

63 Loveren Mill Road
Antrim, New Hampshire 03440
April 21, 2011

Thomas Burack, Chairman
Site Evaluation Committee
Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

RE: Docket Number 2011-02, Antrim Wind Energy, LLC

Dear Chairman Burack,

We respectfully request the Site Evaluation Committee decline jurisdiction over this case at this time, for the following reasons:

1. The petition for jurisdiction from Antrim Wind Energy, LLC and the letter of request from the Antrim Board of Selectmen are extremely premature. No application has as yet been filed by AWE for a wind energy project. Details of their proposal are therefore vague and have changed numerous times over the last two years.
2. There are two cases pending in New Hampshire Superior Court which will not be decided until at least the end of May. The outcome of these cases has significant bearing on the future of AWE's proposal. (See NH Superior Court Docket Numbers 216-2010-CV-00533 and 216-2010-EQ-00245)
3. Contrary to claims by AWE, the situation in Antrim differs greatly from that in Lempster, since Antrim has had a strong zoning ordinance in place since 1974, along with the town land use boards to enforce and amend the ordinance as necessary. Antrim also has an ordinance in place that deals with small wind energy systems and is currently in the process of drafting a proposal which would address larger scale renewable energy projects.
4. Antrim Wind Energy, LLC is a new, unproven company with no prior completed projects to demonstrate their competence. In the last two years they have continuously attempted multiple simultaneous approaches to seek permitting, and obviously have had no clear plan in place for proceeding with their proposal as demonstrated by their original inadequate variance application to the Antrim ZBA.
5. The Antrim Planning Board and numerous town residents have clearly spoken out expressing a strong desire for local control. The Planning Board has two new members, both very experienced in environmental and land use practices, who were voted in by an overwhelming majority because of their stand on this issue. There are many competent and knowledgeable individuals in Antrim who are capable of conducting the permitting process with care and efficiency. (Additionally, contrary

to AWE's claim that their survey shows that 77% of Antrim residents approve of their proposed wind energy facility, in actuality only 18% of Antrim residents answered positively to their wind project.)

6. The letters from the Antrim Board of Selectmen dated April 20, 2011 clearly contradict their statement made at their March 21st meeting where they charged the Planning Board with the task of drafting a new, comprehensive renewable energy zoning proposal to be completed if possible by this fall. Additionally, these letters were apparently written privately, with no reference in any public meetings and thus are of questionable legality and should possibly be rejected from consideration.

We own a 230 acre farm which overlooks Tuttle Hill, the site of the proposed wind facility. As 23-year residents of the North Branch area of Antrim, we have served on the Antrim Conservation Commission, the Antrim Open Space Committee, the North Branch and Contoocook Rivers Local Advisory Committee, and as New Hampshire Coverts Coordinators. Since it's creation in Antrim's 1989 revision to our Zoning Ordinance, we have been active proponents for and supporters of the Rural Conservation District (RCD), starting with our successful petition to extend the District across the north side of Route 9. In 1999, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests named us as informal stewards for the Nature Conservancy's Loveren Mill Cedar Swamp property and the Meadowsend Timberland forestry holding because of our historical, cultural, and environmental concerns for the region.

In the last two years we have opposed Antrim Wind Energy's proposed siting of an industrial wind facility in the RCD, due to the zoning ordinance's specific prohibition of industrial activity in this district. We were appellants in the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment decisions and are currently the plaintiffs in one of the two pending suits against the Town of Antrim before the Superior Court and Intervenors in the other suit.

In closing, with our continued commitment to the protection of this area, we respectfully urge the Committee to reject Antrim Wind Energy, LLC's Petition for Jurisdiction.

Very sincerely,



Richard Block



Lorraine Carey Block