

From: [D. Fisher](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Three Waters Wind Project (CN-19-154 and WS-19-576)
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 10:15:20 PM
Attachments: [wind turbine pre-permit letters.pdf](#)

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Please submit my attached file to the commissioners.

February 27, 2020

Sir or Madam,

I'm writing this after attending the February 20, 2020 public meeting. (The projector had projected the left side, off the screen, so no one could not see or read the complete presentation on screen. And they had run out of the individual paper booklet copies.) Once again, I had just a few actual answers to many very important questions or comments. I, and others, would like to know the actual true facts and see accurate true figures and maps. Some of the informational studies that Scout Clean Energy had presented were not even true or accurate; as some were mentioned at the public meeting that night. **How can anyone make a decision on granting a permit when you don't have the actual true facts and figures for information and /or have misleading information, on the project?**

When exiting the public meeting, a nature environmentalist (Westwood) that did work for Scout Clean Energy walked over to a couple of us and mentioned in his conversation that it was okay to "slaughter the bats" & "kill a few eagles". I, being a farmer living in the project area, need bats, and we do have some large bat colonies in our project area. A lot of bat colonies have been affected by the White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), & have destroyed many of the bat population. The wind turbines also affect the bats that fly within their wind buffer, as their lungs erupt or explode from the air force. Those bats fly many miles every evening across our land. They seed & reseed for us, especially in needed areas we physically aren't able to get to. They help with our pollination & they eat an overabundance amount of insects that can destroy our crops. Because of those bats, we are able to use lesser pesticides on our land, which in turn affects our fields & streams. We have **10 protected waters** and **14 shoreland natural environment waters** in Sioux Valley Township alone, that need to be protected, and if we end up with fewer bats, we'll have to use more pesticides. So then, what happens to those waters?

It was also mentioned to us, at that same time when we were exiting the public meeting and talking to the nature environmentalist (Westwood), that the Rusty Patch Bumble Bee is endangered but there aren't any of those in the project area; well, I personally have seen them in our pastures & grasslands along Skunk Creek. So, I question that study also. (The protected boundary area is **not** protecting all of our protected waters that are in the project area.)

Also, those waters should be protected from infrasound from wind turbines being constructed & when operating, as the ecosystem is a very important factor for our futures. Studies show that our ecosystem may be in serious danger by 2050 if not protected.

The **FAA Rules & Regulations guidelines should be enforced**, as we have areas that only a plane is capable of doing the job. Planes are needed to spray certain areas because of the lay of land, the precipitation amounts received, the height limitations, the entanglement, maturity of the crops, or the small time frame to have the job done in. Wind turbine placements & sizes are very important to a pilot. **Turbines can cause a circular vortex that can roll a plane and increase crosswind speeds posing a danger to aircraft.** A nonparticipating landowner should not have to wonder if a plane or pilot is not safe or able to do the job adequately because of enormous wind turbine(s).

We rely on GPS systems for farming also, and when switching between satellites; it takes some time to connect to another satellite & the accuracy is usually always off.

Losing signals when planting or spraying, could cost the farmer immensely.

Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISP) is a "lifeline" in our area. We use it for our computers, printers & our "so called land line" Magic Jack, which may be used for Medic alert & for a "home phone" if children would be home alone. (Some Providers are not available in our area & others are too expensive for some residents.)

Tv Antenna (air) Most are pointed towards Jackson MN, Sioux Falls SD, or Sioux City IA towers to receive television local news & public channels stations.

Tv dishes (Satellite) Shouldn't all non-signed residents be contacted to make sure there would be no wind turbines blocking or interfering with their receiver's signals.

In fact, shouldn't all of these telecommunications be confirmed with each & every residence **before** a permit is granted and **before** a wind turbine is constructed.

Shouldn't all electric lines & cables be the same distance as a wind turbine from any nonparticipating landowner's boundary; as some landowners share boundaries that have tile, tile outlets, tile inlets, trees (if tree roots need to be extracted) or surfacing boulder rock that may need to be excavated.

Also, some nonparticipating landowners have tile that hooks onto or goes through a participating landowners land (downward); if there are any problems with the drainage (upland) and crop damage or losses (whether planted or not planted, or not harvested), or soil damage occurs (or unable to do their tillage). Who pays for the crop loss or damages? Is a nonparticipating landowner guaranteed compensated (either by the wind turbine company or the state of Minnesota) and within a certain time frame (90 days) and without any expenses to the nonparticipating landowner?

The **Sioux Valley Township Cemetery** was not mentioned or marked out on any of Scout Clean Energy documents or maps that they presented to the Minnesota PUC for their permit. In fact, there were no cemeteries mentioned or marked in or near the project area. I, and others, feel this is our oldest and most sacred historical landmarks we have; besides early settlers, there are Civil War Veterans buried within. We have some very old and fragile gravestones that need to be protected from any vibrations, including when wind turbine parts and machines and/or equipment are being transferred by the cemetery, and when the wind turbines are being constructed and operating. Some of those gravestones are very expensive and some are irreplaceable, so there should be a very strict setback from all cemeteries, as vibrations over time could do damage to tiered gravestones, also. I feel at least a one mile setback would hopefully be adequate at this time, for this project.

The **safety of the people**, whether participating or nonparticipating, should be the first and foremost importance of this project. I feel that with this project having such huge wind turbines involved, the setbacks should be set accordingly for their structure & largest (possibly future) blade size, their noise, any ice throwing or falling problems, or mechanical problems. And any and all setbacks should be enforced and with no exceptions. The setbacks on all road right-of-ways should be height of the structure plus one blade, to protect all the people; whether a vehicle, motorcycle, bicycle, atv, utv or snowmobile. (Some of those transportations are not "bodily" covered from elements.) We are the people that live here and travel these roads the most (and/or ditches), so **shouldn't are safety be first**. The County & Townships should be the ones dictating and enforcing those setbacks, not Scout Clean Energy!

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American Agricultural Farmer that resides in Sioux Valley Township,

Diane Fisher

From: [Haylee Behrends](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Docket Nos. CN-19-154 and WS-19-576
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 5:48:58 PM

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To: Richard Davis regarding Three Waters Wind Farm, LLC.
Docket Nos. CN-19-154 and WS-19-576

The wind turbines change the landscape of this agricultural community. Most people who live here enjoy living in an agricultural community and these wind projects are turning an agricultural community into an industrial one. The big sky and big horizons that we get to enjoy as a result of the very flat lands here become tainted by towering wind turbines. The general aesthetic of wind turbines is awful, and it rarely looks as serene as it is depicted in advertisements.

They disturb animals, I witness this often when my dogs bark at sudden noises or shadow flicker from the turbines that travels into the house. The shadow flicker disrupts sleep and disturbs a person during the day while trying to get work done. This is annoying and aggravating.

My biggest concern is what will happen to the towers once this energy becomes obsolete or the company goes defunct? Rushing to put up wind farms merely for the sake of making extra money seems way too hasty and irrational. There is no real reason why the United States or this area needs to rush into switching to wind energy.

More research should be done on the effects they have on wetlands, setbacks are not far enough back, the noise levels are too high, and there is no guarantee that they will be properly removed when the time comes, or that they can be recycled.

Sincerely,
Haylee Behrends

From: [Haylee Behrends](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Docket Nos. CN-19-154 and WS-19-576
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 5:48:58 PM

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From: [Michael Fisher](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Three Waters Wind Project (CN-19-154 and WS-19-576)
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 10:49:29 PM
Attachments: [Three Waters-Public Comment-MF.pdf](#)

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Rich,

Please review these two maps in the attached file that indicate inaccuracy of data and forward to the commissioners.

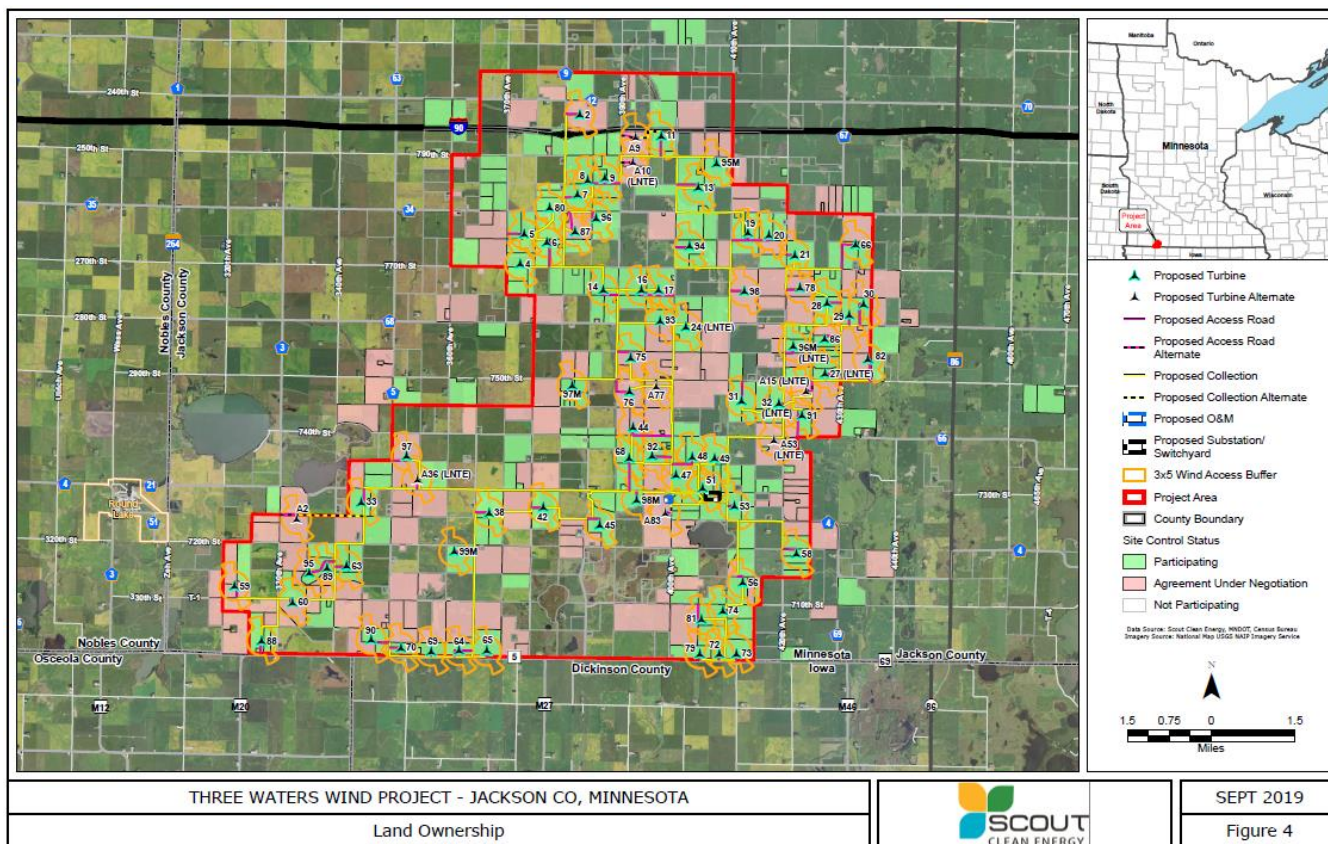
Thank you,
Mike Fisher

How can one designate a wind turbine on land that has no land or wind access agreements?

72% of wind turbines don't have land agreements met or wind buffer access.

- 19 Turbines on land with no agreements signed
- 38 Turbines with land agreements but don't meet the 3x5 wind access buffer
- 19 Turbines meet 3x5 wind access buffer
- 3 Turbines are questionable as map doesn't indicate if Iowa wind access buffer obtained

Based on "Figure 4" included below and submitted by Scout Clean Energy to the MN PUC for site permitting.



From: [Paul Hintze](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Re: three waters wind
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:23:33 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

hey,

The guy who develop the site has passed away. His name was Byron Christoffer. His daughter Dana and son-in-law Kevin Schmid have lived on that sight for many years. He is the guy to talk with. I called Kevin today and asked if he would be willing to talk to you and agreed to do so. His number 507 360 2851. The turbine is located in section 20 Ewington Township, Jackson County. He also mentioned he has witnessed ice coming off the high line wires that run along I90, and hitting the road, if that is of interest to you.

I looked up the turbine on the U.S. Wind Turbine Database. It is listed as follows

Turbine ID 3017771

Project Name Ewington

Year 2008

Rated Capacity 2.1 MW

Hub Height 89 M

Rotor Diameter 88M

Total Height 123.10

Manufacture Suzlon

Model S88

I have heard that a similar ice throw has happened at another local farm, but I can't pin point where and who. Kevin's place is on a main road (Jackson county 34) that I travel often and you can see the shed from the road.

Thanks for the interest, and if you have any more questions let men know.

paul

From: Davis, Richard (COMM) <richard.davis@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Paul Hintze <paulfarms@msn.com>
Subject: RE: three waters wind

Good Morning Paul,

Thank you for resubmitted your second set off comments.

Is there any chance you would be willing to give me the name and phone number for the landowner

you referred to in your comments on ice throw? I would like to talk with him, and get some more details regarding weather conditions he may have noticed during ice throw events and possibly more information about the turbine out there if possible.

Thank you much,
Rich

Richard Davis

Environmental Review Manager

Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

Office: 651-539-1846

Cell : 507-380-6859

mn.gov/commerce

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 280 | Saint Paul, MN 55101



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From: Paul Hintze <paulfarms@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 11:31 PM
To: Davis, Richard (COMM) <richard.davis@state.mn.us>
Subject: three waters wind

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Richard Davis Department of Commerce Environmental Review

This comment is relating to the set back requirements for Roads and Recreational Trails

Reviewing docket number 251911-157465-01.

Three Waters response to EERA staff comments in regards to setbacks for Roads and Recreational Trails is Totally lacking credibility. They claim there is not adequate justification for requiring a setback of more than 250 feet. Three Waters claims 250 feet is adequate to

protect public roads from ice throw. I have some justification, proof and rational that it is not. The JCZO setback is more restrictive, but that doesn't make it wrong for the project. Maybe the people living where the turbines are being proposed have reasons why they want the turbines set back from public roads. The example I am providing is of a individual that has involvement with a turbine and its placement by his own shed. The example is a real life situation involving distance and ice throw. The attachment shows a picture of a turbine and a machine shed with a maroon roof. They are approximately 330 feet apart. The roof of the machine shed is full of dents and has had several sizable holes put threw the roof over the years from ice throw. This turbine is right here in Jackson County only a few miles west of Three waters proposed project area. Come drive by it, the dents and holes are visible from the road. If that turbine was placed at 250 feet from the road, that ice would be hitting the road, passing cars or school buses. My kids ride the bus to school. We drive these roads every day. Safety is the reason to require adequate set backs. 250 feet is not adequate. These towers are 499 feet tall, that alone should keep them 500 feet from the road way for possible tip over, or malfunction. Three waters should be well versed in what ice can do around here. There own met tower located in the proposed project area, here in Jackson County collapsed from a ice storm in April of 2019. For them to plan a project and claim hardship over a set back that they were well aware of is absurd. Find other locations or make use of your built in alternate sites. Three Waters should follow the set back rule of the JCZO. Three Waters should not get a pass on setbacks; doing so is a pass on safety. They should want to plan a safe project, but I guess they wont be living here.

Sincerely,
Paul Hintze
74075 400th Ave
Lakefield MN 56150

From: [Paul Hintze](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Three Waters Wind
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2020 10:13:37 PM

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Richard Davis
Depart of Commerce Environment Review

The focus of this comment is for alternatives to the project.

The Bakken oil fields in neighboring North Dakota are burning off a lot of natural gas as a result of oil drilling. Apparently there is more natural gas than they know what to do with. Seems to me to be a big waste of energy to be just burning off a resource in order to produce oil. We are probably not at the period in history where we can get by without the oil. We should utilize the natural gas that is being wasted to produce electricity. The wind project produces mostly clean energy once up, but it takes a lot of carbon energy to create, complete and maintain an industrial wind project. The natural gas is already being burned to produce nothing, it should be utilized. Air pollution knows no boundaries, we should at least offset it with useable electricity.

Another avenue worth exploring related to wind energy and solar vs natural gas or coal produced electricity is the reliability of supply. Wind is probably the least reliable of them all. Solar can at least be predictable to the point of daylight hours. The wind simply doesn't blow some days. Half the time there is no electricity being generated from an industrial wind project. People and businesses don't stop or reduce their electricity needs because the wind isn't blowing, quite the contrary, I would suspect that the highest energy demand days come on hot summer days when there isn't a breeze and every fan and air conditioner in the state is running. The State should be focused on projects that ensure stable and reliable sources of power. We have enough unreliable wind power. I worry for the day when we have focused too much on so-called renewable sources and let reliable sources fall by the wayside. Until someone figures out a way to effectively and efficiently store electricity for periods when the wind isn't blowing, we should focus on reliable. Wind simply isn't reliable today.

How many dollars are being poured into the infrastructure for the development of wind. It seems to be a duplication of existing resources for power distribution. What happens to wind projects if the federal tax credits go away? Do they remain operational?

Sincerely,

Paul Hintze
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Lakefield MN 56150