

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 5:25 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: EL19-003

Mr. Hubner,

This is in response to your message relaying frustration with the Public Utilities Commission's processing of proposed wind energy projects siting applications.

By law, the commission must take several factors into account when considering whether or not to grant a wind siting permit. The primary duty of the commission is to ensure the location, construction, and operation of the facilities will produce minimal adverse effects to the health, safety, and welfare of the environment and citizens. The standards we must follow are defined in South Dakota Codified Laws and Administrative Rules. These were passed by the South Dakota Legislature.

The commission cannot pass its own legislation. The commission does not have the option of choosing what laws to follow. While I sympathize with you on your personal situation, it is not within my power – or the commission's power – to change your circumstances while also following state statutes. As a statewide elected official, I took an oath to follow the laws, as did my fellow commissioners. If we were to not follow these laws, if we were to pick winners and losers of our own accord regardless of the laws, *that* would be corruption.

Your message and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the Crowned Ridge docket, EL19-003, so interested individuals can access them.

Gary Hanson, Chairman

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

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