

April 28, 2012

Amy L. Ignatius, Vice Chairman
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
c/o New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

RE: Docket No. 2012-01 Application of Antrim Wind, LLC For a Certificate of Site and Facility for a Renewable Energy Facility to be Located in Antrim, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire

Dear Chairman Ignatius,

Attached please find for filing in this matter the Motion to Intervene of the Stoddard Conservation Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Jones", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Geoffrey T. Jones, chair
PO Box 336
Stoddard, NH 03464
geoffreytjones@gmail.com

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

RE: Application of Antrim Wind Energy, LLC
for a Certificate of Site and Facility for a
Renewable Energy Facility to be Located
In Antrim, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire
SEC Docket Number 2012-01

MOTION TO INTERVENE *PRO SE* OF Stoddard Conservation Commission

Pursuant to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Rules Site 202.11, the Stoddard Conservation Commission hereby moves for permission to intervene *pro se* in the above-referenced proceeding. In support of their Motion to Intervene, **Stoddard Conservation Commission (SCC)** offers the following arguments:

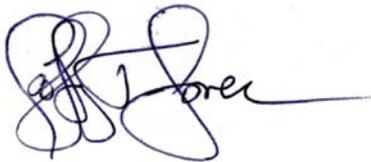
1. The town of Stoddard is the second largest town, by acreage, in Cheshire county, at 33,949 acres of which 21,431 acres (63% of the town) are permanently protected from development through the use of conservation easements or fee ownership of land by land trusts. Of the 63% protected lands, 6,518 acres (1/3 of all protected lands or 20% of the town) are in a "Forever Wild" designation.
2. These conservation lands collectively possess significant natural, ecological, and open space attributes which reflect the unique character of the Town of Stoddard and are of great importance to its residents. These Stoddard conservation lands are some of the most significant unfragmented habitat areas in southern New Hampshire, where species diversity is higher among both plants and animals than in surrounding lands and is exemplary in central New England (Van de Poll, March 2000 Management Plan of Stoddard Properties, prepared for Sweet Water Trust and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests and on file in their respective offices).
3. The conservation lands of Stoddard physically abut a collection of protected lands in several surrounding towns including: Washington, Windsor, Antrim, Hancock, Sullivan, Nelson, Harrisville, Gilsum, and Marlow, that represent over 40,000 acres of permanently protected conservation lands, affectionately known as the "Super Sanctuary".
4. The proposed Tuttle Hill wind tower facility lies in a 12,994 acres unfragmented forest block (roadless area), of which 3,582 acres of protected lands lies (nearly 1/3 of the unfragmented forest block). This undeveloped area of northwestern Antrim contains important ecological and habitat values that contribute to and are interconnected with the adjacent conservation lands. The conservation lands of interest and concern to the town of Stoddard are the recently protected lands of Robb Reservoir (1,700+) that abut the northwestern bound of Antrim, and the 3,400 acre Peirce Reservation that lies a mere 2 miles northwest of Tuttle Mountain.
5. A four mile (by 50-foot wide) access road to the wind tower site and 10 energy generating structures will have a profound impact on the interconnected conservation values of the northwest lands of Antrim AND the adjacent conservation lands in Stoddard (and adjacent towns), fragmenting important high elevation habitat (for certain species of birds) and splintering wildlife corridors (especially for bobcats), degrading their natural function.
6. According to internationally renowned biologist and Pulitzer Prize author, Dr. E. O. Wilson (Harvard University professor for over 5 decades and author of more than twenty books), the greatest threat to life on planet earth comes from habitat fragmentation and invasive species invasions through human development. The development of Tuttle Hill and surrounding lands will result in both habitat loss and make the area ripe for invasion by a host of invasive plants and pests.
7. The Rte. 9 corridor, which historically has been a scenic gateway to southwestern NH, is

experiencing a new wave of development in the form of cell towers, communication towers, wind farms, and "trophy" homes. The SCC is very concerned about the cumulative impact of proposed and recent development projects along the Rte. 9 corridor, which historically has been a scenic rural gateway for guests.

8. Pitcher Mountain, located in the heart of Stoddard, offers the best 360° view for the effort, in southern NH. It is surrounded entirely by protected lands, lying in the center of one of the largest conservation easements in New England. Much of the view is rural, scenic, and uncluttered.....but in recent years this scenic view shed has been fragmented by dozens of cell towers, radio transmitters, the Lempster wind farm, and several ski areas that offer night skiing. The dark skies of Stoddard have been compromised at night; the Tuttle Hill Wind Farm will dominate the view from the south.
9. The views of Bacon Ledge, another popular local destination, are within two miles of Tuttle Hill. This project, as proposed with 10-500 foot towers, will overwhelm visitors seeking natural skylines and the serenity they bring. In this region and around the state, as rural landscapes are fragmented, NH will experience a "scenic and aesthetic" famine if we are not more considerate of our hilly heritage and more careful in how we pursue our land use activities.
10. The SCC has worked with the Stoddard ZBA and Planning Boards to see that proposed development projects compliment (not undermine) the conservation values of protected lands in town through good planning, setbacks, and by finding alternative sites if proposed projects threatened the conservation values of protected lands.
11. The SCC voted 4-0 that the SCC request intervener status. This petition seeks to protect the integrity of the conservation lands of "Super Sanctuary" that will be impacted by this project if it comes to fruition, by seeking less intrusive alternatives and/or more appropriate locations.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey T. Jones", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Geoffrey T. Jones, chair
Stoddard Conservation Commission
PO Box 336
Stoddard, NH 03464

Protected Lands And Proposed Tuttle Hill Wind Projced



Marlow

Washington

Windsor

Stoddard

Deering

Gilsum

Antrim

Sullivan

Bennington

Nelson

Franklin

Greenfield

Legend

-  Antrim Wind Towers
-  Wind Tower Plant
-  Wind Project Access Rd.
-  Conlands in Tuttle Hill Forest Block
-  Tuttle Hill Forest Block
-  Stoddard Conlands
-  Conservation Lands

1 in = 8,333 ft

Harrisville

