

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - SCOPING MEETING

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In the Matter of the Certificate of Need Application for
the Black Oak Wind and the Getty Wind Projects

MPUC DOCKET NO: IP6853, 6866/CN-11-471

Sauk Centre City Hall
320 Oak Street South
Sauk Centre, Minnesota

JANUARY 26, 2012

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1 MS. STEINHAUER: I appreciate your coming
2 out tonight. Perhaps you have questions or
3 comments.

4 I don't want to put anybody on the spot.
5 Some people have come a long way.

6 Yes.

7 MR. LEO KLISCH: This is my first time
8 at --

9 MS. STEINHAUER: Please identify yourself
10 and spell your name.

11 MR. LEO KLISCH: Leo Klisch, K-L-I-S-C-H,
12 Leo, L-E-O. And this my first time at a public
13 hearing for a wind farm proposal.

14 And I live down -- I'm not a landowner in
15 the area, I don't really live in the area, I live in
16 the Avon/St. Joe area.

17 And the reason I'm supporting these
18 projects is because I think we need to get as much
19 wind and/or solar, biomass, at least clean energy on
20 line as soon as possible and take as much coal off
21 line.

22 In particular, since we're sending all
23 that money out to Bismarck, North Dakota. And I'm
24 sure North Dakota is looking at plenty of wind, too,
25 and they've got more wind out there, and so I think

1 this makes sense to keep the local tax generation
2 and jobs locally here in this part of the country.

3 And it's probably the best alternative,
4 at this point it's probably the best alternative to
5 coal generation. And which there are studies out
6 there that, nationwide, if you look at the impact of
7 coal generation on public health, which has to do
8 with things such as respiratory disease, mainly,
9 asthma and such things, the coal generation
10 industry, we have to cover those costs. They would
11 have to add probably somewhere in the area of five
12 cents per kilowatt-hour to cover the public health
13 costs. And that doesn't even count the potential
14 negative impacts that -- and this is a very
15 controversial issue -- global warming, climate
16 change.

17 But the USDA, just a couple days ago,
18 issued their updated zone map for winter plants and
19 they took the last 30-year average for temperature
20 in the wintertime, which I guess you could say,
21 depending upon your point of view, is that a good
22 thing or a bad thing, but they raised it five
23 degrees, on average, winter temperature, five
24 degrees for most of the Minnesota area. So there's
25 no question in 30 years that you can get a five

1 degree boost, five degree Fahrenheit boost in winter
2 temperatures. I can't imagine what's going to
3 happen if you project that out over a century or so
4 for our kids and grandkids. I don't think they have
5 a prayer.

6 So it's a big issue, it's a difficult
7 one, it may be even be a costly one, but right now
8 wind is the cheapest clean power out there.

9 The other thing, you know, we don't have
10 to worry about mercury, coal ash is not an issue,
11 which basically coal ash is hazardous waste if
12 you're going to put a coal plant in this area to
13 generate the same power as this, you have to do
14 something with that coal ash. And, of course, the
15 sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide creates acid rain,
16 too.

17 So those are all the things I think that
18 we're confronted with. And I realize, you know, the
19 landowners here, whether you support it or don't
20 support it, you know, I can understand both sides of
21 the issue, I guess, in that case, but I think we
22 have to look at it from that angle.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. STEINHAEUER: Thank you.

25 I want to respect people's time. Does

1 anybody else have anything they want to make sure
2 gets on the record this evening?

3 MS. JANELL WESTERMAN: My name is Janell
4 Westerman, J-A-N-E-L-L, W-E-S-T-E-R-M-A-N.

5 And I am not in support of the wind
6 turbines in our area for many reasons. We have very
7 valuable agricultural land in our area and I hate to
8 see it being wasted on wind turbines.

9 We also have over 6,000 acres of wildlife
10 out by us. And the permits have acknowledged that
11 we have endangered species in the area, but it's
12 like who cares. They think being a mile away from
13 these areas is really going to help. And the birds
14 don't care. We have a bald eagle that nests between
15 our place and our neighbor's place and it's all very
16 well known that eagles travel well more than a mile
17 to do their hunting. And a mile setback of these
18 wind turbines is really not helping. If we would go
19 out and kill an eagle we would be put in jail for
20 it, but these wind turbines, if they want them, who
21 cares.

22 So I want it known that I am very much
23 against it. There's just too many bad things with
24 these, you know. I agree with Mr. Klisch, we need
25 to have some alternatives for our energy sources,

1 but I don't think these wind turbines belong in our
2 area.

3 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you,
4 Ms. Westerman. I do want to acknowledge your
5 comments, I know you have comments on the record I
6 believe for both the projects, the Getty and the
7 Black Oak site permits. And when we were out here
8 last spring, and then certainly in the comments
9 we've received from the resource agencies, they have
10 identified wildlife impacts. So that's something we
11 are looking at, the Getty draft site permit, and it
12 will also be entered into the record, and the Black
13 Oak site project will include something called an
14 avian bat protection plan that will be available for
15 public comment. And we'll be making comment on that
16 in the site permitting, that's a site permitting
17 issue, and we'll be taking that up in the site
18 process. And then I imagine we'll open the hearing
19 up to take comments on that.

20 Thank you.

21 I don't see any hands. I'm going to say
22 going once, going twice.

23 MR. LARRY LAHR: My name is Larry Lahr,
24 L-A-R-R-Y, L-A-H-R.

25 And, you know, it sounds like we don't

1 care. I'm a farmer and a member of Getty Wind. I
2 know most of the people that are in this project
3 with us, that work for them and with them, we were
4 taught to love the land and love the animals. One
5 of the first times I went out cultivating, my dad
6 went with me, and there was a killdeer in there, and
7 he told me it was more important to run over a
8 kernel of corn than it was to kill that killdeer.
9 And I know there's been some studies down here to
10 focus on these birds. I have a piece of land that
11 was supposedly going to get a turbine, which was
12 fine with me, and I find out now that it won't. I
13 asked, well, why the change? It is because there's
14 a bird living in the wildlife down there that it
15 would endanger. So they moved that on account of
16 that.

17 So to make the comment that nobody cares,
18 I don't think that's quite accurate.

19 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you.

20 Okay. Going once, going twice, going
21 three times?

22 We'll conclude the public comment period
23 of this scoping meeting.

24 We'll be available afterwards if you have
25 any questions or comments. Written comments are due

1 to me by February 15th. And, again, to reiterate,
2 that we'll be out in the project area, I'm not sure
3 if it will be this actual facility, but at least two
4 more times. One for the public meeting on the Getty
5 Wind draft site permit and then for the hearing on
6 both projects.

7 So I very much appreciate your coming out
8 this evening and the comments that we've received
9 and encourage you -- if I'm in the audience I don't
10 think very clearly, so if something comes to mind
11 afterwards, please do send that in to me.

12 So thank you very much.

13 (Meeting concluded.)
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