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I would like to understand why wind turbine construction projects do not require phase inspections by the state or local building officials? The NEC (National Electrical Code) covers the construction requirements in **article 694**. The local and or state officials have background with these types of inspections, but I've been told by the PUCO that field visits are not done for wind turbine projects as would be required by the state or local inspectors. This raises some concerns as to how the project construction is managed.

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#### **Article 694 Part V**

#### **694.40 Equipment Grounding B**

#### **Tower Grounding and bonding;**

- 1.) A wind turbine tower shall be connected to a grounding electrode system. Where installed in close proximity to galvanized foundation or tower anchor components, galvanized grounding electrodes shall be used.
- 2.) Bonding Conductor; Equipment grounding conductors or supply-side bonding jumpers, as applicable, shall be required between turbines, towers, and premise grounding system.
- 3.) Tower connections. Equipment grounding, bonding and grounding electrode conductors, where used, shall be connected to metallic towers using listed means. All mechanical elements used to terminate these conductors shall be accessible.

#### **Article 300.5 E states the following:**

"Backfill containing large rocks, paving materials, cinders, large or sharp angular substances, or corrosive materials, shall not be placed in an excavation where materials can damage or contribute to the corrosion of raceways, cables, or other substructures or where it may prevent adequate compaction of fill.

Protection in the form of granular or selected materials or suitable sleeves shall be provided to prevent physical damage to the raceway or cable"

#### **Table 300.50**

Over 22 kV – 40kV direct buried cable is to be a depth of 36 inches of cover.

Over 22 kV – 24 inches of cover in PVC conduit.

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It goes on to reference general note #2

*“Where solid rock prevents compliance with the cover covered depths specified in this table, the wiring shall be installed in metal or non-metallic raceway permitted for direct burial. The raceway shall be covered by a minimum of 50mm (2inches) of concrete extending down to rock.*

Given these three sections of the NEC, who verifies that these standards are upheld? This one project consists of over 20,000 acres of farm land where in some cases we have bedrock at 8-inches below grade. Shouldn't there be concern for the farmer's use of sub-soilers that can easily reach depths of 16". If these installations are not monitored closely, who is watching out for the wellbeing of our local farmers?

These are just a few of the items that should require site inspections prior to any concrete is poured, cables installed and covered, in addition to the turbines being erected. I view this as the turbine contractors get a free pass to these inspections it puts the landowner and the general public at risk.

### **Setbacks;**

I would also like to speak about setbacks and possible blade throws. There are documented cases of blade throws that threw debris more than 1800 feet. The current setbacks for the Seneca Wind turbines are 1334 feet from the nearest non-participating property line. This results in a nearly 500 foot short fall in protection of the public. This is a public safety issue.

### **Local Vote**

I would like to close in speaking to the proposed referendum that was added to HB6 in the House of Representatives by Representative Bill Reineke. In the Senate committee review, the local referendum was removed and then later voted on to have it included as an amendment. The result of the vote was 7-6 to not allow the

amendment. The tremendous support and attention that this local referendum received in the Statehouse should strongly demonstrate to the Ohio Power Siting Board that the people from the affected areas want to have some means of local control. If wind power is so great, why is the industry so afraid of giving the citizens the opportunity to vote? Personally I feel a referendum should not be just here in Ohio, but be a federal law that allows the public to vote that are going to be affected.

Thank you for your time.