

I am Dawn Kaasa. District 2 County Commissioner, Glenville and the surrounding area is in my district. I am a life long Freeborn County resident, having lived in the Glenville area for 61 of my 66 years.

I would again remind everyone that their voices matter, the tax capacity of our county comes from you. 65.29% of the county tax capacity comes from 15 townships, including residential and ag. 5.69% comes from the small cities. That is 70.98% of the total tax capacity of the county. That is from all of you.

As for my comments....

My First concern is for the Shell Rock River. We in Glenville had no say in the years of raw sewage Albert Lea allowed to be dumped in our river via their Albert Lea Lake being contaminated by Wilson & Co. We finally get rid of that, the farmers have gained knowledge thru the years of better conservation practices, the watershed has spent millions on the clean up, it is finally a place we see people fishing again as well as kayaks and canoes. And is now a Designated State Water Trail. The concern of the contamination to the river which within 9 miles is in our neighbors in Iowa's backyard. It is a concern to them as well. One event could cause damage that will be far reaching.

The concern for the school and town are still there as well. The noise that will be constant and the risk of a malfunction always exist.

At the PUC meeting I attended last year – Spearmint Energy was asked why they put the PUC in this situation - offering no alternative site. They don't have to by statute, but it would have been good business to do so. They now have put the PUC in the situation of either having to deny or approve this site alone. Spearmint's poor business decisions should not be paid for by my residents and taxpayers. They did allow us the opportunity to have a task force, which was deemed to address alternate sites. Was that really their role?? Shouldn't Spearmint Energy and their consultants do their own homework? To find an alternative of their own? They are the only ones who will benefit from this project.

Spearmint Energy states they look at safety, environment, and availability. This location choice appears to have skipped right over safety as well as showing no concern for the environment. 250 ft from the banks of our river on light sandy soil – that land is at this time in the conservation reserve program.

In Spearmint's rebuttal to the Environmental assessment – they state they need to be close to wind turbines – I count about 12 visible to this location. There is another substation up by the Manchester area that already has 100 turbines with another 100 coming in. Why was this not listed as an alternative site.

The AMC just sent out an article from the DNR and the AMC environmental division this week, that states the groundwater sustainability is paramount to our future in Minnesota, and that it will only be stable for future generations through our protection of the ecosystem, protecting our drinking water and aquifer, and not degrading our water quality – yet here we are. If we look the other way and let this area be destroyed all for the sake of money and so called progress we will never get it back for future generations. Once it's lost it will be lost forever.

What happens to the precedent this will set for these systems to be allowed 250 ft from a water supply? Where will they want to go next? And if you approve this, what leg will you have to stand on to deny another?

In the assessment – they state that there will be county tax dollars of around \$19,000 that comes to \$.64 cents per resident. That hardly seems like enough to jeopardize our water, environment and public safety.

Hebrews 13:5 warns to Keep your lives free for the love of money and be content with what you have. 1 Timothy 6:10 warns that money is the root of all evil – Good men will turn a blind eye to things they would normally rebuke.

I do not want to see our river hurt by those who only are concerned with money and not the beauty that God has given us.

I am respectfully asking the PUC to Please Deny the application request by Spearmint Energy for the Midwater BESS project at the Shell Rock River location.

Thank you,

Dawn Kaasa