

State of New Hampshire
Site Evaluation Committee
Docket Number 2012-01
Antrim Wind Energy, LLC

February 5, 2013

Testimony from Susan Bartlett and Robert Bernstein,
156 Turner Hill Rd. Antrim, NH

To the Site Evaluation Committee for the Industrial Wind Turbine project on Tuttle Hill/Willard Mountain, Antrim, NH

Although there are many concerns that residents of Antrim have expressed over the course of the examination of the proposed wind farm in Antrim, our intent here is to concentrate on what we feel is the most significant, irrevocable effect on the tens of thousands of residents and visitors to South West NH region: the visual impact.

We are long-term residents and landowners, living in and paying taxes in Antrim for almost 30 years. We live on Turner Hill and have views from our farm to the south and west. We value conservation and years ago, donated funds to the Harris Center to purchase a key piece of land on Willard Mountain to allow for the expansion of the "super-sanctuary" that would ideally extend from Mt Monadnock in the south to Pitcher Mt in the north. This sanctuary would provide a wildlife corridor and aesthetic preservation of the unique visual qualities of this area: small mountains, stream, lakes, with antique villages nestled between.

The importance of the visual qualities of the natural environment of our region and state cannot be underestimated. Visitors from other parts of the country remark on how easily development is hidden here by the lush deciduous forests and the hilly landscape. Most industry is barely visible, and is on a scale that works for the landscape. Local industries that are significant employers fit appropriately into the landscape: the GE plant in Hillsborough is a good example, as is Monadnock Paper Mills. Both of these industries have very little visual impact, sit in the landscape, are only seen briefly from the roads, and yet are crucial assets to the communities they inhabit.

The Antrim Wind Industrial Turbine project will alter the landscape in ways that cannot come close to comparing with anything we see in NH. The turbines will be visible from Routes 202 and 9, and from the tops of all the hills and mountains in the region. Because they will sit and move hundreds of feet above the tree-line, they will have a much larger visual impact than all industrial and energy installations in this region and beyond, including the coal-fired plant in Bow and Seabrook Nuclear Power plant on the seacoast. With a vertical rise that is as high again as the hills they will occupy, the turbines will also visually diminish the larger natural features of this region, altering the sense of majesty of our iconic mountain, Monadnock.

In your weighing of the benefits verses the costs to our region, we implore the SEC to carefully consider the visual impact of the proposed turbine project on Southwest NH.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Bartlett and Robert Bernstein

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