

**From:** Erin Darrow, P.E. [<mailto:RightAngle@myfairpoint.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2013 1:24 PM  
**To:** Drew, Tim  
**Subject:** Wild Meadows Wind Power Plant Proposal - Iberdrola

Tim,

I am writing to follow-up our conversation. Attached is the scan for the mailing that was sent out to everybody in Grafton last week. I understand that this mailing was sent to everybody in Alexandria, Danbury, Grafton, and perhaps some of the surrounding communities.

This mailing is full of untrue and misleading statements about this project, and it seems for the purpose of gaining more public support. I would hope that the Site Evaluation Committee would require Iberdrola to correct these statements when and if an application is submitted for the Wild Meadows wind power plant.

Specifically, the following statements are not true:

- “...The project (Wild Meadows) would impact less than 200 acres.”  
*This is completely untrue. While the footprint for the wind turbines, access road, and utility lines may be less than 200 acres, in order to get these footprints, a much larger area of land is needed. The footprint of the project is in excess of 200 acres. Furthermore, the area of impact spans 10's if not 100's of square miles over several towns. The impact include view, sounds, and other side effects of this power plant. To say that the area of impact is 200 acres is a complete lie.*
- “...It (Wild Meadows) will also bring an estimated total of \$800,000 per year to the host towns in new tax revenue and a total of almost \$33 million in local tax revenue, state utility property tax revenue, and landowner payments.”  
*The \$800,000 seems rather high in comparison with amounts paid to municipalities who already host wind turbines for other wind power plant built by Iberdrola. This number seems quite misleading, as it does not account for changes from being a recipient to a donor town for both education and county taxes, and it does not account for the loss of property value and therefore tax base for the hundreds if not thousands of homes and businesses not only in Alexandria, Danbury, and Grafton, but also those in towns beyond who are impacted by this project. I own property in Grafton with a direct view of Mount Cardigan and areas proposed for this power plant. When I cleared by land a few years ago, the value doubled according to the town assessment due to the “view factor.” If this moves forward I will certainly seek an abatement, and very likely others will as well. Also there is a significant difference between money paid in taxes and to landowners. \$33,000,000 is a large number to present when likely the vast majority of this money will go to the landowners, without benefit to the communities that will have to live with the effects of this power plant.*
- “....The Wild Meadows Wind Farm will provide renewable energy to power the equivalent of more than 32,000 New Hampshire homes and help the region meet its renewable energy goals”  
*This statement is also quite misleading. If ALL of the wind turbines operated at maximum capacity, then this might be true. However, it is likely that a substantial amount of the time the*

*wind turbines will not be operational, and when they are, they will be at a fraction of maximum capacity. The timing of the energy generation cannot be controlled, so a lot of the energy may be wasted depending on the grid demand. This statement is clearly false.*

In my opinion, the contents of this mailing are presenting propaganda under the guise of facts to communities that are trying to learn about this major development that may be coming into our lives. I understand freedom of speech and can appreciate the need to present the project, but I object to these false statements being presented as the truth.

The area of impact is what struck me as first, and now every time I read this mailing I notice another statement that really is not the complete truth. The importance of the lie of the area of impact of the project being 200 acres cannot be understated. The area of impact is far greater than 200 acres, this will impact thousands of New Hampshire residents over the span of 10's if not 100's of square miles through several towns and communities, to produce what in the end will likely not be a substantial amount of usable energy.

The impacts to our communities, to the environment, to the wildlife, to property values will be the cost.

Thank you for your consideration to my comments.

Very Truly Yours,

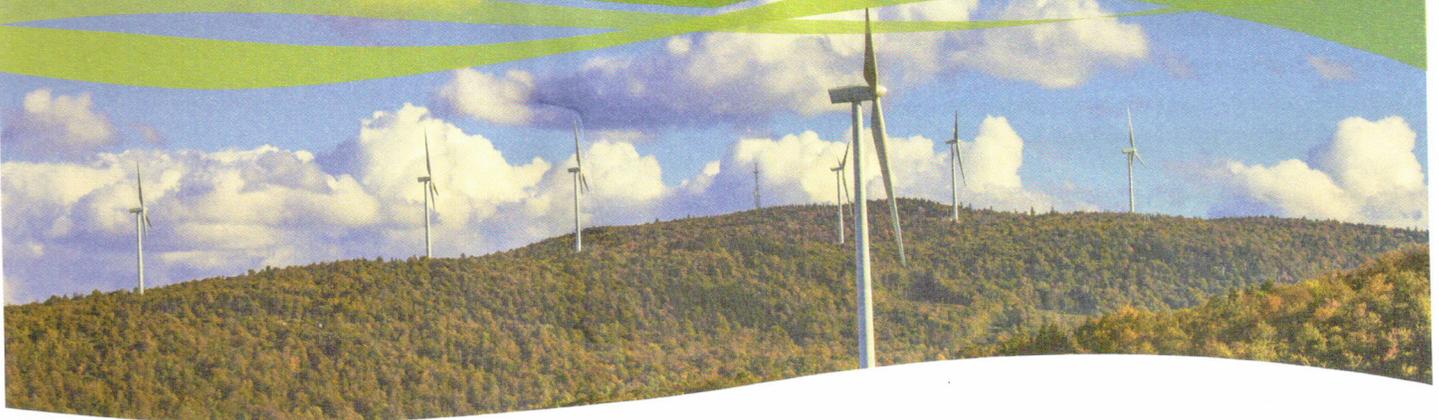
Erin

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# WILD MEADOWS Wind Farm



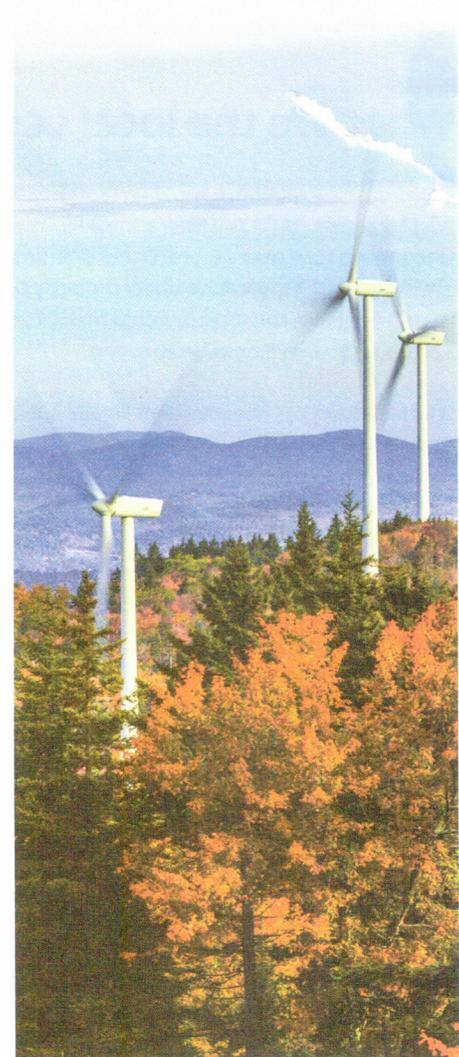
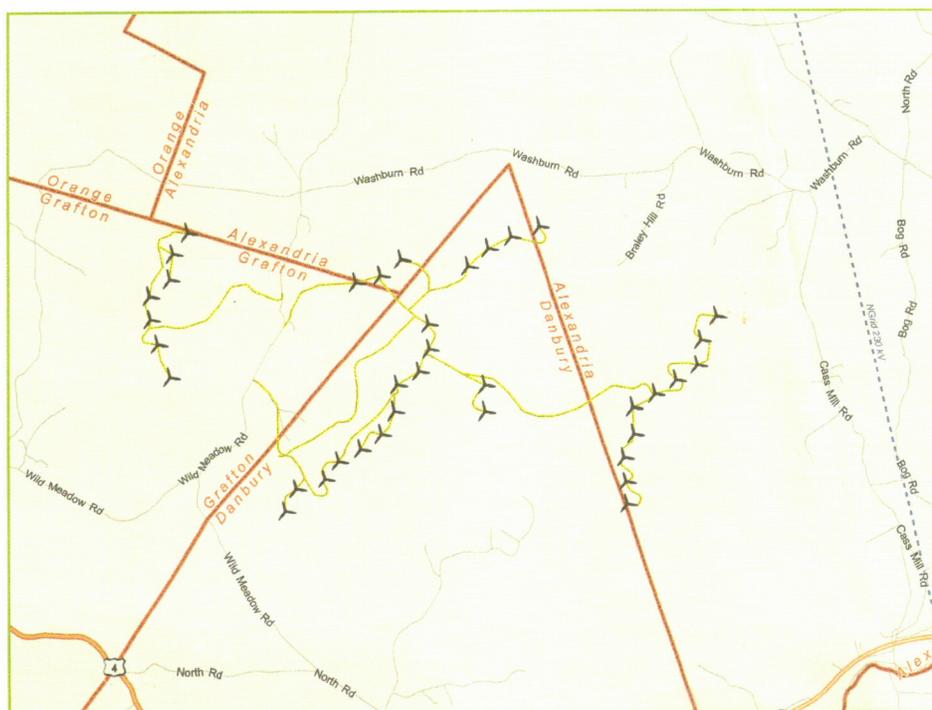
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## What is the Wild Meadows Wind Farm?

The Wild Meadows Wind Project is a proposed wind farm. Here are some key facts:

- Area: Spread across 6,000 acres of leased, privately-owned land
  - Project footprint for up to 40 wind turbines, gravel access roads, and electrical infrastructure will total less than 200 acres
- Wind Turbines: Up to 40 Gamesa G97, 2.0 megawatts (MW) each, or similar type turbine
  - 90 meter (295 foot) steel towers
  - 48.5 meter (159 foot) fiberglass blades
  - Total height of 454 feet
  - Major components manufactured in USA
- Power: 2 MW = 2,682 horsepower. 74 MW total output from wind farm.
- The wind farm captures energy from the wind and can create enough electricity for the annual use of 32,000 average New Hampshire houses during average production, or nearly 100,000 NH homes when at peak production.



Proposed site layout for Wild Meadows Wind Farm.

## (Continued from cover...)

Construction of the project will be contingent on obtaining agreements and permits locally, at the state level, and the federal level as follows:

- **Local:** agreements with the host towns (Alexandria, Danbury, and Grafton Board of Selectmen)
- **State:** Wetlands, Section 401 Water Quality Certification, and Alteration of Terrain and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) evaluation by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Delivery of oversize wind turbine components requires oversized vehicle permits from the NH Department of Transportation. And the overall facility and site will be evaluated and permitted by the NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC).
- **Federal:** The US Army Corps of Engineers will evaluate the project for the Section 404 Permit Program (effect on water resources) and the Section 106 process (National Historical Preservation Act Process). The Federal Aviation Administration will determine if the project fits with current aviation uses.

The output of the project will be clean, renewable energy that is generated with no combustion, water consumption or air emissions.

## What are the local economic benefits?

Based on the experience with Iberdrola Renewables' operating Lempster and Groton projects, Wild Meadows could pay total annual PILOT payments to the towns of \$814,000 annually (\$16 million total over 20-years) and one-time land use change tax payments of \$350,000. The estimated annual state utility property tax would be \$550,000 (\$11 million total over 20 years). Annually, the project would make lease payments to the landowners totaling about \$280,000 (\$5.6 million over 20 years).

Wild Meadows has already spent significant amounts of money in New Hampshire – over \$1 million – through contracts with New Hampshire companies for engineering, geotechnical services, surveying, environmental studies, mapping, and permitting. During construction, the project anticipates creating up to 300 construction jobs, most filled by New Hampshire workers, for work on roads, foundations, electrical equipment, concrete, hauling, and civil construction. For Iberdrola Renewables' two other NH wind projects, nearly 65% of the construction work has been done by NH workers. When completed, the project is expected to create 5 or 6 permanent jobs, and local contracts for supplies, maintenance, and equipment.

## Is this project good for the environment?

All of New Hampshire can profit from homegrown wind energy, not only in terms of economic value, but in the health and environmental benefits its clean energy provides. Wind energy is one of the safest forms of energy for both humans and animals. Unlike conventional fuel generation sources, wind energy does not pollute our air or drinking water, nor does it produce hazardous waste and it consumes no water.

The Wild Meadows Wind Farm will offset carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 287 million pounds per year. That is the equivalent of removing more than 25,000 cars from the

(continued, next page...)

## Who is Iberdrola Renewables?

Iberdrola Renewables is part of Iberdrola S.A., an energy pioneer with the largest renewable asset base of any company in the world – more than 14,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy installed across 23 countries. Iberdrola Renewables is the second-largest wind operator in the U.S., with more than 5,200 MW in operation – enough to meet the demand of more than one million typical American homes.

Iberdrola Renewables enjoys the strong financial backing of its ultimate corporate parent, Iberdrola, S.A., Spain's number one energy group and one of the world's five largest electricity groups. A company with a 110-year history and roots in hydroelectric power, Iberdrola S.A. employs more than 33,000 people in more than 40 countries and has placed the environment and sustainable development at the center of its global strategy. The company is also focused on developing the next generation of renewable technologies, from offshore wind and solar, to biomass and tidal energy.

As a global leader in clean energy, Iberdrola Renewables is deeply rooted in the United States, the world's largest energy market and a country with incredible renewable resource potential. Iberdrola Renewables employed more than 800 people at the end of 2011 in the U.S. Furthermore, through huge investments in the company's American projects, we have already created thousands of jobs in industries and communities across the country.





## What can I do to learn more or get more involved?

Please visit our website occasionally for updates on the project and to see detailed plans for the project:

<http://www.iberdrolarenewables.us/wildmeadows>

Also, please call your representatives and voice your support for this new project:

Alexandria Board of Selectmen:  
(603) 744-3220

Danbury Board of Selectmen:  
(603) 768-3313

Grafton Board of Selectmen:  
(603) 523-7700

State Senator Jeanie Forrester:  
(603) 271-2104

Executive Councilor Ray Burton:  
(603) 747-3662

State Representatives – Grafton County  
District 9 and 17:  
Harold Reilly: (603) 744-3779  
Jeffrey Shackett: (603) 744-5895  
Catherine Mulholland: (603) 523-4497

State Representatives – Merrimack County  
District 1 and 25:  
Mario Ratzki: (603) 735-5440  
David Karnick: (603) 456-2772

**Please contact Project Developer Ed Cherian with any questions on the project:**

(603) 440-3127, [echerian@iberdrolaREN.com](mailto:echerian@iberdrolaREN.com)

### (...good for the environment?...continued...)

road, or not burning more than 302,000 barrels of oil each year, or the amount of carbon sequestered annually by 137,000 acres of pine or fir forests, or the carbon emissions from 6.9 million propane cylinders used for home barbeques.

The Wild Meadows Wind Farm will be located on property that is mostly commercial forestry land, and is all owned by New Hampshire residents. Wind power is a truly sustainable “crop” that New Hampshire can harvest, like timber and maple syrup. It allows landowners to keep their land whole, while contributing to the state’s environmental and economic health.

## What happens when we are done producing wind power?

Any power plant is at least a 20-year commitment to a community and renewable energy is sustainable, so our involvement with a community could potentially last for generations. Like many farmers and landowners, we think in longer terms than many other businesses and we take the long view toward every project. Eventually our operations will come to an end, and Iberdrola Renewables is required by local town agreements and NH state permits to provide a detailed Decommissioning Study, Decommissioning Cost Estimate (updated periodically), and to provide a financial guarantee. The turbines could be removed, refurbished, and installed elsewhere, or, considering the towers are about 250 tons of steel and the nacelle weighs 85 tons of mostly steel and some copper, decommissioning could be a profitable enterprise (and not require a bond at all) depending on future steel prices.

## Why do some people complain about wind turbines?

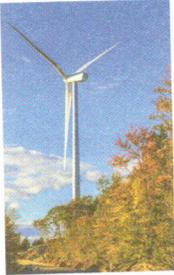
At Iberdrola Renewables, we believe that a properly designed wind farm can avoid and mitigate concerns sometimes associated with a wind farm. We work hard to earn the trust and respect of the communities where we do business. We believe in developing and maintaining strong relationships in local communities. This includes many contributions to local non-profits, charities, and community groups, and partnering with colleges and universities. We do this through our direct dealings with landowners and communities. We work hard to help them understand the permitting and development process with individual and public meetings and presentations, newsletters, websites and other information. We strive to act transparently in accordance with industry, regulatory, governmental and local standards. No form of energy is perfect, and wind turbines are not blameless, but the reality is that all human activity impacts the natural world.

The debate over alleged health effects of wind turbine sound is not a new one. Despite numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies clearly showing that wind turbine sound does not create extraordinary levels of noise or risks, the issue is still a favorite of those who oppose expanding clean energy in America. The homes closest to the Wild Meadows Wind Farm will experience sound levels from the project of less than 45 dBA, which is not completely silent but somewhere above a soft whisper 3 feet away and the sound of a dishwasher in the next room. This will likely be an operating condition of the potential permit for the project, and the project will be required to adhere to these levels.

We have gained an industry-wide reputation for our wildlife programs. Our industry-leading Avian and Bat Protection Policy, developed in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, requires that we do pre-construction and post-construction assessment and

**(continued, back page...)**

Ed Cherian  
P.O. Box 326  
Concord, NH 03302



LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

# WILD MEADOWS Wind Farm

January 2013, Issue 1

(...complain about wind turbines?...continued...)



## Is the project a good use of land?

The development and operation of a wind farm is compatible with the existing use of the land. The use of most of the leased land will not change. The landowners will continue to log their land, and where they have granted access, public hunting and recreation will continue to be allowed. For our Lempster and Groton Wind Farms, hunting, recreation, snowmobiling, logging, and farming all continue. In addition, both projects have supported conservation easements. Wind farms allow local landowners to keep their land whole and mostly in Current Use, rather than subdivide it to pay the taxes.

monitoring for bird and bat impacts whether or not those studies are required. Iberdrola Renewables' plan contains a corporate policy about wildlife protection and establishes a process for contact with agencies and non-governmental organizations early in the site assessment stage of project evaluation. It also sets up internal policies for pre- and post-construction monitoring and proper site design, impact assessment, permit compliance, nest management, training, mortality reduction measures and mitigation. Any animal deaths are regrettable, but our policy is to use the best science to minimize fatalities. Nationwide bird and bat fatalities from wind turbines are a very small fraction of other human causes of fatalities, such as buildings, cars, house cats, and transmission lines.



Graph Data Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service, study by Wallace P. Erickson, Gregory D. Johnson, and David P. Young Jr. | [http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw\\_gtr191/Asilomar/pdfs/1029-1042.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr191/Asilomar/pdfs/1029-1042.pdf)

Some don't like the view of wind turbines, while others find them graceful and majestic. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but the physics of wind energy explain why the turbines are so tall. The height of the tower and the length of the rotor blades are important factors that allow the turbines to produce significant quantities of affordable, emissions-free energy. Whether you find these gentle giants beautiful or not, the view of the turbines is something that we evaluate carefully and that the state reviews in detail in the permitting process. The turbines will not be visible from all areas near the project because of the varying terrain and forested landscape in the area. Please visit our website to see visual simulations and learn more: <http://www.iberdrolarenewables.us/wildmeadows>.



# IBERDROLA<sup>®</sup> RENEWABLES

## Take A Minute to Support the Wild Meadows Wind Farm: Send Your Message Today!

Dear Clean Energy Supporter:

The **Wild Meadows Wind Farm** proposed for the towns of Alexandria, Danbury and Grafton is entering a critical juncture. With your message of support, you can help the area make the right choice for a clean energy future that will bring jobs and substantial local economic benefits.

### Here is how you can take just a minute to help today:

1. Enclosed are some key points and a sample letter that may be helpful in drafting your letter to the town Board of Selectmen and your State Senator. **Please do not send these samples**; we strongly encourage you to take a moment to write an email or letter that is tailored to reflect your reasons for support.
2. **Where to send your message:**
  - Town of Alexandria - alexandrianh@metrocast.net or 47 Washburn Rd, Alexandria, NH 03222
  - Town of Danbury - danbury\_selectmen@comcast.net or 23 High Street - Danbury, NH 03230
  - Town of Grafton - Selectmen@townofgraftonnh.com or PO Box 299, Grafton , NH 03240
  - State Senator Jeanie Forrester - jeanieforrester@leg.state.nh.us or 107 North Main Street, Room 105-A, Concord, NH 03301
  - Executive Councilor Ray Burton: rburton@nh.gov or 338 River Road, Bath, NH 03740

Please also send a copy of your message to us at echerian@iberdrolaren.com or P.O. Box 326, Concord, NH 03302

3. If you have friends, family or colleagues who would be supportive as well, please feel free to pass this information along.

Thank you for your commitment to clean energy! If you have any further questions or need more information, please contact Ed Cherian 603-440-3127 or echerian@iberdrolaren.com.

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### Wild Meadows Wind Farm Key Points

- In this economy, we need jobs, and this project will create approximately 300 jobs at the peak of construction and 5-6 permanent jobs for local residents. It will also bring an estimated total of \$800,000 per year to the host towns in new tax revenue and a total of almost \$33 million in local tax revenue, state utility property tax revenue, and landowner payments.
- The Wild Meadows Wind Farm will provide renewable energy to power the equivalent of more than 32,000 New Hampshire homes and help the region meet its renewable energy goals.



- The Wild Meadows Wind Farm will offset CO2 emissions by approximately 287 million pounds per year, making our air cleaner, reducing our impact on climate change and lowering our dependence on foreign oil. This offset is equivalent to the carbon sequestered annually by 137,000 acres of pine or fir forests and the project area will impact less than 200 acres.
- Through our work on many other projects across the country, we have shown a strong track record of developing wind energy projects that minimize impacts to the surrounding community, while forging partnerships and providing philanthropic support right here in New Hampshire.

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### Sample letter:

[Date]

Dear [insert recipient here]:

I am writing to express support for the Wild Meadows Wind Farm. This project is important to the New Hampshire region and will provide enough renewable energy for more than 32,000 homes. Furthermore, this project will help advance the state's renewable energy goals.

Science and our recent experience with weather show that climate change is real, and the Wild Meadows Wind Farm will make a meaningful contribution to solving this problem by offsetting 287 million pounds of carbon dioxide per year. This is equivalent to the carbon sequestered annually by 137,000 acres of pine or fir forests and the project would impact less than 200 acres.

The Wild Meadows Wind Farm shows how we can fight climate change and grow our economy, as it will create approximately 300 jobs during construction and 5-6 permanent jobs for local residents. Not only will this bring the host towns \$800,000 per year in new tax revenue, but it will also help boost our local economy and support the growing clean energy industry. Wind turbines are beautiful to look at and I don't believe the project will adversely affect tourism.

The wind resource in the proposed project area is strong and valuable – we should harness the gusts howling overhead. I feel confident that the project is being developed with maximum effort to minimize or mitigate any negative impacts from the project. We need to look at the big picture. Let's use the power of this natural resource to our benefit.

Decisions to invest in clean energy are long overdue. We need our leaders to make the right choices today for a cleaner tomorrow. I urge you to support the Wild Meadows Wind Farm. When comparing other sources of energy and weighing the costs and the benefits, I choose clean, renewable energy. I am hopeful you will also make the right choice.

Sincerely,

[Full Name]

[Full Address (for verification purposes only)]