

**OFFICIAL FILING
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

Application of Highland Wind Farm, LLC, for a
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
to Construct a 102.5 MW Wind Electric Generation
Facility and Associated Electric Facilities, to be
Located in the Towns of Forest and Cylon,
St. Croix County, Wisconsin

Docket No. 2535-CE-100

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF LARRY WUNSCH

1 **Q. Please state your full name and address.**

2 A. My name is Larry Wunsch. I live at W7037 Fox Dr., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
3 54937.

4 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

5 A. I want to explain what it was like to live in the shadows of a wind farm. My wife
6 and I owned a house in Brownsville, Wisconsin when the Forward Wind Energy
7 Center was constructed. We had to abandon our home as a result of the wind farm
8 and would like the Public Service Commission to consider this harm when it
9 determines whether the Highland Wind Farm should be constructed as proposed.

10 **Q. Please explain what your Brownsville home meant to you.**

11 A. My wife and I had gathered our savings to buy the land and build the house that
12 we lived in. I basically built the house myself with the help of two other
13 firefighters. It was going to be our dream home in the country.

1 **Q. After the turbines were constructed, how close were they to your home?**

2 A. I could see almost all 83 turbines from my home. The closet three turbines were
3 just 1,100 feet, 1,500, and 1,800 feet from our residence respectively. Each turbine
4 was a GE 1.5 megawatt turbine, which had a height just shy of 400 feet.

5 **Q. How did the wind farm change your countryside residence?**

6 A. The wind farm changed the feeling at our house from the countryside setting to an
7 industrial park atmosphere. I couldn't get away from it. If it wasn't the sound, it was the
8 sight. At night when I couldn't see the turbines, I saw the flashing red lights that
9 reminded me that they were there. We called it the Pinwheel Junkyard.

10 **Q. Please explain how the noise from the turbines impacted you.**

11 A. I had purposely built our home 1,000 feet off of the road to escape the noise from
12 traffic and other sounds. When the turbines were constructed, it became obvious
13 that the peace and quiet I had worked for were lost. Worst of all, the noise from
14 the turbines prevented me from being able to sleep. I would wake up in the middle
15 of the night or early morning and would hear the sound of the turbines, and then
16 never be able to get back to sleep. I couldn't sleep with the windows open for the
17 two years that I lived there while the wind farm was in operation. Even with the
18 windows closed, I could hear the annoying noise through the walls and windows
19 on windy nights. Without getting the proper rest, it was nearly impossible to
20 perform a good day's work.

1 **Q. How were you influenced by shadow flicker from the turbines?**

2 A. The shadow flicker was largely a nuisance during the spring and the fall. The
3 longest time that a turbine shadowed my home was fifty minutes. The flicker came
4 and went with the setting position of the sun. I had solar tubes which gave light to
5 many of the rooms in the house. When the shadow flicker came, the whole inside
6 of the house experienced a strobe effect.

7 **Q. What did you do as a result of the wind farm and why?**

8 A. I left my home. I had to. It just wasn't the same anymore. The quiet nights on the
9 front porch were gone. Since leaving, I really miss that place in the country that
10 my wife and I built. It leaves a punch in the stomach every time I go by it. But I
11 knew that I would not have been happy living there with the wind turbines so
12 close.

13 **Q. Were you able to sell your home?**

14 A. I know I was lucky to be able to sell my home at all; but unfortunately it sold at a
15 heavy loss. My home and land was appraised at \$635,000. After two years of
16 listing it, we sold it for \$570,000 – which included with it a tractor (worth
17 \$15,000), new stainless steel appliances (worth \$7,000), two flat screen televisions
18 (worth \$3,000), and two entertainment centers (worth 4,000). According to my
19 calculations we lost close to \$100,000 on the property.

1 **Q. How have you felt since leaving your home?**

2 A. I have now been away from the turbines for over a year. I have finally been able
3 to catch up on sleep, and I feel renewed. I would never live in or near a wind farm
4 again. I would tell this to anybody who is thinking about living in a wind farm..

5 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

6 A. Yes.