

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee

c/o Pamela Monroe, Administrator

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10

Concord, NH 03301

August 28, 2016

This letter is in reference to Docket 2015-02
The Antrim Wind Energy LLC project.

We would like to start by introducing The White Birch Point Association to the Committee. Our association is 104 years old, incorporated in 1912. We have members with memories dating back to the 1930's. Our shared beach property is the heart of our association. Many members visit the beach daily to simply enjoy the landscape or swim in the lake. Bald, Robb and Willard Mountain, Tuttle and Holt's Hill are all in view from the WBPA beach and accounts for the beach area's natural beauty. The soundscape at the beach is also an important attribute. The natural sounds of the Loons and trees rustling in the wind make a peaceful backdrop while reading, drawing or knitting at the beach.

Our founding families traveled to Antrim by train and then to the Lake by ox cart to enjoy the solitude and beautiful undeveloped views. They built modest cottages and formed an association around a one-acre beach lot. The surrounding hills were all cleared at that time which afforded wonderful pastoral views surrounding the lake. Most cottages can only see the Lake in the winter now, which has strengthened the Association's resolve to preserve the beach lot or "Grove" for all to enjoy. Several of our current families are decedents of founding members and their family ownership goes back to 1912-1920's. New members who built homes or renovated old cottages have been welcomed into the Association and now share the commitment and ethos of preservation and history.

The ownership of the beach grove has a 100-year+ history of sharing the beach with several different summer camps. It includes a 1922 injunction by the New Hampshire Supreme Court restricting development and tree removal. A 1983 court Master's decision around this Injunction ended an attempt to develop the area and granted ownership of the "Grove" to the White Birch Point Association.

The White Birch Point members have been late in expressing our opinion to the SEC because we were not aware of the scope of this project until recent reports confirming that the White Birch Point area would suffer one of the highest negative visual impacts from the AWE project were brought to our attention. The photos showing a simulated view of the proposed wind turbines from White Birch Point demonstrate that the construction of the turbines on the west side of Gregg Lake will forever alter the view of our members as noted by the Terraink report on the “Visual Impact Assessment AWE”. The 6 proposed turbines visible from White Birch Point beach are **not** appreciably smaller than the original AWE plan that was rejected by the SEC because, among other reasons, it was out of scale to the surrounding area and dwarfed the surrounding hills.

The view from the grove during the day and into the evening was critically important to our founders and paramount to our present enjoyment. Not much has changed in the 100 plus years, our members still enjoy our beach area every day. Our older members may now get there by golf cart but our younger ones still run down the path through the grove. We continue to host socials, community cookouts, evening s’mores feasts, and stargazing on the beach. As Jim Franco noted in his book, White Birch Point Association, A History 1912-2012, “the area seems to have a timeless quality about it and the people who own property here cherish its unchanging nature.” Senior members, even if they need assistance in walking the path, often make the effort to visit the “Grove” and just sit and relish the views or simply listen to the Loons.

Our members have spent a great deal of their lives, energies and family resources over this long period preserving the “Grove” building new cottages, maintaining and/or renovating abandoned camp structures. We are correctly proud of our 100 plus years shared commitment to protect and enhance these 80 plus acres of New Hampshire land. It would be a grievous loss to us if the present proposal would compromise the effort to receive an official historic designation. We are offended by the suggestion that AWE construct a sign indicating our historical significance as mitigation for our loss of serenity and beauty. We are saddened by the lack of empathy for property owner’s rights to enjoy the New Hampshire landscape that this suggestion demonstrates.

The 23 families of the White Birch Point Association hope that the SEC considers our 100 plus years of commitment and passion for preserving our lake property when evaluating the AWE project. We also ask that you consider the history and culture of our land use on the 80 acres surveyed

by John Hutchinson in 1911 when trying to weigh the impact of our diminished view and serenity.

We ask that the SEC find this present proposal not significantly different from the previous rejected plan. We agree with the findings by Terrinack that this project has an unreasonable adverse effect on the aesthetics of the White Birch Point. We hope that you understand that it will forever damage and alter the experience, history and culture of the 23 family members of the White Birch Point Association and should not be built.

Respectfully,

Officers of The White Birch Point Association

President -Walter Kloss

Vice President- Robert Southall

Secretary- Kim Spiers

Treasure- Dana Spiers

Members Signatures- on file