

Dave Adam, Clark County Resident

██████████ Clark, SD 57225

September 13, 2017

My name is Dave Adam. I am a resident of Clark County and am deeply committed to our community. Over the past 12 years, I've been a Clark Boy Scout volunteer, a 4-H leader, a coach for the Teener Baseball team, and am a member of the local American Legion.

The land that I reside on has been in my wife's family for generations. We had longed to move here but needed telecommunications to make it economically possible for our family. I work in the transportation business and would need high-speed internet to relocate to the area. We learned 12 years ago that ITC offered rural DSL service. This was the news we'd waited for for years; working from home would now be possible in Clark County.

DSL service benefits not only our family, but the economy of the community at large. To continue to attract new and young people to the area, we need to provide the latest telecommunications offered by ITC. We cannot afford to allow our technology to stagnate as the rest of the world moves forward.

A wind farm project puts our communication systems at risk. Crocker Wind Farm acknowledges in Section 15.5.6 of the Application that the Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy expressed concerns the Project may obstruct radio frequency transmissions or weather radar. ITC has expressed repeatedly, including at the Conditional Use Permit hearing, that collection lines running parallel to and near their lines will create problems. An agreement between Crocker Wind Farm and ITC is pivotal to the success of the Wind Farm Project. The County Commissioners also acknowledged this issue and were adamant about reaching an agreement between the parties. This agreement became a formal requirement in the Written Findings of the Clark County Board of Adjustment hearing. Despite this, the Network Operations Manager at ITC stated Monday that no such agreement is in place.

One objection to the Wind Farm that local residents have raised over and over is the visual impact of the turbines, affecting quality of life. During the day, the turbines cause shadow flicker creating a strobing effect within homes. At night, blinking lights flash continually to alert incoming aircraft. The light disturbance is inescapable. To address this concern, the Written Findings of the Clark County Board of Adjustment states that they intend to protect the peace and tranquility of residents by requiring that "the Applicant shall make a good faith effort to employ an Aircraft Detection Lighting System designed to turn blinking lights atop wind turbines on or off, based on the presence or absence of aircraft in the vicinity." The Findings also state that the Applicant will conduct a feasibility study and present the study results to the Board of Adjustment, who reserves the right to mandate a system after review of the study. As of September 6, County Commissioner ██████████ stated that the Board has not received these study results.

In Section 20.1.3.2, Crocker Wind Farm states that “the installation of wind turbine towers in active croplands and installation of aboveground collection lines, if needed, will create a potential for collisions with crop-dusting aircraft.”

Clark County farmers are dependent upon crop dusting for pesticide application. Local crop dusters, including [REDACTED] have expressly stated that they would not send pilots to fly within a wind farm. This forces local farmers to seek pilots outside current contracts, potentially incurring increased costs in the event they’re able to locate willing pilots at all. Crocker Wind Farm states that they plan to mitigate the collision risk with lighting “according to FAA guidelines.” To ensure compliance with applicable laws and rules as stated in the Applicant’s Burden of Proof, Crocker Wind Farm must ensure that they study and report specifically on the Aircraft Detection Lighting System as stipulated in the Written Findings of the Clark County Board of Adjustment. Despite the critical nature of this aspect of the project, there is no evidence to date that Crocker Wind Farm is in compliance.

The wind farm project, as detailed in Crocker Wind Farm’s Application for a Facility Use Permit does not comply with applicable laws if it is not in adherence to the Written Findings of the Clark County Board of Adjustment. Studies mandated in these findings have not been conducted – not even started. Light disturbance during the day and night poses a threat of serious injury to the social and economic condition of inhabitants, as current residents will find it intolerable and it will be nearly impossible to attract new residents willing to purchase property at a fair market value. Lastly, making it difficult or impossible to obtain aerial pesticide application has significant impact on the economic condition of inhabitants as well. I encourage you to deny this Application.

Thank you for your consideration.