

Below are listed comments regarding Antrim Wind Energy's (AWE) application to construct and operate 10 wind towers in the North Branch section of Antrim, NH. So far these topics have not been discussed, other than when I brought them up to the Antrim Selectman and at the meeting held in Antrim by the SEC. AWE has never addressed the problem.

Health Concerns:

My wife and I live at 48 Liberty Farm Road in the North Branch section of Antrim NH. I am a retired military member and also retired from the Texas Department of Public Safety and currently employed by the New Hampshire Department of Education in their Division of Higher Education. My last military duty assignment was at Edwards Air Force Base (AFB) in the high-desert of California. While living on Edwards AFB, wind farms containing hundreds of wind towers were built around the air base to provide electrical power to the Los Angeles, CA.

Initially my wife and I thought the idea of generating power from the constant wind was an excellent idea. However when the wind towers were put into operation, my wife became very sick. She came down with an inner ear balance issue. Initially the doctors thought it was an allergy to dust blowing around with the wind and they medicated her accordingly. The medication did not help. She was still dizzy from her inner-ear balance problem. The problem was such that she had a problem walking around the house without holding on to a wall or a piece of furniture. My wife always enjoyed riding as a passenger on my motorcycle, but with the inner-ear problem, she could no longer do that. Going through curves gave her a sea-sickness type feeling.

When I retired from the military, we moved to Austin Texas, where we lived for 20 years. When we first got to Austin, the inner-ear problem still existed. In time it finally went away. That was then we decided that the problem was attributed to the wind farms and the number of wind towers, not dust. There were no wind towers in or around Austin and the inner ear problem dissipated.

I retired from the State of Texas in 2007. After being away from New England for 40 years, we finally returned home. We chose to build and someday totally retire in Antrim because it is a close-knit small town where we could live a relaxed life. We bought property on Liberty Farm Road because the rear of the property is conservation land and no one can build there. Our house has a large porch on the rear that looks to the West and South-West. It is a peaceful place to just look into the woods and watch the local wildlife travel by.

We are extremely concerned that once the 500ft (much taller than those in California) wind towers are built and operating, my wife's inner-ear problem will return. If that happens, she and I will have to sell our retirement home and move far enough away from Antrim that the inner-ear problem will not be an issue.

Home Sale

I am concerned about selling our property with ten, 500ft wind towers approximately one mile from the rear of our home. Who will want to purchase it? AWE states that home prices will not decline because of the wind towers. No matter how much research they throw at us, I do not believe that home prices will not decline. I believe that the experience in Lemster as it relates to the number of homes either vacated or for sale due to the wind towers tells the real story.

I was told that I could bring suit against the Town of Antrim through Superior Court, which is a huge expense to homeowners wishing to sell their homes. I believe that AWE should be held directly liable for any expenses related to health issues caused by the wind towers. If homes have to be sold, AWE should buy them at the fair market value the homes had before the wind towers were built. AWE should also be liable for any other moving or medical expenses caused by their wind towers.

Local Animals

I am concerned that local wildlife will dissipate once the wind towers are built and placed into operation. Deer, moose, wild turkeys, and black bear are the primary inhabitants of the lands around our home. We enjoy sitting on our back porch and watching the wildlife wander through our property on their way to the North Branch river for a drink of fresh water or back into the mountains where they live.

While building our home, the building site was visited by either mountain lion or Lynx. At the time, my wife and I were staying with our relatives at 54 Liberty Farm Road. While eating breakfast one day I looked out over his cleared land and saw the mountain lion/Lynx walking up into the woods. In speaking with other neighbors, several had noted the tracks in and around their homes as well. Though were told by the Park Ranger that Mountain Lions/Lynx do not live in our area, but I saw what I saw.

Though I do not care to have a mountain lion or Lynx wondering around our property, I would hate to see it and the other local wildlife chased away because of the constant noise of the wind towers.

Thanks for your concern in this matter.

Clifton R. Burdette