

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Docket No. 2012-01

Re: Application of Antrim Wind, LLC

For A Certificate of Site and Facility

TOWN OF ANTRIM'S POST HEARING BRIEF

January 14, 2013

The Antrim Board of Selectmen has been an active participant in the SEC review / hearing process for the proposed Antrim Wind Farm would like to offer the following comments and position concerning this project:

The Town of Antrim through its elected representatives, the Board of Selectmen, negotiated in good faith, the agreement (AWE-4 Appendix 17A) between the Town of Antrim and Antrim Wind Energy LLC to protect the Town's interests and to provide for an orderly development of this area. This agreement defines the conditions to be met during and after construction of the wind farm. This agreement provides for the decommissioning of the project and defines the scope and funding for decommissioning. This agreement provides for noise restrictions which are in keeping with other wind project approved and sited in New Hampshire and are adequate for this project. The sound levels that were recommended by Mr. Tocci and Mr. James during their testimony are significantly more restrictive than those adopted for the Groton and Lempster projects and as such are unrealistic and too restrictive.

The Town, through the Board of Selectmen negotiated a Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) agreement and held a public hearing on November 30, 2011. During the meeting, the Selectmen determined that there was sufficient issues with the document that it required further work based on the NH DRA's interpretation of the RSA's governing this project, this resulted in two PILOT agreements being drafted and presented at a public hearing held on June 20, 2012. These documents, the PILOT and Alternative PILOT (AWE-12 and AWE-13) are based on the expectation of payments from ten (10), three megawatt (3 MW) turbines be erected in Antrim, reducing this number or size of the turbines will reduce the economic benefits to Antrim. The selectmen believe that the payments that have been negotiated in good faith represent the best per MW payment of any wind farm in New Hampshire.

The Antrim citizens voted twice (APB-9) on proposed ordinances that would have prohibited this project from being constructed and defeated the ordinances both times by a large majority. The defeat of the ordinance amendment (225 Yes, 584 No) that would have specifically prohibited large scale wind turbines in the

Rural Conservation District indicated that this district is where the majority (72%) of Antrim's voters believe this type of project should be built. This indicates that the citizens feel the project is consistent with the orderly development of the region as public utilities are allowed in the rural conservation district.

The Antrim Conservation Commission has actively pursued and worked on trying to obtain conservation easements in the project area and the surrounding areas (Beblowski day 10 PM session) and have conserved 485 acres in the entire town in the last 7 years, this project conserves 865 acres. Placing this amount of land into conservation easements is consistent with the orderly development of this region.

We believe that Antrim Wind has met its burden with respect to the criteria before the Committee and that there are no unreasonable adverse impacts known or proven at this time. Therefore, we urge the Committee to grant a Certificate for Site and Facilities to Antrim Wind Energy LLC for this project. We further request that the agreement between the Town of Antrim and Antrim Wind Energy LLC and the PILOT and Alternative PILOT be adopted as conditions of approval.

Respectfully,



Galen A. Stearns

Antrim Town Administrator

Submitted for the Antrim Board of Selectmen