

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
DOCKET NO. 2010-01
APPLICATION OF GROTON WIND, LLC
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY
PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CARL SPRING, INTERVENOR

Background and Qualifications

My name is Carl Spring; I am an Intervenor and live on Groton Hollow Road. I am strongly opposed to this particular project due to its siting. I offer the following skills, training and memberships to support my position and remarks throughout this process for the Groton Wind Farm.

Served on the following Board of Directors in Pennsylvania;

PA Federation of Sportsmen Club, PA Wild Life Federation and French Creek Project

Various Sportsmen Clubs

Thurston Classic – Hot Air Balloon Event

Elected Planning Board Member, Rumney, NH

Site Inspector for Gravel Pits and Excavations for Rumney Planning Board

Road Committee Member for Rumney Planning Board

Served as Chairman at the local and state level for Youth Conservation Schools

Served on a number of committees regarding: Fund raising, Board Training, Legislature Issues, Conservation and Environmental Education and have received several awards for work on these groups as well as Public Fire Safety Education

FAA Pilot's License – Commercial/Instructional Rating for L.T.A/ABM Flying

Guide for Nature Centers

Volunteer Fireman, Assistant Chief on Industrial Fire Brigade

Accredited classes in Firefighting through fire education at the County, State and National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, Maryland.

Certified Public Fire Safety Instructor, Sesame Street Fire Safety Program, as well as many workshops and seminars

First Aid, CPR and Advanced First Aid Classes

40 Years in Commercial Construction, serving as Foreman, Supervisor and Project Manager on jobs up to 1.5 million dollars, Foreman on jobs up to 55 million dollars

Numerous classes on Construction Management, Budgets, Safety, OSHA Regulations, Job Planning and Scheduling, Risk Management, etc.

Land Values

I find it hard to believe that my land value will go up or even stay the same due to the Groton Wind Farm. What study shows pre and post wind farm construction land values going up? This study should not include land owners that have been paid for wind farm construction, or paid to remain silent. This being said, Groton Wind should have no objection to signing a property value guarantee, agreeing to pay for any loss in land or business values. This should also include historic sites, some of which would be the Old Town Site up Groton Hollow Road or the Old Stage Coach Stop and Line located on Coursey Lane.

Road Use and Fire Concerns

The residents of Groton Hollow Road have many concerns over the road use and being the only access to this project. Our road is for residents and limited truck use(Logging). With the expected number of workers, approximately 150 daily per Ed Cherian and the overweight and size trucks, along with trucks for cement, crane erection etc. , this will have a negative effect on our road. We will have road closings, high volume of cars and trucks. There will have to be constant work on our road to keep it in a safe condition. Our road is only wide enough for two cars to pass in certain areas, let alone a cement truck passing a car, school bus or an emergency vehicle. The road right-of-way is 34 feet, and is presently on private property in several locations. What plans will be allowed for good fire department access to Groton Hollow residents and the job site during road closings and work hours? What about fire prevention/suppression with over 6500 gallons of oil and other petroleum based products on site? What about training and equipment for the Rumney Fire Department and EMS squad?

Groton Hollow residents do not want 24/7 work hours at the project site. Monday through Friday, 7am-5pm is tolerable, but Saturday and Sunday work is not. We deserve 2 days of peace and quiet. Lack of poor job site management from Groton Wind should not create an emergency or special variance for working hours or days.

Noise and Health Concerns

I have serious concerns with the noise and health issues surrounding wind farms that have people surrounded with towers on 2-3 sides of their homes. While Iberdrola chooses to ignore this issue, it still is a valid question. More studies need to be brought forth to make a thoughtful decision. It is very easy to see why Iberdrola's "experts" construct information to reflect Groton Wind as a good thing. Should they not so or find information that is bad for Groton Wind, either one of two things happen or both. They are no longer "experts" paid by Iberdrola, and their work does not see the light of day by having a contract sealing all of their work.

Farm Noise and Health Concerns

What are the noise and health issues regarding my farm animals? How will their production and reproduction be impacted? With the shadow flicker this will drive my Free Range chickens crazy. When they see a moving shadow, instinct tells them to run for cover. To them, this shadow is a hawk, owl etc. that will kill them. This flicker would definitely cut my egg production from my flock of 50-75 chickens. What will the noise do to my cows and goats? Goats can be a very easily stressed out animal. Once again, this would cause loss of reproduction and milk.

Water Concerns

I have concerns with both Groton Wind and Rumney Selectman for not having any idea how this project will affect the town's water supply. (Which is half way up Groton Hollow Road) and the residents of Groton Hollow. This concern is over the blasting to water flow in the bedrock, and chemical residue from the blasting, as well as the large amount(6500 gallons) of oil on site. This will also concern the fish and wildlife impact from spills, fires and poor maintenance starting with Clark Brook, the Baker River and into the Pemi, etc.

Bird Concerns

The first bird study information is incorrect regarding the peregrine falcon. It is hard to believe that in 200 hours the falcon was only seen once. With the nesting site within 1 ½ miles of the towers, this will be a hazard to the falcons. On July 3, 4 and 10th of 2010, my family and I watched a falcon riding the thermals for several hours from our pasture on Groton Hollow. I am sure the falcon's home range is farther than 1 or 2 miles. What will the towers do to the migrating hawks and raptors who ride the ridgelines to travel south?

Comments and Beliefs

This project will have an unreasonable adverse effect on the people of Rumney and surrounding areas, as well as aesthetics, water quality, the natural environment, public health and safety, tourism along with many other concerns. Groton Wind is very evasive when asked good, solid questions about the project. This is not the good neighbor that Ed Cherian speaks of, after all, if this project is the best thing since sliced bread...then just look at the large number of questions that are not answered, a non answer or that old standby reply, "The Applicant must respectfully object to providing this information, or that it is irrelevant." Remember, this is funded with my tax dollars and higher electric bills.

These projects are 70% inefficient.

This project is a "white elephant."

Has the wind farm in Coos County been built? Is all of the power sold, and to who? Present information has 30% sold to Vermont.

Why would we even think of approving another wind farm when the last one is not even started?

What is the big rush to approve another – use the information from prior farms to make a better informed decision on this one in Groton.

This project will have a very small benefit to New Hampshire. The damage to the ridgelines, streams, roads, land value, tourism, and wildlife will be ongoing for decades.

The few jobs will be short term, specialty skilled workers from other states and countries.

Millions of tax dollars will go to a foreign country – Spain, from its paper company here in Portland, Oregon.

When the “free” money runs out they will go bankrupt or just disappear.

What investor plans on losing 70 cents of every dollar?

Respectfully submitted,

Carl S. Spring, Intervenor

I hereby certify that, on the date written below, I sent by electronic mail or U.S. mail, postage prepaid, to the persons on the service list(exclusive of Committee members), as well as the original and nine copies to Jane Murray.

Date

Carl S. Spring

