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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY  
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING COMMENT FORM

ECOHARMONY WEST WIND PROJECT  
PROPOSED BY

ECOHARMONY WEST WIND, INC.  
PUC Docket No. IP6688/WS-09-973

Name: BRIAN HUGGENVIK  
Address: 29794 Cty 22  
City: HARMONY, MN State: 55939 ZIP: 55939

Please share your comments on the application and draft site permit to limit potential impacts, and mitigation measures to be considered in the record of this proceeding.

Turn this form in tonight or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Larry Hartman, Project Manager at: [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us) with IP6688/WS-09-973 in the subject line or you may submit comments on-line at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/>. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

See attached letter

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 04-23-09

My name is Brian Huggenvik. I was born and raised in Fillmore County. I live near the Big Springs Church. My property borders the proposed wind farm.

There are some serious concerns with industrial wind turbines. I have spent much time researching dozens of issues that have been encountered in counties and townships that have the new 410' turbines in place. I have been in contact with many residents near LeRoy, Grand Meadow, McIntire, IA and more recently Wisconsin citizens in Fond du Lac County, Rock County and Trempealeau County. Without exception, the people living next to wind turbines strongly suggested that township and counties of newly targeted commercial wind farms update their current Wind Ordinances, increasing the setbacks to protect non-participating residents from the intrusions associated with the new large wind turbines.

Issues surrounding wind farms are numerous and complex, but the three main problems experienced by the people living close to the turbines are: Visual Aspects, Noise, and Shadow Flicker.

(1) Visual. A 410' turbine (262' tower + 148' blades) can be seen for miles. This visual problem is subjective, controversial, and very difficult to resolve, even with increased setbacks. "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

But the next two common problems can be solved simply by increasing setbacks:

(2) Noise. The current PUC setbacks are approximately 1200'. They are based on a maximum 50dB high freq sound level. The PUC has not considered the more important low frequency sound. Wisconsin citizens living next to wind farms have large quantities of recorded sound information. In summary: when the wind turbines hit the max level of 50 dB high frequency, the low freq dB are 65-68. The low freq noise from these large turbines needs to be considered. The low frequency sound is now being targeted as the source of documented serious health issues that are on the increase; both mental and physical. It even has a medical name: Wind Turbine Syndrome.

This noise problem rapidly decreases as the turbines are sited at least 2000' from a residence.

(3) Shadow flicker. When the sun shines through the spinning blades, it create a "flicker" that has been described as someone turning a light switch on and off. This can be dramatic, dependant upon time of year and hour of day. This shadow flicker problem also decrease rapidly at about 2000'.

The townships and counties in Wisconsin have learned through experience that these problems basically go away by simply increasing setbacks. The visual intrusiveness is still there, but the noise and flicker considerably decrease; starting at 2000'.

EcoEnergy has secured wind rights to over 23,000 acres. "The Project will ultimately require between 50 and 77 acres for all the facilities." That means less than 1/2 of 1% of all the land signed up will actually be use to accommodate the 134 wind turbines. There is a lot of room to work with here. I think it is reasonable and responsible to seek an increase in the setbacks to protect the non-

participating citizens of Fillmore County from some of the negative effects of industrial wind.

My neighbor who has signed up, is going the extra mile to work things out. EcoEnergy officials have reached out, and are striving to be good business neighbors, working on a fair plan that all parties will be happy with. I'm hopeful we can get together on this. No doubt, this will be a defining moment in steering the course of a project that will be changing the Fillmore County countryside as we know it today. Thank you.