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To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
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Provide the docket's number. *	IP7013/WS-19-619

Leave a comment on the docket. *

PUC Docket Number 19-619 (19-408 and 19-621)

I am contesting how a number of issues of fact are represented in this application. They include, but are not limited to:

The application downplays the effect on birds and bats. A snapshot of the current bird population does not fully encompass the situation. The area is experiencing an increasing population of large birds, including that of the Bald Eagle. This is a relatively new development, so while the concentration of these birds is still relatively small, it is noticeably increasing. These turbines will put these birds and others who follow at risk.

The application downplays the sound effects. The site permit and accompanying documents make clear that they are operating within MPCA limits. However, they fail to clearly consider the current low background sound levels of the area. The occasional sounds of traffic and other distant sounds does not compare to the near constant sounds generated by these turbines. In addition, doctors and researchers have shown that low frequency sounds and infrasound, even when not perceived audibly, can have negative health effects.

The application downplays the visual effects. Residents like me have chosen to live here, in part, due to the clean landscape consisting of crops, distant homes and buildings, and natural wildlife areas. The turbines as described, along with their numbers (up to 55), will forever change the landscape that we love.

The application distorts the effect on residents versus visitors. The application highlights adaptations made in order to minimize the effects on the Jeffers Petroglyphs Site and those who visit there. How is it that these turbines could be so detrimental to an area that is visited for a few hours at a time, yet deemed appropriate near the homes of residents who must live with them every hour and day of the year?

The application downplays the effect on property values. Big Bend Wind, LLC promotes this project by citing statistics showing little to no negative effects on property values. I contend that these statistics are highly skewed by the fact that many properties retain their value only due to the payouts promised by the projects themselves. Those property owners who are unwilling to give up their property rights are the big losers. These property owners are far more likely to lose value when they sell, and certainly lose personal value while they live with the negative effects of these turbines.

For these reasons, and others, I would like to see the following:

This permit should be referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing.

Big Bend Wind, LLC should be compelled to do the following before any approval:

- Additional accommodations should be made to minimize damage to bird and bat habitats. This should include greater distancing from known nesting sites as well as lake and river areas.
- Every resident within the project area who has not signed an agreement with Big Bend, LLC should be contacted. Big Bend and these residents should negotiate a mutually satisfactory financial settlement, up to and including the purchase of their property at current market rates.

One final note, since this project is being directly tied to the Red Rock Solar project (PUC docket 19-620). A solar farm seems to have far fewer consequences for neighbors and for the environment. Animals and birds appear to be less at risk, and the effect on neighboring properties is very minimal, if at all. This is in stark contrast to how multiple wind turbines affect everybody in a very large area.
