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Cc: [Tom Kramer](#); [Charlie Molitor](#)
Subject: PUC Docket: E-002/WS-09-1197 Pleasant Valley Wind large wind energy conversion
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Attachments: [PREUL World Soil Characteristics.pdf](#)

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Comment on Pleasant Valley Wind large wind energy “conversion”:

I am fully against any expansion of ridiculous inefficient wind energy and/or "conversion" in MN, especially such in an area of the greatest soil fertility in the world. Who planned such wind technology in this area? Obviously nobody with any long range vision or knowledge would position wind turbines and associated power infrastructure in such an area.

I was unable to attend the recent in person and teleconference meetings regarding the proposal. I was out of the country. However, there are several topics that remain especially germane to these proposal. The most strategic of these regards the overall decision to even site such infrastructure on the world’s best soils, to remove acres from production, and to complicate farms in Dodge and Mower counties — the area of incredibly productive soils as I attach here that documents the world’s soils showing inherent land quality. Unbeknownst to most people, the earth is not covered in highly productive soils. I have described the only 3 areas of large land areas comprising these soils and their characteristics and problems. Attached is an article that is obviously associated to the interference by wind turbine and power grid infrastructure in highly productive soils. Please, if this article and current events in Ukraine-Russia do not teach us lessons, I do not know what will.

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-africa-lifestyle-middle-east-1b41faaa7ac0984d0673023b68d39a70>

As the soil map I sent previously indicated, there are only 3 major areas of highly productive inherent quality soils on earth that do not need irrigation. One of these is termed in the article I reference the “world’s breadbasket “ is in eastern Ukraine western Russia area now in a war zone and often in problems for decades. The writer is incorrect — this regions is not THE world breadbasket although it is a critical region for agricultural production. The central US is actually THE world’s breadbasket. The southern Brazil northern Argentina region is the third area and that area appears to be in for a suboptimal production year because they cannot obtain the fertilizer from Russia they normally rely on, and is also a region of unstable economy and geopolitics.

So why are we disrupting and complicating our highly fertile soils that are part of the world’s highest inherent land quality agricultural area in southern MN and all over the central US with wind turbines, solar grids, power infrastructure when these should be located on non-

productive land?! Our local, state, and national leaders need to be observant of the current world situation. The planning for these has not been satisfactory. These infrastructures need to be sited not on this type of soil. A much more in depth and lengthy perspective is needed when siting these technologies.

I am not against new technology for power generation, however the laws of physics will never allow wind turbines to be effective for the amount of electricity required by population centers — that is a known quantity and is easily found and explained on the internet. These infrastructures can easily be placed in other regions of MN where there is not such fertile soils and the land owners may be grateful for extra income — what about in lakes where there is clear windage? what about on tall buildings in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Mankato, Rochester, or within towns or cities in open areas where there are no tall buildings, but where there is easy connection to the grid without need of large extent of power lines/towers? These may sound ridiculous, but no more than placing such infrastructure in the world's most fertile soil areas.

Please, stop the absolutely illogical use of THE MOST productive land on earth! What is happening is clearly only because of government largesse programs and is CRAZY and only benefits venturists and an extreme short term view without world or national long term perspective.

If anything has highlighted to agriculture given the current Ukraine-Russia situation, it is that our region in the U.S. is in fact THE WORLD'S BREADBASKET and that is a natural resource that is unrecoverable once destroyed. It is not in our national security interest! Preserving the integrity of regions of high soil production without turbines, concrete foundations, grid towers, and other inefficient power generation infrastructure that disrupt our incredible ag production is CRITICAL!

Informationally relevant to this proposal, I was in Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey. Friends and associates in these countries are significantly worried about the grain production impact from the Ukraine situation. Europe and other locations in Africa, Middle East, Asia will be severely impacted by the Ukraine grain production problems. The Ukraine area produces 29% of world wheat output. There will not be a crop this year, maybe not for a decade or more. This area will be and has been subject to political and economic strife for years. Russia is not sending fertilizer potash to Brazil-Argentina — thus that area will not see an optimal harvest this year, maybe not for years. India which is the world's largest wheat producer is not exporting wheat; their crop has not been optimal and they are worried about feeding nearly 2 billion people of their own. The US is only within the top 5 wheat producing nations. China has announced will not have high production this year. These situations require years of effort to resolve, and there are always chaotic situations in the meantime.

From the very start, not even getting into the details of the proposal, what and where is the state and national strategic long term planning in placing wind and power infrastructure over the world's and nation's best soils, removing acres from production and complicating farming operations with large power infrastructures? Why is there not a state commission that plans in long range fashion the siting of these proposals? To increase the blade sizes and rotations in

the midst of Dodge and Mower counties is absolutely poor planning. We're getting hodgepodge wind and solar power projects placed in ridiculous patterns and courses over an incredible soil natural resource that should not be disturbed — in fact it's coming to light that this is a national security issue that has been severely neglected — our ability to produce enough food.

It's obvious to everyone I speak to about such proposals that these infrastructures should be placed NOT on highly productive soils, but where the soil is not especially fertile — there is a myriad of such places in Minnesota and around the country more compatible. People are incredulous that we're taking highly productive acres or complicating acres that limits their production for these infrastructures, and then further expanding them.

Here are a few recent assessments of food production — it's obvious we need to preserve and optimize every highly productive farm acre, especially in large zones of high grade soils. Sighting huge power towers and turbines and solar in these areas is extremely poor planning and nationally harmful, if not world harmful.

Ukraine-Russia War threatens world food supply: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-africa-lifestyle-middle-east-1b41faaa7ac0984d0673023b68d39a70>

World Bank food forecast, drastically higher prices, fertilizer shortages due to Ukraine-Russia: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update>

World Bank immediate program for food shortage: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/05/18/world-bank-announces-planned-actions-for-global-food-crisis-response>

Economist dire report: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/05/19/the-coming-food-catastrophe>

NPR report: <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/23/1100592132/united-nations-food-shortages>

IMF report: <https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/growing-food-shortage-imf-managing-director-economy>

This proposal has consequences — governments usually are not adept at planning for unforeseen consequences, especially where government subsidies are readily available to venture efforts. Reports are public and detailed. I've lived all over the world, I still travel all over the world. What the state is considering to do to our most productive acres by such projects that has not supplied anything close to an agricultural or soil impact study in their proposal is in a word — CRAZY. If anything we are doing to the Minnesota state agricultural economy and private property holders and one of our greatest natural resources calls for a FORMAL and CONTESTED REVIEW — this is it!

Minnesota state statutes provide for an ADVISORY TASK FORCE. I call for such a task force, and in fact, I call for a moratorium on any further renewable wind, solar and related power infrastructure siting or expansion or "conversion" proposals in the state until a formal commission composed of educated, experienced people in agriculture, energy, and other related and affected fields is established. We're going fast without informed and intelligent consideration of the overall state, national, and world consequences of these proposals.

All of the more detailed considerations of this proposal start with the high level strategic

aspects I have identified here. The very first aspect that must be considered before even progressing to minute details of the project proposal, is, what is the land being used for the proposal. Is this the best place to allow access in the what is essentially nearly eminent domain-like action. Adding these infrastructures expansions and “conversions” to the current land usage obviously adds complexity. This is not the best location to complicate some of the best farming and agricultural operations of the state, nation and world. If the state wants to participate in this fool hardy initiative of green energy, then site, expand, and “convert” the infrastructures within cities — demand every home or building have solar panels own some portion of roofs or associated structures.

Looks like more ugliness is coming to the once beautiful wide open skies farm area — larger infrastructure , more noise — why don’t you site these in Minneapolis or St. Paul parks or in or around Lake Harriett or Lake Calhoun? Why is this farm area the target?! — because of state subsidies and because of the low level population to fight it off!

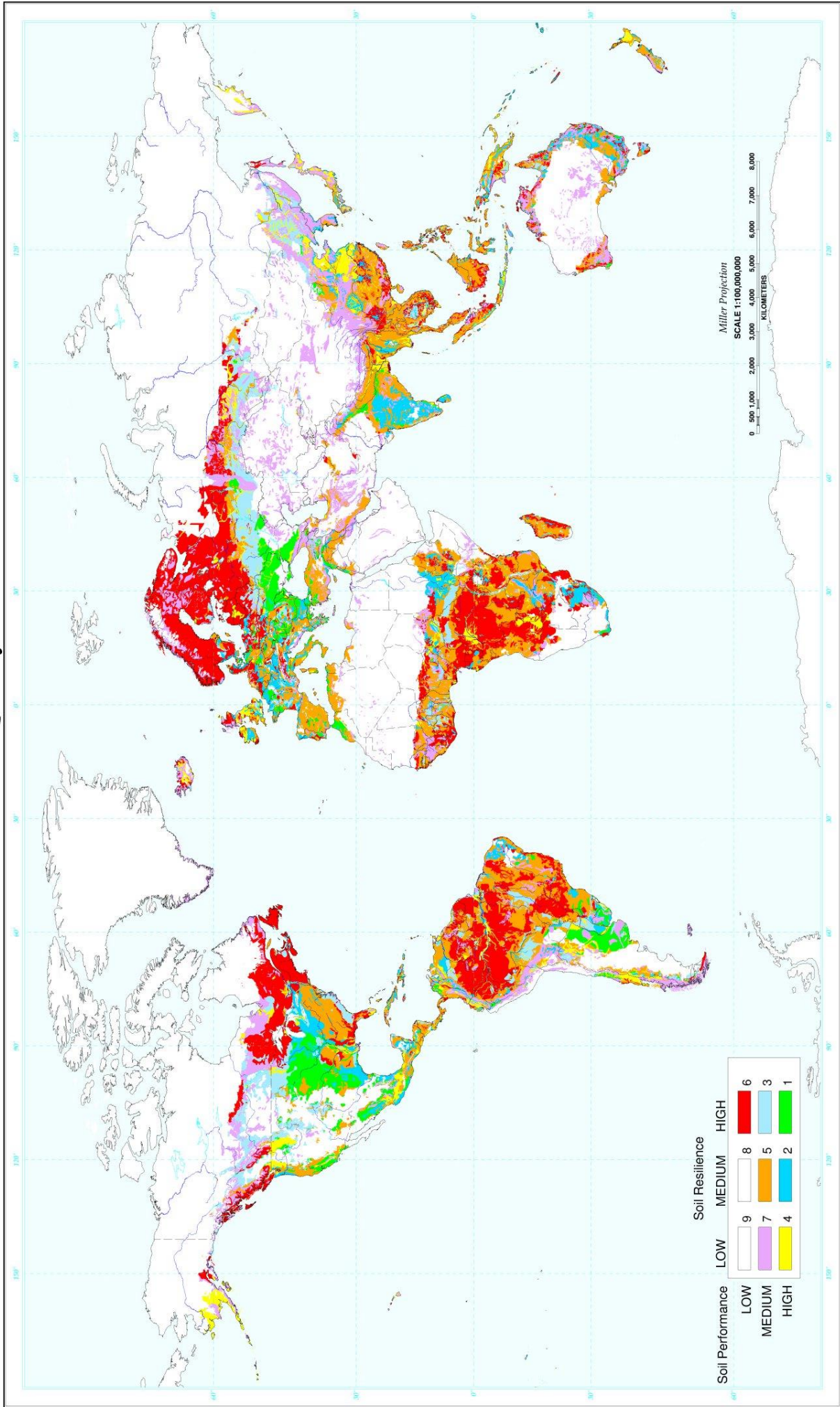
Thanks Minnesota!

Sincerely

Mark C. Preul
Owner M&K Preul Farms LLC
Gen. Mgr. Preul Farms LLC
Dodge County and Mower County, Minnesota

Inherent Land Quality Assessment

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
World Soil Resources



Country boundaries are not authoritative.

Washington DC, 1988