298 th Street Clarks Grove, MN 56016	Chris Moates District 6 Planning Director Minnesota DOT 2900 48 th Street, N.W. Rochester, MN 55901-5848	Matt Langan, Env. Planner Div.of Ecological Services Dept of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4037
Arshia Javaherian Alliant Energy Alliant Tower200 First Street SE P.O. Box, 351 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406		

The written comments received are organized from left to rights as follows:

Katie V. Troe
27510 775th Ave
Clarks Grove MN 56017
Kvtroe@juno.com 507.256.4343



Dear Mr. Larry B. Hartman,

November 12, 2008

I am writing regarding the 400 megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System, (Bent Tree Wind Project) in Freeborn County.

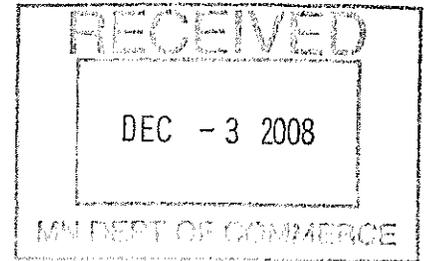
I have been researching large wind energy conversion systems/wind turbines. Based on what I have read, I would like to make a complaint about the 500 foot setback that I see in the draft permit-for review & comment. I would like to see at least a one mile setback from property lines. According to my research, 1-1.5 miles is beneficial in every way: noise, health concerns, property values, happiness of neighbors, etc. I love Minnesota and I love living here. My husband and I moved into our current home 2 1/2 years ago and we are just about done remodeling. Our home is located 1/2 mile from the gravel road. It is so quiet that we can watch wild turkeys, pheasants, coyotes and some times up to 50 deer at a time walk through our yard. I am afraid this will all change if you give a permit to Bent Tree Wind Project to build industrial wind turbines in the fields surrounding our home, especially if they are sited 500 feet from my home. I realize that sometimes we as Americans need to sacrifice our personal freedom for the better of everyone and I will try to do this, but I appeal to you to be more conservative in the site permit by requiring at least 1 mile setbacks from residential property lines. I found this quote in my research of wind turbines and will close my appeal to you for a 1 mile setback from property lines in the final draft of the Bent Tree Wind Project. "If the thousands of wind farms likely to be built in the coming decades are placed too close to homes, the industry will be faced with an echoing chorus of complaints and resistance for years to come, even if it manages to invent much quieter machines. Better to be conservative, accepting the fact that even occasional atmospheric effects should be factored in to siting decisions to day, so as to build a reservoir of good will, rather than a rising tide of complaints." acoustic ecology

Sincerely,

Katie V. Troe

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Larry & Karen Ebert
(Name)

29810 755th Ave
(Address)

Clarks Grove, MN 56016
(City, State, Zip)



Marya—

This email sounds like it should be sent to Deb's group; I'll let you make that decision.

janet

Janet Streff
Manager, State Energy Office
MN Office of Energy Security
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, #500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
www.commerce.state.mn.us
651-297-2545 tel
651-297-7891 fax

From: karen ebert [mailto:minnesotamommy@msn.com]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2008 3:20 PM

To: Janet Streff

Subject:

Please listen to us!!!!

It seems to me that not many people even care about the health of their fellow neighbor which will be greatly affected by the

"Bent Tree Wind Project" proposal when it goes through.

(P U C Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573)

The proposed setback requirements for the turbine placement as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe! I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family, and my neighbors. Because of this I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

I ask that you would please take a minute to step back, look objectively and see what the following links also have to say on the safety of wind turbines.

Sources of information:

Windaction.org

Windturbinesyndrome.com

Windfarms.wordpress.com

Savewesternny.org

Savewesternoh.org

I know we don't stand much of a chance against big business and the state of MN. But I wish someone cared enough to listen.

I don't relish the thought of becoming just another statistic that no one cares about.

Please help.

Karen Ebert

29810 755th Ave

Clarks Grove, MN 56016

507 - 256-4462

Get more done, have more fun, and stay more connected with Windows Mobile®.
[See how.](#)

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

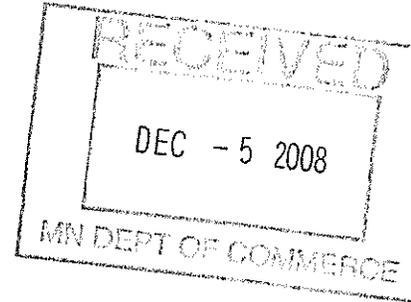
Arthur Alden
(Name)

29787 770 Ave
(Address)

Clarks Grove, MN
(City, State, Zip) 56016

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

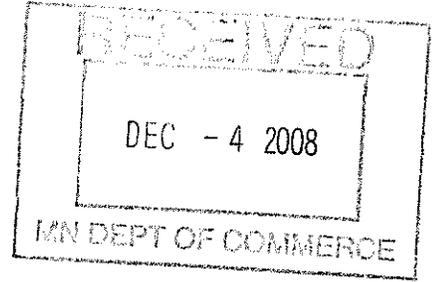
Clare Vincent
(Name)

36480 725 Ave
(Address)

Albert Lea Minnesota 56007
(City, State, Zip)

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

** Please consider my family too.*

Karen Posthumus
(Name)

76517 290th St.
(Address)

Clarks Grove, MN
(City, State, Zip) 56016

*Dear Mr. Hartman,
We are a family with 3 daughters. Our 12 year old girl suffers from chronic daily headaches. This is already challenging to live with and we do not want any possibility of increasing the number of migraine headaches. I beg for the minimum of a 1 mile setback. Currently we are 2 miles from the nearest turbine as proposed and we are still in the marked decibal range area. Thank you*

...it be even further.

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

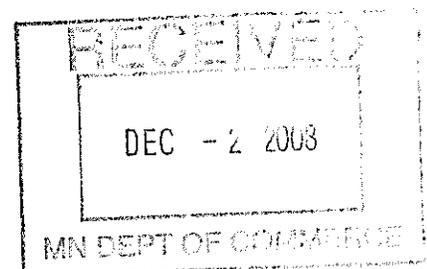
Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Werner Jant
(Name)

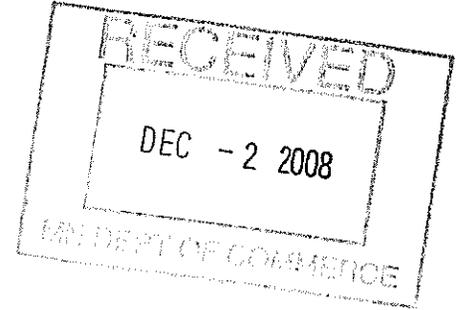
75636-270 St
(Address)

Clark Grove Mn.
(City, State, Zip) 56016



11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

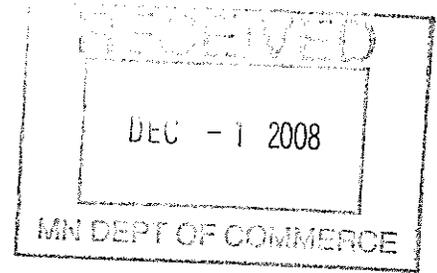
Cory and Colette Bowers
(Name)

26500 75th Ave.
(Address)

Clarks Grove, MN 56016
(City, State, Zip)

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Alice Kluver
(Name)

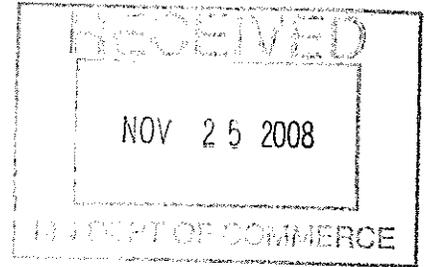
69020 240th St.
(Address)

Albert Lea, MN 56007
(City, State, Zip)

507 826 3380 - Home phone.

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Dale Phillips
(Name)

70311 300th St
(Address)

Hartland, MN 56042
(City, State, Zip)

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

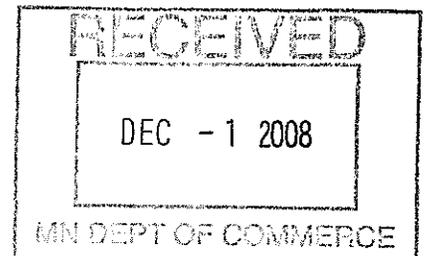
Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Bernard S. Hager
(Name)

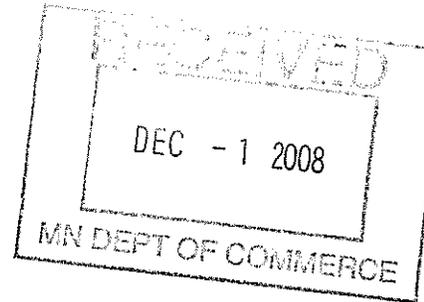
70286 290th St
(Address)

Hartland MN 56042
(City, State, Zip)



11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

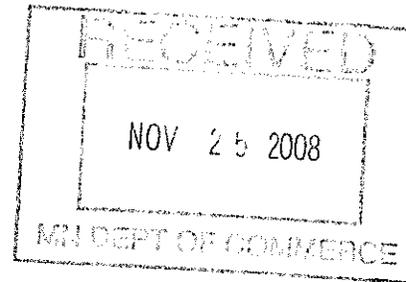
Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Cheryl D. Hagen
(Name)

70286-290th St.
(Address)

Hartland, MN 56042-4046
(City, State, Zip)



11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

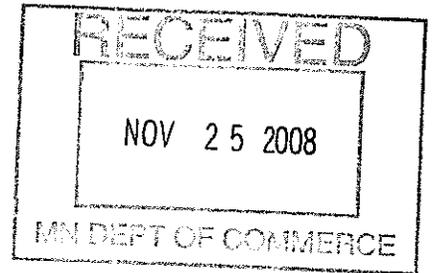
Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Hene Tukua + Karla Tukua
(Name)

71493 325th Str.
(Address)

Hartland, Mn. 56042
(City, State, Zip)



11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Joshua Parks 

(Name)

P.O. Box 143 107 Amsterdam Ave. E.

(Address)

Hollandale, MN 56045

(City, State, Zip)

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

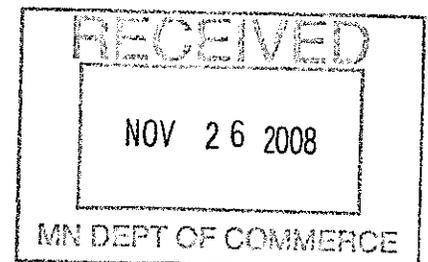
Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

David A. Millang
(Name)

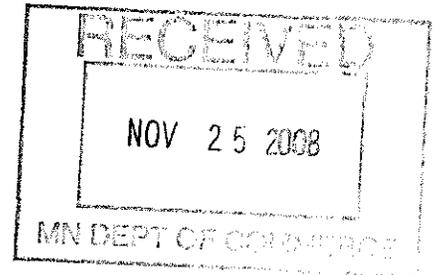
72962 315th St
(Address)

Hartland mn 56042
(City, State, Zip)



11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

 Kristine R. Johnson

David D. Kristine R. Johnson
(Name)

28909 675 AVE
(Address)

Hartland MN 56042
(City, State, Zip)

507 863 2114

507 420 -8412

507 340 6252

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

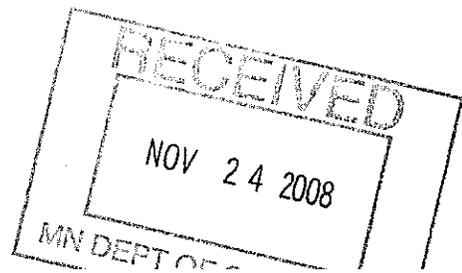
Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

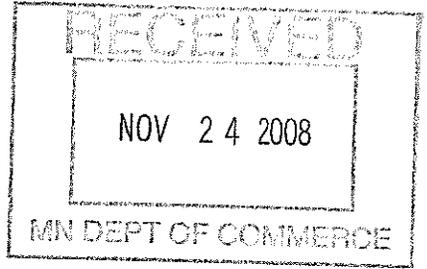
Best regards,

Ray Stenbagen
(Name)

23513-740 ave
(Address)

Albert Lea MN 56007
(City, State, Zip)





11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Robert & Lori Kvenvold
(Name)

73102 283 ST.
(Address)

Albert Lea, MN 56007-6038
(City, State, Zip)



11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

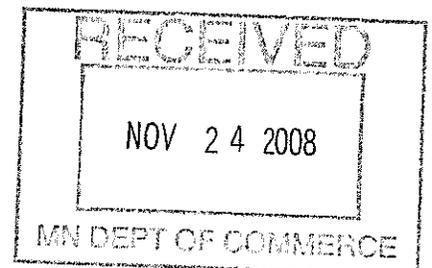
Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Judith Thompson
(Name) *Carol Thompson*

21170 775 Ave.
(Address)

Albert Lea, Mn. 56007
(City, State, Zip)



11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

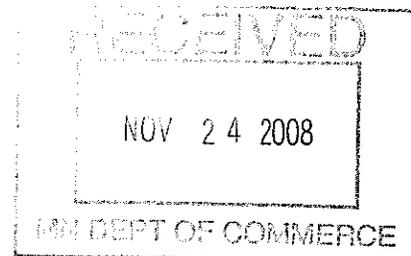
Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Seeni + Nancy Way
(Name)

28696 740 Ave
(Address)

Clarks Grove MN 56016
(City, State, Zip)



11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

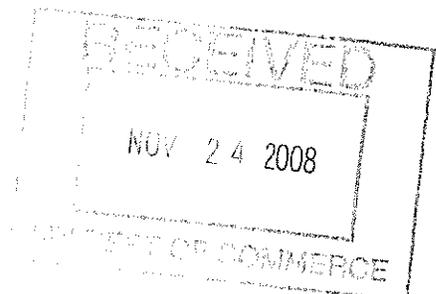
Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Bret K. Cumb
(Name)

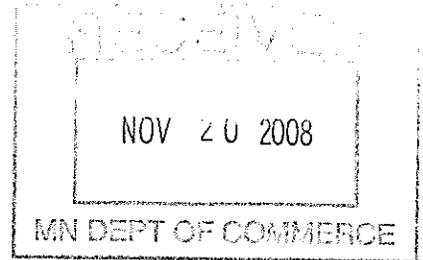
28517 680th Ave
(Address)

Hartland, Mn. 56042
(City, State, Zip)



11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

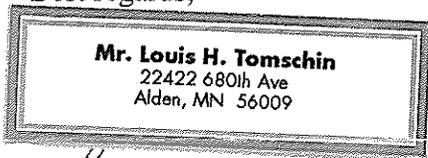
I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,



Louis H Tomschin

(Name)

22422 680 Av

(Address)

Alden, Minn 56009

(City, State, Zip)

507-874-3245

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

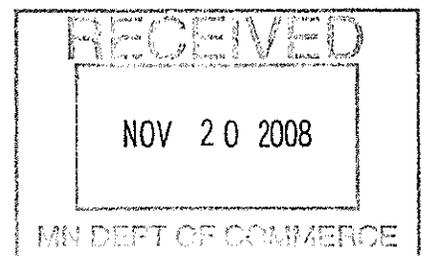
Best regards,



David L. Peterson
(Name)

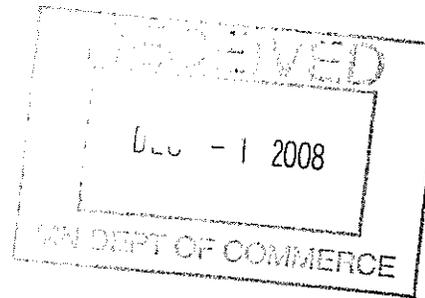
74993 255th St
(Address)

Clarks Grove, MN 56016
(City, State, Zip)



11-25-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

The following regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

I believe that those advocating this project have ignored the hazards caused by industrial wind installations previously constructed in many areas of the world. They have equally ignored the precedents set by others who have learned from previous mistakes, and who have implemented responsible setbacks to mitigate hazards associated with new installations. Furthermore, I believe my neighbors and I have been intentionally misled by biased and false information aimed at making this project proposal sound profitable and safe.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowners' property lines.

It is my sincere hope that the Office of Energy Security will insure responsible setback requirements for the protection of the residents of Freeborn County and all Minnesota. Huge corporate interests are at stake here...of this I am well aware. But much more importantly, the health and well-beings of Minnesotan citizens are at stake...and under attack.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

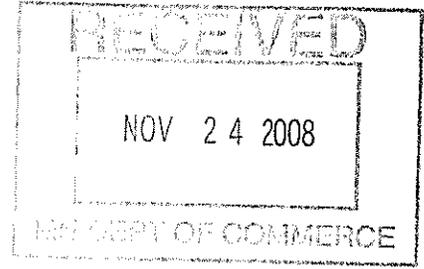
Best regards,

Jason Jacobusse
29053 762nd Ave.
Clarks Grove, MN 56016
Phone: 507-256-0076

P.S. It is likely that you will be receiving additional letters similar to this one, from other Freeborn County residents. Should it be necessary for you to have a "primary contact" for future information requests pertaining to the content of this letter, you may regard me as such. Naturally, I would still expect any acknowledgements or responses on your behalf to be directed to all individuals who have commented on this proposed project.

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Jean + Bob Smith
(Name)

26641-775th Ave
(Address)

Clarks Grove MN 56016
(City, State, Zip)

See enclosed info sheets and please try to understand our concerns about health issues.
Thank you for your time.

Press Release -- Noise
Noise Complaints On Rise with New Industrial Wind Power Projects
National Wind Watch calls for minimum 1-mile setbacks

Rowe, Mass., April 2, 2007 -- Noise created by commercial-scale wind turbines has become a major concern around the world as wind power development continues to proliferate. Although the industry claims that modern turbines are quieter -- even as they grow ever larger -- complaints are increasing from people who live near new projects.

While the wind itself may mask some of the noise under some atmospheric conditions, the deep unnatural thumping as the giant blades pass their supporting tower is particularly intrusive. Testimony from hundreds of turbine neighbors confirms this, most recently from Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, Canada, the U.K., and New Zealand. Reports can be found at www.wind-watch.org/news and www.wind-watch.org/documents.

The noise is especially intrusive because wind energy facilities are often built in rural areas where the ambient sound level may be quite low, especially at night. On the logarithmic decibel (dB) scale, an increase of 10 dB is perceived as a doubling of the noise level. An increase of 6 dB is considered to be a serious community issue. Since a quiet night in the country is typically around 25 dB, the common claim by wind developers of 45 dB at the nearest home would be perceived as a noise four times louder than normal. And because it is intermittent and directional, those affected assert that one can never get used to it. The disruption of sleep alone presents serious health and human rights issues.

The problem is worse than the industry admits. Frits van den Berg, a physicist at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands, studied noise levels around a German facility of 17 turbines. In a paper published in the November 2004 *Journal of Sound and Vibration*, he found that at night, because the surface air is often more still than the air at the height of the blades, the noise from the turbines is 15 to 18 dB higher than during the day and carries farther. He noted that residents 1.9 kilometers (6,200 feet or 1.2 miles) away expressed strong annoyance with noise from the facility.

The French National Academy of Medicine has called for a halt of all large-scale wind development within 1.5 kilometers of any residence, because the sounds emitted by the blades constitute a permanent risk for people exposed to them. The U.K. Noise Association studied the issue and agreed with the recommendation of a 1-mile setback.

In the U.S., the National Wind Coordinating Committee could not avoid the conclusion that "those affected by noise generated by wind turbines live within a few miles of a large wind power plant or within several thousand feet of a small plant or individual turbine. Although the noise at these distances is not great, it nevertheless is sufficient to be heard indoors and may be especially disturbing in the middle of the night when traffic and household sounds are diminished."

National Wind Watch calls on the commercial wind industry to respect the people who reside in targeted development regions, to honor their right to healthy lives and peaceful enjoyment of their homes, by adopting meaningful setbacks -- measured in miles, not in feet.

National Wind Watch information and contacts are available at www.wind-watch.org.

Wind Turbine Syndrome

Testimony before the New York State Legislature Energy Committee

March 7, 2006

Nina Pierpont, MD, PhD

MD, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 1991

PhD, Population Biology, Princeton University, 1985

BA, Biology, Yale University, 1977

Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics

www.ninapierpont.com

I am here to talk to you today as a physician-scientist about a clinical phenomenon called Wind Turbine Syndrome. This is relevant to today's hearing because it critically affects implementation of the RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard) in terms of the siting of industrial wind turbines. Current siting practices (which are solely industry-driven) disregard public health. The supervision of the legislature—of this committee—is needed to create siting standards to protect the citizenry, all the citizenry, including citizens who are rural, old, ill, impaired, and very young.

Federal agencies are trying to put the brakes on willy-nilly wind turbine construction, citing, for instance, wildlife issues. The GAO (Government Accountability Office) last fall told US Fish and Wildlife to get involved. The National Academy of Sciences in April 2005 initiated a 20-month study on environmental impacts whose final report is due in December this year. There also needs to be a focus on human health, and the state needs to step up to the plate in terms of regulation.

I live in Franklin County, the poorest in NY State. Two years ago, after passage of the RPS, wind energy companies showed up there in force, as they have in all the poor, rural parts of the state. They showed up with no controls whatsoever, unregulated by either the legislature or NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research & Development Authority). Our town boards, made up of farmers, teachers, corrections officers, etc., were told, "You guys handle this," by our state representatives. I got involved as a responsible citizen and physician. Over the last 1½ years I have done a lot of reading, research, and interviews. I have spoken at town board meetings and before the St. Lawrence County Legislature, and published alone or with my husband (a retired university professor) numerous editorials and letters to the editor in local newspapers. My focus has been health issues and to some degree wildlife, in which I also have credentials in my PhD.

I get a lot of slander and abuse from the wind salesmen. Their favorites are saying that my abundantly referenced and footnoted articles, like the one before you (note: a separate handout), have "no evidence," or that I think wind turbines cause mad cow disease. The latter smear came from a town meeting in Ellenburg, NY, in October 2004, when I presented information culled from the medical literature on possible effects of low frequency noise. This included a paper out of the UK linking low frequency sound to prion diseases by a complex and highly speculative mechanism. I was very clear how speculative it was, but apparently the concept of something being speculative was over their heads, including over the heads of wind salesmen in the room.

I am not for or against the RPS. I'm an intelligent person and I support renewable energy. I am not here to shoot down wind energy, which probably has its place, though that place is not near people's homes or near schools, hospitals, or other locations where people have to sleep or learn.

I would like to stress that these are not "farms." One doesn't "farm" wind any more than one "farms" water in a hydroelectric dam or "farms" neutrons in an atomic plant. These are large, industrial installations. They make large-scale, industrial noise. "Jet engines" is the most common description I hear in surveying people—a jet engine that doesn't go away and which you can't get used to.

A syndrome in medicine is a constellation of symptoms and findings which is consistent from person to person. Defining a syndrome is the first step in investigating any new disease. The symptom cluster has to make sense in terms of pathophysiology—there has to be a plausible mechanism in terms of how the body and brain work. Defining a syndrome, and making that knowledge available to the medical community, lets other doctors go from scratching their heads over weird presentations of illness which are coming through their offices, to being able to validate and name what is going on and start to do something about it. It also opens the door to epidemiologic studies to define prevalence and risk factors, which will guide prevention and treatment.

Describing and documenting symptoms is the province of physicians. So is research on the causes of diseases. Deciding whether people have significant symptoms is not within the expertise of engineers or specialists in acoustics, even when the symptoms appear to be caused by noise. We physicians appreciate the noise data which engineers provide, but this data has nothing to do with whether people have symptoms or not. One British acoustics expert, Dr. Geoff Leventhall, is especially outrageous in this regard, insisting that people "can't" have symptoms because turbines "don't," he says, produce low frequency noise. His fallback, for which he is well paid by the industry, is that people make up their complaints. But he's not trained to distinguish whether people are making up their complaints, or to know about the range of physical, psychiatric, and neurological symptoms people might have. A related point: the hallmark of a good doctor is one who takes symptoms seriously and pursues them until they are understood (and ameliorated). This includes symptoms related to the brain, our most complex organ—symptoms which may be neurologic, psychiatric, or physical.

Three doctors that I know of are studying the Wind Turbine Syndrome: myself, one in England, and one in Australia. We note the same sets of symptoms. The symptoms start when local turbines go into operation and resolve when the turbines are off or when the person is out of the area. The symptoms include:

- 1) Sleep problems: noise or physical sensations of pulsation or pressure make it hard to go to sleep and cause frequent awakening.
- 2) Headaches which are increased in frequency or severity.
- 3) Dizziness, unsteadiness, and nausea.
- 4) Exhaustion, anxiety, anger, irritability, and depression.
- 5) Problems with concentration and learning.
- 6) Tinnitus (ringing in the ears).

Not everyone near turbines has these symptoms. This does not mean people are making them up; it means there are differences among people in susceptibility. These differences are known as risk factors. Defining risk factors and the proportion of people who get symptoms is the role of epidemiologic studies. These studies are under way.

Chronic sleep disturbance is the most common symptom. Exhaustion, mood problems, and problems with concentration and learning are natural outcomes of poor sleep.

Sensitivity to low frequency vibration is a risk factor. Contrary to assertions of the wind industry, some people feel disturbing amounts of vibration or pulsation from wind turbines, and can count in their bodies, especially their chests, the beats of the blades passing the towers, even when they can't hear or see them. Sensitivity to low frequency vibration in the body or ears is highly variable in people, and hence poorly understood and the subject of much debate.

Another risk factor is a preexisting migraine disorder. Migraine is not just a bad headache; it's a complex neurologic phenomenon which affects the visual, hearing, and balance systems, and can even affect motor control and consciousness itself. Many people with migraine disorder have increased sensitivity to noise and to motion—they get carsick as youngsters, and seasick, and very sick on carnival rides. Migraine-associated vertigo (which is the spinning type of dizziness, often with nausea) is a described medical entity. Migraine occurs in 12% of Americans. It is a common, familial, inherited condition.

To keep our balance and feel steady in space, we use three types of input: from our eyes (seeing where we are in space), from stretch receptors in joints and muscles, and from balance organs in the inner ear. At least two of these systems have to be working, and agreeing, to maintain balance. If the systems don't agree, as in seasickness or vertigo, one feels both ill and unsteady. Wind turbines impinge on this system in two ways: by the visual disturbance of the moving blades and shadows, and by noise or vibration impacting the inner ear.

Other candidate risk factors for susceptibility to Wind Turbine Syndrome are age-related changes in the inner ear. Five percent (5%) of otherwise healthy people from age 57 to 91 experience dizziness, and 24% experience tinnitus or ringing. Damage to the ears or hearing from other causes, such as noise exposure, is also a potential risk factor.

Inner ear organs are closely linked, by proven neurological connections, to the brain systems which control mood, anxiety, and one's sense of well-being. Disturbing the inner ear disturbs mood, not because a person is a whiner or doesn't like turbines, but because of neurology.

Data from a number of studies and individual cases document that in rolling terrain, disturbing symptoms of the Wind Turbine Syndrome occur up to 1.2 miles from the closest turbine. In long Appalachian valleys, with turbines on ridge-tops, disturbing symptoms occur up to 1.5 miles away. In New Zealand, which is more mountainous, disturbing symptoms occur up to 1.9 miles away.

In New York State, with its mixed terrain, I recommend a setback of 1.5 miles (8000 ft.) between all industrial wind turbines and people's homes or schools, hospitals, or similar institutions. This setback should be imposed immediately for turbines not yet built.

The legislature might want to set up a panel of clinicians to review the data and medical information I refer to here, but until this happens, and as research continues, a moratorium on all wind turbine construction within 1.5 miles of homes would be appropriate.

To recapitulate, there is in fact a consistent cluster of symptoms, the Wind Turbine Syndrome, which occurs in a significant number of people in the vicinity of industrial wind turbines. There are specific risks factors for this syndrome, and people with these risk factors include a substantial portion of the population. A setback of 1.5 miles from homes, schools, hospitals, and similar institutions will probably be adequate, in most NY State terrain, to protect people from the adverse health effects of industrial wind turbines.

In defense of larger setbacks -- a letter from Martha Young (PA)

September 25, 2008

Summary

The following information was submitted to the Potter County Commissioners of Potter County Pennsylvania during their regular meeting on September 25, 2008. Martha Young appeared before the Commissioners to request a 1-mile setback from non-participating landowner property lines. Prior to her submission, Ms. Young searched for documentation to defend her request. The materials presented before the County board were the result of this search. Links to her supporting documents can be found below.

Wisconsin has been a proving ground for industrial wind turbines. Much has been documented about their experience. The Large Wind Turbine Citizens Committee from the Town of Union published a Setback Recommendations Report. It is the most comprehensive document I have found to date.

The task of crafting a protective ordinance as well as overseeing construction and long-term operation of wind farms is monumental. Over the past few years, communities across this country have been learning, by trial and error, how to live with wind power. That developers are just now getting to Potter County testifies to the marginal quality of our sustained winds. However, our delayed development also gives us the opportunity to learn from other states so we do not have to repeat their same mistakes. There is no need for us to learn by trial and error - especially because making those same mistakes means that people will get hurt.

My primary concern is that no one gets hurt. Let's establish as our motto "first, do no harm." To that end, I am recommending, in addition to the 1-mile setback, establishment of a wider ring for safety (up to 3-miles) within which families have available to them remedial options should noise, shadow flicker, or blade glint be a problem; whether that means the planting of trees, installation of awnings, or buyouts for those who find life with turbines to be intolerable. For homes within this ring of safety, let the power companies put into escrow an amount equal to the appraised value of homes prior to turbine construction. Escrow funds should be available for the life of the turbine, offering protection to nearby homeowners should the turbine's operation become more problematic over time. If the owners of these homes decide to sell and cannot sell on the open market, they will be bought-out by the escrow funds. Once the turbine is decommissioned, any unused escrow funds will be returned to the power company. If decisions on setbacks are influenced by power company claims that noise will not be a problem, let them backup their claims with financing to assist families that are affected.

Corporations do risk assessments all the time, and if the risk expense is within acceptable tolerance levels, projects move forward. Our requests for escrow funds to protect those who may be affected are certainly well within tolerance levels and would be acceptable to any power company worth doing business with.

No one knows how turbine noise will behave among the hills and valleys of Potter County. Noise research indicates that turbines can be heard 2 miles away or more. While it may not make sense from an economic development standpoint to establish a 2-mile setback, these statistics do substantiate the need to establish a safety buffer that extends beyond the setback limit. Build into the ordinance the flexibility to assess the actual impact of each turbine that goes on-line. Outline protocols to efficiently address all complaints and remediation steps for those affected. Tolerance is different for all people, and it is possible for us to address this diversity.

Noise, shadow flicker, and blade glint must not be trivialized. Noise will affect all living too close, especially at night when winds at ground level are typically quieter than winds aloft. Without ground-level ambient noise, turbine noise is louder at night than during the day. Shadow flicker and blade glint will also affect all living too close. Since this occurs only during the day, our community of retired people is particularly at risk, some of whom are elderly and whose health may be least able to withstand the experience.

As a homeowner within a stone's throw of open farmland, my preference would be that wind turbines are built far enough away so that I never hear them or see them. I do not look forward to the prospect of having to document the effects of turbine noise on myself and my husband, endure the time it will take for due process to reach its conclusion. But, I would much prefer having access to due process than to be left swinging the breeze, so to speak. I do not look forward to having

to leave a home that I've come to love, but I would much prefer being given the financial resources to relocate than to face possibly abandoning my home because noise conditions make it uninhabitable.

Let our ordinance be a litmus test for power companies, surfacing those who are equally committed to wind development AND protection of human lives, and who have the financial stability to do both. Doing business with corporations that are developing too fast, and skating on thin ice financially, will only increase the probability that turbine projects will be abandoned once the power companies can no longer afford to keep them operating. And prior to abandonment, they will likely limit or curtail maintenance, increasing the chances of turbine failure and potential for additional human harm. Power companies we want to do business with are those who are willing to be long-term partners with local communities, committed to working shoulder-to-shoulder, ensuring that all benefit and not one single person gets hurt in the process. Establishment of cash escrow funds prior to construction is well within their means financially. If their turbines are as quiet as their marketing campaigns claim, then there will be little if any likelihood escrow funds will be spent.

Dealing with gigantic international corporations, Potter County becomes just a number on a spreadsheet, and not a very spectacular number at that. What will motivate corporations like this to give us any of their time and attention once wind turbines start turning? It is incumbent upon us to be the best possible advocates we can be for the protection of public health, welfare, and safety.

Given the marginal winds in Potter County, I have a concern that we'll be seen as a short-term cash cow. Power companies will make money on marginally producing turbines in the short term because of tax credits and unusually generous depreciation allowances designed specifically for wind power development. Once they've milked our turbines, once the tax credits and depreciation allowances run out, turbines here many well, at best, be subject to early retirement, or worse, abandonment. If we've done our homework well and attracted the "right" wind companies, they will not simply walk away from a cow that is no longer producing quality milk, but instead will follow through on their commitment to the decommissioning and removal all turbines, and put us out to pasture.

It seems to me that political and economic pressures to more forward with wind development are based largely on the promise of "payments in lieu of taxes" and the promise of new local jobs. I believe these issues should be addressed in the ordinance, requiring the power companies to commit in writing before development approval is granted. How many jobs will be held strictly for local residents? How much are they committing in revenue payments? What are the annual revenue increases, especially once their initial investments are recouped? The irony is that any revenue payments received from the power companies can easily be passed on to the end consumer in the form of higher electric costs.

While setback is my primary concern, I am equally concerned about what seems to be a lack of wind turbine education for County citizens, especially those who already are, or soon will be, negotiating to lease their land. How many have sought legal advice? There is so much rhetoric flying around; PR sounds bites from both sides. There's no question in my mind that power company representatives will take advantage of naïve property owners, and the resulting leases will be weighted heavily in favor of the power company. "Don't ask, don't tell." What the property owner doesn't know to ask about, the power representative more than likely will not volunteer. Forbearance easements that forbid landowners from complaining about turbine noise are one example. We should promote full disclosure for all problems. Any power company that would include a forbearance easement in leases, or approach non-participating landowners with money incentives to sign one, is a company no one should do business with.

Reports are coming out that wind power is not all that is advertised to be. Turbines are only 25-30% efficient, create problems for the power grid due to the poor quality of the electricity produced - power surges, drop offs, production of electricity when it's not needed. Electricity produced at the industrial level can not be stored. It is either used or dissipates as heat. To date, no coal burning or nuclear power plants have been taken off-line and replaced by wind farms so industry promoters to say that wind turbines are today reducing greenhouse gas emissions is simply not true. Energy technology will evolve; time will tell what is to become of wind power. Given the immediacy of economic recovery in Potter County, it may well be the short term opportunity needed to stimulate growth. That is a reality I realize you absolutely can not ignore, regardless of your personal opinions on wind power. And, I believe it is possible to move forward, albeit as cautiously as possible, with wind power development in a way that not one single person gets hurt in the process. Let our motto be "first, do no harm."

Larger Setback Summary Chart

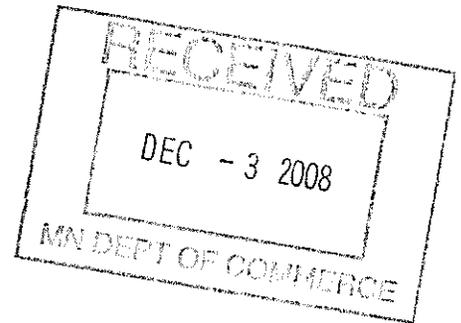
Organization/country	Setbacks from Residences	Mile(s)
National Research Council; USA	Past ½ mile or so	½ +
France National Academy of Medicine	1.5 KM	.93 mile
Burton, Sharpe, Jenkins, Bossanyi (Authors) Wind Energy Handbook. Wiley & sons LTD. 1991	10 rotor Diameters = 2,665 feet	½ +
Holland	1 KM	.62 mile
UK Noise Association	1 mile	1 mile
Scotland	½ mile	½ mile
RETEXO-RISP: German Turbine developer	2KM	1.24 miles
Germany	1600 meters or 1.6 KM	1 mile
Riverside County, CA	2 miles	2 miles
Town of Wilton, WI	1 mile	1 mile
Professor Terry Matilsky; Rutgers	1350 meters/4429 feet	.838 miles
Dr. Amanda Harry	1.5 miles	1.5 miles
Dr. Nina Pierpont (Physician)	1.5 - 3 miles	1.5 - 3
Dr. Richard Bolton (Physicist)	1 mile	1 mile
Dr. Gordon Whitehead (Audiologist)	1.5 miles	1.5 miles
Barbara Frey & Peter Hadden	2 km	1.25 miles

*Source: <http://windwisefairhaven.com/>

** Germany, which has more wind turbines than any country in the world, has a 1.6 km or 1 mile

11-17-08

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
Attn: Larry Hartman
85, 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing you regarding the proposed "Bent Tree Wind Project" (PUC Dock. No. ET6657/WS-08-573).

I, along with a group of concerned residents of Freeborn County, Minnesota, believe that the residential setback requirements for turbine placement, as proposed in the draft site permit, are inadequate and unsafe. I am supported in this view by numerous engineers, doctors, audiologists, health and safety organizations, and governments in both the United States and abroad.

The setback requirements contained in the current proposal will negatively impact the health and safety of my family and my neighbors. Because of this, I am demanding that should a permit be issued for this project, it must include a minimum of a 1 mile setback from non-participating landowner's property lines.

Should it be necessary to request a contested hearing for the presentation of documents that substantiate this request, you may consider this letter as such. My neighbors and I would welcome any opportunities to present this information.

Best regards,

Brian R Wagner

Brian R Wagner
(Name)

79031 298th St.
(Address)

Clarks Grove, MN 56016
(City, State, Zip)



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Minnesota Department of Transportation - District 6
2900 48th Street N.W.
Rochester, MN 55901-5848

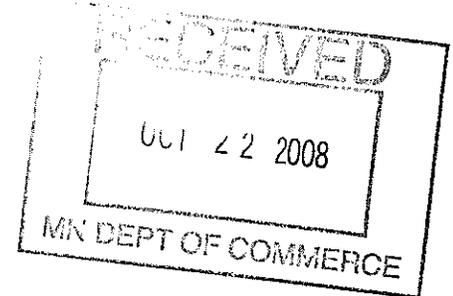
Office Tel: 507-286-7594

Fax: 507-285-7279

E-mail: chris.moates@dot.state.mn.us

October 20, 2008

Scott Ek
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



**RE: Mn/DOT comments, for the Bent Tree Wind Project located in
Freeborn County, Minnesota.
MN 13 CS 2401**

Dear Mr. Ek:

Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) District 6 staff has reviewed the available information concerning the Bent Tree Wind Project request for a site permit and certificate of need and the transmission line routing process. Mn/DOT comments regarding the project are submitted for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). These comments will include potential impacts to Minnesota State Highway 13, I-35, and I-90.

Potential impacts to the state highway system vary and will need to be addressed appropriately. First, please be aware of State Project #2401-38, a bituminous mill & overlay project for MN 13 from I-90 to MN 30, scheduled for 2010. In addition, the proposed transmission line crosses I-35 and I-90 enroute to the Hayward Substation. Any work and possible placement of structures adjacent to and within Mn/DOT right of way will require a permit. Please coordinate this permit process with Terry Condon, District 6 West Permits, at (507) 446-5505 or terry.condon@dot.state.mn.us. The placement of utilities would require a Utility Long Form Permit (TP-02525-03) issued through St. Paul and administered here in District 6. The temporary widening of field entrances or a new access would be issued through Mn/DOT District 6, using an Access Driveway Permit (TP-1721).

Please note that Mn/DOT's accommodation policy and procedures are listed on-line at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/files/pdf/appendix-b.pdf>.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Chris Moates
District 6 planning Director

cc: Greg Paulson, Fausto Cabral, Mark Trogstad-Isaacson, Peter Waskiw,
Tracy Schnell, Terry Condon, Robert Hutton, Stacy Kotch MS 678, File
DOCS-#647450

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-4037



December 3, 2008

Mr. Larry B. Hartman
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

RE: Bent Tree Wind Project
Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit Application
PUC Docket No. ET6656/WS-08-573

Dear Mr. Hartman:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Site Permit Application and Draft Site Permit for the Bent Tree Wind project in Freeborn County, MN. With respect to potential impacts to natural resources, and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §216E.10, subd.3(a) and Minnesota Rules 7836.0900, DNR offers the following comments.

The project proposers will need to contact Lisa Joyal, DNR Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator (#651-259-5109), before any rare feature surveys are initiated. The Minnesota County Biological Survey conducted surveys in Freeborn County during 2008, and additional information on rare features may be available by the spring of 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Site Permit Application and Draft Site Permit. Should you have any questions about this comment letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matt Langan'.

Matt Langan, Environmental Planner
Environmental Review Unit
Division of Ecological Services
(651) 259-5115

ERDB#20080253-0002; D:\AA_OMBS\windpower\Bent Tree Wind_120308.doc





Alliant Energy Corporate Services
Legal Department
319-786-4505 – Phone
319-786-4533 – Fax

Arshia Javaherian
Regulatory Attorney
319-786-4219 – Direct Line

Wisconsin Power and Light Co.
An Alliant Energy Company

Alliant Tower
200 First Street SE
P.O. Box 351
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0351

Office: 1.800.822.4348
www.alliantenergy.com

December 3, 2008

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

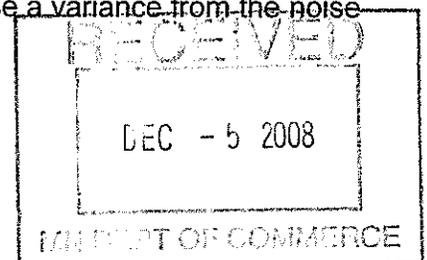
RE: Wisconsin Power and Light Company
Docket No. ET6657 / WS-08-573

Dear Dr. Haar,

Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL), on behalf of Wind Capital Group (WCG), and Bent Tree Wind, LLC, respectfully requests that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) grant WPL the approval necessary to place wind turbine towers within the Wind Access Buffer zone as defined in the Draft Site Permit at section III(C)(1), so long as the wind turbine towers do not violate the residence and noise setback requirements described in sections III(C)(2) and III(E)(3), respectively.

As written, the Wind Access Buffer effectively eliminates the possibility of placing turbines on several participating landowner parcels within the proposed project area. To conform to the buffer easement setbacks, owners of small land parcels within the Bent Tree project boundary are being offered participation through a buffer 'wind rights' easement. These owners are eligible to receive a signing bonus and annual payments for their participation regardless of their acreage. However, some owners of small parcels do not respond to our contacts or choose not to participate. Consequently, these small parcels that do not respond or participate prevent the placement of turbines within 3 to 5 rotor diameters of their parcel, making much of the surrounding land unusable for this project.

Parcels of 20 acres or less in size are of an insufficient size to be eligible for wind turbine placement due to state setback requirements related to residences and noise. The noise setback requires that residences are not affected by more than 50 dBA of noise. Based on current industry standard technology and more specifically the Vestas wind turbines proposed for the project, this results in a setback of approximately 1,000 feet from a residence. WPL, WCG and Bent Tree Wind, LLC, do not propose a variance from the noise and residence setback requirement.



Dr. Haar - Letter
December 3, 2008

Therefore, WPL, WCG and Bent Tree Wind, LLC respectfully request that the 3 rotor diameter and 5 rotor diameter setback requirement from non-participating properties be waived for parcels of 20 acres or less. Approval of this request by the Commission will allow for more efficient use of the surrounding property and a more efficient wind farm design consistent with State of Minnesota permitting goals. The parties would like to reiterate that the residence and noise setback requirements will not allow a turbine tower to be placed within 1000 feet of a residence.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Arshia Javaherian
Arshia Javaherian
Regulatory Attorney

AJ/mml
Enclosures
cc: Service List

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

David C. Boyd
J. Dennis O'Brien
Thomas Pugh
Phyllis A. Reha
Betsy Wergin

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF WISCONSIN POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY'S SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR A LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM	DOCKET NO. ET6657/WS-08-573
--	-----------------------------

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF IOWA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF LINN)

Mary Margaret Lang, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states:

That on the 3rd day of December, 2008, copies of the foregoing Affidavit of Service, together with Wisconsin Power and Light Company's Small Parcel Setback Request were served upon the parties on the attached service list, by e-filing, messenger, electronic mail, facsimile and/or first-class mail, proper postage prepaid from Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

 /s/ Mary Margaret Lang
Mary Margaret Lang

Subscribed and Sworn to Before Me
This 3rd day of December, 2008.

 /s/ Tonya ORourke
Tonya ORourke
Notary Public
My Commission expires January 28, 2011

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
MN Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place E., Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Sharon Ferguson
Docket Coordinator
MN Department of Commerce
85 Seventh Place E., Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Larry Hartman
MDOC Office of Energy Security
Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

City of Clarks Grove
P.O. Box 248
Clarks Grove, MN 56016

City of Albert Lea
City Center
221 Clark St. E.
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Bancroft Township
Judith Hellie CLK
25249 770th Ave
Albert Lea, MN 56007

County of Freeborn
Highway Department
3300 Bridge Ave
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Ronald M. Giteck (OAG-RUD)
Assistant Attorney General
900 BRM Tower
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-2130

Bob Cupit
MN Public Utilities Commission
Energy Facilities Permitting
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Jim Lepinski
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Bath Township
c/o Keith Bengtson
74566 315th St
Ellendale, MN 56026

Riceland Township
Karen Nelson CLK
22802 790th Ave
Albert Lea, MN 56007

City of Hartland
Hartland Community Center
407 S. Broadway
Hartland, MN 56042

Robyn Woeste
Interstate Power and Light Company
200 First St. S.E.
P.O. Box 351
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-0351
RobynWoeste@alliantenergy.com

Service List
Docket No. ET6656/WS-08-573
Page 2 of 2

County of Freeborn
Government Center
411 South Broadway
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Village of Hayward
P.O. Box 484
Hayward, MN 56043

Arshia Javaherian
Regulatory Attorney
Interstate Power and Light Company
200 First St. S.E.
P.O. Box 351
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-0351
ArshiaJavaherian@alliantenergy.com

Jeffrey M. Gray
Regulatory Attorney
Alliant Energy Corporate Services, Inc.
4902 N. Biltmore Lane
Madison, WI 53718
JeffreyGray@alliantenergy.com