October 3, 2016

Public Comment to New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Re: Antrim Wind #2

My name is Justin Lindholm. I am a property owner in Lempster, New Hampshire, where my family lived for many years. I have had property interests in Lempster for more than 50 years. Iberdrola approached me to put wind turbines on my land in Lempster and I declined.

On one of my regular visits to Lempster in early 2012, I noticed a tremendous number of "For Sale" signs around the Iberdrola Wind Turbine project. I photographed every For Sale sign that I could find in the entire town to see if there was a pattern that would show up on a map after taking photos with a GPS camera. Each photo is geo-tagged with the location, and the entire photo set is here:

https://get.google.com/albumarchive/114098560210816181304/album/AF1QipM7fkrWyMidl4 GutCWA40rv-xoJUTSm9r4vXgBJ?authKey=CK7jsq3AtsrixAE

A professional photographer friend created this map to show the locations using Google Earth and pushpins identifying the locations of all the properties for sale. The one area that did not have For Sale signs is to the east, where there are hardly any houses.



Sometime later, I learned that a study by Matthew Magnussun, a witness in this Antrim Wind case, on the 'Impact of the Lempster Wind Power Project on Local Residential Property Values" was released in January, 2012, the same month I noticed all the For Sale signs clustered around the wind project.

http://www.livingstoncounty-il.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/PR-Ex.-34-2012-Impact-of-the-Lempster-Wind-Power-Project-on-Local-Residential-Property-Values.pdf

I was amazed to read in the report that "this study has found no evidence that the Project has had a consistent, statistically-significant impact on property values within the Lempster region". The geniuses on the research team looked at property sales and parcel records. Apparently they never got out of their offices to ride around the area and see what was happening all around the wind project.

The study does say on page 28, "There were very few transactions within a very close distance to the turbines, and also very limited sales of properties with views of turbines, so some caution must be used in interpreting these results."

What is most amazing is that this purported study of impacts to property values in Lempster never once mentioned all the properties for sale around the wind project. Could the "very few transactions" be because nobody could sell their properties near the wind turbines?

Incredibly, the study ends with the claim "there is no evidence to suggest that the Lempster Wind Power Project has had any consistent, observable, statistically-significant impact on property values in Lempster or the communities surrounding the Project." There is no evidence when the researchers do not ask the right questions or go out in the real world and look. Instead, Matthew Magnussun seems to have designed a study to reach the pre-determined conclusion that benefits his client. Any study of impacts to property values in Lempster that does not discuss all the properties For Sale around the wind project has no credibility as far as I'm concerned.

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