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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5408

May 13, 2009

Ms. Liana Reilly, Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration
Corporate Services Office, A7400
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213

Mr. Dennis Rankin, Project Manager
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Rural Utilities Service, Utilities Program
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington D.C. 20250-1571

Re: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental
Impact Statement for Prairie Winds SD1
Wind Farm, South Dakota

Dear Ms. Reilly and Mr. Rankin:

This letter is in response to your April 9, 2009, letter regarding the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above referenced project; a 150-megawatt, 101-turbine wind-powered generating facility proposed for south-central South Dakota to be located either near the town of Wessington Springs or the town of Winner. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has already been initiated for this project by your agencies and the applicant, Prairie Winds SD1, Inc. (a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative), and their consultants. As part of this continued coordination effort, we herein submit formal comments on this project by the May 15, 2009, deadline as requested in your letter to assist in the development of the upcoming EIS.

The two sites being considered for placement of this wind farm are: 1) the Crow Lake Site (37,000 acres in Brule, Aurora, and Jerauld Counties) and 2) the Winner Site (83,000 acres in Tripp County). Per your letter, the proposed turbines will be 389 feet tall with turbine rotor diameters of 252 feet. The towers will be 15 feet wide at the base, placed on a concrete pad, temporarily disturbing a 190 x 210 foot area per turbine during construction. Thirty (30) to 40 miles of new access roads are planned, and a buried collection system will electrically connect

the turbines to a substation where voltage can be stepped up for interconnection with the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) transmission line. Construction of up to perhaps 12 miles of overhead high voltage transmission lines (34.5-115 kV) and other associated appurtenances will be required at both locations.

It is our understanding that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service may provide funding for this project, and the WAPA is considering an interconnection request by Prairie Winds SD1 to WAPA's existing transmission lines. While your agencies are the Federal co-leads for this project, it has been decided that the WAPA will lead the section 7 process under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Your letter included an invitation to an agency meeting on April 28, 2009, which Natalie Gates of this office attended, plus an invitation to become a cooperating agency in the development of the EIS for this project. Mr. Harris Hoistad of our Huron Wetland Management District (WMD) also attended the April 28, 2009, meeting, and had indicated his interest in representing the Service as a cooperating agency for this project at that meeting. The Huron WMD administers Service fee title and easement properties in some of the counties proposed for construction. While Mr. Hoistad accepts your invitation and shall serve as your primary contact in that regard, we respectfully request that you include this office in such cooperating agency correspondences as well, thereby allowing the opportunity for input from the Ecological Services branch of the Service in addition to the Refuges program perspective provided by the Huron WMD. Natalie Gates will continue to serve as your Ecological Services contact.

Federally Listed Species

In accordance with section 7(c) of the ESA, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., we have determined that the following federally listed species may occur in the project area(s) (this list is considered valid for 90 days):

<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Expected Occurrence</u>
Whooping crane (<u>Grus americana</u>)	Endangered	Migration
American burying beetle (<u>Nicrophorus americanus</u>)	Endangered	Resident, Tripp County
Piping plover (<u>Charadrius melodus</u>)	Threatened	Migration
Topeka shiner (<u>Notropis topeka</u>)	Endangered	Known resident , waterways in Jerauld and Aurora Counties

Whooping cranes migrate through central South Dakota on their way to northern breeding grounds and southern wintering areas. They occupy numerous habitats such as cropland and pastures; wet meadows; shallow marshes; shallow portions of rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and stock

ponds; and both freshwater and alkaline basins for feeding and loafing. Overnight roosting sites frequently require shallow water in which to stand and rest. If whooping crane stopover habitat exists within either proposed project site, potential whooping crane impacts should be considered. Whooping cranes are large birds with low maneuverability. Line strike mortality is the greatest known threat to fledged whooping cranes. Whooping crane interactions with wind turbines are not currently known; however, collisions with turbines may be possible, and/or loss of stopover habitat in the migration corridor may be realized if whooping cranes tend to avoid wind farms. Additionally, should construction occur during spring or fall migration, the potential for disturbances exists, stressing the whooping cranes at critical times of the year. Any whooping crane sightings should be reported to the Service; a standard reporting form is available from this office.

The American burying beetle is a known resident of southern Tripp County and has also been documented within Bennett, Todd, and Gregory Counties. Recent studies have shown some preference by this species for sandy or sandy-loam grasslands with interspersed stands of low-meadow cottonwoods; however, they will use various types of soil and habitat if the right type of food is available. The life cycle of the American burying beetle includes time spent underground during the summer months as eggs, larvae, and pupae, with adults present for part of that time; thus, the potential exists to excavate American burying beetles during June, July, and August. Adults are also present underground during winter, so it is possible to destroy American burying beetles via ground disturbance as they hibernate. These potential affects to the American burying beetle should be considered at the proposed Winner Site.

Piping plovers may occur within the proposed project areas although, in South Dakota, this shorebird species occupies habitat primarily along the Missouri River; thus, any birds present at either proposed wind turbine site would likely be passing over/through the site during migration to breeding/wintering areas. The species has been known to collide with overhead power lines; interactions with wind turbines are unknown. Piping plovers use sparsely vegetated interchannel sandbars, islands, and shorelines for nesting, foraging, and brood-rearing. The birds typically breed in South Dakota between the dates of May 1 and August 15.

Topeka shiners occupy tributaries within the Big Sioux, Vermillion, and James River watersheds in eastern South Dakota. Firesteel Creek, West Branch of Firesteel Creek, and Dry Run Creek are waterways in Jerauld and Aurora Counties that are known to be occupied by this minnow species. Should the Crow Lake Site be selected and the project involves direct or indirect impacts to these known occupied waterways or other tributaries to the James River, potential effects to the Topeka shiner should be considered. Examples may include power line/road crossings of these streams or upland construction adjacent to these waterways that could result in instream sedimentation.

If the WAPA or their designated representative determines that the project "may adversely affect" listed species in South Dakota, it should request formal consultation from this office. If a "may affect - not likely to adversely affect" determination is made for this project, it should be submitted to this office for concurrence. If a "no effect" determination is made, further consultation may not be necessary. However, a copy of the determination should be sent to this office.

Wind Energy and Wildlife

Among the Service's primary concerns regarding wind turbines are avian collision mortality and the loss of habitat/habitat avoidance behaviors by wildlife. While there is still much to be learned regarding wind turbine-wildlife interactions, we do know that wind turbines can have adverse impacts on some species. Turbine location, spacing, aspect, lighting, size, and design are all potential factors related to the risk posed to resident and migratory wildlife as are the types of surrounding habitats, use of these habitats by various species of wildlife, landscape features, prey base, migration corridors, and behavioral patterns. Recent studies of grassland nesting birds have shown a tendency for avoidance of areas immediately surrounding turbines causing an indirect loss of habitat. Direct loss of habitat caused by the footprint of the turbines and associated roads and structures is another concern, along with loss of habitat that can occur with encroachment of invasive weeds as a result of these disturbances. Currently, perhaps the best means of minimizing impacts to wildlife is to avoid constructing within high wildlife use areas. Placement of turbines within existing cropland is recommended for this reason. When unavoidable impacts to fish and wildlife species and their habitats are anticipated, we recommend that offsetting measures be developed and implemented. We encourage inclusion of a mitigation plan within the draft EIS to serve this purpose.

Wind Turbine Guidelines

You are aware that the Service has developed voluntary "*Interim Guidelines to Avoid and Minimize Wildlife Impacts from Wind Turbines*" (available online at <http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/Service%20Interim%20Guidelines.pdf>.) to assist energy companies in accomplishing the goal of reducing the risk posed by turbines to wildlife. The guidelines stress the importance of proper evaluation of potential wind turbine development sites, appropriate location and design of turbines and related facilities, and pre- and post-construction research and monitoring. Potential Impact Index (PII) scores, as recommended by our guidelines, were developed for each proposed site (results: PIIs of 269 and 239 for Winner and Crow Lake sites, respectively) and a reference site (result: PII of 331) located near the Lake Andes/Karl Mundt National Wildlife Refuges, South Dakota. Again, please note that previously disturbed sites (e.g., cropland) are recommended areas for turbines to minimize habitat loss and associated wildlife impacts. If construction must occur within intact native grasslands, offsetting and/or mitigative measures should be considered for the conservation of prairie wildlife, particularly migratory birds.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDDGFP) has coordinated with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) regarding distribution of the SDDGFP's "*Siting Guidelines for Wind Power Projects in South Dakota*" to wind developers intending to construct projects within the state of South Dakota. You may wish to contact the SDPUC and/or the Wildlife Diversity Division of the SDDGFP in Pierre, South Dakota, for more information. Contact information may be found on their respective websites: <http://puc.sd.gov/> and <http://www.sdgifp.info/Wildlife/Diversity/index.htm>. The guidelines themselves may be found online at: <http://www.sdgifp.info/wildlife/diversity/windpower.htm>.

Birds of Conservation Concern

The Migratory Birds Division of the Service has published "*Birds of Conservation Concern 2008*" (<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/reports/BCC2008/BCC2008.pdf>). This document is intended to identify species in need of coordinated and proactive conservation efforts among State, Federal, and private entities with the goals of precluding future evaluation of these species for ESA protections and promoting/conserving long-term avian diversity. We refer you to page 71 (Table 46) of that report for a list of birds of conservation concern in Region 6 (the Service Region where your project is proposed). Recent avian surveys at other sites in central South Dakota have documented numerous species that are included in Region 6's Birds of Conservation Concern list, such as northern harrier, upland sandpiper, marbled godwit, burrowing owl, grasshopper sparrow, chestnut-collared longspur, and bobolink. Depending upon available habitat, it is likely that some/all of these and perhaps other species of concern may be found in either the Winner or Crow Lake Sites. A primary threat to these species is habitat loss and fragmentation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order 13186 regarding migratory bird protection/conservation, we recommend avoidance, minimization, and finally, offsetting measures to reduce the unavoidable impacts to species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). MBTA compliance may be partially addressed in an Avian and Bat Protection Plan (see below); however, a separate mitigation plan that specifically addresses direct and indirect take of birds during and after construction (via collision, habitat loss, and habitat avoidance) is also recommended. This office can assist with development of such a plan.

Meteorological Towers

Meteorological towers constructed in association with wind turbines are often similar in design to typical communications towers: tall, lighted, lattice structured, and guyed. These types of towers can be problematic for birds, particularly during inclement weather, as they enter the lighted area, become reluctant to leave it, and suffer mortality as they circle the structure and collide with the guy wires or the lattice of the tower itself. We are aware that meteorological towers already exist at the proposed sites but are uncertain of the tower designs. Guidance set forth in "*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Interim Guidelines for Recommendations on Communications Tower Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning*" may be found online at <http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/communicationtowers.html>. We recommend adherence to these guidelines for construction of new towers and retrofitting of existing towers to minimize the threat of avian mortality at these structures. Please note that it may be possible to apply some of these guidelines to the turbine towers as well.

In order to obtain information on the usefulness of the communications tower guidelines in preventing birds strikes and to identify any recurring problems with their implementation which may necessitate modifications, please advise us of the final location and specifications of any towers associated with the wind turbine project and which of the measures recommended for the protection of migratory birds were implemented. If any of the recommended measures cannot be implemented, please explain why they were not feasible. A Tower Site Evaluation Form is also available via the above communications tower website:

(<http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/communicationtowers.html>). Please complete this form and forward it to our office.

Power Lines

The construction of additional overhead power lines associated with wind farms creates the threat of avian electrocution, particularly for raptors. Thousands of these birds, including endangered species, are killed annually as they attempt to utilize overhead power lines as nesting, hunting, resting, feeding, and sunning sites. The Service recommends the installation of underground, rather than overhead, power lines whenever possible and appropriate to minimize environmental disturbances. For all new overhead lines or modernization of old overhead lines, we recommend incorporating measures to prevent avian electrocutions. The publication entitled "*Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines - The State of the Art in 2006*" has many good suggestions including pole extensions, modified positioning of live phase conductors and ground wires, placement of perch guards and elevated perches, elimination of cross arms, use of wood (not metal) braces, and installation of various insulating covers. You may obtain this publication by contacting the Edison Electric Institute via their website at www.eei.org or by calling 1-800-334-5453.

Please note that utilizing just one of the "*Suggested Practices . . .*" methods may not entirely remove the threat of electrocution to raptors. In fact, improper use of some methods may increase electrocution mortality. Perch guards, for example, may be only partially effective as some birds may still attempt to perch on structures with misplaced or small-sized guards and may suffer electrocution as they approach too close to conducting materials. Among the most dangerous structures to raptors are poles that are located at a crossing of two or more lines, exposed above-ground transformers, or dead end poles. Numerous hot and neutral lines at these sites, combined with inadequate spacing between conductors, increase the threat of avian electrocutions. Perch guards placed on other poles have in some cases served to actually shift birds to these more dangerous sites, increasing the number of mortalities. Thus, it may be necessary to utilize other methods or combine methods to achieve the best results. The same principles may be applied to substation structures.

Please also note that the spacing recommendation within the "*Suggested Practices . . .*" publication of at least 60 inches between conductors or features that cause grounding may not be protective of larger raptors such as eagles. This measure was based on the fact that the skin-to-skin contact distance on these birds (i.e., talon to beak, wrist to wrist, etc.) is less than 60 inches. However, an adult eagle's wingspan (distance between feather tips) may vary from 66 to 96 inches depending on the species (golden or bald) and gender of the bird. Unfortunately, wet feathers in contact with conductors and/or grounding connections can result in a lethal electrical surge. Thus, the focus of the above precautionary measures should be to a) provide more than 96 inches of spacing between conductors or grounding features, b) insulate exposed conducting features so that contact will not cause raptor electrocution, and/or c) prevent raptors from perching on the poles in the first place.

Additional information regarding simple, effective ways to prevent raptor electrocutions on power lines is available in video form. "*Raptors at Risk*" may be obtained by contacting EDM International, Inc. at 4001 Automation Way, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525-3479, Telephone No. (970) 204-4001, or by visiting their website at <http://www.edmlink.com/raptorvideo.htm>.

In addition to electrocution, overhead power lines also present the threat of avian line strike mortality. Particularly in situations where these lines are adjacent to large wetlands or where waters exist on opposite sides of the lines, we recommend marking them in order to make them more visible to birds. For more information on bird strikes, please see "*Mitigating Bird Collisions With Power Lines: The State of the Art in 1994*" which may be obtained by contacting the Edison Electric Institute at the same website and telephone number listed above. While line marking is recommended to reduce the risk of collision, it does not preclude line strike mortality entirely. Thus, marking of additional, existing overhead lines is recommended as a means to further mitigate the potential for line strike mortality to migratory birds, including threatened/endangered species such as the whooping crane.

Avian and Bat Protection Plans

The Service has coordinated with the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) to develop guidelines to assist companies in formulating Avian Protection Plans (APP). APPs are utility-specific and designed to reduce avian and operational risks that result from avian interactions with electric utility facilities, but they may be adapted to wind energy facilities as well and include consideration of bat species which are known to suffer mortality at wind farms. We encourage the project developer of the proposed wind farm to investigate the formulation of an A(and B [bat])PP and incorporate that into the draft EIS. The guidelines may be accessed at APLIC's website at <http://www.aplic.org/>.

MBTA and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)

Although the Service's tower, utility, and wind turbine guidelines will provide some protection for migratory birds, implementation of these measures alone will not remove any liability should violations of the law occur. Please be apprised of the potential application of the MBTA of 1918, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq., and the BGEPA of 1940, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668 et seq., to your project. The MBTA does not require intent to be proven and does not allow for "take," except as permitted by regulations. Section 703 of the MBTA provides: "Unless and except as permitted by regulations . . . it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means, or in any manner, to . . . take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill, possess . . . any migratory bird, any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird" The BGEPA prohibits knowingly taking, or taking with wanton disregard for the consequences of an activity, any bald or golden eagles or their body parts, nests, or eggs, which includes collection, molestation, disturbance, or killing activities.

It is understood that some birds may be killed even if all reasonable conservation measures are implemented. The Service's Office of Law Enforcement carries out its mission to protect migratory birds through investigations and enforcement and through fostering relationships with individuals and industries seeking to eliminate their impacts to migratory birds. While it is not

possible under the MBTA and the BGEPA to absolve individuals or companies from liability by following these guidelines, enforcement will be focused on those individuals or companies that take migratory birds with disregard for the law and where no legitimate conservation measures have been applied.

Bats

Bats are known to suffer mortality due to direct collisions with wind turbines, and it has been recently determined that many also die as a result of air pressure changes at the turbine blades that cause internal injuries. The SDDGFP has completed a state management plan for bats and may be able to provide additional information and/or recommendations regarding this project. If you have not already done so, please contact Silka Kempema at the SDDGFP-Wildlife Division, Joe Foss Building, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, Telephone No. (605) 773-2742, for more information.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Research

The Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center of Jamestown, North Dakota, has initiated studies of avian responses to wind turbines in both North Dakota and South Dakota. Their research may be relevant to your project, depending on habitat within the project area(s). We recognize that a consultant has already been hired for the Prairie Winds Project and that wildlife surveys are currently underway as of this writing. However, we recommend that you contact Ms. Jill Shaffer of the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center at (701) 253-5547 for more information about the USGS project; the preliminary results of that ongoing study appear pertinent to Prairie Winds.

If changes are made in the project plans or operating criteria, or if additional information becomes available, the Service should be informed so that the above determinations can be reconsidered.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to provide scoping comments and looks forward to development of the draft EIS. If you have any questions on these comments, please contact Natalie Gates of this office at (605) 224-8693, Extension 234.

Sincerely,



*Acting
For*

Pete Gober
Field Supervisor
South Dakota Field Office

cc: USFWS/Huron WMD; Huron, SD
(Attention: Harris Hoistad)
Secretary, SDDGFP; Pierre, SD
(Attention: Silka Kempema)
USGS/NPWR; Jamestown, ND
(Attention: Jill Shaffer)
USFWS/LE; Pierre, SD
(Attention: Bob Prieksat)

From: <Suzanne_Gucciardo@nps.gov>
To: <sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov>
CC: <Dan_Wiley@nps.gov>, <Nicholas_Chevance@nps.gov>, <Denise_Nelson@nps.gov...>
Date: 5/15/2009 3:54 PM
Subject: Proposed PrairieWinds Project, South Dakota, NPS Comments

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
National Park Service
Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

15 May 2009

Liana Reilly, Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration
Corporate Services Office A7400
PO Box 281218
Lakewood, CO
sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov

It is our understanding that your office is accepting agency comment on the proposed South Dakota Prairie Winds Project. The National Park Service (NPS) is submitting the following comment with respect to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT), which preserves and promotes the 1804-1806 route of the Corps of Discovery Expedition. This historic trail includes the entire Missouri River from its headwaters in Montana to its confluence with the Mississippi near St. Louis, Missouri, and which was the principle travel route of the Expedition east of the Rocky Mountains. In establishing the trail under the National Trail System Act (NTSA), Congress authorized preservation of the historic trail and the designation of auto tour routes along public roads and highways as close as reasonable to the historic route, and on both sides of river courses. This results in a trail corridor that is difficult to define in general terms and is best considered on a case-by-case basis when evaluating impacts to resources of concern. As trail administrator, the NPS is interested in potential affects on a wide range of natural, cultural, educational and recreational resources associated with the Lewis and Clark NHT corridor. This letter concerns impacts that will result from the development of the PrairieWinds Project.

Both under the NTSA and the Organic Act, the NPS is charged with preservation of natural scenes and landscapes for enjoyment by future generations. The Lewis and Clark NHT extends more than 3,700 miles through both urban and undeveloped areas. Those areas where the natural scenes are little altered since the days of Lewis and Clark are few and becoming more rare each year. The States of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, with their low populations and agrarian economies, retain the best examples of the environment as experienced by members of the Corps. In recent years, development of both renewable and non-renewable energy sources are quickly altering the landscape in these states.

Development of wind farms requires vast areas of land and introduces an

industrial landscapes unimagined just a few decades ago. Recent generator designs have increased heights and greater blade lengths than in the past, greatly increasing the distance over which they are visible. With increasing prevalence of wind farms across the nation, there has been an increase in public opposition for a number of reasons. Chief among these are the degradation of visual scenes, both directly during the day and at night from required safety lights. The NPS is sensitive to impacts on the visual scenes along the Lewis and Clark NHT and its associated auto tour routes. While acknowledging the need for renewable energy development, we oppose developments sited where there would be a major degradation to the views experienced by visitors along the NHT.

Two alternative locations are proposed for the Prairiewinds development. The Winner Project site extends to about seven miles from the designated auto tour route along US 18/SD 47. The Crow Lake Project location is more than 17 miles from the closest auto tour route on the east side of the Missouri, and is more than 20 miles from the river. The relatively low relief of the terrain in this region which makes development of wind energy feasible also allows wind generators to be visible over great distances. It might be assumed that the more distant site would have less of an impact on NHT users. However, the Environmental Impact Statement should include an adequate analysis of visual resource effects for both two locations for trail users, local residents and general travelers through the area. Individual siting of towers may need to be considered to determine the cumulative effect of the project on specific viewsheds, such as the L&C Visitor Center at the I-90 rest area near Chamberlain, SD, and other locations affiliated with the NHT.

We anticipate reviewing the draft EIS and other documents for all resource areas as the NEPA process proceeds for the PrairieWinds project. If there is specific information we could offer to assist with this process feel free to contact myself or my staff at:

Suzanne Gucciardo, Natural resources Specialist at
Suzanne_Gucciardo@nps.gov 402-661-1874 or
Denise Nelson, Environmental Specialist at Denise_Nelson@nps.gov
402-6611812.

Sincerely,

//Dan Wiley//

Dan Wiley
Chief Integrated Resources Stewardship
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102
402-661-1830 FAX 402-661-1831
Dan_Wiley@nps.gov



**South Dakota PrairieWinds Project
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

Thank you for your interest in the proposed South Dakota PrairieWinds Project (Project). Please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the Project mailing list and/or to provide comments. Written comments can be submitted at the Scoping Meeting, faxed to (720) 962-7263, mailed to the address on the back of this form or sent to the **Project Email Address: sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov**. Comments on the project scope and alternatives should be received by **May 15, 2009**, to be considered in defining the scope for the Draft EIS. For more information about the Project, please go to the **Project Website: <http://www.wapa.gov/sdprairiewinds.htm>**.

- I would like to be kept informed of the ongoing progress of this Project. Please include my name on the mailing list.
- I prefer electronic/email communication.
- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> Rod NARTOG	<u>Organization:</u> GREGORY COUNTY REC CORP
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

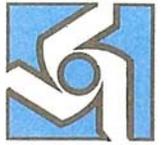
THIS IS A MUCH NEEDED PROJECT
IN SOUTH CENTRAL SOUTH DAKOTA IN
FOR IN THE WHOLE STATE WE ARE
NEEDING THIS EXPANSION OF THE WAPA
POWER LINES TO EXPORT DEVELOPING
WIND POWER

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.



**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

1717 EAST INTERSTATE AVENUE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58503-0564
PHONE: 701-223-0441
FAX: 701-557-5336



May 18, 2009

Mr. Mark J. Heisinger
27665 404th Ave
Parkston, SD 57366

Dear Mr. Heisinger:

Per your request, I have enclosed a map of the Crow Lake site alternative for the proposed PrairieWinds (Basin Electric Power Cooperative) wind energy project in South Dakota.

Thank you for attending the scoping meeting and your continued interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project. Please contact me at 701.557.5495 or at ksolie@bepc.com if you have additional questions regarding the project.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Solie
Sr. Environmental Analyst

/gmj
Enclosures
cc Liana Reilly (w/o enc.)

From: sdprairiewinds
To: hogrwopp
Date: 4/20/2009 7:09 AM
Subject: Re: Naive and non-Native projects

Dear Mr. Herrera,

Thank you for your interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project. The current phase of the project is looking at the potential environmental impacts of the project rather than construction. If you are interested in the construction aspects of the project, I suggest that you attend the scoping meetings to speak with the project proponents.

Best regards,
Liana

Liana Reilly
NEPA Project Manager

>>> hogrwopp <hogrwopp@aol.com> 4/10/2009 3:50 PM >>>
Hello Liana

we are an American Indian owned leasing business that would like to partner with your firm to provide lease financing for equipment associated with your projects. I read about your business in the latest edition of Indian Country. Give me a call with any questions at your convenience.

The Future Looks Bright!

John R. Herrera
Gen. Partner/Funding Mgr.
LakeView Leasing
a division of, Herrera Property Group LLC
27485 Chippewa Paws Lane SE
Pennington, Minnesota 56663
www.lakeviewleasing.com
(O) 218-422-8064 Fax 888-494-2015
Member: National Association of Equipment Lease Brokers
Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce
Mid-West Minority Purchasing Council

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**South Dakota PrairieWinds Project
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

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- I prefer electronic/email communication.
- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> GERALD V. HIGGINS SR.	<u>Organization:</u> Self
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

watched the project at wessington springs as it developed. Brought in a lot of business to our community. Did not hear any negative comments. I and owners seem to be happy. Believe it is a great asset to the community. my opinion would be that the Crow Lake Project would cost a lot less to build as it covers a much smaller area and early reports are that the wessington springs turbines are 10% over the average in power production.

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.



**South Dakota PrairieWinds Project
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

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- I would like to be kept informed of the ongoing progress of this Project. Please include my name on the mailing list.
- I prefer electronic/email communication.
- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> S.T.C. Co. HAROLD HOTEH KISS	<u>Organization:</u> SEPTIC TANK CLEANING
<u>E-mail address:</u> h	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

**WOULD BE INTEREST SUPPLYING PORTABLE
OUT HOUSES FOR THE PROJECT**

**THANK'S
HAROLD**

(H)

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.



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- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

Name:

Karen & Kelly Janousek

Organization:

E-mail address:

Daytime Phone No. (optional):

Street Address:

City / State / Zip Code:

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

Please upgrade the transmission lines in Gregory County to support wind energy

Thank you
Karen Janousek

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.

From: "Lisa Jay (KWYR News)" <kwyrnews@gwtc.net>
To: "sdprairiewinds sdprairiewinds" <sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov>
Date: 4/22/2009 12:36 PM
Subject: Re: interview

Liana,

Thank you for returning my email. What I am looking for is just a basic interview outlining the meeting and what participants can expect if they take the time to attend. I find that if I inform my listeners as to when, where and what will be discussed they can chose whether or not to attend if it is of interest to them. I run an Ag spotlight each day called the farm and ranch review where this interview will air in it's entirety. I will also use actuals from it for a news cast.

Let me know if you need to know more.

Thanks,
Lisa Jay

----- Original Message -----

From: "sdprairiewinds sdprairiewinds" <sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov>
To: "Lisa Jay (KWYR News)" <kwyrnews@gwtc.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 11:54 AM
Subject: Re: interview

Hello Ms. Jay,

Thank you for your interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project. What information would you like to discuss during the interview? We would be happy to have someone speak with you but want to ensure that it is someone knowledgeable about the aspect(s) of the project that you wish to discuss.

Thank you,
Liana

Liana Reilly
NEPA Project Manager

>>> "Lisa Jay (KWYR News)" <kwyrnews@gwtc.net> 4/20/2009 8:50 AM >>>
I am the News Director at KWYR radio in Winner, SD. I understand there will be a meeting in Winner on April 28th regarding a wind energy project. I am interested in an interview with someone regarding this upcoming meeting. Please let me know who the contact would be and a possible time to conduct the interview over the phone. My schedule lends well to between 8-9am and 1-2 pm but could accomodate as needed.

Looking forward to speaking with someone.

Regards,
Lisa Jay
KWYR News Director



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- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> Joel Keiserleber	<u>Organization:</u> Tripp Co Farmers Union
<u>E-mail address:</u> joel.keiserleber@wapa.gov	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u> 781-333-3333
<u>Street Address:</u> 1000 W. 1st St Sioux Falls, SD 57105	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u> Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

I would like to encourage you to upgrade the WAPA lines through this area to provide power access for other wind farm projects interested in this area

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.

From: sdprairiewinds
To: joelkeierleber304@gmail.com
Date: 5/6/2009 7:34 AM
Subject: Re: WAPA line in Tripp County

Good morning, Mr. Keierleber,

Thank you for your interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds project. At this time, we do not plan on having any additional scoping meetings for the project. We have initiated tribal consultation and will be meeting with the tribes if they wish to meet with us, but those meetings will not be open to the public. The information that was presented at the scoping meetings will be available on our website hopefully by the end of the week. Please let me know if there is anything that we can clarify for you with regards to the project.

Best regards,
Liana

Liana Reilly
NEPA Project Manager

>>> Liana Reilly 5/5/2009 12:52 PM >>>

>>> Joel Keierleber <joelkeierleber304@gmail.com> 5/3/2009 7:47 AM >>>
Good Morning.

I attended a Rosebud Electric Board meeting this past week. They indicated that there would possibly be another hearing/meeting/scoping in regard to the WAPA line that has potential in Tripp County. I would appreciate information on when and where that meeting might be.

Joel Keierleber
Tripp County Farmers Union
605 842 3040

On Fri, Apr 10, 2009 at 12:31 PM, Liana Reilly <Reilly@wapa.gov> wrote:

- > Dear Mr. Keierleber,
- >
- > It was a pleasure to speak with you earlier today. After doing a bit of
- > research regarding your questions, it looks like the best place to direct
- > your questions is our Upper Great Plains Region which handles transmission
- > requests for South Dakota.
- >
- > You can find out some general information online at our website:
- > www.wapa.gov. If you go to the transmission tab, you can find some
- > general information regarding our transmission practices. If you go to the
- > regions tab then to Upper Great Plains or UGP, you can find more detailed
- > information including the information below that I excerpted from the
- > website. The contact information for the UGP office is:
- > PO Box 35800

- > Billings, MT 59107-5800
- >
- > Phone: 406-247-7405 or 1-800-358-3415
- > Fax: 406-247-7408
- >
- > They should also be able to answer your questions regarding existing
- > transmission in the Winner area.
- >
- > I hope this is helpful. Please let me know if there is anything else that
- > I can assist you with. I look forward to meeting you at the South Dakota
- > PrairieWinds Scoping Meetings.
- >
- > Best regards,
- > Liana
- >
- > Liana Reilly
- > Project Manager
- > Western Area Power Administration
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- > The Upper Great Plains Region is one of four regions of the Western Area
- > Power Administration.
- >
- > UGP sells power in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and
- > South Dakota to wholesale customers such as towns; rural electric
- > cooperatives; public utility and irrigation districts; Federal, state, and
- > military agencies; Native American tribes; investor-owned utilities; power
- > marketers; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; and U.S. Corps of Engineers
- > customers.
- >
- > Electric companies get their power, for consumers like you, from a variety
- > of sources. Those sources include wholesale power providers such as Western,
- > purchases and exchanges from neighboring utilities, and their own
- > generation.
- >
- > Upper Great Plains employees work around the clock to keep bulk power
- > moving through the transmission system so that electricity ultimately
- > reaches your home or business. (Learn More >> About UGP)
- >
- >
- >
- >

--

Joel Keierleber
President Tripp County Farmers Union
605 842 3040

From: sdprairiewinds
To: joelkeierleber304@gmail.com
Date: 5/6/2009 7:34 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: ?? on next WAPA meeting in SD

Dear Mr. Keierleber-

Thank you for your interest in the South Dakota PraireWinds Project.

As I mentioned in the message I just sent, we are not planning on having any additional scoping meetings for the South Dakota PraireWinds Project. You will be able find the information presented at the meetings on our website by the end of the week. Our project website is:
<http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/sdprairiewinds.htm>.

Best regards,
Liana

Liana Reilly
NEPA Project Manager

>>> Liana Reilly 5/6/2009 7:02 AM >>>

>>> Joel Keierleber <joelkeierleber304@gmail.com> 5/5/2009 8:07 PM >>>
I was wondering when the next meeting will be in South Dakota concerning the building of WAPA lines in the South Central part of the state. There are several individuals including myself that would like to attend if the meetings are open to the public.

--

Joel Keierleber
President Tripp County Farmers Union
605 842 3040

From: sdprairiewinds
To: Todd J. Klein
Date: 5/26/2009 12:34 PM
Subject: Re: Public Open House

Dear Mr. Klein,

Thank you for your interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project. We are not planning any further scoping meetings for the project. You can find the information that was available at the meetings on our website: www.wapa.gov/transmission/sdprairiewinds.htm.

Best regards,
Liana

Liana Reilly
NEPA Project Manager

>>> "Klein, Todd J." <tjklein@nppd.com> 5/22/2009 2:50 PM >>>

I was wondering if you are planning any more open houses for the SD PrairieWinds project in the near future? Nebraska Public Power District is interested in observing other entities public process and was unable to send any representatives for your April 28th and 29th open houses in Winner and Plankinton, SD.

Any information you could send me regarding your public process would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Todd Klein
Land Management Supervisor
Nebraska Public Power District
Office: (402) 563-5655
Cellular: (402) 276-7622



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- I prefer electronic/email communication.
- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> KELLY KREINBUHL	<u>Organization:</u> FARM RANCHING
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.



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Please Print Contact Info Below

<p><u>Name:</u> <i>Randy Kreinbuhl</i></p> <p><u>E-mail address:</u></p>	<p><u>Organization:</u> <i>Farm Ranching</i></p> <p><u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u></p>
<p><u>Street Address:</u></p>	<p><u>City / State / Zip Code:</u></p>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.

ROBERT E. KOVACEVICH, P.L.L.C.

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

818 WEST RIVERSIDE
SUITE 525
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201-0995
509/747-2104
FAX 509/625-1914
email: kovacevichrobert@qwestoffice.net

May 4, 2009

Liana Reilly
Western Area Power Administration
Corporate Services Office
A7400 P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213

Dear Ms. Reilly:

Please send us the information as indicated.

We have a site on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT E. KOVACEVICH, P.L.L.C.



ROBERT E. KOVACEVICH
Attorney at Law

REK/lr

YOU ARE INVITED! TO A PUBLIC MEETING

The USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and Western Area Power Administration (Western) are hosting two open-house public meetings to discuss a new 150-megawatt wind energy project.

PrairieWinds SD1, Inc., (PrairieWinds), a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, proposes to construct 101 wind turbines in one of two alternate locations. One location would be south of Wessington Springs, approximately **10 miles**

north of the town of White Lake, in Aurora, Jerauld and

Brule counties in South Dakota. The other location would be approximately **15 miles south of the town of Winner**, in Tripp County, South Dakota.



Representatives from RUS, Western and PrairieWinds will be available to answer your questions, offer more information about the proposed project and take your comments. Your comments will help define the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement.

PLEASE JOIN US

April 28, 2009, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1360 E Highway 44
Winner, SD 57580

April 29, 2009, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Commerce Street Grille
118 S Main Street
Plankinton, SD 57368

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Liana Reilly

Western Area Power Administration
Corporate Services Office
A7400 P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213
email: sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov
Phone: 1-800-336-7288



Or visit the Project Web site at:

www.wapa.gov/transmission/sdprairiewinds.htm

From: sdprairiewinds
To: kovacevichrobert@qwestoffice.net
Date: 5/13/2009 7:27 AM
Subject: South Dakota PrairieWinds Project

Dear Mr. Kovacevich,

Thank you for your interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.

We have received your letter and would be happy to get you information on the project. It is unclear from your letter what information you would like. You can find general information about the project and the information that was presented at the scoping meetings on our website:

www.wapa.gov/transmission/sdprairiewinds.htm. If you would like additional information, please let us know.

Best regards,
Liana

Liana Reilly
NEPA Project Manager



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- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> <i>Barbara Kraupa</i>	<u>Organization:</u>
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

I attended the meeting and found it very interesting - the wind energy project is the coming thing. wind turbines I found were so much larger than I thought. I found the meeting very interesting - I live 15 miles west of White Lake and 30 miles west of Chamberlain so I'm out of the location where the turbines will be placed other wise I'd sure be interested on thing South Dak always seems to get the wind -

you also gave out some very nice gifts plus food, I do want to thank you for everything -

Barbara L. Kraupa

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.



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- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> <i>Michelle LaPointe</i>	<u>Organization:</u> <i>N/A</i>
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

What size or high are your wind testers?

How many testing sites in Corridor do you have?

How many acres does this corridor cover?

What size of Sub Station & MW?

How many species will be affected especially those on endangered list (if any)?

Any Cultural impact and are the govt parties participating in a government-to-government relationship w/local tribes?

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.

From: sdprairiewinds
To: lakota001@hotmail.com
CC: Rod O'Sullivan
Date: 5/14/2009 1:43 PM
Subject: South Dakota PrairieWinds Question Responses

Dear Ms. LaPointe,

Thank you for your interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.

We have received your comments and want to be sure to respond to your questions. With regards to wind testers, I am thinking that you are referring to meteorological towers. There are four met towers on each site and they stand 60 meters.

Next you asked about project/corridor size. As noted in our notice of intent as well as the other information noted on our website, there are two potential project locations. One of which is 37,000 acres (the Crow Lake site) and the other is 83,000 acres (the Winner site).

You also asked about substation size and MW. To find details on the substations, you can contact Rod O'Sullivan in our Upper Great Plains Office at 406 247 4792.

Next, with regards to species potentially affected as well as cultural areas that may be affected, we will not know that until we perform our environmental and cultural analyses. These items will be addressed in our Environmental Impact Statement.

Finally, with regards to tribal consultation, we are in fact proceeding with the government-to-government consultation process with the tribes.

I hope these answer your questions.

Best regards,
Liana

Liana Reilly
NEPA Project Manager

From: sdprairiewinds
To: Carla Loop
Date: 5/1/2009 10:08 AM
Subject: Re: Mailing List

Hello Carla-

Thank you for your interest in the SDPW project. I will add your names to the mailing list. Please let me know if there is anything else that I can do!

Best regards,
Liana

Liana Reilly
NEPA Project Manager

>>> Carla Loop <cloop@fs.fed.us> 4/30/2009 12:41 PM >>>
Hi Liana. Please add myself (address in signature block) and Ruben Leal, District Ranger at Ft. Pierre National Grassland to the mailing list for the wind powered generating facilities. I understand that the proposed sites for these are either near Wessington Springs or Winner, SD. Thanks!

Ruben's address is:

Ruben Leal
1020 North Deadwood Street
Ft. Pierre, SD 57532

Carla Loop
Realty Specialist
Nebraska National Forest
125 N Main
Chadron, NE 69337
(308) 432-0336 cloop@fs.fed.us



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- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> <i>Richard Meier</i>	<u>Organization:</u>
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

I think it would be a fine project for the area north of White Lake, S.D. It is "benefit" some farmers and should generate renewable energy for the country. It should also bring in some taxes for the counties & the schools which they definitely need.

Richard M. Meier

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.

From: <Jack.Mitchell@state.sd.us>
To: <sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov>
CC: <Steve.Kolbeck@state.sd.us>, <Dustin.Johnson@state.sd.us>, <Kevin.Tveidt...>
Date: 5/1/2009 12:06 PM
Subject: Wind Turbine Projects (EIS Impact Statement)

05/01/09

Sirs,

I am replying to a request (EIS) of yours concerning wind projects in South Dakota. My name is John (Jack) Mitchell, 713 N. Madison Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501. I am currently a member of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission, since (1997), a pilot since (1965), and a retired (1985) FAA Air Traffic Controller.

My intent in this communication is to express my concerns with wind turbines being constructed that are not lighted ! During many of our commission meetings we have these type issues come up on our agenda. Most all of the requests have been approved until our meeting on 4/28/09 when a "farm" of these wind turbines were restricted to approval, because not all of them were going to be lighted. ie: (Aviation Systems Inc. Wind Farm near Highmore, S.D.) 12 turbines will be lighted with a red light and 6 will have no lights. Keep in mind, as you probably already know, Federal regulations have precedence over any State regulations or actions on the part of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission.

The FAA (Great Lakes Region) says on their approval that only perimeter turbine towers need to be lighted, however it appears that FAA (Great Lakes Region) does not handle their approvals with the same thought in mind that FAA (Central Region) does, because the (Central Region) is much more restrictive. I have been informed that the (Central Region) requires all of the wind turbine towers to be lighted ,not just the perimeter.. We have a huge amount of inconsistencies ! It has occurred a number of times in South Dakota that ONLY a partial number of wind turbines have been required to be lighted by the FAA. From my experience on the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission over the past 3-5 years I have learned that the FAA (Great Lakes Region) only requires the PERIMETER of the wind towers to be lighted, so this leaves a false sense of security to the night-time pilot, because the center of this perimeter is not lighted. I hope you can understand where I am coming from when the night-time pilot who may need to make an emergency landing finds out he is coming head on with a wind turbine that he didn't know was there, because it was unlighted !

Since I am a pilot and do know about night time emergencies in an aircraft I am of the belief that EVERY obstacle that goes up into navigatable airspace should have a light on it and be properly marked for daylight visual reference. I urge your committee to make every effort possible to make sure that ALL of the wind towers going up into airspace be lighted at night and properly marked for day time visual reference. Thank you.

P.S. I would like to be kept informed of the ongoing progress of the Project, by paper mailings

Sincerely,
John (Jack) Mitchell
713 N. Madison Ave.

perimeter turbine towers need to be lighted, however it appears that FAA (Great Lakes Region) does not handle their approvals with the same thought in mind that FAA (Central Region) does, because the (Central Region) is much more restrictive. I have been informed that the (Central Region) requires all of the wind turbine towers to be lighted ,not just the perimeter.. We have a huge amount of inconsistencies !

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P.S. I would like to be kept informed of the ongoing progress of the Project, by paper mailings

Sincerely,
John (Jack) Mitchell
713 N. Madison Ave.
Pierre, S.D. 57501
605-224-4471 or cell 605-222-4471

Note: Bruce Lindholm would you pass this along to Chm. Nelson via FAX, Thank you

From: sdprairiewinds
To: Jack.Mitchell@state.sd.us
Date: 5/6/2009 7:06 AM
Subject: RE: Wind Turbine Projects (EIS Impact Statement)

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

We received your comment on 5/1/09.

Thank you for your interest in the South Dakota PraireWinds Project.

Best regards,
Liana

Liana Reilly
NEPA Project Manager

>>> <Jack.Mitchell@state.sd.us> 5/2/2009 12:32 PM >>>

Would appreciate an acknowledgement of receipt my message dated 5/1/09.
Thank you
Jack Mitchell, S.D. Aeronautics Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Mitchell, Jack
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 1:06 PM
To: 'sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov'
Cc: Kolbeck, Steve; Johnson, Dustin (PUC); Tveidt, Kevin; Lindholm, Bruce; Bingner, Randy
Subject: Wind Turbine Projects (EIS Impact Statement)

05/01/09

Sirs,

I am replying to a request (EIS) of yours concerning wind projects in South Dakota. My name is John (Jack) Mitchell, 713 N. Madison Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501. I am currently a member of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission, since (1997), a pilot since (1965), and a retired (1985) FAA Air Traffic Controller.

My intent in this communication is to express my concerns with wind turbines being constructed

that are not lighted ! During many of our commission meetings we have these type issues come up on our agenda. Most all of the requests have been approved until our meeting on 4/28/09 when a "farm" of these wind turbines were restricted to approval, because not all of them were going to be lighted. ie: (Aviation Systems Inc. Wind Farm near Highmore, S.D.) 12 turbines will be lighted with a red light and 6 will have no lights. Keep in mind, as you probably already know, Federal regulations have precedence over any State regulations or actions on the part of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission.

The FAA (Great Lakes Region) says on their approval that only



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- I would like to be kept informed of the ongoing progress of this Project. Please include my name on the mailing list.
- I prefer electronic/email communication.
- I prefer paper mailings.

Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> LARRY A. NELSON	<u>Organization:</u>
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

**I THINK THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT
THAT ALL WIND TURBINE BE LIGHTED!!
IT IS A SAFETY ISSUE OF IMPORTANCE
TO AVIATION. ALSO SOME NOTICE OF THE
TEMPORARY WIND VELOCITY TOWERS.**

**THANK YOU
Larry N.**

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.



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Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> <i>June Patmore</i>	<u>Organization:</u>
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

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Some in my area have signed up with other entities seeking wind farms. How does this affect a given area - i.e. can you buy other easements from other companies?? (in order to accommodate the number of towers you need for feasibility)

Why does the period of time have to be for so long (50 years)? Power rates are expected to climb significantly yet your contract does not allow for this, why?

Why did you "warn" people to not sign up with "no money up front" companies without including "why"?

I live next to the border of Dog Ear (Star Prairie) townships. Originally you told me you would not be going that far west. - now it's within your border.

If you sell the wind farm are payments to the land owner guaranteed?

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.



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Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> KENNETH B. PERRIN	<u>Organization:</u> FARM OWNER
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

I own a 160 acre farm south of Gregory, S.D. which currently is being farmed by Robert Wetzler - we are both interested in your project, and would like to be kept informed.

I received the packet yesterday May 11, so hope this won't be too late.

THANKS IN ADVANCE

Kenneth B Perrin

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.



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Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> Greg + Orris Petersen	<u>Organization:</u> land owner in Gregory Twp. Crofton farmer/self emp
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

We are requesting that your company to construct powerlines in Gregory Co. to handle wind energy.

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.



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Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> <i>DON SALMEN</i>	<u>Organization:</u> <i>Farmer</i>
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

I do not live within the boundaries of the proposed site north of White Lake, but support the building of the project. Would you have to build a new substation or hook into the one built at the south end of the Westington Springs project? I attended the meeting at Platteville. I was disappointed that a formal presentation was not made.

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.

From: "Don Scherschligt" <dms@venturecomm.net>
To: <sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov>
Date: 4/29/2009 10:28 AM
Subject: Winds at Wessington Springs, S.D.

Greetings Ms Liana Reilly:

I have received you Public meeting notice concerning a meeting in Plankinton, S.D. this afternoon to discuss a 150 megawatt wind energy project. Since I'm retired and do not own any land where towers might be put then I doubt if I have a right to voice a strong influence of this proposed project. I do however hope to influence the decision to construct a new windtower farm south of Wessington Springs. As I type this note I'm looking out my office window and can see three wind tower blades turning away thus profiting the system. I see these three towers morning noon and night working away.

I live on the hill as the furthest house on the south end of town. In 25 years in this house I can truthfully tell you the wind blows a lot. The wind is my friend as it blows away odors, mosquitos, and flies. The wind helps cool the summer evenings when its hot and in the winter drifts huge piles of snow in my driveway in front of our double garage which needless to say not favorable

Yes we have lots of consistent wind and it seems like it blows a lot.

Don Scherschligt



En

CIVIL - MECHANICAL - ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Thank you for your interest in the project. Please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be submitted at the SCOPE of this form or sent to the Project Engineer. Comments can be submitted at the SCOPE of this form or sent to the Project Engineer. Comments can be submitted at the SCOPE of this form or sent to the Project Engineer. Comments can be submitted at the SCOPE of this form or sent to the Project Engineer.

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320.564.3278 fax

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Please Print Contact Info Below

<u>Name:</u> Paul Seppanen	<u>Organization:</u> Fagen, Inc
<u>E-mail address:</u>	<u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u>
<u>Street Address:</u>	<u>City / State / Zip Code:</u>

Please indicate any questions, comments or concerns you have about the Project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

- Thank you for hosting the well organized session. It is unique and effective approach to have your knowledgeable people here.

Paul

Thank you for your time and interest in the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project.