

From: [Barb Jennissen](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Cc: [Kirsch, Raymond \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: PUC Docket No. IP6853,6866/CN-11-471
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 11:23:16 AM

Reference to PUC Docket No. IP6853,6866/CN-11-471

Dear Ms. Steinhauer and Mr. Kirsch:

We are writing to express our opposition to the Getty/Black Oak wind farm project. First and foremost should be concern for human life. We have seen wind farms in areas from Minnesota to Texas. No where have we seen wind turbines in such a populated area. We will have dozens of homes located within one-half mile or less of wind turbines. How did this happen? Getty and Raymond Township residents were uninformed about the noise pollution, shadow flicker, visual impact, and reduction in property values. All the lease agreements were put together behind closed doors and residents were approached individually without benefit of legal counsel.

A bald eagle has been nesting on our property for four years and continues to do so. The nest is within one-half mile of the nearest turbine. This is complicated by the fact that we have three other waterfowl **protection** areas in a triangle and we are siting a wind farm in the middle? Along with the eagles traveling between these areas; ducks, geese, trumpeter swans and migratory birds of all sorts travel through this area. We can't imagine an area where more birds will be put at risk. We have contacted Mr. Landwehr of the DNR, Representative Anderson, and Senator Gimse about errors in the siting policy.

Sincerely,

Dave and Barb Jennissen
Sauk Centre, MN
bdjennissen@wisper-wireless.com
320-352-6903

From: apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Jennissen Wed Feb 15 11:55:00 2012 IP6853, IP6866/CN-11-471
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:55:06 AM

This public comment has been sent via the form at:
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Joint Certificate of Need for Black Oak Wind Farm and Getty Wind Project

Docket number: IP6853, IP6866/CN-11-471

User Name: Dave and Barb Jennissen

County: Stearns County

City: Sauk Centre

Email:

Phone:

Impact: We are writing to recommend that a moratorium on construction be put in place for the Black Oak/Getty Wind project. Adverse health effects on humans and animals alike are continually being released. We have spent twenty years developing an animal friendly habitat; planting trees, digging ponds, following Land Stewardship Program guidelines to protect our environment. All of this will be jeopardized if a wind farm comes into our area. There needs to be in this plan a compensation for loss of property value. People living next to a power line are compensated and they are not plagued with flashing lights, noise, and continuous motion. Again, we have a lot of people living in this area and migratory and resident waterfowl abound. This project does not pass the environmental review!

Mitigation: We would recommend that someone look carefully at the Getty Wind project area. Look at the number of residences being affected and the Wildlife Management Areas within the project. Then look west of the Black Oak project. If we really have a NEED for another wind farm, move it west of the Black Oak Project. Large open fields, no trees, (trees are already being removed for the Getty project and these are supporters of "green" energy) and few wetlands! If the project developers are all about "green" they should be willing to locate in an area with less adverse affect on the environment. The only "green" they are concerned about is the money, most of it coming from taxpayers.

Submission date: Wed Feb 15 11:55:00 2012

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us

From: apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Jennissen Thu Feb 9 13:22:04 2012 IP6853, IP6866/CN-11-471
Date: Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:22:11 PM

This public comment has been sent via the form at:
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Joint Certificate of Need for Black Oak Wind Farm and Getty Wind Project

Docket number: IP6853, IP6866/CN-11-471

User Name: Barb Jennissen

County:

City: Sauk Centre

Email:

Phone:

Impact: We are located within the Getty/Black Oak Wind Farm south of Sauk Centre. As a Commission whose mission is to properly place energy facilities, how can you possibly agree to siting a wind farm in a highly populated rural area surrounded by wetlands? If there is ever an opportunity to say "NO" to a wind farm this is it. Show that you are concerned about the citizens of Minnesota and the environment of our state, not a rubber stamp. The investors who originally contacted us about a lease gave us 10 days to sign. Everything was done undercover and signers were told not to share information, hence uninformed farmers were signing leases presented to them by influential millionaire community members. If Geronimo Wind had approached these residents, this project would never have moved forward. There is not overwhelming support for this project, there is only fear of speaking out. I am not going to belabor the noise and vibration, shadow flicker, strobe lighting day and night, devaluation of property and environmental impact of wind turbines, all of which are being substantiated by research; what I am saying is that these complaints will be multiplied dozens of times over if you permit a wind farm in this highly populated area surrounded by Wetland Management Areas. The uninformed farmers who signed leases will be the first to call their attorneys and sue for compensation.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Thu Feb 9 13:22:04 2012

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Barb Jennissen <bdjennissen@wisper-wireless.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:34 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: PUC Docket NO. IP6853,6866/CN-11-471

As a resident of Getty/Black Oak Wind Farm project area, I would like to propose a moratorium on this wind farm until a program is in place to compensate them for loss of property value due to flashing lights, noise, shadow flicker and potential health risks to humans and animals alike. The investors in the Getty/Black Oak Wind Farms are absentee landlords living as far away as Illinois, while we are being forced to live with the consequences of a wind farm. We need to be protected and treated fairly.

David Jennissen

Getty Township farmer

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Kevin Lahr, I am a farmer, landowner, and member of Getty Wind Company, LLC. I would like to directly address some concerns and allegations that Getty Wind Farm is clearing trees.

Let me simply state that this is not true. Getty Wind Farm is not clearing any trees or has it asked any landowners to remove trees. The trees that have been removed along property lines within the Getty Wind Farm project area were part of a joint maintenance project that was approved by all adjoining property owners, of which one of the property owners is not even participating in the Getty Wind Farm. During this incredibly mild winter, this group of landowners realized the value of removing these narrow rows of trees whose population mainly consisted of willows and elms and were about seventy five percent dead. With everyone's help and permission the trees were removed so that dead limbs would no longer fall into farmed areas and continue to cause damage to everyone's machinery. The fact that it happened this winter is a result of the opportunistic weather.

I also want to address claims that the Members of Getty Wind Farm are not neighbor friendly and do not care for or about the environment. I personally believe in being a good steward of the land. I have been in the past and I still am currently involved in numerous programs sponsored by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. I also have children whom I hope to teach by example, a responsibility to and respect for the land and the people surrounding it. If I am to do this, I need to be allowed to use the land in a sustainable and responsible manner that looks toward the future, not towards an attitude of not in my backyard. It is easy to criticize others for trying to do something new and some people fear change.

Local people with firsthand knowledge of what has happened in the Midwest ISO and the wind industry during the nearly seven years since we started our project, know that statements alleging that local participants are in it merely for financial gains, are spoken by people who oppose wind farms and lack factual information.

Respectfully,

Kevin Lahr

From: [Lenz, Jeff \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Black Oak/Getty Wind Projects
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:10:45 PM

Suzanne, I received the Public information and scoping letter that was sent out and the only comment that MN/DoT District 3 would have is that if they are planning to plat any land along T.H. 71 they will need to present them to us before they are recorded. Also if they change and entrances from the existing use or plan to add any entrances they must contact Mark Renn in our St. Cloud office for permits.

You can email me back or call if you have any questions. Thanks.

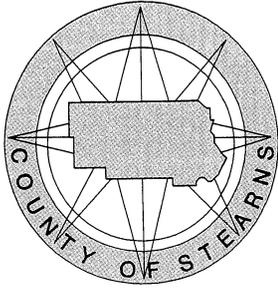
Jeff Lenz
Minnesota Department of Transportation
District 3 - Baxter
7694 Industrial Park Road
Baxter MN, 56425
(218) 828-5808
Email - jeff.lenz@state.mn.us

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: COLLEEN MUELLER <cmueller@wildblue.net>
Sent: Friday, December 30, 2011 2:09 PM
To: staff, cao (PUC)
Subject: WS-10-1240;WS-11-831/CN11-831:CN-11-471

MN Public Utilities: The National Weather Service and Weather Underground have wind estimates at an average of 9 mph for the entire year for Sauk Centre, MN. (1) Industrial wind turbines require proposed here have a rated wind speed of 25 mph or 11 m/s-(2) Without access to the wind resources data it would be impossible to verify or check if there is enough wind to guarantee any economic value to property owners or the community as a whole. There are almost 10,000 acres of wildlife within or a 10 mi radius of both the Getty and Black Oak wind farms. At the April meeting in Sauk Centre when objections were raised to allow the developers to use Paynesville Wind Avian studies Ms. Steinhauer specifically said no-that would not be allowed. It appears as though it is being allowed-and that is unacceptable! While there are many similarities, there are also many differences. There are no two places on this earth that are exactly alike. NO MITIGATION can be achieved AFTER the wildlife and humans are impacted, including habitat. All studies MUST be mandatory and pre-construction. These studies must be done by UNBIASED wildlife specialists who don't have any vested interest-and include the DNR and USFW, NOT done by wildlife companies hired by the developers.(3) In May 2009 the MN. DEPT of HEALTH issued the white paper on health effects of wind turbines. The MN. PUC has taken no action to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of this state from ill effects linked to industrial wind. Not only are basic human rights ignored, so are the rights to enjoy the tranquil and scenic beauty without industrial intrusions in our landscape. Over the previous 3-5 years energy consumption is down-it is projected to level off or remain much as it is now. MN. is "Land of 10,000" lakes. Water resources are valuable, but when questionable wind resources pushed by political agenda to destroy our resources. This is neither environmentally friendly or a prudent use of those resources. Many of the utility companies are ahead of the mandate for wind energy. Not only is wind energy expensive-it also contributing to more economic failure. So few jobs are created and sustained-except for a brief construction period. There is no real socio-economical benefit to the area except to those who host a turbine-even they can't speak due to confidentiality and secrecy surrounding wind farms. Transmission costs for poorly producing electricity are too expensive to justify the cost. MN citizens can't afford any more financial burdens to supply electricity to far away cities, not to mention the losses when transmission is further away. It is estimated a mere 10% will be the final number when all factors are considered into wind energy. This is not acceptable in this millennium. Rural communities are targeted because there are less people and financial resources to fight it. Developers have big money and teams of lawyers. What do the citizens have? Lawyer bills and bankruptcy. Corporation and developers apply BIG MONEY to get stimulus dollars-our money-citizens don't get money from the feds. It was intended that if a wind farm were to be developed-only American products were to be purchased and used under ARRA-seems that's been forgotten. The MN. PUC. has denied ONLY one permit for wind energy development. All others have been approved. There are HUGE environmental problems associated with "wind farms"-some of those, but not all include 1. noise pollution (2) visual pollution (3) water contamination -1000 ton concrete per footing) (4) wildlife and habitat destruction or displacement (5)rural infrastructure destroyed(5) public health and safety (6) citizens right to encumber (7) devaluing private property resulting in migration out of rural communities . ONLY a complete and unbiased acoustical study of noise at 80m and 100m or whatever size is suggested and what associated noise produced by industrial wind turbines. Without doing the studies it is forcing citizens to endure and suffer adverse health affects. These studies must include shadow flicker, inaudible and audible modulation include sitings with multiple turbines. In addition to an acoustical study a complete environmental worksheet is the ONLY method to properly assess the positive and negative issues surrounding wind and all energy developments. Minnesota water and mineral resources could be negatively affected by run off and burying 1000's of ton of concrete. Our waters are already

under stress-to further this negative situation without environmental studies is not acceptable. References: (1) www.weatherunderground.com/history.html (2)<http://www.aweo.org/windmodels.html>(3)Minnesota Dept of Health 2009 White paper. Respectfully submitted as part of the public record. Sincerely, Colleen Mueller
22186 Hwy 4, Paynesville,MN. 56362



COUNTY OF STEARNS

Environmental Services Department

Administration Center Rm 343 • 705 Courthouse Square • St. Cloud, MN 56303
 320-656-3613 • Fax 320-656-6484 • 1-800-450-0852

February 7, 2012

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

Re: Black Oak Wind LLC and Getty Wind Company LLC Certificate of Need Application
 Docket No: IP-6853/CN-11-471

Dear Dr. Haar:

Stearns County Environmental Services has reviewed the Application for Certificate of Need Docket Number 11-471 wishes to submit the following comments.

Page 26: 5.4.5 Facility Location

The application indicates that the project is “about six miles south of Sauk Centre, Minnesota.” The project is actually less than two miles south of Sauk Centre.

Page 68: 12.4 Other Project Permits

Neither Stearns County nor any of the applicable Townships (Ashley, Raymond, Getty and Sauk Centre) enforce the State Building Code; therefore building permits are not required. Stearns County does not require a Conditional Use Permit for a substation. Additionally, Stearns County administers the Wetland Conservation Act.

Agency	Permit/Approval	Need for Permit/Approval
Stearns County	Road Agreements	Oversize/overweight permits and road repair agreement (may combine with TWPs)
	Development Agreement	May be required
	Building Permits Turbines	May be required
	Building Permits Substation	Required to start construction
	Building Permits Construction Site Permit Operation and Maintenance Building	Required to start construction
	Access road permits	Required to start construction
	CUP for T-Line	Required to start construction
	CUP for Substation	Required to start construction

Townships	Road Agreements	Oversize/overweight permits and road repair agreement (may combine with County)
	Development Agreement	May be required
	Building Permits Turbines	May be required
	Building Permits Substations	May be required
	Access road permits	Required to start construction
Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District <u>Stearns County</u>	Approval Wetlands delineations	Onsite review of Wetlands delineation for Compliance with Wetland Conservation Act.

If you should have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Angie Berg, Land Use Division Director, at 320-656-3613.

Sincerely,



Angie Berg
Land Use Division Supervisor



ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
SCOPING COMMENT FORM

Black Oak and Getty Wind Projects
PUC Docket: IP6853 and IP6866/CN-11-471

Name: David Wiener
Address: 37263 Co. Rd. 48
City: Sauk Centre, Minnesota State: _____ ZIP: 56378

Please share your comments and suggestions on the potential issues, impacts, and alternatives that should be considered in the Environmental Report to be prepared for the proposed Black Oak and Getty Wind Projects. Suggestions can be directed toward alternative means of producing or conserving the energy proposed to be produced by the wind farms.

You may turn in this form tonight or mail it to the address provided (use additional sheets as necessary). You may email comments to Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager at suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us or fax to (651) 297-7891, with CN-11-471 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 PM, Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

Dear Sir:

Please find 4 typed pages and a map below.
thank you for your time.

I see Geronimo Black oak has already started their construction. Soil Bore - paint marks on roads.

Signature: David Wiener Date: 8 Feb 8-2012

February 3, 2012

David Wiener
37263 Co. Rd. 18
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

For: PUC Docket NO IP6853
6866/CN-11-471

Dear Sir:

Please accept the below as a statement on the Black Oak and Getty Wind project and its environmental impact. (map enclosed) My family lives in Stearns County, Raymond Township, Section 2 from 1948-2012. We've had residence even earlier in Getty Township dating back from about 1900-1948. I am 68 years old. Below is what I have seen **disappear** in the last 60 years. Geronimo EV Study only looks at what is here now, not the past.

Impacts are slow. We don't see them until years later. Please consider for now and the future. Few people don't do a lot of damage but combined we have a dramatic impact on the environment. Here is the generational impact we have witnessed being lost or changed over the past several years. It includes the species, the changes seen, and the cause in these changes.

Speices

Changes

Reptile/Amphibian

Brown Lizard.....Last seen in 1949
SalamanderThere were numerous; seldom seen in last 5 years
Snapping Turtle.....There were some, last seen around here in 1962-63
Colored Turtle.....2 kinds, last seen in the 1960's
Snakes.....None seen anymore
Frogs.....Seldom seen; used to be hundreds or thousands; few now
Toads.....Hundreds of them, could stand in low water ponds and listen to them.

Fish and Aquatic

Northern Pike..... Fingerlings and adults that could be picked up by the handful for
Crappie..... all species listed. Now there are none that remain. Fish
Blue Gill.....disappeared completely. Last ones seen around 1971.
Bass.....
Bull Head.....
Minnows (Assorted Species)..
Cray fish.....
Dragon Fly.....
Water Bugs.....

Species

Changes

Water Birds

Sand Snipe..... Since all of the draining and tiling to increase farmland, geese and
Blue Heron.....swans have taken different flight paths and migratory routes. They
Bitter.....stop in the Spring if there is water. Seen hundreds in the Spring of
Ducks.....2011 for a span of 2 weeks because of snow melt and run-off.
Swans and Geese.....Windmills in the area will eliminate this possibility completely.

Land Birds

Bob-a-link.....No meadow, hay fields cut too early
Meadowlark..... No meadow, hay fields cut too early
Red Winged Black Bird..... Less lowland habitat available
Yellow Winged Black Bird..Less lowland habitat available
Wren.....Little habitat
Kill Deer.....Big farm machinery-can't see-won't stop. Comment at meeting-
Can't get extra windmill because of some bird.
Field Sparrow.....Few
Gold Finch.....Find dead birds under 400K lilne on my land-can't sit on wire
Eagle.....Not seen for years, now seen from Raymond Lake woods
Loon.....Loon fly thru wind mill planned area
Crows.....More crows now, more road kill
Owls.....The crows kill the owls-just groves left. Easier to kill owls

Land and water animals

Beaver.....No longer seen since 1985
Musk Rat.....No more-was hundreds
Mink.....Seldom see now-was always seen
Silver mink.....No more-was always seen
Weasel.....No more-was always seen
Gray ground squirrel.....Low ground habitat. No more seen since 1959
**Minnesota striped gopher..Use to be lots of them. Not any more. It is the state gopher!!!
Pocket gopher.....Few now
Red fox.....Hardly seen any more. New coyotes.
Coon.....Less
Skunk.....Less to none
Deer.....Less
Jack Rabbit.....GONE! None left. Shot out-Habitat gone. Not seen after 2000.
Badger.....Gone since 1988 or so.

Causes

Road Kill.....Drainage.....Tiling.....Habitat....Utilites.....Farming....etc. for all above species.

Insects

Native Lady bug.....Was many. Killed by Asian lady bug
 Kadydid.....Was many. Killed by crop spraying for soybean aphid.
 Yellow Jacket.....Was many.
 Blue Hornet.....Was many.
 Honey Bee.....Less bee keepers. No flower just crops.
 Leaf clipper.....Common years ago.
 Clay Wasp.....Common years ago. Very few seen now.

Trees.....Cut down to farm land. Few left. Farm it all. All the farmers think is
 Money. They are non resident farmers.

Wild Flowers.....Some in gravel road ditches. Some farmers think they are weeds. What
 Are we doing? Hell with everything. Sad to see.

New Pests

Buck Thorn
 Emerald Ash Bore
 Oak Wilt
 Dutch Elm
 Asian Beetle
 Ragweed along orad sides
 Proso Millet along road sides
 Marsh Thistle.....Never before 1975
 More Crows
 Grackle
 Rats.....Neighbors feed piles on ground

Utilities

What we can see from farm site

Towers

64.....400K power line towers
 35.....red and white strobe light towers west
 14.....red and white strobe light towers east
 2.....T.V. towers
 50.....X Cel tower in future estimate
 40.....wind mills and meter towers estimate
 205 total

Because there is little left after 60 years it is **not** a good reason to add more wind mills and what ever else comes. Looks like a utility night mare if we continue down the path we have.

I called this area Black Lake for 10 or so years ago, because of all the land plowed up. After 2010 & 11 every acre possible is farmed. I have changed the name to the Black sea and tower county. Not pretty anymore. At least X Cel is along Interstate Highway 94 so people can see what is sacrificed to make things modern.

Impacts are slow and leave consequences. The generation that causes the damage are most of the time no longer around to see or correct the damage they have caused.

If we look years back we can somehow see the future. Our generation will leave another mark that we don't want to admit and can't replace.

In the future there will be just people, their things and the pests that comes with it? People just think money at whatever the cost.

Lets really think this wind mill project & land use over. The people who will put it here don't live here. To those people I say "thanks for nothing". I have done damage like the rest. I see the consequences now and can't go back to fix it. I say the permit and certificate of need should be denied for the wind mills. Enough can't be said about the future consequences.

Please make better land use decisions.

Sincerely,

David Wiener

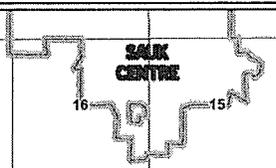
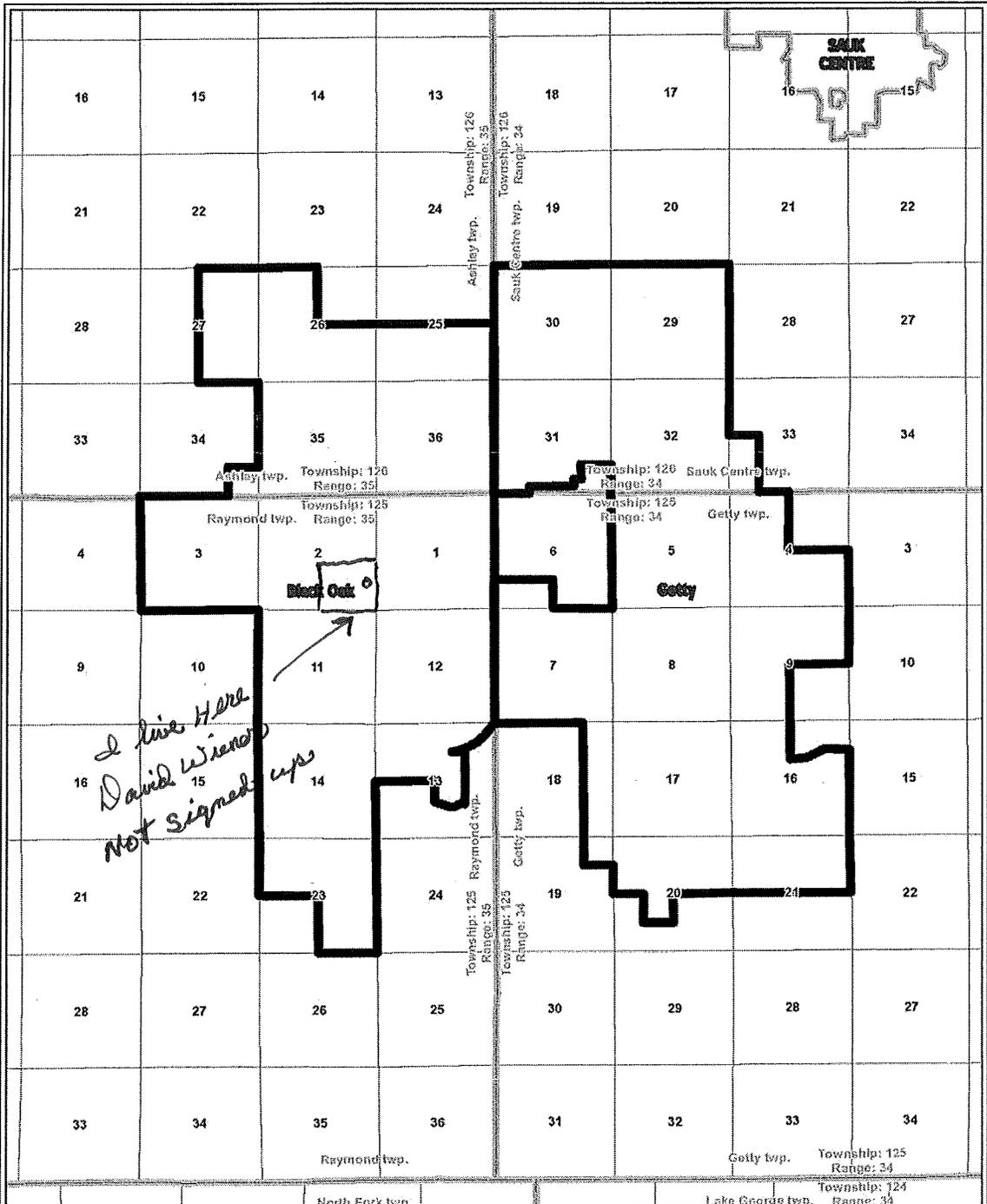
Any questions my phone number is 320-352-3236.

P.S.

February 7th - 2012 Great River 400 K power line
tree cutting people came into my yard and now
want to cut the trees on my side of the line 80 feet
wide. When will this kind of stuff stop
Now I will have even less trees.

Just makes me upset all over again. Just shows
the concerns in the above letter!

David Wiener



BLACK OAK AND GETTY WIND FARMS

LEGEND

- Project Footprints
- Municipal Civil Divisions
- Section Lines

