

Jane Murray, Secretary

NH Site Evaluation Committee
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
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Dear Committee Members,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am State Representative Jim Parison, representing the people of New Ipswich, Temple and Sharon. For the record I worked two years on the House Science and Technology Committee and sponsored the amendment to HB648 that prohibited electrical generating and transmission projects (think Northern Pass) from taking of private property by eminent domain unless they were needed for system reliability. I only tell you this so that you understand I am a person sensitive to the plight of local residents threatened by big corporate interests.

At some point there will come before you a wind power project to be built on Kidder and Temple Mountains. As a resident of New Ipswich and a close neighbor to the proposed project I wanted to give you some background and history of local reaction to windmill development.

A few years ago our town leadership, Planning Board and Selectmen, brought to the town of New Ipswich two new ordinances regulating large and small wind energy projects. The scare began at this time when residents were told that these 450 ft tall monsters could throw ice and blade debris five miles, would make people sick, etc. Of course that was reason enough to convince voters to put up barriers that would ensure windmills would not be built in New Ipswich. The new rules were tough.

Enter Pioneer Green, a company proposing a 24MW project in my back yard. They approached landowners within the new 1000 ft setback about joining the project. They did everything the new ordinance asked of them and more, setting up met towers, collaborating with residents, paying for land surveys, engineering, environmental impact studies, etc. I never personally signed on to the project, but followed closely the whole affair with bewilderment. Just when it looked like the project might go forward the Planning Board decided to change the rules. Instead of working collaboratively with Pioneer Green, the Planning Board was combative and hostile to the project proposal, holding public meetings where the developers were largely ignored. It soon became clear that they were determined to block any wind power project in New Ipswich by any means possible.

In the end they zoned out wind by reducing the noise requirement from 45db to an arbitrary 33db with a 5db margin, this making the real compliance value 28db, a level impossible to measure with modest wind blowing. To get the new rules past the voters the Planning Board mounted a cynical campaign of hysteria and fear telling voters that they would be in danger of health problems and injury if the sound level were greater than 28db. We were told that taxes would increase with taxpayers footing the bill

for infrastructure improvements the wind project would require. None of this was true. Voters adopted the new restrictions.

Temple soon followed suit when they learned that the now homeless project was eying their Mountain as an alternative. In this case the chair of the Select Board was understandably concerned with the proximity of the project to his own back yard. I was not close to the details there, but understand that residents learned about all the problems with wind power at informational meetings.

I believe the people have been misinformed and not given a chance to consider the financial benefits of this development. Presented with the potential for reduced taxes these windmills might stir some curiosity. As it stands, we have no reason to take on risk with no apparent reward. Ironically, the most vociferous advocates of clean energy now suddenly find all sorts of reasons to site wind farms elsewhere. The hypocrisy is palpable. I personally do not see wind power ever becoming a large fraction of our future energy resources and I oppose government subsidies to make them viable. However, I still support the right of legitimate business interests and investors who play by the rules to be treated honestly. Moving the goal post in the middle of the game is an unfair abuse of power, in my opinion.

Your charter (Section 162-H:16) requires that you take into account local concerns when approving a project, "*...due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies*". Because this project has been given unreasonable treatment by the local government agents and since it spans two towns, I would encourage the SEC to take jurisdiction over the approval process. Then let the project pass or fail based on objective criteria and facts, while taking into account legitimate local concerns.

I thank you all for your service to the State of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,



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