

•
•
•
•
•
•
•

Rebecca Enman
16 Pierce Lake Road
Antrim NH, 03440

May 27, 2011

NH DEPT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

JUN 01 2011

RECEIVED

Thomas S. Burack, Chairman
NH Site Evaluation Committee
c/o NH Department of Environmental Services
PO Box 95
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Thomas S. Burack, Chairman,

In response to the current wind debate in Antrim, I would like to share my perspective. I have lived in Antrim my entire life, and I have never been more discouraged by the pettiness and selfishness of a very vocal minority that believes Antrim is not the right place for a wind farm, and that now is not the right time.

One of the most prevalent arguments is that a wind farm has no economic benefit to Antrim residents. Maybe there is none, at least not right away, but when we look at the larger picture the costs far outweigh the benefits. The shift to renewable energy must start somewhere and if not here than where? If not now then when?

Currently, a large portion of NH's energy comes from one coal burning plant owned by PSNH. A typical 500-megawatt plant burns 1.4 million tons of coal; Merrimack Station produces 445-megawatts, and was one of New England's highest emitters of carbon dioxide in 2007 (3.7 million tons). Like the rest of the country, which imported more than 17.7 million short tons of coal in 2009 from Colombia, they purchase a large amount of coal from the country with minimal safety regulations and reports of hundreds of mining deaths and human rights violations per year. This is something no one thinks about when turn on their lights every night.

Coal generates 54% of our electricity, and is the single biggest air polluter in the U.S. Since the 1960's, Merrimack Station has emitted millions of tons of Co2, hydrocarbons, mercury, and particulates. Though the planned installation of scrubbers will reduce mercury emissions by 80%, it comes at an estimated cost of \$457 million dollars, to be paid by the ratepayers. By investing in alternative energy instead of rehabbing a 40-year old plant, the cost of energy will go down. Not to mention, it will ensure the future of the sugar maple population, the most economically valuable tree species in New England, which is currently being decimated by acid rain.

Unlike coal power, wind turbines have no air emissions, create no water pollution or waste. Though there are bird deaths, the numbers are minimal compared to the 500,000 migratory birds that perished from the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, or the untold numbers in the Gulf disaster.

A study sponsored by American Wind Energy Association and Canadian Wind Energy Association – called the most comprehensive and impartial to date into the possible adverse health effects of those living close to wind turbines, said that the so-called 'wind turbine syndrome' does not exist. They state that living next to turbines is no more irritating than living next to a highway, industrial operations or aircraft. These researches go on to say "Annoyance is not a disease."

Some residents of Antrim are using their annoyance to justify shutting down a badly needed project. In theory the opponents know that sustainable energy is the only sensible way forward, yet *Not in my backyard!* seems to be the prevalent attitude. However, there is a very real need to encourage alternative energy sources because the ugly truth is that Americans need power and that energy has

• • • • •

to come from somewhere. We are depleting our resources too fast and doing too much damage to continue on our current path. Every single one of us must take responsibility for the future, and even though some might say a wind farm is not worth a "ruined" view, it is time we reexamine our priorities.

I urge the SEC to take jurisdiction over the project if and when an application is submitted. This project is too large for the Town of Antrim to oversee themselves, especially with the current boards so at odds. We need expertise from a neutral third party who can work with the town. In the words of current Chairman of the Antrim Selectboard, Mike Genest: "Working with the NH Site Evaluation Committee would only be a benefit to the Town and all of its residents. There are many concerns that need to be considered and I believe that the State will work with the Town to address the economic, environmental, and technical issues."

Sincerely,

Rebecca Enman and Anne Enman

Handwritten signatures of Rebecca Enman and Anne Enman. The first signature is for Rebecca Enman and the second is for Anne Enman.

16 Pierce Lake Road
Antrim, NH 03440
588-6652