

September 20, 2016

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
c/o Pamela Monroe, Administrator  
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Docket 2015-02 - The Antrim Wind Energy LLC project

Ms. Monroe and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to Walden Green Energy (parent company)/ Eolian Renewable Energy/ Antrim Wind Energy's application (Docket 2015-02) to build a wind farm on the Tuttle Hill ridge in Antrim, NH. The committee was correct in denying the original application based on the aesthetic impact to the area, and this revised application is not materially different than the original. I implore the committee to vote against this project and again deny the application.

My family has been a part of the Antrim community (and paying taxes) for 41 years. Our property at 38 White Birch Point Road was constructed in 1912 and four generations have enjoyed the pristine waters of Gregg Lake and the surrounding area.

Jack Kenworthy of Eolian/ AWE, in an article published on *RenewableEnergyWorld.com* on March 2, 2016, noted that Antrim is a great location to site a wind farm. And the rationale he provided for why it is a great location, "...because the project can be built close to existing transmission lines and close to a main highway." Those reasons sound like project cost savings to me; less out of pocket to build = more profits for this corporate-driven project. An industrial wind farm in Antrim is a good deal for Eolian/ AWE but not for the town of Antrim.

As for the wind in Antrim, here are some facts based on historical data (1997 – 2012) from the Jaffrey, NH weather observatory (18 miles to the south, and of a similar elevation to Tuttle Hill):

- Over the course of the year typical wind speeds vary from 0 mph to 12 mph (**calm to gentle breeze**), rarely exceeding 17 mph (**moderate breeze**)
- The *highest* average wind speed of 6 mph (**light breeze**) occurs around March 12, at which time the average daily maximum wind speed is 12 mph (**gentle breeze**)
- The *lowest* average wind speed of 4 mph (**light breeze**) occurs around August 23, at which time the average daily maximum wind speed is 9 mph (**gentle breeze**)

The long term benefits of wind energy remain unproven. Wind energy is dependent upon wind, and according to the Wind Energy Development Programmatic EIS Information Center (*windeis.anl.gov*), "Good wind resources have an average annual wind speed of at least 13 miles per hour." Studies from around the world have found that the turbines at many wind farms generate power less than 25% of the time. This is not the right site, nor the right time for this project.

In addressing the aesthetic impact of the AWE project, Jack Kenworthy called it “a subjective issue,” and project landscape architect David Raphael noted that, “If you are there for the view, then the effect [of turbines] on what you are doing is pretty high. If you are there to fish in a little cove and you don’t care about a view, then the effect is pretty low.” Mr. Kenworthy and Mr. Raphael are drastically underestimating the importance of the issue and the direct impact on those who call Gregg Lake home or frequent Gregg Lake to enjoy the outdoors. Willard Pond and Gregg Lake are not “little coves,” and whether fishing or simply sitting on the beach relaxing, we care about the view.

I also stand in agreement with prior letters submitted by the White Birch Point Association and other residents in and around Gregg Lake who oppose the AWE project. Not only are we good stewards of Gregg Lake and its environs, but as was noted in previous testimony, White Birch Point has been identified as a location for historic recognition/ designation. And, as the testimony pointed out, once a location has been identified for historic recognition/ designation, it is afforded the same rights as an already designated historic location. The AWE project will have a direct negative impact on the aesthetics of Gregg Lake, an area and beautiful natural resource that members of the historic White Birch Point Association have preserved and protected for over 100 years.

Beyond the borders of Gregg Lake, through the shared sacrifice, dedication, and commitment of many to land preservation in Antrim, surrounding towns, and into Massachusetts, a large “super-preserve” has been created. The AWE project, sited in Antrim’s Rural Conservation District, would fracture this preserve and diminish the value of what so many have worked to preserve.

Thank you for considering the input of my family and many, many others who oppose the AWE project. Future generations will thank us and thank you for preserving Tuttle Hill, Gregg Lake, Willard Pond, and other beautiful natural resources of Antrim, NH.

Respectfully (submitted electronically),

*Andrew R. Hamilton*

Andrew R. Hamilton

Kristen P. Hamilton

(and on behalf of the Stephen J. and William D. Hamilton families)

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