

OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY  
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING COMMENT AND SCOPING FORM

PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT  
PUC Docket Nos. IP6828/WS-09-1197 (Site Permit),  
IP6828/CN-09-937 (Certificate of Need)

Name: Richard & Mary Higgins  
Address: One Oakbrook Drive  
City: Bettendorf, State: Ia. ZIP: 52922

Please share your comments on the potential impacts and mitigation measures to be considered in the scoping document and environmental report and/or issues to be considered in developing the draft site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

Turn this form in at the meeting or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Ingrid Bjorklund, Project Manager at: [Ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us](mailto:Ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us) with one of the docket numbers (listed above) in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., March 15, 2010.

Thanks so much for informing us about the meeting that was held @ Windmill Conference Center. We would certainly like to be informed on any future meetings. We are excited about the windmills and like my husband & I say: Let the Wind Flow!!  
Thanks again.

Richard & Mary Higgins

Signature: Richard / Mary Higgins Date: 2-23-10

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Name: Timothy & Theresa Horner  
Address: 68070 325<sup>th</sup> St  
City: Dexter State: MN ZIP: 55926

Please share your comments on the potential impacts and mitigation measures to be considered in the scoping document and environmental report and/or issues to be considered in developing the draft site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

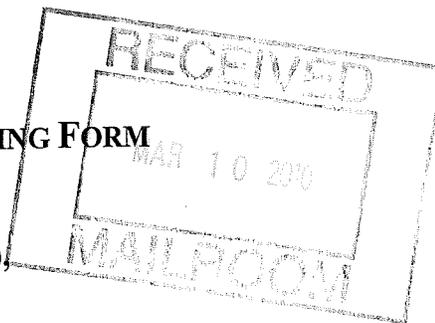
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We have numerous concerns about this project and if it really needed. Many times, some on all of the turbines that are already south of us are turned off and not moving. We also think the set back distance should be increased, especially for those of us that receive no incentive from this. This has to affect property value, and the closer they are, the less your property is apt to sell for optimum price. Also, the transmission line is going to be ugly, affect our resale value even more, what it might do to our ability for reception of radio, TV, internet and other communication is unknown. We have great concern about the health risks associated with living so close to these transmission lines - Other concerns - (turbines) Flicker - low frequency noise - This all needs more time to be thoroughly researched, not just rammed through. This will have a huge impact on our lives and property - please consider everyone, including the small landowners. There is a reason we do not live in town - peaceful, quiet countryside.

Signature: Tom C. Horner Date: 3/8/10

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Name: Tim & Theresa Horvei  
Address: 68070 325TH ST  
City: Dexter State: MN ZIP: 55926

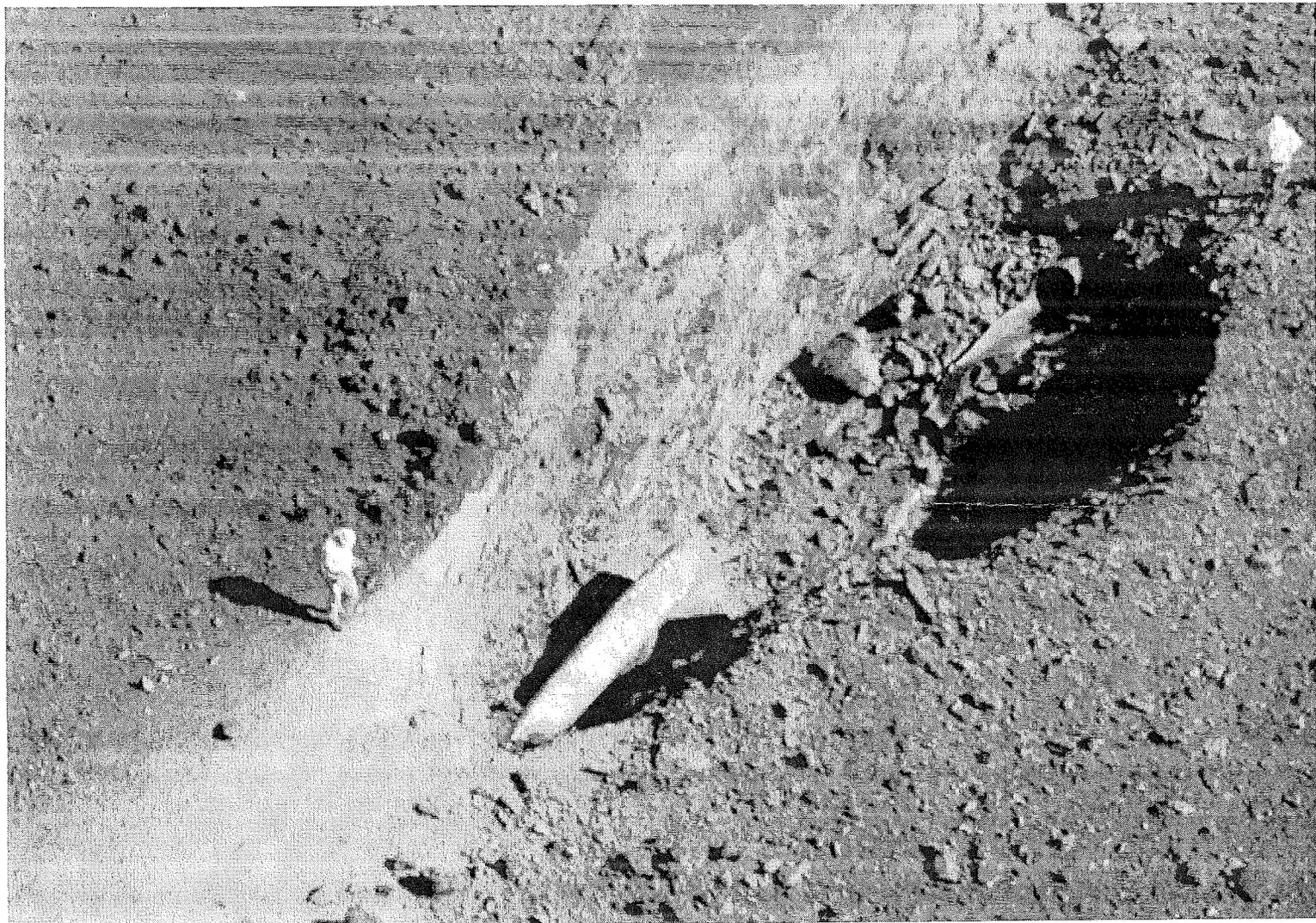
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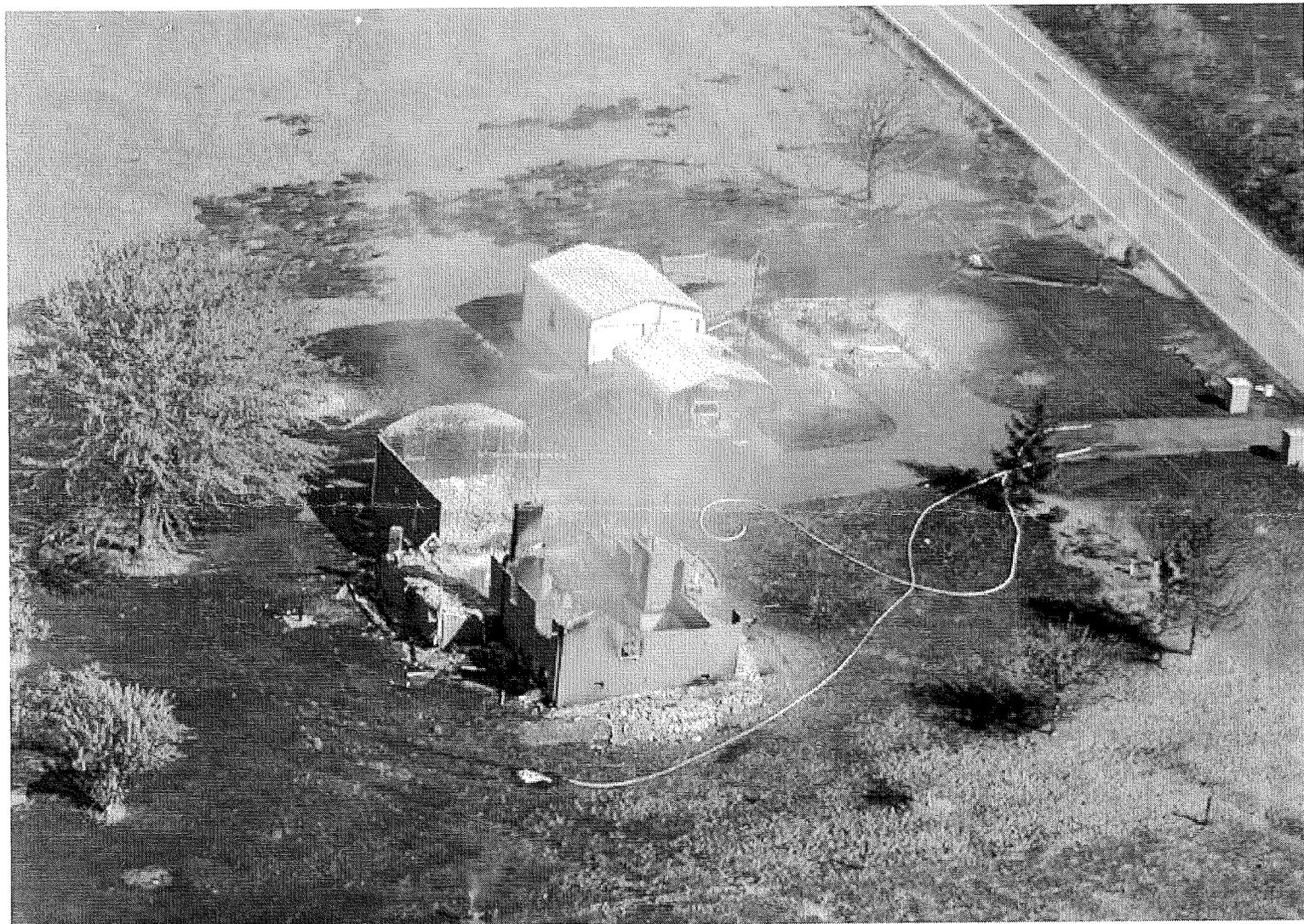
Your proposed route of the transmission line running along 680<sup>TH</sup> Ave is on top of the high pressure gas line just S. of 325<sup>TH</sup> St. This is adjacent to our home and we are concerned about excavation on or near that line. This could have catastrophic results.

Signature: Tim & Theresa Horvei Date: 2/24/10

This is what a high pressure gas main is capable of.



3/8/2010





February 26, 2010

Ingrid Bjorklund, Project Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Mn.55101



Dear Ingrid,

You know I think we met several years back when the Directors from Freeborn-Mower Electric Cooperative were in the cities for a conference. My husband Ken Kirchner was one of them. You had dinner with us? In fact aren't you the one that said how you and your husband also enjoyed gardening? My husband was still on the board when he died so unexpectedly.

Yesterday when I spoke with you on the phone, you mentioned how you felt everyone today has a computer and used the Internet. That isn't true here, Ingrid. In fact there is only one other family in my area who has a computer and uses it very sparingly. You see, Ingrid all of the people in this area live here for the serenity, quite a distance from a town of any size. We can only get High-speed Internet by going on Wild Blue, which is too expensive for most of us so I'm on Dial-up. Now all of this is about to change. Soon there will be big whirring turbines, red lights flashing, big high-line wires, 3 big substations all stomping us down to be something like Rosemount.

My husband and I moved here in the fall of 1967 to a deserted old farm; no furnace, or running water, only minimal electricity; many dilapidated buildings to be dug out of the weeds and brush and dirt. Our house was built in the early 1900's. We have spent ALL of our time and MONEY restoring and updating our farm trying to beautify the area. We'd spend time burning long grass in the yard around the house as the wind direction allowed.

Somewhere beneath all of this we'd find an occasional old flower bed. Ken dug old woven wire out of dirt and grass in the fence row all the way down to the woods in back.; a very back breaking

job. We cleared out the land and put in drainage tile through the years as money would allow so it is all patterned tiled now. No one knows the time and money we've spent planting trees and shrubs and other perennials. Thousands of dollars spent, and we dug all the holes by hand. If you drive by our place you will see the nice shelterbelt that we planted one of our first years here. In just the last few years we have spent over \$25,000 to have a new roof and siding put on our 88 by 34 foot barn to preserve it. It was built in 1936, and all built by hand. The cement which is 10 feet high for the bottom floor was all mixed and poured using wheelbarrows by using a ramp to run the wheelbarrow up on.. There were no power tools back then (Isn't this workmanship something to be preserved?) The neighbors had all gathered to help the family that lived here then after their barn had burned down. We both worked outside the home to supplement our farm income so all our vacation and money was spent restoring and beautifying the place. I have groups come here every summer to tour the gardens. We like to share Nature's beauty with others. We do not charge. We always believed we should try to leave this earth better than we found it. Now everyone comments about all these windmills out our way and how they distract from the area. In a fizzle all this hard work will have been in vain. The serenity is disappearing with these big wind turbines whirring and the red lights flash, and now we hear there will be 3 substations going up in our area, with the biggest being a mile to the south of us. This is some of the best ground in Mower County; the black soil runs deep. Now it will be full of cement and reinforcing steel, and huge electric lines.

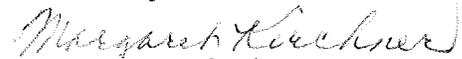
Ken was never for the wind turbines., and I'm sure you have heard from not only our current electric board members, but others in southern Minn. that they aren't that enthused about how wind power is working out and how it seems to be using electricity just at the times it's needed the most. There will be new technology much better and sooner than one may think. Look at this new Bloom Box the fellow from India just released to the media this

week. The coop is still for clean coal and nuclear, or how far away are fuel cells, unless this Bloom Box takes it's place?

You will probably laugh at this letter when you read it, but maybe one day when you too, will be a little older and a little wiser, will realize what a Dinosaur these turbines are and how nice it would be to take a drive in the country where one can enjoy the sounds and sights of nature, and not the sounds of the power plants.

Thank you for taking the time to read it. I took the time to type it as my words are sincere and my feelings run deep.

Sincerely,

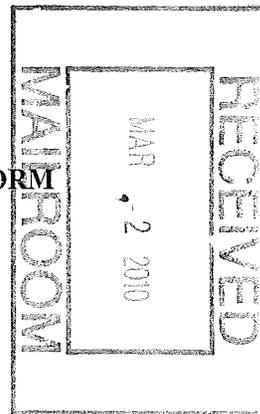


Margaret Kirchner

31973 680<sup>th</sup> ave.

Dexter, Mn. 55926

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PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT  
PUC Docket Nos. IP6828/WS-09-1197 (Site Permit),  
IP6828/CN-09-937 (Certificate of Need)

Name: Neil Knutson  
Address: P.O. Box 105  
City: Brownsdale State: MN ZIP: 55918

Please share your comments on the potential impacts and mitigation measures to be considered in the scoping document and environmental report and/or issues to be considered in developing the draft site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

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Comments in the attached letter.

Thank you

Signature: Neil Knutson Date: 3/10/2010

Ingrid Bjorklund  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota - 55101-2198

March 10<sup>th</sup> 2010

In regards to transmission lines

My name is Neil Knutson and my farm address is 65253 320<sup>th</sup> St., Sargeant, MN. 55973. My property comes out on 320<sup>th</sup> St. and I think there are definite problems to having the transmission lines running by my property. These being the health and safety of people and livestock. I have organic pasture for livestock and want to grow organic produce. This is a goal which I have worked very hard for. This does not seem like a fair interference. Therefore, I do not want these transmission lines running past my property. I have owned this land since 2002 and the wind turbines are now affecting my future plans. On the enclosed map I have three proposals. These are highlighted in pink, yellow is what you are proposing. My first proposal is Route One. From what I have figured out, the transmission lines could be run from Great River Energy straight down County road one 310<sup>th</sup> St. to 640<sup>th</sup> Ave to the North Sub Station. This would save you a full one mile of transmission lines. Your route is six miles versus my proposal route of five miles. My second proposal is Route Two. This would be the same distance of lines-wires. My third proposal is Route Three. This would be one mile longer of wire. I am hoping you will look at these proposals and consider them. The Plat Survey of our farm is enclosed along with the map.

My other concern is for safe Wind Turbine Setbacks. Your proposal on the map for the wind turbines according to my calculated footage is 959 feet from my South property line. You have four wind turbines

to the South side of my property. I have figured the footage from the South side of my property line to your proposed wind turbines is 959 feet. Enclosed is my petition for a safe wind turbine setback which is not less than one and one fourth miles from homes. Anything closer than the one and one fourth mile setback is a great concern to me regarding the health and safety of people and livestock. Anything closer than the one and one fourth mile setback is affecting the property value of approximately one fourth to one half and also the possibility of no sale!! Please notice the websites on the petition that you can go to which will help you to understand my concerns.

Regarding the transmission lines, I am hoping you will look at the proposals and consider them.

Regarding the wind turbines and the one and one fourth mile setback, I thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in this matter.

My contact address and telephone number:

Neil Knutson

P.O. Box-105

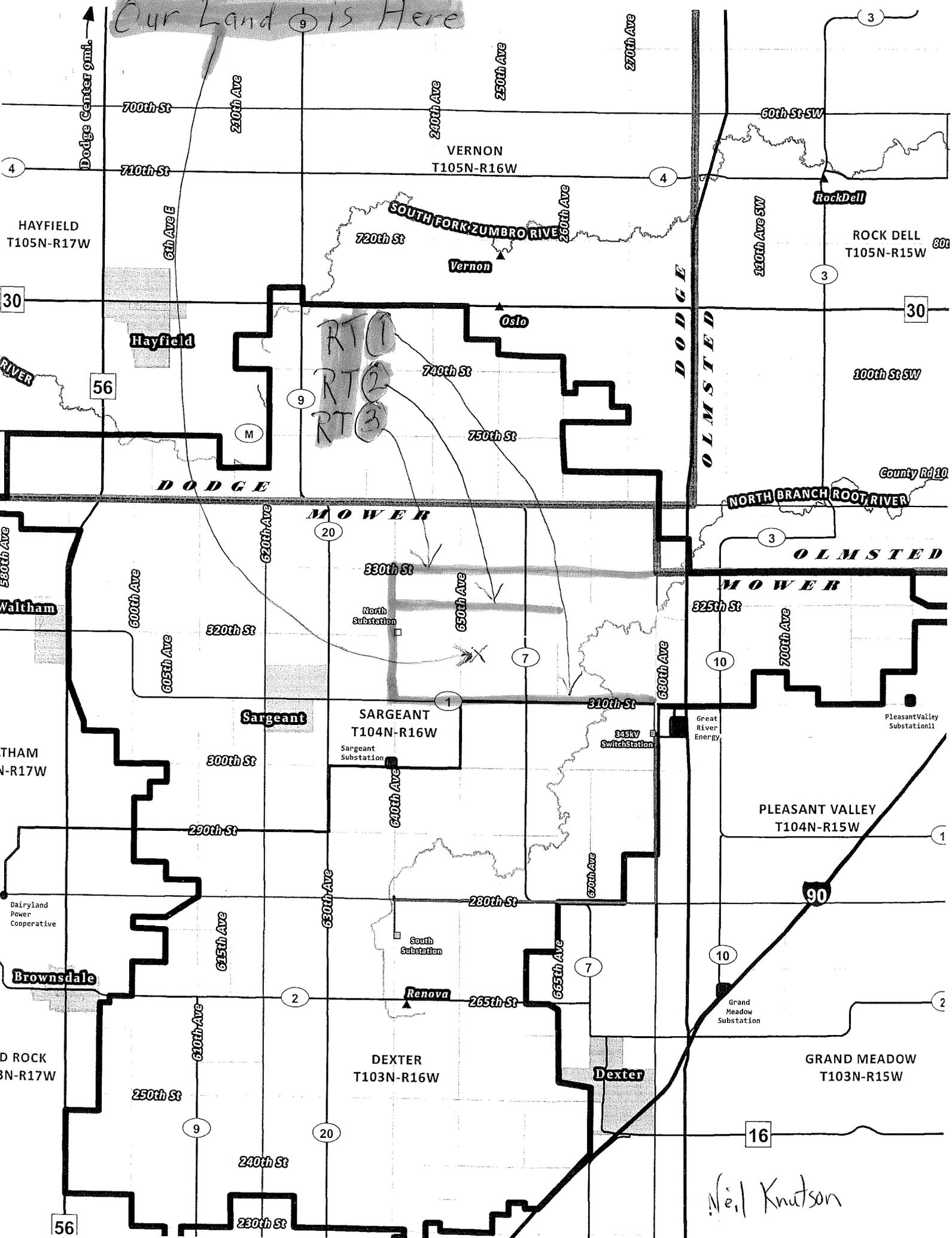
Brownsdale, MN. 55918 - Telephone - 507-567-2682

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Neil Knutson

Our Land is Here

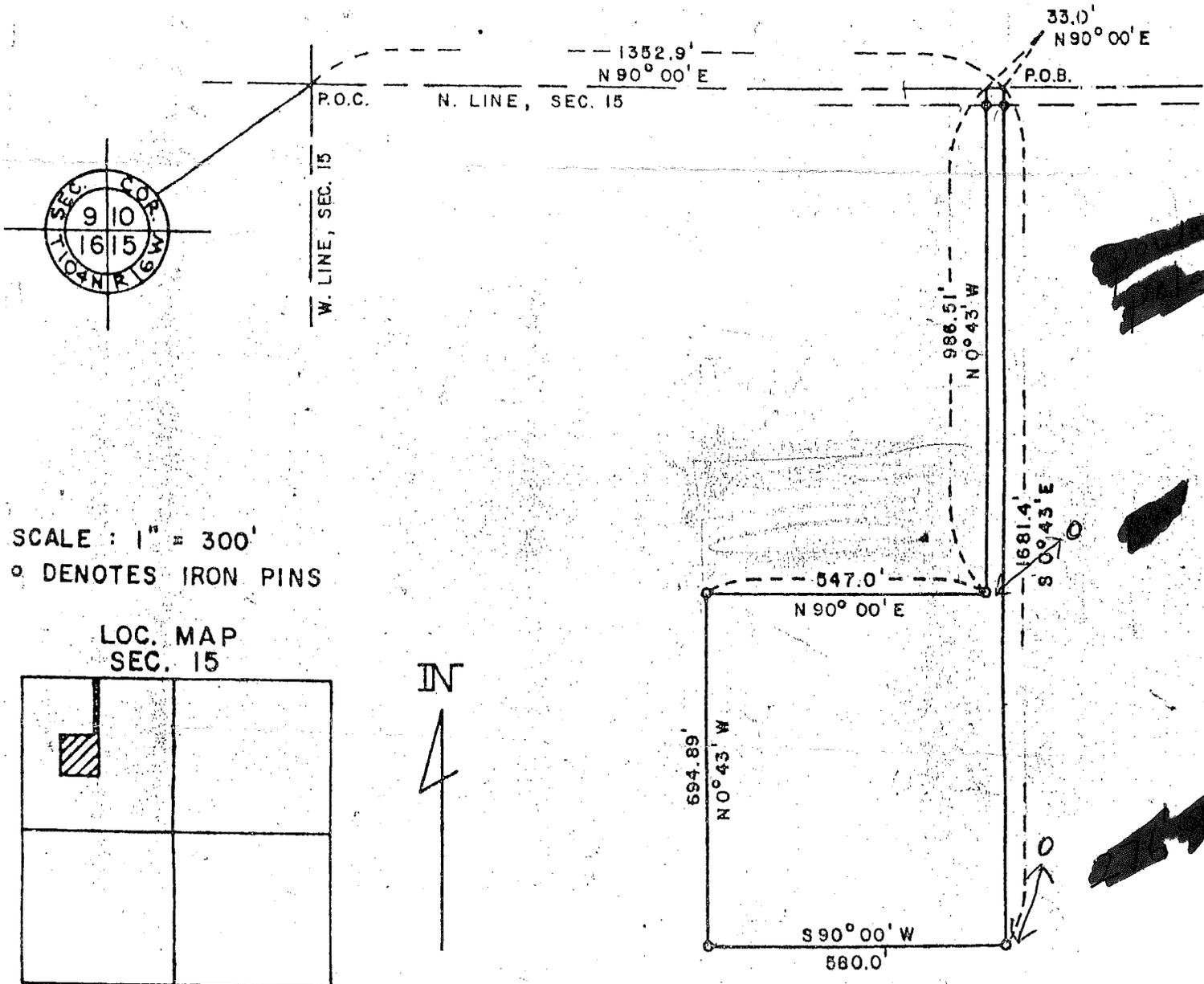


RT 1  
RT 2  
RT 3

Neil Knutson

PLAT OF SURVEY

A TRACT OF LAND IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 104 NORTH, RANGE 16 WEST, MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA DESCRIBED BY COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER THEREOF RUNNING THENCE NORTH 90° 00' EAST (ASSUMED BEARING) ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER 1352.9 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE SOUTH 0° 43' EAST 1681.4 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 90° 00' WEST 580.0 FEET, THENCE NORTH 0° 43' WEST 694.89 FEET, THENCE NORTH 90° 00' EAST 547.0 FEET, THENCE NORTH 0° 43' WEST 986.51 FEET, THENCE NORTH 90° 00' EAST 33.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.  
 CONTAINING 10.0 ACRES MORE OR LESS.  
 SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD.



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS SURVEY, PLAN OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

*J.M. Christlaw*  
 Neil Knutson

DATE Oct 26, 1978 REG. NO. 500K 409 PAGE 340



# PETITION For Safe Wind Turbine Setbacks

We, the undersigned, believe a renewable energy plan must not endanger our foremost important non-renewables: Our families, our homes, our community, and our land. For primary reasons of health and safety pertaining to industrial wind turbines, WE AGREE, AND ASK The State of Minnesota, as well as MOWER County Commissioners, to adopt a minimum setback distance of no less than one & one fourth (1 1/4) mile from homes, based on medical and sound studies.

Name (PRINT)

Neil Knutson - March 10, 2010

Signature ~~Neil Knutson~~ - Judith A. Knutson - Judith A. Knutson

Address

P.O. Box - 105 - Brownsdale, MN. 55918

Please mail to:

Ingrid Bjorklund  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dr. Nissenbaum's research

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/20497>

Dr. Amanda Harry

[http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/wp-content/uploads/wtnoise\\_health\\_2007\\_a\\_harry.pdf](http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/wp-content/uploads/wtnoise_health_2007_a_harry.pdf)

Dr. Pierpont

<http://www.windturbinesyndrome.com/?p=108>

Sleep disturbance, tinnitus, ear pressure, dizziness, vertigo, nausea, visual blurring, tachycardia, irritability, problems with concentration and memory, panic episodes.

<http://betterplan.squarespace.com/>

<http://www.wind-watch.org/> includes sound video

<http://www.windaction.org/>

<http://www.OlmstedWindTruth.com>

<http://www.goodhuewindtruth.com>

<http://www.windcows.com/>

<http://www.dodgewindtruth.com/>

<http://www.aweo.org/>

Page one of two

March 9, 2010

Craig Oscarson, Mower County Coordinator  
Mower County Commissioners, Ray Tucker, Chr.  
Courthouse  
Austin, Minnesota 55912

Re: wind turbines and transmission lines and wind power in general  
Gentlemen:

I know you think this will be great to have all this money coming in from the wind turbines, but in the long run, will it be the best for the county? Will the county really be money ahead?

Prior to the installation of the turbines around Dexter we were having people come to our area because it was still close enough to Rochester. We had the potential to really boom. Now, nobody likes to look at those all day everyday. Acreages won't be developed, and the existing ones will decrease in value to about half of what they are now. Therefore, less revenue from land owners. How long do you think this wind power will last?

When people who have lived on their farms all their lives have to go to the basement to sleep with a pillow over their head so they can't hear the sound of the turbines, something is very wrong with this whole set-up.

It's interesting that the day of the meeting, one of the fellows from RES walked out with me and said he agreed with everything I said and he too, wondered if they weren't working with a Dinosaur. If it weren't for all the tax credits, etc., you know very well these companies wouldn't be so enthused to put them up. If you've been keeping up with the latest technology, you have no doubt read about The Bloom Box and now they have found a way of using the CO2 from coal plants making them more than 100% clean by producing clean water and cement as a by-product. We've all heard about how much coal is available. You can check this all out yourselves on Google.

For myself, and my neighbors, we already had the Great River power plant a mile away, and the natural gas line across the road; now BESIDES the turbines we'll have a huge sub-station also one mile away and two more in the area, plus the 161,00KV transmission lines down our road. Give me a break!! What will our property be worth? Who would want to live near all that junk? We'll be another Rosemount. Check out the web-sites about the dangers of living near these turbines and the transmission lines.

Read on page 18 of the hard copy about the high voltage power in each turbine and the MILES of underground lines to the feeder system. Think of the ACRES of prime farm land that will be taken up for this! How are you ever going to refuse a landowner to take even an acre out for any use they desire? You might as well forget about a Planning and Zoning Dept. if you can allow this.

Sincerely,

Margaret Kirchner  
31973 680<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Dexter, Minnesota 55926  
Cc: Rep. Jeanne Poppe  
Sen. Dan Sparks

Neil Knutson  
P.O. Box-105  
Brownsdale, W.V. 55918

This is a copy of Margaret Kirchner's letter.  
I agree to it fully.  
I ask that you consider all the  
information. This is very serious!  
Thank you!  
Neil & Knutson

Also, I'd like to call your attention to something that really is a big deal. Ingrid Bjorklund, the project manager at the Mn. Office of Energy Security made a statement eluding to the fact that it is a given that everyone uses a computer now. I called her to correct her on this and she thanked me as she wasn't aware of this. In the offices, a computer is as common as a pencil, but that is not true here in the rural area. The day of the meeting at Dexter, I became aware that very few people had access to any of that information. They send out these CD's and expect everyone to know what to do with it, (or else they handled it this way to deliberately keep everyone in the dark). Some who use a computer in their work were not aware that it could not be played on a CD player, but that it was a CD Rom.

Ingrid told me that RES is required by law to furnish a hard copy to everyone who asks for one. They should have had these available the day of the meeting. Don't you agree with this?