

To: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
From: Peter Moore, Antrim resident

Re: Antrim Wind Energy / absence of conservation group opposition  
Docket No. SEC 2015-02

November 4, 2016

Chairman Scott and members of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee,

I am a 35 year resident of Antrim. During that time I have served my town as both a selectman, a conservation commission member, and as a 20 year firefighter/EMT on the Antrim Fire Department. And, in the interest of transparency, I also served as Antrim's Land-Use Planner for two years during Antrim Wind Energy's first and ill-fated application process. It is fair to say that I have a strong stake in Antrim's interests, and that I am an enthusiastic environmentalist, a renewable energy advocate, and have actively supported the Harris Center for Conservation Education, the Nature Conservancy, and NH Audubon, amongst other land and nature conservation groups.

So, naturally I have been following the Antrim Wind Energy proceedings, and I am concerned about two important points perhaps missing from the Subcommittee's consideration.

Foremost, regarding the Harris Center, and its conservation easement *relationship* with AWE. It is imperative that the Committee understand that the Harris Center's one and only stated position was and is strict *neutrality* as an intervener in the SEC process. This neutrality results from, what I would call; the arms-length conservation easement arrangement Antrim Wind negotiated with the Harris Center; land protection in exchange for Harris Center's strict neutrality...not for or against the project.

In its August 10, 2016 letter solicited by Mr. Jack Kenworthy, the Harris Center counsel Atty. Froling suggested some of the "reputational and financial" costs involved in opposing the project.

"Firstly, you are aware that AWE's project has been deeply controversial in Antrim and surrounding towns. The town divided into two camps. We believe that the Harris Center supporters adhere to each camp. The Harris Center Board determined that it was not in its reputational or financial interests to become identified either with those supporting the project or with those opposing it. As a result, it has taken and maintained the position throughout—stated in our petition to intervene and elsewhere—that it is neutral."

(Kenworthy 8/18/16 Supplemental / Attachment JK-17)

Despite the innuendo in Mr. Kenworthy's supplemental testimony (page 19), that the Harris Center "supports" the AWE project...to the contrary. Harris Center agreed to hold conservation easements and remain silent about whether the Tuttle Hill-Willard

Mountain ridge is an appropriate site for this utility-scale wind project, or not. I believe the Appalachian Mountain Club agreed to a similar neutrality in the prior Antrim Wind case in exchange for radar-activated aviation safety light assurance. "Neutrality" does not mean "support," no matter which way the truth is bent.

As such, I think the SEC is unable to determine whether the Harris Center or the AMC considers this an appropriate site, including whether or not they consider the environmental and other impacts unreasonable or not.

Mark Zankel of NH Nature Conservancy, in summarizing his comments states that NHNC was "...not passing judgement on the project as a whole, as we recognize other factors that SEC must consider," and that, "...the project will have impact on the natural and physical environment..." Mr. Zankel goes on to identify that the AWE project's impact, relative to air quality, water quality and the natural environment, is not unreasonable. Fortunately for the NH Nature Conservancy, and I surmise the reason for their less than enthusiastic support, relative to Lovern's Mill Cedar Swamp sanctuary, is because this tracts proximity is north-northwest across the North Branch River and mostly upstream of the project's downwind and down-river location. And so air/sound quality, water quality /run-off, and severe impact on it's unique natural environment will not be an issue.

Having helped to build the initial trail network at the Conservancy's Cedar Swamp, and being very familiar with that land and its' location, I am sure the Conservancy's opinion on a similar project and its' impact would be the reverse if AWE proposed placing their towers upon the Hedgehog Hills range just north of this sanctuary.

Relative to the New England Forestry Federation's testimony, and their support of the AWE project...yes, the analogy of a red oak growing to full canopy over the estimated 50 year life of the wind park, or upon it's decommissioning is comforting, but the destruction of this narrow, steep and fragile ridgeline will be devastating and irreversible. But then, I recognize that there is not much in the way of marketable forest-resource, i.e. timber, on this ridgeline, and that NEFF must consider its *own* interests.

Remarkably, New Hampshire Audubon is the only conservation group not hiding behind neutrality and is actively opposing the project. It is clear to most that Audubon's Willard Pond sanctuary immediately to the east, has the most to lose. There is no doubt in my mind that Audubon's leadership and board wrestled with the whole "reputational and financial" cost issue before taking the risky but honorable path to first protect this special sanctuary at all costs, and there has been much. Further, I am confident that Audubon considers renewable energy and the threat of manmade climate change as seriously as the next conservation organization...they just know that the view-shed and the soundscape of Willard Pond and its' surrounds will be inextricably compromised with the destruction of this ridge. They recognize that some wild places and landscape are appropriate for large wind energy development, and others are not, as in this project.

Secondly, I'd also like to address the silence of the Antrim Conservation Commission and Selectman Bob Edwards's statement September 29 (Transcript Day 7 afternoon) that he was sure if the Antrim Conservation Commission members had issues they would bring them before the select board so they could be addressed. I believe that ignores the deep divisiveness in town.

The wind project from the very start more than seven years ago has made for difficult relations including employer/employee; storekeeper/customer; town officials/citizens; and even within family's. For Antrim Conservation Commission members to state opposition to the project would have come at a cost relating to all of those relationships mentioned above.

Peter Beblowski, Antrim Conservation Commission chair, wrote a public comment letter to the SEC that hints at the issues (see Mr. Beblowski's letter to the SEC dated October 2, 2016, below). Given the disturbing dissensions in town, his longstanding employment with NHDES, and the pro-AWE stance taken early-on by the previous Board of Selectmen, he did the best he could. Please read between the lines of this letter to see that there are issues, and that silence does not mean support.

I interpret the letter to say that the SEC denied the project the first time around after a full and fair consideration as required by state statute; the current project is "essentially the same"; and therefore it does not merit Conservation Commission participation. And, having served as a member of the Con Comm. before AWE came to Antrim, and knowing the members of the current commission, they would not support this wind project knowing the significant impact it could make on this three-mile talus ridge.

My belief is that most members and supporters at the Harris Center, the Appalachian Mountain Club, New Hampshire Sierra Club, and the Nature Conservancy, if they had personal knowledge of the proposed site would also give it the thumbs-down decree. There is just too much to loose here for the small, short-term gain promised by AWE and Walden Green.

Thank you for the opportunity to again express my concerns, and please give them your sincere consideration. I can only trust that you will.

With respect,

Peter Moore

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October 2, 2016

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Antrim Wind Energy LLC Doc. 2015-02

Dear Ms. Monroe, My name is Peter Beblowski. I have lived in Antrim for over 30 years. In that time, I have filled positions on both the Antrim Conservation Commission and the Town Planning Board. I have worked on zoning ordinances and several Town Master Plans. In 2012 and 2013 as the Antrim Conservation Commission Chairman, I represented the Antrim Conservation Commission in Docket No. 2012-001 hearings for the Application for Antrim Wind Energy, LLC for a Certificate of Site and Facility for a Renewable Energy Facility as an intervenor in those proceedings. The Commission took a position of being neither for/ nor against the project.

The project was not given a Certificate of Site and Facility for a Renewable Energy Facility by the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee.

Upon review of the application of the above referenced project, the project with 1 turbine removed and 1 turbine slightly smaller it was determined the project was essentially the same and it would be a waste of time to intervene in the proceedings.

It has come to my attention that there is a great deal of huffing and puffing that the town is in favor of the project including statements that were made by the applicant on WMUR TV today. In fact, in March 2013 Town Meeting vote, Public Utility was stricken from the zoning ordinances (as a permitted use) by a vote of Yes 426 to No 317 thereby making it a non-permitted use in the Rural Conservation Zone.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. All the best,

Peter Beblowski  
318 Smith Road  
Antrim, New Hampshire 03440