

Mike Haugen,  
CAO, Kneehill County

May 22, 2024

It has come to my attention that the Alberta Utilities Commission is currently reviewing Rule 007 and, as stated at the presentation given to the Council on April 16, 2024 our Reeve, Ken King indicated that Kneehill County would like to participate in the review. With the uncertainty and rapidly changing policies and procedures at the Provincial level it has been very frustrating to know what my rights are and whether my voice will be heard. I ask that the Council represents their citizens with their concerns. I feel that it is imperative that our council be involved at all levels with the AUC. At this time, **I respectfully request that Kneehill County Council participate in the upcoming review of Rule 007 with the Alberta Utilities Commission.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kneehill County for working to amend aspects of Bylaw 1889 in regard to renewable energy within our county. Such changes as setbacks from dwellings, boundaries of villages, towns or hamlets, and significant water bodies if very much appreciated. I also appreciate changes made to agricultural land use regarding solar. There are, however, a few bylaws that I feel need to be addressed and would like the council to take into consideration.

At this time, I would like to respectfully request further attention to the following items:

- 1) I respectfully request that the council amends Bylaw 1889 regarding setbacks to adjacent lands. At present it states:

Bylaw 1889, Section 4. (2) A WECS shall be located so that the setback is a minimum of 100m (328 feet) from any side and rear property lines.

Due to the enormous increase in size of wind turbines being proposed (210m base to blade tip) the 100m setback in your bylaw is ineffective and possibly harmful. The County of St Paul No 19 recently passed a bylaw stating:

A WECS tower shall be setback not less than four (4) times the total height of the tower from all other property lines.

Bylaw No. 2023-26B Part 7.35(31) – nb. Total height includes the distance from grade to tip of blade; cf Bylaw 2021-13. Land Use Bylaw

By increasing the setback to 4 times the total height of the WECS it would help to protect the adjacent landowner from the unsafe proximity of a turbine. At present, if a turbine is erected at the 100m mark the blade sweep would infringe on neighboring land.

This increased setback may allow neighboring landowners to be able to utilize their land as they hope. For example, building in the future or allowing future generations to build. It is also for the health and safety of residents and landowners from such things as: reduction of noise and infra sound, reduction of vibration, safety from tower collapse, blade liberation, ice throw, to name a few.

- 2) I respectfully request that the council revisits Bylaw 1889 regarding soil types and WECS. At present, there is no mention of protection of agricultural lands regarding WECS. I ask that the council amend Bylaw 1889 to match Solar Energy Systems

Section 6. (1), a, b and c. I feel it is imperative to protect the quality of agricultural lands within our county. According to all indications the Alberta Utilities Commission will not allow WECS on soil types 1-2.

- 3) I respectfully request that Kneehill County takes into consideration the tributaries associated with many of the significant water bodies mentioned in Bylaw 1889, Section 4. (7) and include said tributaries in the Bylaw.
- 4) I respectfully request that Kneehill County names itself an “**Unwilling Host**” to further Industrial Wind Installations.

As stated earlier, the enormous increase in size of the wind turbines proposed for the Lone Pine Wind Project will assuredly increase the number and severity of issues that arise from their implementation and operation. I feel that many rules and regulations need addressing to take into account the massive vertical footprint that new wind turbines create. I am glad to see the Alberta Utilities Commission is reviewing some of these and we appreciate our council being involved in the process.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding these matters and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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PS This may be a template letter but my concern about the setbacks is my own. Other countries have far greater setbacks due to harm that can be caused by these turbines. It is shocking to see the setbacks here being so wholly inadequate. Thank you.