

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Docket No. 2011-02

**RE: PETITION FOR JURISDICTION OVER
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY
PROPOSED BY ANTRIM WIND ENERGY LLC**

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF GORDON WEBBER

MAY 6, 2011

Q. Please state your name and address

A. Gordon Webber 159 Old Hancock Rd. Antrim, New Hampshire

Q. Please describe your qualifications including official positions held in Antrim, NH.

A. Antrim Selectman from March 2008 to March 2011 sitting as Chair from March 2010 to March 2011. Antrim Planning Board member from March 2010 to March 2011 as Ex-Officio.

Q. Are you familiar with the proposed Antrim Wind Energy Project that is the subject of this docket?

A. Yes, I have worked closely with Antrim Wind Energy LLC in my position as Selectman for the past 2 years.

Q. What is the purpose of this prefiled direct testimony?

A. I believe the SEC has the experience and expertise to evaluate and oversee the proposed project by Antrim Wind Energy LLC and am requesting that they take jurisdiction.

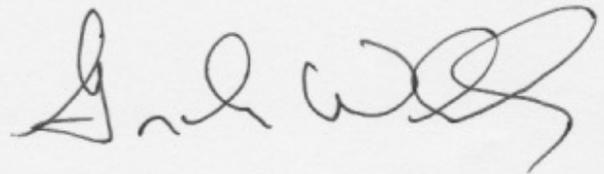
Q. Please describe the process by which the Antrim Selectmen decided to petition the SEC to assert jurisdiction over the Antrim Wind Energy Project and why that decision was made.

A. Antrim Wind Energy LLC presented a proposal for this project in April 2009. At that time, the Board of Selectmen began educating themselves on Antrim Wind Energy LLC and wind power in general. The Board felt that the Antrim Planning Board, a volunteer board with no experience in a project of this magnitude could not “ensure that the construction and operation of an energy facility be treated as a significant aspect of land-use planning in which all environmental, economic, and technical issues be resolved in an integrated fashion, to assure that the state has an adequate and reliable supply of energy in conformance with sound environmental principles” as cited in 162-H:1. In January 2010 the board met in a public meeting and voted in the majority to send a letter to the SEC to request that they assert jurisdiction.

Q. Why do you feel that it is necessary for the SEC to assert jurisdiction over the Antrim Wind Energy Project?

A. The Town of Antrim is a small town with a small municipal staff. Our Planning Board is made up of lay people with some experience in local land use issues. The proposed wind facility project goes beyond local land use. It will have regional impact, a large economic opportunity and provide electricity inside and outside of Antrim. Our local planning board does not have the expertise nor is it tasked with evaluating the impacts well beyond the borders of Antrim. This is the purpose the SEC was created. In a best case scenario with a Planning Board made up of experts, our board does not have the time to devote to the extensive data this proposed project will require. As it is, we do

not have a best case scenario. The Antrim Planning Board is dysfunctional and 4 of the 7 members have taken on an adversarial position against the remaining 3 members and against the Board of Selectmen. Little business is conducted at Planning Board meetings instead, petty bickering and power struggles ensue as may be seen by the minutes. The Town of Antrim and Antrim Wind Energy LLC need a fair and objective board to evaluate and oversee this project and the Antrim Planning cannot and will not do so. The SEC is necessary to have fair and objective oversight.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Wells". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.