



Town of Antrim

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April 20, 2011

Thomas S. Burack, Chairman
NH Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Committee
Dept. of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Dr., PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: SEC Docket No. 2011-02

Dear Chairman Burack:

The Antrim Board of Selectmen would like to strongly urge the NH Site Evaluation Committee ("the SEC") to accept jurisdiction over Docket No. 2011-2 Antrim Wind Energy, LLC for the following reasons:

- 1) Antrim's land use boards are comprised of elected volunteers who do not have the technical knowledge or expertise to handle a project of this magnitude.
- 2) Antrim's land use boards have been aware of the potential of a wind energy facility being built in the town for over two (2) years (the first conceptual presentation was made to the Antrim Planning Board at their April 2, 2009 meeting) in which time ordinances and regulations could have been written and accepted by the town. To date this has not happened and does not seem likely to come to fruition in the near future.
- 3) To date, the Planning Board has held 12 meetings concerning renewable energy facilities and/or wind energy.

- 4) The Zoning Board of Adjustment has held 13 meetings on the variance request for a meteorological tower.
- 5) In the two (2) years since this project has been debated and discussed, the ZBA granted a variance to erect a meteorological tower to gather data which has resulted in two (2) lawsuits against the town (one from residence and one from applicant). If the town retains local control, this will most likely result in further lawsuits to probably include disagreements and lawsuits between governmental agencies.
- 6) The Planning Board prior to the March elections had voted to endorse proposed zoning amendments allowing wind energy facilities as a permitted use in the district (Rural Conservation District) but due to posting errors could not be placed on the ballot for March 8, 2011 voting. The Planning Board properly posted and held a public hearing and voted 5/2 to recommend the zoning amendments and request a Special Town Meeting to allow the residents to vote on them. This vote would have answered the question of how the majority of residents feel about the proposed wind facility. With new members elected to the Planning Board on March 8, 2011, at their next meeting on March 17, 2011, the March 9th actions were reconsidered and voted 4/2 not to recommend the zoning amendments thus nullifying the Special Town Meeting the Board of Selectmen had approved.
- 7) The legislature through RSA 162-H established the procedure for review, approval, monitoring, and enforcement of compliance in the planning, siting, construction and operation of energy facilities because they recognized the need “that the state ensure that the construction and operation of energy facilities is treated as a significant aspect of land-use planning in which all environmental, economic, and technical issues are resolved in an integrated fashion, all to assure that the state has an adequate and reliable supply of energy in conformance with sound environmental principles.” The SEC has held hearings

on multiple wind energy facilities similar to the one being proposed in Antrim and has more experience and knowledge that the volunteers on Antrim's land use boards.

- 8) The Antrim Board of Selectmen feel that because of everything stated above, that this is exactly the reason that RSA 162-H:1 was established to insure that local politics do not unduly delay the process and the SEC will impartially weigh all environmental, economic and technical issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Genest", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Genest
Chairman, Board of Selectmen