

September 25, 2020

Scott EK

MN Public Utilities Commission

101 7th Place East, Suite 350

St. Paul, MN 55101

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing a letter to explain our problem in rural Minnesota, Hendricks Township Section 25, Lincoln County.

On a quiet morning, winds are low and our problem is Blazing Star I, Windtower #90 located on neighbor's land approximately 960 feet from our residency, creating a pounding noise in our yard. Our neighbor's tower sounds like a jet airplane revving up their engine to take off. Yes, a roaring, thumping, pounding sound like no one can believe and never stops.

In town there is a noise ordinance called Disturbing the Peace that gets enforced.

We, Ron and Audrey, have called Tim Sanderson with Xcel Energy many times. We have also talked to Grant Wilson of Xcel at 4:30 AM to express "If we can't sleep, we don't want you to sleep either". Grant was out to our yard at 4:50 AM then and shocked to hear the noise

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in our yard, house and shop, house built only 13 years ago and shop 7 years. The walls are 2x6 inch insulated and ceilings are 35 inches insulated.

Xcel has been notified a number of times of the noise. They have monitored our yard twice and are conducting a third study at this time. No results or changes. At present time they have told us they need to keep testing and have no results. The tower was currently off from 7 pm to 7 AM but due to testing now, Xcel feels they need more night hour monitoring. That means hours now vary from 7 AM till 10:10 PM. But there are times we need to call Tim Sonderson at 10:30 pm to have the tower shut off. Sometimes it will run all night or certain hours during the night. The noise keeps us awake at night.

Xcel Environmental Analyst, Mark Herlach, tells us where they are going to put the monitor and we disagree with them. Xcel tells us the noise in one area reflects and we do not get a good reading. We again disagree. Noise is Noise, whether in yard or on tree line, we the noise as we hear it. Also our heads hear noise as noise, the monitor can

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separate out certain pounding and noise we can hear.

Ron and Audrey, owners, are 68 years old and retired. We have a large yard to mow lawn, garden, work around and in shop and yard on antique tractors and machinery. My tools vibrate on the wall of my shop. When I work in my yard it is very hard to compete with the windtunnel noise. We are not indoor people and enjoy being outside. We cannot enjoy an outside family or friend get together in our yard because of the thumping & whooshing noise echoing in our yard when visiting. Very frustrating. We have been here since 1978 and the only two people in Section 25 and very quiet until now. The term, same as or better than before, comes into my mind. Make it the same as or better than before! We both feel the draining effect that the noise has on us, both emotionally and physically, day and night. Pounding in our head and upset stomach.

I (Audrey) went to Dr. appt. recently and was asked by Dr. if any health concerns to report. I explained to her the stress, mental and physical problems caused by the

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Constant wind tower noise in our yard and house. She made the statement that it is called Windtower Sickness. She asked if I thought I needed medication. I do not feel that I should have to take pills that could possibly cause side effects just to cover this Xcel noise.

We feel that the final solution is 1. take the tower down, 2. shut the tower off day and night and 3. buy us out.

We feel we have worked with X-cel all the way - noise is still noise. Our quality of life is gone! We are currently waiting to have the problem resolved. Thank you for your consideration. If any questions or doubts about this problem, we invite anyone to camp out here on a windy week and experience the noise with us.

Unhappy in Section 25, Tower #90

Ronald and Audrey Wenerka

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 Audrey Wenerka