

## Opening Remarks

My name is Harvey Zehr Jr. aka Bill.

I am not an expert as defined by Mr. Blazer, but I have experience with some of the issues that I will talk about.

Back ground:

Comprehensive Business Degree with emphasis in Accounting From Illinois State University 1972

Masters of Business Administration From Drake University. 1985?

Certified Public Account 1973

Certified Internal Auditor

Charter Life Underwriter

Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter

Fellow Life Management Institute with Masters

Certified Information System Auditor

Started my career as a Business Systems Analyst  
1 and 1/2 years

Spent the next 19 years (17 years as director of audit) as  
an EDP auditor and Operational Auditor for 3 different  
companies.

Next 7 years as head of agency administration

Retired at 58 and did audit consulting work for 2  
additional years for a worldwide manufacturing  
Corporation.

Some areas that I audited:

Appraiser, Manufacturing, Research and Development, a  
Hospital, contracts, 19,000 acre farm, Construction,  
Doctors, health Claims, Disability Claims, Death Claims,  
Auto and Home Owners claims, Actuarial, Underwriting,  
Fraud, and many other operations of insurance  
companies, construction companies, and retail  
department stores.



## JUDITH GAP, WHEATLAND COUNTY, MONTANA

Mr. Parzyck showed a video, exhibit 5, during his presentation on Invenergy. It showed how happy people were with the Wind Turbines and some of them were from Judith Gap. I am sure they are thrilled that with the turbines, as they bring in much needed financial support for their town.

The site for the project appears to be near perfect for them.

Exhibit h zehr 001 has some background information on the area and the turbines.

The size of the turbines are similar to those proposed for our area, except the blades are about 25% shorter and nacelle's weight about 28% less.

One of the comments made on the Montana.gov website on page 3 was that a **critical component** to the project's success was the approval from the Montana Public Service Commission to sell power to NorthWestern Energy under a 20 year contract for \$31.75 per megawatt hour.

### **Some back ground on the site for the turbines:**

Judith Gap is a town of 126 people Page 4

The nearest town to Judith Gap is Harlow which is 18 miles South.

page 5

The population of Wheatland County Montana is 2,168

The population of Livingston County Illinois is about 38,000,  
17 times Wheatland County

The land area of Wheatland County is 1,423 square miles which is about  
40% greater than Livingston County, Illinois.

See the second to last page of exhibit h zehr 001

Like I mentioned earlier, the citing is near perfect the closest residence  
to a turbine is about 6 tenths of a mile. The second closest residence is  
over one mile away from the nearest turbine. In the town of Judith Gap  
the closest residence to the nearest turbine is over 4 miles.

Last page is a map where at the top you can see the town of Judith Gap  
at the top of the page beginning with the for green balloons. All  
residences are not marked with the green balloons, just a couple of the  
closest ones.

**If the citing for these wind turbines was similar to the Judith Gap  
citing these meetings with the ZBA would have been over the first  
night.**



## **Pro-Wind vs. Anti-Wind**

Mr. Blazer asked one of the witnesses if government was pro-wind, and the witness did not answer the question. I will.

Federal Government is obviously pro-wind because:

The Federal Government Provides a 30% Production Tax Credit (PTC)

( $\$1,000,0000 \times 30\% =$  a \$300,000 write off against taxes owed)

Subsidizes electricity generated at over 3 cents per KWH

The Department of Energy website says so:

**Exhibit UCLC 43 Page 1**

### **About the DOE Wind Program**

"The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Wind Program is committed to developing and deploying a portfolio of innovative technologies for clean, domestic power

generation to support the ever-growing industry, targeted at producing 20% of the nation's electricity by 2030."

### **UCLC Exhibit 42 page 3**

#### **Market Acceleration and Barrier Reduction Activities**

" DOE - funded market acceleration and environmental initiatives, such as Wind Powering America and the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative, were critical in enabling wind to break out of California and develop in markets across the country."

Wind Powering America created the Jobs and Economic Development model (JEDI). The National Wind Coordinating Collaborative built public-private partnerships.

#### **Pleasant Ridge exhibit 114 (Grants Received)**

H Zehr Exhibit 9

The DOE funds university departments that are pro-wind,



for example (Dr. David Loomis at Illinois State University)  
Grants from the U.S. Department of Energy \$990,000  
from 2006 through 2010 and \$107,941 in 2009 - 2011

**Exhibit 6 page 12 through page 15**

The Federal Government subsidizes Wind energy at a  
much higher level than non- renewable energy.

**From H Zehr Exhibit 7**

The percentages inside the pie chart are from 2010

The percentages outside the pie chart are from 2013  
latest number available

Wind energy gets 37 % of the subsidies and produces 4.3  
% of the electricity

Coal gets 6 % of the subsidies and produces 40.1 % of the  
electricity

Coal gets 1/6th the subsidy of Wind and produces over 9  
times the electricity

EASEMENTS

**The Pleasant Ridge exhibit 7 (H Zehr exhibit 2)** is called the Agreement Regarding Easements from which I got the following information.

Under item 2 Easements "(f) permitting electromagnetic, audio, flicker, visual, light, noise, vibration, air turbulence, wake, electric, radio interference, shadow or other effects attributable to the Windpower Facilities or any other operational or development activities."

Drones are beginning to be used by farmers to "scout" their crops during the growing season. The applicants proposed citing has 3 wind turbines within 1,000 feet of my farm. How will the air turbulence, wake, electric, and radio interference affect me and other the non-participating farmers?

Farming has changed dramatically in the last 10 to 15 years. What new technologies will not be able to be used effectively because of the air turbulence, wake, electric and radio interference?



I have wondered about the claims that there few complaints from people within the foot print of wind farms. Well, the easement gives the wind farm permission to produce electromagnetic, audio, flicker, visual, light, noise, vibration, air turbulence, wake, electric, radio interference, shadow or other effects attributable to the Windpower Facilities or any other operational or development activities.

The agreement gives the Grantee the right to produce the causes of complaints especially "**other effects attributable to the Windpower Facilities or any other operational or development activities.**"

**The Invenergy exhibit 6 (H Zehr Exhibit 3) called Neighbor Agreement has a section 2 called Term starts I quote "The term of this Agreement and the Easements described above the "Term" shall commence....."**

I can find no other place in the agreement that defines what the Easements are allowing Pleasant Ridge Energy LLC to do. Is the Neighbor Agreement "easement" buying the same rights as the exhibit 7 called the

Agreement Regarding Easements? Any additional or less rights?

All easements that I have seen specifically say what rights you are giving to the Grantee. I don't see that in the Neighbor Agreement. That old adage you don't get something for nothing gets my antenna up. What is Pleasant Ridge Energy LLC buying the rights to?

**Pleasant Ridge Exhibit 8 (H Zehr Exhibit 4)** is called the Cooperation and Release Agreement. This agreement between Pleasant Ridge Energy LLC and the Village of Forrest releases the 1 and 1/2 mile buffer zone between the Village of Forrest and Wind Turbines. It does say there is a new buffer zone of 1/2 mile created.

Item 3 (B) states that I quote "The Village also expressly agrees that it will not oppose the placement by Pleasant Ridge of any project infrastructure, including, but not limited to transmission systems, substations, underground electrical collection systems or road access, regardless of the distance of any portion of such systems from a Village boundary."



Could this be a problem if the Pleasant Ridge Energy LLC is sold or Forrest needs to expand?

There is no mention in this agreement about permitting or not permitting electromagnetic, audio, flicker, visual, view, light, noise, vibration, air turbulence, wake, electric, radio interference, shadow or other effects attributable to the Windpower Facilities or any other operational or development activities as in the Pleasant Ridge Exhibit 7 agreement. Could this be a problem in the future?

**THE POWER OF SLEEP**

**Time Magazine H Zehr Exhibit 5**

I have to credit my son-law, Dan Fehr, with this presentation. He saw and read this article in Time magazine while he waiting for my daughter to come out of surgery last year. It does not mention or even allude to wind turbines. I doubt that the author or those contributing to the article have ever heard of the resistance to wind turbines because of sleep problems.

The article is about consequences of sleep deprivation and how serious these consequences are to human health. I strongly urge everyone in the sound of my voice get a copy of it and read it. I have highlighted some of the article, but after reading it again I saw more important information that I did not highlight that I should have.

I have read the article several times trying to summarize it for the ZBA, but (and it is a big but with one "t") I cannot. It is too long to read to you and the print is too small.



There is information on:

Why the brain needs about 8 consecutive hours of sleep.

What the brain does throughout the night while we sleep and why it cannot do it while we are not asleep.

That the brain works hard cleaning up the mess from its' work during the day.

How dramatically the brain changes while you sleep.

Just because you feel rested does not mean your brain has finished its' nightly chores.

The health issues that we would be less prone to if we got as much sleep as our bodies were designed to get.

#### **For example on Page 4**

"Getting the recommended seven to eight hours sleep each night can improve concentration, sharpen planning and memory skills and maintain the fat-burning systems that regulate our weight. If every one of us slept as much as we're supposed to, we'd all be lighter, less prone to developing Type 2 diabetes and most likely better equipped to battle depression and anxiety. We

might even lower our risk of Alzheimer's disease, osteoporosis and cancer."

### **Page 7 right hand column paragraph 2**

"I am now looking at and thinking of sleep as an 'environmental exposure,'" says Brown University's Carskadon --which means we should look at sleep similarly to how we view air-pollution exposure, secondhand smoke or toxins in our drinking water.

### **Page 7 last two paragraphs**

"Given what scientist are leaning about how much the body--and especially the brain-- needs a solid and consistent amount of sleep, in-the-know doctors aren't waiting for more studies to prove what we as a species know intuitively: that cheating ourselves of sleep is depriving us from taking advantage of one of nature's most powerful drugs.

"We now know that there is a lasting price to pay for sleep loss," says Veasey. "We used to think that if you don't sleep enough, you can sleep more and you'll be fine tomorrow. We now know if you push the system enough, that's not true."



Dr. Jeffrey Ellenbouden testified that wind turbines do not directly affect human health. I would agree with that. He testified that several people he interviewed had existing health problems before the wind turbines came to their area. I don't argue with that either. He did not say that lack of sleep would not exacerbate any health problems the people already had.

**Sleep loss caused by wind turbines could make tolerable health issues worse to the point of being intolerable.**

The loss of sleep or interruption of sleep by whatever means will cause problems with the proper functioning of the brain. The article points out that long term effects of sleep deprivation cannot be completely reversed by getting extra sleep later. Even though getting extra sleep later will help mitigate the effects, but not completely reverse those effects. In other words skimping on sleep during the week and then sleeping an extra few hours on the week-end will not correct all the damage done during the week. She did say that the extra sleep on the week-end will be beneficial, but not completely solve the problem. Just because you feel rested after catching up

on sleep does **not mean** the damage to your brain has been corrected.

She compared it to eating healthy only on the weekends, but eating junk food during the week.

The article mentions some stressors that cause sleep deprivation, I would add that: Why would we want to add one more stressor?



Closing

In reference to some of Attorney Blazer Comments:

**Decommissioning:**

Our experts were questioned, by Mr. Blazer, about using any one of four Contractors for decommissioning cost estimates and made it sound like that was a bad thing.

But, Stantec's, Dave Rautmann, did not mention using a construction contractor in his determination that the net cost was \$37,000 per turbine.

Talking to a contractor that actually does the work and pays the expenses incurred in the decommissioning sounds appropriate, because the engineers have do not have the accountability of losing money on the project if they under estimate the net cost or not getting the bid to do the work if they over estimate the net cost.

Therefore, I took Mr. Blazer's challenge and called the four construction contractors he mentioned. I had a long discussion with an estimator who has worked on estimating costs for wind farms. He brought one up on

his computer that was about 1/3 the size of the proposed Pleasant Ridge project, but with a little larger turbines. He asked me questions about the project and I asked him questions. The facts that came out were: He said Stantec was a quality company, but could not understand how they could estimate their net cost for decommissioning so low. He said that we need to get a construction contractor to do an estimate, but he might be biased as he worked for a construction contractor. I told him we did get a local contractor's estimate of over \$200,000 net cost per turbine for decommissioning. After some discussion, he said engineers usually underestimate the cost and over estimate the salvage value. He said at the end of the conversation that the net cost per turbine would probably be between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

To justify the steel and copper price used by Stantec, Mr. Blazer stated that Steel and Copper were a world market which is true, BUT the price is not the same around the world. It depends on where the demand is verses where the supply is and the cost of getting the supply to where it is demanded.



I called some local recyclers, only one would talk about the price they would pay for copper. They said the market quotes number 1 copper, which is pure copper with no coatings. I asked them about what they would pay for copper in a generator. They said if I brought one in they would give me a quote. If the generator was not broken down and the copper and steel separated it would be under 15 cents a pound. I asked if they would pay \$1.60 a pound for pure copper with no coatings. They said that would be a little high. Stantec used \$2.60 a pound in their estimate and did not have any cost listed to show how much it would cost disassemble the generators and clean the copper wire.

Any farmer here tonight can tell they rarely get the market price for their commodities. The vast majority of time the price they get is well under the market price. The ethanol plant in Gibson City has helped keep the corn price received closer to the market price because the corn is used there. The cash price on Thursday April 2, 2015 was \$3.63 at Campus and \$4.01 1/2 at Memphis, Tn., and a multitude of other below market prices in the

area. The market closed at \$3.86 1/2 on that day.

Mr. Blazer questioned two expert witnesses about not having a college degree. Each had decades of experience, which I believe would qualify them as experts.

Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg did not finish college are they not qualified for what they do or did in Job's case?

The B.S (Bachelors of Science), gets some people their first job. Then it is how well they do the job and how productive they are determines if they are successful.

**For the financial impact on Livingston County, we are expected to rely on the JEDI computer model output.**

I spent a significant amount of time over a dozen years auditing computer programs with programs I wrote. The



major problems are Garbage In / Garbage out and models programmed to get a desired result.

One of our companies hired an expert to determine the value of an industrial park that the company had a 1/2 interest in order to come up with the sales price to the company's partner. It is a pretty easy process. You agree on a discount rate to determine the present value of all the lease payments out for, in this case, 10 years. Then add to that the present value of the property in 10 years. I was told I need not review it because the expert was the most respected in the area. I did anyway.

I asked for and he gave me the floppy disk with the program on it and I took it to my office and started checking the input (lease payments). Well, he did not use the current list of leases with the new monthly lease payments. I put in the correct payments to be received and came up with a property value \$2,000,000 greater. He was all upset and wanted to look at it over the weekend and get back to me, which he did, with his projection based on the new lease payments. What he did was put a modifier in the present value formula to in essence increase the discount rate used thereby lowering the

value of the property back to what he had originally projected.

I ask you to closely evaluate this proposed project and how it will affect the community today and in the future.

Will the real benefit to the community offset the negatives to the extent that it should be approved?

I for one do not think so, but I don't get a vote in the matter.

Thank you for your time.