

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

PETITION FOR JURISDICTION OVER A RENEWABLE FACILITY
BY ANTRIM WIND ENERGY LLC

SEC DOCKET NO. 2014-05

**NON-ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNER'S OBJECTION TO ANTRIM WIND
ENERGY OBJECTION TO LIMIT INTERVENTION BY NON-ABUTTING
PROPERTY OWNERS**

I. **Introduction**

Doctor Ward's interest in the issue of whether the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) should take jurisdiction of the Antrim Wind Energy (AWE) proposal in Antrim derives from his exclusion from the earlier proceeding despite him being the party in Stoddard most affected by the construction of the Antrim Wind facility. This unfortunate circumstance arose because of a rule limiting public notice of the proposal due to an arbitrary limit at the county line. The county line and the Project are a very short distance from each other, and from Dr. Ward's town, his home, and his Robb Reservoir land. The county line barrier allowed the facility to publicize their proposal in towns and to residents, whose proximity to the facility was many times the distance to Dr. Ward and his neighbors in Stoddard.

II. **Meteorological, Topographic and Astronomical Factors**

Despite this lack of notice to Dr. Ward, a professional meteorologist, he attended most of the hearings on the original proposal, and was shocked to hear that many fundamental meteorological issues were either misrepresented or ignored. The meteorological data presented by AWE were grossly inadequate, and their interpretation was substantially misrepresented. It is not his responsibility to ensure that the "government agencies" cited by the applicant to represent his professional meteorological interests, either understand or will properly represent his interests (particularly his professional interests) in the upcoming hearings, nor are they under any obligation to do so. One obvious oversight of his interests was in the lack of a requirement that AWE produce, for his inspection and analysis, the data from their

meteorological tower. This oversight was just one of a number of serious omissions by "government agencies", and there are no indications that the AWE tower data will be made available for inspection and analysis at the upcoming hearings. There are also no indications that all the relevant weather data and the effects of elevation and topography on the weather will be considered at the upcoming hearings.

III. Effects on Property of Dr. Ward

His study of the official meteorological, topographical and astronomical data, and his knowledge and experience has led Dr. Ward to question some claims about the effects of the proposed facility on his home and its surrounding neighborhood. His questions cover four issues of substantial importance to the SEC, issues which will surely arise if the SEC agrees to take the AWE case, and will require the SEC, up front, to require new information from the developer. Hence, the need for Dr. Ward to be allowed to include them in any presentation to the Committee.

The towers, which are claimed to be only 500' tall, are however placed on a ridge which is also more than another 500' above Dr. Ward's home and neighborhood. The aesthetic effect is patently not one of 500' towers, but rather of towers over 1000' in height. This disparity is very important also in the consideration of the shadow flicker. The models of shadow flicker use the blade height as the height above ground level, leading to a serious misrepresentation of the frequency and the severity of the shadow flicker from blades 1000' above their surrounding neighborhood. His home will also be directly in the path of the nighttime noise broadcast by the turbine blades, when the wind shear and wind are at their maximum, producing the loudest noise, and broadcasting it to the furthest reaches toward him. The prevailing wind direction at 1000' MSL will be from the southwest in the early morning of the two 6-week periods when the turbines and the sun are aligned, meaning that the turbine blades will face directly across the line of sight from the sun to his home, ensuring that he will be severely impacted by the shadow flicker of the proposed facility. Finally, the conservation areas between his home and the facility, for which he has worked for many years to be conserved, to which

he has contributed substantial sums, and which he intended to be available for solitary contemplation and hiking, will be subjected to the danger of ice throwoff from the rapidly rotating blades at unknown times. These problems, combined with the constant view of rotating blades, from a facility which will have constantly flashing red lights, is a prospect to which no one should be subjected! Since the times when blade ice will be melting and thrown from the blades is likely to include many wintertime warm winds from the southeast, ice will "sail" a considerable distance toward his home.

IV. Consolidation of Dr. Ward's intervention

Dr. Ward is asserting both a substantial personal interest in these proceedings, and an equally substantial professional interest. Antrim Wind Energy's Petition of January 29, 2015, states on p6 "Dr. Ward's asserted interest in this regard is no different from that of the public at large". This is demonstrably false as Dr. Ward has made abundantly clear. The inadequate and irrelevant weather data used by Antrim Wind, and AWE's misapplication and interpretation of that data, directly affect Dr. Ward as a near abutter and offends his professional conscience. The secrecy of the met tower data has already affected Dr. Ward by requiring him to spend professional time analyzing public weather data, and forcing him to face the prospect of many future analyses. There is no guarantee that the "government agencies" will represent his professional interests now any better than they did in the prior hearings on this issue. In order to provide adequate representation, these government agencies would be required to admit that the land, buildings and residents to the west of the facility have been unrepresented to date, and will continue to be underrepresented until the rules of the proceeding are substantially modified.

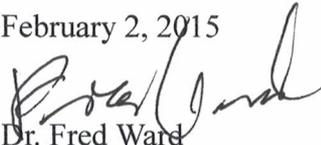
V. Conclusion

Dr. Ward, a non-abutting property owner and professional meteorologist, will be substantially and adversely affected by the proposed Project. His property interest derives from both his obvious proximity to the facility, and his professional interest derives from the inadequate meteorological data presented at the previous hearings, and their further distortion by experts hired by the Project. The

AWE assertion (p5) that "the SEC process provides for a 'full and timely consideration of environmental consequences'", failed in the prior hearing, and it should not be Dr. Ward's responsibility to ensure that this oversight will not be repeated. Dr. Ward's dual interest in the proceedings is separate and distinct from the interests of any other abutter or non-abutter, and cannot be properly consolidated with them. The attempt by AWE (IV a) to limit Dr. Ward's stated interests as a professional meteorologist and homeowner by declaring his concerns over the environmental consequences as "not relevant to the jurisdictional question before the SEC, nor is Dr. Ward the proper party to raise them" is simply a misreading of his petition and a deliberate oversight of the facts he stated.

Respectfully submitted, to the service list for this docket.

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