BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND A 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN DEUEL COUNTY	* * * * * * * *	**INTERVENOR JOHN HOMAN'S SUBMISSION OF TESTIMONY OF GEORGE L HOLBORN** **EL18-053**

Please find included testimony of George L Holborn

Date: 3-18-19

John Homan

John Homan
Intervenor
4114 12th Avenue NE
Watertown, SD 57201
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Exhibit: _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

SD PUC DOCKET EL18-053
DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY LLC

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICAION OF DEUEL HARVEST WIND ENERGY LLC
FOR A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY
AND A345-kV TRANSMISSION LINE
IN DEUEL COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF GEORGE L. HOLBORN

March 2019

ON BEHALF OF INTERVENOR JOHN HOMAN

Q: Please state your name and address.

A: My name is George L. Holborn. My address is 2008 South Silverthorne Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Q: Please give a brief description of your background.

A: With the exception of two years of military service in the late '60's, my permanent address has been in South Dakota. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture Education and

8 Master of Science Degree in Agronomy with a Minor in Agriculture Economics from South

9 Dakota State University in 1976.

10 I worked in the South Dakota Agriculture industry for several years and founded Millborn

11 Seeds Inc. in 1985. I sold the company in 2004.

12

13 **Q: When were you appointed to the Deuel County Planning and Zoning Board of**

14 **Adjustment?**

15 A: My first meeting was November 2016 and my last meeting was January 2017.

16 This was when testimony was received to consider changes to the Deuel County Wind

17 Energy Systems (WES) Ordinance.

18

19 **Q: As a board member, please describe your experience of working with Invenergy LLC.**

20 A: As a new board member, I realized early on my fellow board members echoed much of

21 what Invenergy and the other two wind developers wanted known. In general, it was

22 obvious to me a familiarity with one another existed before I was appointed.

23

24 **Q: Did you ever ask any Invenergy representatives or fellow Planning & Zoning member**

25 **how long they have been working on the project?**

26 No. But in my opinion Invenergy provided the board with biased material; such as "If you

27 can't hear it, it can't hurt you." That did not seem as plausible as a 500 foot industrial wind

28 turbine (IWT) 1500 feet away may give someone a headache. As a board member, I asked

29 Invenergy for something not so obviously biased.

30

31 **Q: Is there anything further you would like to comment on regarding your tenure on the**

32 **Deuel County Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment?**

33 A: Yes. Money was the essence of the process but for me it was to do no harm. This was to

34 protect the health, safety and welfare of all Deuel County Citizens.

35

Q: Why did you resign from the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment?

A: My fellow board members had made up their collective mind long before I was appointed. I had hoped I could have had more success lobbying the County Commission.

Beyond that, I've been studying this conundrum.

Q: Please explain the conundrum as you understand it.

A: I have learned, about the last three years it is no longer a conundrum.

It is really quite simple. It depends on placing people before greed. Once that is put into perspective, all the lawsuits, hearings, anxiety, destruction of the social fabric of the community, and including this exercise, can and should go away.

Q: Do you have an example?

A: Yes. Why should the taxpayers have any possibility of being forced to pay for decommissioning of the turbines? When a wind participant is able and willing to sign a wind contract with the wind developer, they are already in agreement. They should be able to include decommissioning in said agreement. They are both benefiting.

The wind non-participant taxpayer is already on the hook for the Production Tax Credit and as their increased electricity cost as the rate payer.

Why put his position in jeopardy again?

Q: What are your thoughts on turbine setbacks?

A: Wind Participants should have the liberty with the help of the wind developer to site the turbines as close to their own residence as they wish. The wind developer would have us believe turbines can and should be sited within 110% of a public right away.

Everyone should have some control over how close the turbines are sighted to homes.

There is so much money in this scam on the taxpayers and ratepayers, there is no reason with a waiver, a two to three mile setback won't work.

The wind developer can negotiate with the non- participant.

They have already used their skills negotiating with this participant.

65 It is only a problem due to the corruption at every layer of government beginning in

66 Washington DC. In Deuel County we have learned 8 of the 12 people involved with the wind

67 process had either a direct and or indirect relationship to the wind developer.

68 Until the non-participant is no longer "forced" to endure such a miserable burden without

69 compensation, more turbines sited equals more misery. It seems to me whether in Deuel

70 County or in Pierre, we, you, Invenergy are unable to guarantee turbines "will not

71 substantially impair the health,

72 safety and welfare of the inhabitants" (wind non-participant inhabitants).

73 I do not believe Invenergy can guarantee "not to pose a threat of serious injury to the

74 environment nor to the social or economic condition of inhabitants or expected

75 inhabitants." I cannot believe this kind of crony capitalist socialism (monetarily benefiting

76 some while forcibly impoverishing others) is constitutional.

77

78 **Q: What are your thoughts on Shadow Flicker?**

79 A: I have encountered shadow flicker on one occasion east of White, South Dakota

80 on Hwy 19 about 11:00am roughly two years ago. I immediately became disorientated and

81 drove my vehicle over to the shoulder of the Hwy. As a Planning and Zoning Board Member,

82 we had testimony it can be sensed even through a person's closed eyelids.

83 I have not personally tried that, but in general shadow flicker makes me uncomfortable.

84 People should not have to endure such things without agreed compensation.

85 At a spring 2017 Deuel County Commission Meeting, an Invenergy representative spoke

86 several minutes complaining that 30 hours of flicker per year is such an insignificant amount

87 people shouldn't complain. To his credit a Commissioner asked "If it is such a small amount

88 of time why don't you shut the turbines down during those few minutes?"

89 After a brief pause, the wind developer replied "that would affect the profitability of the

90 project". My personal thought is if at least some shadow flicker is allowed,

91 the complainer can be worn down in court.

92

93 **Q: Are there any other comments you would like to present at this time?**

94 A: Yes. It has been known for nearly four decades infrasound can be a problem for some of

95 us. The wind developers have done nothing but cover this up or ignore it.

96 When someone is enjoying life and at some point a 2.0 - 4.2 MW industrial wind turbine is

97 sited about a mile away, at some point that person becomes ill, but when that person

98 leaves he or she feels better. At the expense of the wind developer/s, a moratorium should

99 be instituted until it is determined to what extent this is associated with the IWT.

100 This inquiry should be done by independent researchers, not unlike those 40 years ago.

101 Not a single person should be forced, used as a

102 pawn, so others can financially benefit. The Deuel County Planning & Zoning Board of

103 Adjustment received testimony from a citizen that at times his home vibrates when the

104 IWT are operational. No one should have to be forced to endure this torture so that

105 politicians can garner campaign contributions or local officials receive payments from

106 multiple turbines. In Deuel County when families who live among the turbines

107 complained, they were called liars.

108

109 **Q: What is your experience regarding property values?**

110 A: At a Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting in the fall of 2016, an Invenergy

111 representative claimed that property values would stay the same or go up

112 after the turbines were operational. I estimated 150 - 200 people roared with laughter.

113 I restated that question and restated his answer. Again, the people roared with laughter.

114

115 **Q: What was your experience when selling your home?**

116 A: We owned our property for more than 10 years. We had been trying to sell it well over a

117 year. We had no choice; I get headaches when near the turbines. We lost in excess of 250K

118 to remove ourselves from the Deuel County tax rolls. Make no mistake money matters,

119 but what has happened to that community is a real shame.

120 We closed on the sale 02/28/2019. "Meadow Creek Valley" is a very unique piece of

121 property. We had every intention of being carried out feet first.

122 The new owner has agreed to let me come and help him out on his property from time to

123 time.

124 Property Values: When I see ads along the lines of "Here's a real chance to get in on living

125 among the turbines, the price has been bid up 20% above the original asking price.

126 Contact us immediately; you could live here soon."

127 Then, and only then, will I believe the government and industry biased studies that claim

128 that property values will stay the same or are enhanced. When we were showing "Meadow

129 Creek Valley" to perspective buyers, we were repeatedly asked if it was in or near the

130 turbine controversy of Deuel County. I cannot be persuaded to conclude people were

131 asking because they wanted to live among or near the turbines.

132

133 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

134 A: Yes. Thank You for the opportunity to present my testimony.

The foregoing written testimony is to be presented to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for SD PUC Docket EL18-053.

Dated this 18th day of March 2019.

George L. Holborn / **George L. Holborn**

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OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY DEUEL HARVEST WIND, LLC FOR A PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND A 345-kV TRANSMISSION LINE IN DEUEL COUNTY	* * * * * * * * *	**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** **EL18-053**

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of

Testimany of George L. Horborn for Intervenor John Homan

were served electronically to the Parties indicated below, on March 18,2019, addressed to:

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Date: March 18,2019

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