

Submitted via email.
July 6, 2015

Hello Steve,

I wanted to make some comments on the Proposed Draft and the wind energy text amendment process.

It was evident to me from the start that the intention of the people who opposed the wind farm in the was not to develop "reasonable" regulations for wind farms, but to completely regulate them out of existence. Most of their information was pulled off of anti wind websites with non peer reviewed studies. They also attempted to intimidate supporters of the wind farm into silence by talking over them, or repeatedly interrupting them. Wind supporters in the audience who made comments were also mocked or talked over. It was also disappointing to me that some of the speakers that did presentations to the Working Group and that were supposed to be impartial, were in fact, very anti wind. The most notable person was the gentlemen who spoke to us about "view corridors", then showed up at future meetings to speak out against the wind farm.

Besides these thoughts, I'd also like to address the following:

- "The wind towers make too much noise". The wind towers would actually make less noise than traffic or farm equipment running near Route 77 or Hallam Road. Not to mention corn drying engines that run every autumn 24 / 7. The noise level should be raised to 60 db so that the turbines can operate.
- "Tall towers would disrupt the landscape and ruin the view." There are already numerous tall radio towers, cell phone towers, grain towers, etc. in the area of the proposed wind farm. Do all of these structures need to be torn down?
- "Flashing red lights are a nuisance". There are already dozens of flashing red lights looking in any direction from 77 or Hallam Road. One tower in Hallam alone has 8 red lights on it.
- "Shadow flicker is a nuisance". The sun shining through wind blown trees at sunset is also "shadow flicker", but I manage to tolerate it for the 20 minutes that it happens.
- "The turbines will kill birds". House cats kill birds at a 1,000 times greater rate than wind turbines.
- "The tax revenue generated for local governments will not be that much". The tax revenue generated could provide a significant positive impact for local property tax relief or local schools.

Finally, the Obama administration has moved aggressively to eliminate the use of coal to produce energy.

It's a pretty safe bet that any future administrations, Democrat or Republican, will also implement regulations to eliminate coal. I'm happy that Sheldon Station is converting 50% of its energy to hydrogen, but what happens when the coal half gets shut down? With the growth in our area of Nebraska and the need for more power, clean wind energy will grow more and more important in the future. We can no longer afford to reject logical energy alternatives because of frivolous reasons.

Tony Oberley