

Commissioners, much of what I read in the Wind Energy System Requirements handout that I received at the last meeting (4/12/2019) seemed to be well thought out and well written.

However, I propose the following changes of additions before your draft is finalized:

I would strongly urge the board to change the setbacks in Section 3, number 2 for a participating occupied residence to a ½ mile with the right of an owner to waive that. And the setbacks for a non-participating occupied residence to 1.5 miles from their residence, unless they waive that right. This would be an effort to “keep peace in the neighborhood”. With some participating and some not participating in an area, surely there would be space to place wind towers. One person’s property rights should not infringe on another’s ability to enjoy their home and land.

In Section 3, number 3, I would move that “internet” and “cell phone service” would be added to the list. Most people are very dependent on these to conduct personal and professional business in the age we live in.

In Section 3, number 5, I would move that the turbines would be spaced no closer than 7 rotor diameters away from each other. This is a general rule of thumb for wind farm spacing.

In Section 3, number 10, I believe it is in our county’s best interests to require a decommissioning plan BEFORE construction ever begins. It makes no sense to require this 4 months after completion of a tower!

R/d at meeting

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The writing that follows was inspired out of research gained by reading people's testimonials about what it's like to live too close to a wind tower. NOW is the time to get the setbacks and codes right...or this is what I believe will happen.

The land was ours.

We sold our rights away.

Why did we do it?

For the amount of money they'd pay.

We did not know how much it would change our land...or our way of life.

That it would wreak havoc with our sleep or cause such strife.

Pitting neighbor against neighbor, the one we once called friend.

Now all we see are flicker shadows and blinking lights in our homes.

Is there no end?!

Only when they "say" they will take them down. When will that be?

Decades, yes decades into the future...

How will our lives change?

We will be closed up in our shuttered and devalued houses,
trying to shield ourselves from the noise and lights.

Our sleep - deprived. Our nerves - on edge. Night after sleepless night.

We will see the towers as invaders, not as a choice.

We want the problems they've caused to go away – but now we have no voice.

Some say...but look at the money!

I say, look at the quality of your life!

The beauty of our land.

Living without strife.

The towers are backed by big corporations.

You cannot fight them once they're here.

Make your choices wisely.

Out of knowledge and wisdom, not fear.

We live in a land of peace and simplicity,

unspoiled by big companies and their steel and plastic towers.

I implore you, not to sign the dotted line,

until you know the vastness of their powers.

For we are at a crossroads.

What you do is of great matter.

Let's have meaningful discussions,

Not empty, divisive chatter.

The people of our county's welfare is hanging in the balance.

And you have been called on their behalf to use your time and talents.