

SEC COMMENTS COLLECTION

SECDocket	2015-02 Antrim Wind Energy
CommenterName	Susan Bartlett
CommenterCity	Antrim
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CommenterWords

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

RE: Application of Antrim Wind, LLC for Certificate of site and) facility to construct up to 28.8 MW of wind electric generation) in the Town of Antrim, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire) and operate the same (SEC Docket # 2015-02).)

October 3, 2016

To the NH Site Evaluation Committee:
Visual and Aesthetic Impact
Susan Bartlett
156 Turner Hill Rd
Antrim, NH 03440

As a longtime resident of Antrim, NH, I am submitting testimony today in opposition to the proposed 9-turbine wind farm on the north-south running ridge of Tuttle Mountain in our town. I have lived in and owned property in Antrim since 1986. My husband and I currently own a farm on 100 acres of open and wooded land on Turner Hill, in the eastern corner of Antrim. Although the orientation of our hill is to the southeast and we would not be directly impacted by the view of the turbines, we consider all the ridges, river valleys, ponds and lakes in town to be part of the home we chose to live in and take care of for the rest of our lives. We are active members of the community. Bob was instrumental in the founding of the Grapevine Family Resource Center, and I served on the Conservation Committee for several years. I have walked every trail in town and bushwhacked up ridges and down streams and know the landscape intimately. Like all of my neighbors and friends in Antrim, I moved here because of the unique unspoiled nature of the town.

Situated north of Mount Monadnock, Antrim possesses stunning natural features: The Forest Society's McCabe Forest, the North Branch River and the Nature Conservancy's Loveren's Mill Cedar Swamp, Willard Pond Audubon Sanctuary, and the long ridge running above it which for many years has been considered to be a key stretch of undisturbed land in the Monadnock – Sunapee corridor. This is Tuttle Mountain, the site of the proposed turbines. Antrim Wind LLC's proposed turbines on Tuttle Mountain would irrevocably damage the aesthetic values of the entire Monadnock Region, an area that relies on its beauty to attract new residents and visitors from all over the world. Mt Monadnock, just south of here is the second most climbed mountain in the world (the first is Japan's Mt Fuji,) and on holiday weekends thousands of climbers seek the stunning views of Boston, the White Mountains to the north and west to Vermont's Green Mountains. The proposed windmills would sit just north of Mt Monadnock, directly in the line of view, an industrial installation visually out of proportion to all other features in the area.

The Monadnock Region possesses an iconic New England charm that has no comparison. The economic stability of the region relies on this aesthetic, and it is these values that attract the new residents and the businesses and innovations they bring. The wooded hills, clean lakes, river valleys, the antique villages and the rocky mountain towering above, all contribute to the character of the region. Here, the current industries are appropriate to the scale of the landscape. The wind towers and turbines, sitting hundreds of feet above the ridgeline, will dwarf all other features, destroying this aesthetic for generations.

The town of Antrim has already been harmed by the windmill proposal. The housing market and values, while rising elsewhere in the region, have fallen or remained stagnant in Antrim. The market value of our farm has fallen 20% in the last 10 years, partially attributable to the threat of the windmills altering the landscape.

If Antrim Wind Energy is allowed to install 9 turbines on Tuttle Hill, Antrim will be known as the "town with the wind mills," and no longer the town of Willard Pond, the Cedar Swamp, the town with 2 rivers and amazing views from every hilltop.

I am requesting that the Site Evaluation Committee reject the proposal for wind turbines in Antrim, based on the irrevocable damage to aesthetic values.

Thank you.
Susan Bartlett