

December 1, 2016

Chairman Robert Scott
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Docket No. 2015-02 – ICE THROW

Dear SEC Chairman Scott and Sub-Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional comments in the above referenced matter.

InDepthNH published this article addressing the safety concerns of allowing skiers close to the wind turbines sited in Coos County: “[Researchers Warn of Ice-Throw Danger From Wind Turbines at Balsams.](#)” The following excerpt captures the concern.

*“Researchers who worked near the 400-foot high wind turbines on peaks above the proposed Balsams ski area say there is reason to be worried about people getting too close: They saw chunks of ice being thrown and found ice craters and broken saplings **930 feet** from a turbine. {emphasis added} ...But keeping people away from the turbines seems like a good idea, according to researchers who were surveying the property in December 2014 as part of a project for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. “It appears the standard cautionary setback of 1,250 feet from trails or other high-use areas was warranted,” according to their report, which was finished in November 2015.”*

As you are aware, Antrim Wind LLC (“AWE”) has claimed, without substantiation, that DNV GL witnessed ice throw out to 250 meters (820 feet) at an operational wind facility. Tr. Day 2/Morning Session, p. 144. We now have real-world experience in New Hampshire that shows wind turbines throw ice out to 930 feet and likely further. Of note, the Granite Reliable wind turbines have a 90 meter rotor diameter, which is substantially shorter than the proposed AWE turbine with a rotor diameter of 113 meters, likely resulting in greater ice throw distances by the proposed AWE turbines than the 930 feet experienced at Granite Reliable.

Additionally, while AWE’s post-hearing memorandum insists the Siemens turbines are equipped with numerous systems to monitor and mitigate for ice buildup, AWE ignores the obvious admissions by Mr. Kenworthy where he states under oath “I don't think I can say that it's possible to prevent any likelihood of ice potentially traveling that far [250 meters]. ... it's a normal part of the operation of wind turbines in climates like this.” Tr. Day 7/Afternoon Session, p. 32

AWE can’t have it both ways. Despite the elaborate mechanisms to mitigate for ice throw, AWE is aware and has admitted that ice can, and likely will be thrown. AWE’s insistence that the risk is low and thus the concern unwarranted is self-serving and denies the very issues raised by the Committee during rulemaking when at least one member disapproved of ice throwing onto neighboring properties. SEC Docket 2014-04 TR 09-29-15 p 159-163.

While convenient for wind energy developers to submit applications, provide anecdotal information and make promises that are not backed up with actual experience, it is my hope and expectation that the Committee demand more concrete details before agreeing to place the public at risk.¹

As you deliberate the Antrim Wind project, please consider the real world, factual information rather than the empty promises and false claims made by the Applicant.

Sincerely,

Lori Lerner
Bridgewater, NH

¹ On a separate but related note, there has been another example of a turbine failure, a Siemens turbine, which went into operation in 2013, collapsed on November 21st at the Ocotillo Wind facility in California. This is in addition to several other recent turbine failures, one of which occurred in Hawaii where the turbine blades, hub and nacelle fell off the Siemens turbine.