

From: [Paul Hintze](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Three Waters
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:54:41 PM

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Richard Davis Department of Commerce Environmental Review

The DNR submitted a letter dated 5/11/17 outlining a Area of Avoidance pertaining to the Three Waters Wind project. The DNR provided good reasoning as to why that area should be left as is, and not to be disturbed by a Wind Project. That area is located in the heart of Sioux Valley. What I didn't see mentioned was the fact that it has taken many years to acquire the wild life areas. It is a culmination of different projects, by different entities, DNR, US Fish & Wildlife and private persons and groups, all working hard to create a outdoor wildlife experience. The area supports a wonderful habitat for wildlife. Also not mentioned is the area provides habitat for migrating ducks and geese. It is quite a site to observe the thousands of ducks and geese in the spring that stop for a evening to rest. This probably has been going on for hundreds of years, at least for the last hundred as my grand parents had, and now I have witnessed. Sioux Valley is rich in habitat for a bird. It would disappointing if this migration of snow and blue geese were to change because of a wind project. There are many areas available for wind projects to be built, many less sensitive than Sioux Valley. You only have to travel a few miles east or west and you will not witness this migration phenomenon.

It should also be mentioned that there is a Eagle population in the area, I don't know how many, all I can say is that there were never any Eagles around he when I grew up, it is very cool to see them now. I would hate to see them chased out of here by wind turbines.

Another really cool feature not mentioned by the DNR, located just out side the project boundary is a heron rookery. I believe them to be fairly rare around here. It is located along minnesota highway 86. The DNR does not get a good grade on that subject. They were apparently unaware of its existance and were in the process ofcutting the trees down. Luckily a local, obsevered what was about to take place and intervened. The tree cutting project was halted and the majority of the heron rookery saved.

I hope all these wildlife features are considered when desiding on whether to grant a permit and what stipulations if granted should be in place.

sincerely,
Paul Hintze
74075 400th Ave

Lakefield MN 56150

From: [Paul Hintze](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Three Waters Wind
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 9:31:53 PM

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Richard Davis Department of Commerce Environmental Review

NO ROOM ON THE GRID, that is the headline on the front page of the Worthington newspaper, The Globe on Saturday February 22, 2020. Worthington is in Nobles County; Neighboring County of Jackson. To sum up the article, Nobles County is out of Transmission line capacity. After Nobles 2 Wind comes online, there wont be any other projects coming to Nobles County unless transmission capacity is increased. Not sure if that is true, or a justification to press for more transmission capacity. Is there adequate grid/transmission space for the proposed Three Water Project? I am not sure how it all works with the wind available sometimes, and other days not. Should a full grid be a concern? Is a full grid a good thing or would that be a concern. I think we have plenty of transmission lines in this part of the state for the number of people and businesses around here.

sincerely,

Paul Hintze
74075 400th Ave
Lakefield MN 56150

From: [Paul Hintze](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Three Waters Wind
Date: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:18:15 AM

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Richard Davis Department of Commerce Environmental Review

This comment is in regard to noise and noise modeling. Three Waters conducted local noise monitoring as part of the permit process. They monitored noise in late June and Early July for about a week in total. I question why that time period is used and why not more periods spread throughout the year. We have very different weather around here. Temperatures vary considerably as do the moisture levels in the air. I would think that to get the most accurate portrayal for base line sound that at the very least there should be 3 to 4 samples recorded, recordings spread throughout the year. I contend that the baseline noise level would be lower than recorded. With a lower baseline, the spread between baseline and 47 dBA that Three Waters is projecting from there Noise modeling; would produce a seemingly much wider gap between baseline noise and turbine noise, which in turn makes the turbine "sound" louder.

There appears to be a argument that if the turbine is grinding away at 47 dBA and the background (baseline) noise is high enough that there is less distinction of noise difference. I would agree to a point, but where I disagree is when the theory of noise A measures 35dBA and noise B measures 47 dBA, that the total sum only equals 47 dBA. Just because the blender in the room measures the loudest by itself, the TV and dishwasher and fan are all still contributing to overall noise bombardment.

Three Waters Wind Conducted there baseline monitoring at several sites with in and around the project boundary. They monitored baseline sound at 1.5 meters above the ground, ok fine. Why in there modeling are they not using the same height? Why 4 meters above the ground, when you chose 1.5 for baseline testing. Inconsistent. Then there modeling is based on 50 degree and 70 percent humidity; do they not throw different temperatures and humidity into the modeling to see what happens? It is not going to be that specific temperature and humidity for long, this in Minnesota, if you don't like the weather hang around for a few hours, it will change. What is the point of modeling if don't factor more than just one set of parameters? Then to complicate the matter even more, they decide to use a ground factor of .7 instead of .5. What about winter time and frozen ground with no cover? That might factor zero, we have plenty of winter, seems maybe the longest season. I question why you would conduct any type of modeling or testing not using the guidelines of the State, only to be followed by a conservative factor adjustment that Three Waters gives themselves for using the wrong type of model to begin with. Why cant any thing I read about this noise

testing and modeling be consistent. My guess is they want introduce 4 meters as a choice for post-construction testing so they can pass, and then claim consistency, which there is none. Most peoples ears are at 1.5 meters and below, that is where any test should be done, not 4 meters up in the air. They also appear to have incorporated low noise blades and various "noise reduced operations", which of course are top secret and unproven. I don't even know what the rated noise level is for the turbine assuming a 89M tower. How are multiple turbines located in close proximity sound tested?

What is the proto call for post construction noise disputes? What type of equipment is used? I noticed that the turbine closest to me is already incorporating the LNTE and NRO and is projecting a 47 dBA level.

sincerely,
Paul Hintze
74075 400th Ave
Lakefield MN 56150

From: [Paul Hintze](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Three Waters Wind
Date: Friday, February 28, 2020 8:15:49 AM

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Richard Davis Department of Commerce Environmental Review

Subject Tile Drainage

I would like the proposed response from Three Waters Wind and Scout as to what, if anything, is going to be done for non participating land owners in regard to tile damage and crop loss. Tile, referring to a pipe buried below the surface to remove excess water. Tile lines typically connect low lying areas and eventually empty into a open drainage ditch. Gravity along with sloped grade allows the water to flow down hill. Participating landowners have a contract that states Scout/ Three Waters will repair the damage I think, not sure if they reimburse for lost crops due to flooding, they should. What about the guy who is not part of the project, has no contract with Scout or Three Waters, and experiences crop loss due as a result of damaged tile on neighboring property. Assume for discussion that neighbor is participating and has a contract. The neighbor will get the tile fixed and be compensated for crop damage, if any exists. Is Scout / Three Waters going to reimburse a non participating landowner for his crop loss, due to a damaged tile in the neighbors field? And until the problem is rectified, which I hear from other projects that have happened around this area can take years. What remedy exists for the non participating land owner? This is going to be a wide spread problem in this area. There is a lot of tile in this area. I can think of five situations off the top of my head where I would be exposed to this potential problem. Tile lines run across property lines all the time. Sometime the same line crosses back and forth several times before it reaches its outlet.

Some tile systems around here are over 100 years old. They might not even need a crane driven directly over top of them to cause damage. The vibration alone, could be enough to cause the damage. Then of course there are the collection lines that will undoubtedly cut thru tile lines. I read somewhere they purpose to install collection line at 42" inches. I would venture to say the majority of tile around here is buried between 36" to 48" below the surface. I think the lines should be installed below 6 feet. How are you going to properly repair a line and maintain grade for proper flow if you are installing collection lines at the exact depth of tile systems in the area. Not to mention at that depth there is the potential for problems down the road from erosion. We are presently having to deal with a natural gas line buried in one of the fields we farm. Time has allowed the pipeline depth to become very shallow, shallow enough that we cant safely do deep tillage over top of it any longer. A

neighbor down the road apparently hooked it and brought the situation to our attention. Hooking a high voltage line would not be good for anyone, farmer, landowner or Wind Company.

I think a plan needs to be in place to address these potential issues. I hope there is one other than having to sue your neighbor for something he directly didn't do.

sincerely,

Paul Hintze
74075 400th Ave
Lakefield MN 56150

From: [Jessica Welu](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Cc: [Jason Walker](#)
Subject: SRDC comments on PUC Docket #19-154 and 19-576 Three Waters Wind. If questions, please contact Jason Walker at our office. Thanks, SRDC
Date: Friday, February 14, 2020 2:28:15 PM

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Southwest Regional Development Commission Project Review

Agenda Item: 6

Meeting Date: February 13, 2020

Project Name: Three Waters Wind Farm, LLC Site Permit Application; Minnesota Public Utilities Commission DOCKET NO. IP-7002/WS-19-576

Project Description

In July and September, 2019, Three Waters Wind, LLC (Applicant or Three Waters) submitted applications to the Commission to construct and operate a LWECs in Jackson County. In order to construct the Three Waters Wind Project (Project), the applicant must be granted a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission. The proposed project would entail construction of 71 wind turbines for a combined nameplate capacity of 201 MW. The project also includes a 300 foot 345 kV high voltage transmission line, a collector substation, transformers, collection lines, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building, permanent meteorological tower(s), gravel access roads to each turbine, temporary construction areas, including crane paths, pull sites, access roads, a batch plant, and a laydown yard. The project footprint would occupy approximately 48,087 acres of land southwest of the city of Lakefield, along the Minnesota-Iowa border. The Applicant has also secured 11,000 acres of additional land in Iowa to site turbines, if some of the proposed Minnesota turbine locations are found unfeasible. The project would interconnect with ITC's electric transmission grid. The Applicant asserts that the Project is intended to assist Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) achieve its internal goal of generating 100 percent of its energy needs from renewable sources.

Staff Comments

- Project representatives have reached out to County Commissioners on October 16, 2018 and on March 19, 2019 with updates about development work, design/engineering, field surveys, permitting, land acquisition and overall Project timeline. Don Wachal, a Jackson County Commissioner who also serves as a Commissioner for the SRDC, approved of the project and had no concerns when staff reached out to him on February 5, 2020.
- Turbines will be lit in accordance with FAA requirements with appropriate light mitigating technology, i.e., ADLS (with wind turbine visibility lights remaining off approximately 98 percent of the time, light pollution will be minimized, and further mitigation will not be necessary);

- Project will pay a Wind Energy Production Tax to the local units of government of \$0.0012 per kWh of electricity produced, resulting in an annual Wind Energy Production Tax of approximately \$1 million; over the life of the Project, Jackson County and the affected Townships will benefit from approximately \$35.1 million in direct economic benefit.

Project Review Time: 2 hours

Income to the SRDC for this Review: \$0

Reviewer: Jason Walker, Development/Energy Planner

From: [susan untiedt](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Three Water Wind project
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020 7:04:05 PM

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Mr. Davis,

My name is Susan Untiedt. I live in Sioux Valley township, Jackson County, MN. I ride horses several miles every day the weather permits in Sioux Valley township. There is seldom a day that I ride that I do not see eagles. There are several eagles nests in the area. If the Three Water Wind project goes through it will be harmful the the eagles. That is not exceptable. It is not only the eagles. We have a lot of wet lands in this area. Flocks of other bird species will be disrupted as well. Herons make their home here on the lake and the Little Sioux river.

We farm and have spent a lot of money tiling our farms. Farming is our livelihood. Three Waters Wind project will destroy a lot of the tiles putting up their turbines and repairing them. Three Waters Wind claim they will fix them. To whose specs and timelines? We will not sign up but our tiles connect with some of the neighbors farms. If they sign up our tile lines will be affected. We will then have no control over how and when they will be fixed.

Another problem is crop spraying with airplanes. A lot of the people that fly those planes do not like to or refuse to spray with turbines on the fields. I don't blame them. It is dangerous to do so. This also hurts our lively hood and theirs.

I and my husband Jon believe that some of the information that supports the project is misleading. Such as the land owner maps are under negotiation and they are not. They try to get people to sign up because they think their neighbors are. They have not been totally truthful. If they are not truthful about this what else are they not truthful about.

Thank you,

Susan Untiedt and Jon Untiedt

From: [Thomas Behrends](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: "Public Comment: Three Waters Wind Project (CN-19-154 and WS-19-576)"
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 5:51:45 PM
Attachments: [Three Waters Comments.docx](#)

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Mr. Davis,

Please accept my attached comments for the denial of the permits for the Three Waters Wind Project. I hope after your review that the determination is made that this project is not a good fit for our state, it's residents, it's wildlife, and it's land.

I have sent the comments via USPS also.

Thank you,
Tom

Comments for:
Preliminary Draft Site Permit and Environmental Report Scoping
Three Waters Wind Farm
Docket Nos. CN-19-154 and WS-19-576

Noise is one of the human impacts that have people across this country revolting against the industrial wind turbine industry. I know first hand how a rural family's life is ruined by living in close proximity to industrial wind turbines. I came back from Iraq in 2007 to two of them approximately 1,000' from my rural home. We used to live here, enjoying time outdoors, sleeping with the windows open, listening to nature. Now we merely exist, trapped in the house, playing white noise to drown out the incessant noise that is allowed by our government.

One of the things that just seemed wrong from the beginning of my fight with Excelon over the placement of the turbines, was the modeling of the noise that was done on a computer to determine the setback. I questioned how after nearly ten years of turbines being in operation in Minnesota how we were not using actual sound measurements and data from turbines that were in operation. Instead a model is used based on atmospheric conditions in Europe I believe, which is not the upper Midwest. We have heavier more humid air, and when the conditions are right the sound carries further than in other climates. We have all heard a helicopter on those types of days when they sound like they are right by you but are a long way off.

The industrial wind turbine industry has been lying and deceiving this country's citizens and public utility commissions for the entire time modeling has been used to determine setbacks. To start with they say all turbine noise output is 105-107 decibels at the turbine. I don't know what state or country that noise level data comes from, but turbines in Minnesota's atmospheric conditions put out upwards of 120 decibels at times at the turbine. If you use the manufacturers fake decibel level and plug the number into the inverse square law (<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/Acoustic/isprob2.html>), you can place a turbine right at 1,000 from a residence and meet Minnesota's too high decibel level. If you use the decibel level that is actually being produced by a turbine in Minnesota the distance becomes a half mile or more. The wind developers use the manufacturers decibel level as it fits perfectly into their model, allowing turbines to be sited too close to residences. If they used actual data from on the ground in their modeling, most projects would not happen as the layout of our farmland in square miles would prevent turbine layout. Do we want another Bent Tree situation or lawsuit because we allowed turbines to be built that shouldn't have?

It doesn't matter to the manufacturer if the turbine is 1.5 or 3.2 MW, they say they all put out the same amount of noise. That is the same as saying a jumbo jet makes the same noise as a small private jet. So common sense would say that Three Waters 3.03 MW turbines should have a greater setback than the 2.82 MW turbines. The project by Lakefield used 1.5 MW turbines and their modeling determined they needed to have a 1,500' setback. How can a turbine twice that size have a 1,320' setback?

They say our background noise in a rural area is around 30 decibels. How and why can the state say that we should have to tolerate 50 decibels? Most of us that live in the country do so to get away from noise and chaos. Isn't it considered a nuisance to take someone's peace and quiet away and replace it with something they didn't want? Doesn't the standard include all noise, not just the turbine noise over and above the ambient level?

It has been said that there are no known health consequences from living next to industrial wind turbines. What about sleep deprivation? I personally get woke up 20 nights per month by the noise. It is a fact this is not good for a person's health. Falmouth, Massachusetts has found that the turbines are a nuisance because of their health effects. Do we want to keep building these in peoples back yards when more and more lawsuits are popping up?

Shadow flicker should be zero hours per year, not 30 as allowed. It should be named shadow torture because when it occurs it is intolerable.

Using a ground factor of anything over 0.0 is improper due to elevated noise source. Utilizing 0.5 to 0.7 as is in the permit is improper.

What does the noise level do to our livestock and wildlife? Has that been studied to determine if there is reduced weight gain and stress? What science is used by the Minnesota Department of Commerce to determine setbacks?

The whole situation with industrial wind turbine setback and noise levels reminds me of the Volkswagen emissions scandal. The company makes the car and intentionally programs the car to pass emission standards when it is tested. Then after the testing is complete the car goes back to violating the Clean Air Act standard as if nothing happened.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volkswagen_emissions_scandal)

So, wind turbines are allowed to be built too close to our fellow citizens homes, based on inexact or no science, and a skewed computer model. Once they are operational, they are tested to see if they comply, usually under very little load and probably on nice sunny days so the inspectors and the equipment don't get rained on. I'm sure rain or moisture would make the test invalid anyways. Then once they are signed off on as being in compliance, the industrial wind turbine developer turns them up to full load, and the helpless homeowner is relegated to a life of living hell.

Take a look at GE's "How Loud is a Wind Turbine" slide. Supposedly the turbine makes 105 decibels of noise, comparable to a lawnmower. At 100 meters the sound level supposedly drops down to 50 decibels, the same as a window air conditioner. At 300 meters a popup shows that wind turbines are placed no closer than this to the nearest house. If this slide from GE was honest and true, why wouldn't industrial wind complex developers place the wind turbines a little over 100 meters (328 feet) away from the nearest house to stay within the too high Minnesota state mandated 50 decibel threshold. Where is the science and what is the truth? And anyone who has been by a wind turbine when they are under load and thumping away knows they are a heck of a lot louder than a lawnmower.

Have there been any studies on vibration from the turbines going through the ground and into a home's foundation, disturbing the residents inside? This seems to be an issue worldwide and needs to be addressed.

There have been numerous industrial wind turbine fires across this country, including two that I have witnessed myself in SW Minnesota. It appears turbines can be built relatively close to our pristine wetlands. The setbacks from all wetlands and water should be greater to mitigate the risk of toxic chemicals and oil should a turbine fire occur. We need to mitigate the risk of an unwanted fire in our beautiful DNR and Fish & Wildlife areas by increasing the setbacks there also. We are restricted from burning during the nesting season. Turbines should be placed far enough away where a fire cannot make it into the prairie grass or they should be shut off during the spring nesting season to avoid unwanted loss of wildlife. I demand an Environmental Impact Statement for this topic and other known significant impacts.

A possible method to address the potential impacts of the proposed project is to deny the permit as the land is too sensitive to the environmental destruction that will occur. Rural homes are too close to proposed turbine sites. The name "Three Waters" tells it all as a place that should be left to nature and peaceful country living, not an area to exploited for money and greed and destroyed forever.

There is no need for the project. It is a want, not a need. The power company has enough electricity to sell to its customers. It wants to get to 100% renewable. There is no need to get to 100% renewable. There is no room in the grid for additional electrical generation, and no need for it (<https://www.dglobe.com/business/energy-and-mining/4963536-No-room-in-the-grid>). Even if there was a need it would make more environmental sense to put up solar panels on the farm land along Interstate 90, next to the existing power line.

This is a unique area with a growing resident bald eagle population. The studies done do not include all the nests and areas where the bald eagles live. It seems that Three Waters did the study to suit their needs, turning a blind eye to where all the eagles actually are. How many eagles do they predict that they will kill? Have they applied for an eagle take permit? What about all of our other raptors that hunt up and down the waterways that encompass the project? Who speaks for them? The Lakefield project projected a certain amount of bird and bat kills. If I am not mistaken, they were projected way below what actually occurred. What stipulations are in place for when Three Waters is wrong in their projections? It shouldn't just be a fine or a slap on the wrist, the turbines should be shut down, permanently.

One of the biggest concerns I have heard from this project is the lies and deceit that the company uses in trying to secure enough land for the project. This is an ongoing problem across this great country of ours. There is so much money changing hands that people from the land owner, turbine manufacture, developer, and even politicians are swept up in the money and greed. Rather than take a blank map and add landowners as they sign up, developers take a map and cross land owners off when they don't sign up. So, when they show other land owners the map, they think the neighbor has signed up and some figure they might as well also as the turbines will be next door anyways. Then when the neighbors talk it is found out that the developer has

deceived them by showing turbines on land where they are not signed up yet. This was brought out at the meeting last Thursday by several landowners. How many contracts were signed under duress by people who thought the neighbors had turbines anyways, only to find out later that they didn't? The whole project should be halted and started over with honesty, start with a clean slate and fill in the blanks. Not start with a slate that has the blanks filled in and then cross them off. It is up to you to make these deceitful industrial wind turbine developers to be honest. I request that all contracts be declared null and void as many may have been signed under false pretenses and duress. Make Three Waters start over and do the leaseholder agreements honestly.

Decommissioning is mentioned, that Three Waters will take care of it. I request that \$500,000 for each turbine be placed in escrow for decommissioning. There is no guarantee that Three Waters will even be in existence 10 years from now, let alone 35 years. The only way to guarantee that the landowner or our government isn't stuck with the decommissioning bill is to have the money set aside up front. We cannot allow such a risk to continue to go on in the permitting process. Companies go bankrupt all the time. Do we want to burden our citizens or government with a multi-million-dollar decommissioning bill that we could have prevented? It was also brought up at the meeting about what Three Waters is going to do with the turbine blades when they need to be replaced. We pride ourselves in our recycling activities in this country. Three Waters needs to be required to have a plan and facility to recycle the used blades into something useful, not buried in a landfill to never decompose. I request that you require them to have a recycling plan in place, facility constructed and ready to use, and money in escrow.

I request a contested case to vet the noise and other issues of the permit.

In conclusion, my main concern is the misleading, inaccurate information used by the entire industrial wind turbine industry to put turbines where they shouldn't be allowed. It seems that it is common practice to use lies and deceit, and money, to get projects off the ground and permitted. It starts with the turbine manufacturers stating that the turbines only put out 105-107 decibels. That fits right into the developers computerized modeling of turbine placement, which in turn fits right in with the 50-decibel level that government agencies use as how much noise we are supposed to tolerate in our formerly peaceful rural areas. The modeling is skewed towards the wind industry, which allows turbines to be built where they shouldn't be, which in turn ruins people's homes and lives.

Something was said at the meeting how it would be cruel and unusual punishment to listen to turbines in a noise study, that is what living next to wind turbines is.

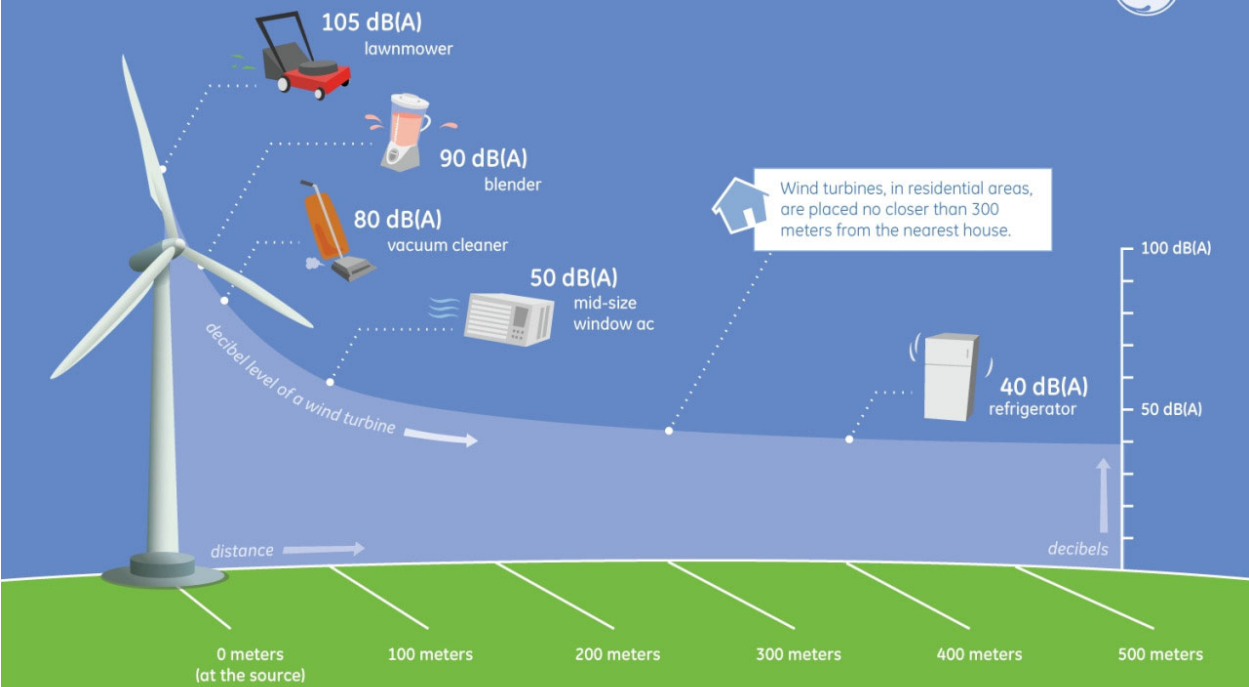
A moratorium needs to be placed on all industrial wind turbine construction until these issues are resolved.

You may contact me at (507) 360-3057 or thomas.behrends@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Behrends

How Loud Is A Wind Turbine?



SOURCE: GE Global Research; National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD part of NIH)

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:59:52 AM

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Name *	Verlon Ponto
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> 36734 760th Street Round Lake, MN 56167 United States
Phone Number	(507) 360-9979
Email	roadsideacres@frontier.com
Provide the docket's number. *	19-576

Leave a comment on the docket. *

We live within one mile of the Three Waters Wind Project and are opposed to this project for many reasons. The project salesmen have been harassing landowners to sign either agreements for wind towers or "good neighbor agreements" by lying to people. They lie to people that the neighbor has signed an agreement when the reverse is true; the neighbor specified has refused numerous times. If the person they contact is not at home, they are breaking the federal law of placing information in their mailbox without postage attached. We are attaching a download (File title of USPS illegal placement.) direct from the United States Postal Service concerning this law.

We understand that there is a one mile setback from Department of Natural Resource land. Why should homes, churches, cemeteries be any different? The flicker and noise to humans should be as important as birds and animals.

They have also contacted churches to attempt to have the church sign this "good neighbor agreement." Where are their morals?

We understand that the grid is full by an article placed in the local paper (file attached as Globe article 1). As stated at the public meeting held at Jackson County Central High School on Thursday, February 20, 2020, Three Waters Wind Project Mark Wengierski stated that the power from this project has been sold to the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency.

We are concerned that our property will be devalued because of these monstrosities. Such has been the case in neighboring states as well as Ewington and Heron Lake township north of Lakefield.

In closing, it was documented that the public meeting on February 20, 2020 proved that the Three Rivers Wind Project is not feasible because there were numerous questions that were not answered to the public.
