

Wind Tower Zoning

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Thank you for allowing me to speak here today.

Sound Logical Zoning is crucial for everybody's safety and well-being. Every single person living in the area is affected in some way.

As my farm is located in the footprint of the Next Era Wind Farm. I can tell you from personal experience that there are many issues that need to be addressed.

First is the **noise** generated, that being the growling transmission noise that can be heard several miles away and also infrasound that is not heard but has many detrimental issues that can affect humans and animals.

Second is the hub access **doors**, that are allowed to **bang** open and shut until they fall to the ground, that can be heard several miles away. This is a common issue that in my conversations with others in other wind tower farms experience too.

Third is the **swishing** noise of the blades that can be heard from quite a distance. They are also a cause of **infrasound**. I have listened to people tell me that they have sat by them for a half an hour to a couple of hours and it didn't bother them. Well, I am here to tell you that it isn't just a half an hour to a couple of hours for those of us that live right next to them. It will most likely be a lifetime.

For most of us, you grow a great contempt for these towers, when you are subjected to the issues I mentioned for what will be years and years or a lifetime.

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If I get surrounded with more wind towers I will not live amongst them and will move elsewhere, I say this as I have always had plans to move back down to my farm and rebuild my farmstead. But I will not do so if not afforded **at least a mile set back** from any new tower development. I don't think our county can afford to lose more population or business revenue for our community. I have talked to others in a similar situation as me and our experiences are nearly identical. In the case of our current wind farm the failure of all but 7 of the towers warning light at the time of the plane wreck tells me that there is little regard to anybody's safety in the area, I own land very near where the plane wreck accrued and I can tell you there was plane and tower debris that covered nearly half of that fourth section of land.

When they did finally got the lights working and as a side note ill add that one warning light on a tower never worked from the day it was put up till after the plane wreck. But now a large portion of the warning lights are a bright white flash at night which are very similar to a lightning flash every couple seconds all night long. The flashes also reflect off nearly everything in my farm yard also when working down there at night in the field it gets very old and aggravating working in these conditions. The thing is, while this may seem trivial to you, but when you put up with it day after day, year after year it eats on you!

Also shadow **flicker** is a real issue I have dealt with it in my house every winter when the sun moves further south due to proximity of the towers at my old farm house every morning. At one of the prior meetings somebody told me to shut the shades. Trust me we did it and it didn't help.

Due to all this, a couple weeks ago I decided to call the PUC to file a complaint. I was told by the guy that due to the wind farm being under 100 mega watts all this is the county's issue. This is one of many

reasons we need zoning with some teeth in it to hold wind farms accountable.

With all this I now ask you why there is a two-mile set back for town but 1400ft or half a mile from the non-participating land owners farmstead is acceptable. We should be at least afforded a mile set back!!

I also ask that some provisioning be wrote into donning for the issues such as..

1. Airplane radar activated warning lights for each tower.
2. Bright white flashing warning lighting at night is not to be allowed.
3. Broken doors banging open and shut be required to be fixed.
4. Unsightly rusting of metal components be required to be fixed.
5. Lubricant oil tube grease running down the tubes be cleaned up.
6. Provision for decommissioning of a wind farms need to be substantial.
7. Provision wrote up for protection of native American tipi rings and markers be protected.
8. Protection of what's left of our native grasslands.
9. There is growing evidence that wind towers can compromise water wells in my case since towers have been put up near me(my well a sundance flowing well that is 1275 yards from the closest tower has lost over 30lbs of pressure at the well head. Since towers have been in operation my neighbors well even closer is worse it wont push water 2 miles from it also a sundance flowing well. It at a cost of over \$60,000.00 to dig a new well. In Ontario wind project have been stopped due to this issue.
10. Wind farms do affect wildlife especially our native animals I've seen first hand the changes the current wind farm has caused

changes in animal behavior and most likely in some people with the studying of infrasound that I have done I have no doubt this is a real issue

11. In summary there are many, many issues that have to be addressed and used as a tool to make sound and new zoning relevant to these issues as I believe with new data on these and many more that county's and land owners will be held liable as easements have been written to hold the wind energy co harmless.

Thank You

Paul Knox
Highmore, SD

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