STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 28, 2012 - 1:39 p.m.
DAY 7
Concord, New Hampshire AFTERNOON SESSION ONLY

IN RE: SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
DOCKET NO. 2012-01: Application
of Antrim Wind, LLC, for a Certificate of Site and Facility for a 30 MW Wind Powered Renewable Energy Facility to be Located in Antrim, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire.
(Hearing on the merits)

PRESENT :
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:

Kate Bailey, Engineer
(Presiding Officer)
Amy L. Ignatius, Chrmn. Harry T. Stewart, Dir. Johanna Lyons, Designee

Craig Green, Designee Brad Simpkins, Dir.
Ed Robinson, Designee Richard Boisvert, Designee Brook Dupee, Designee

Public Utilities Comm.
Public Utilities Comm.
DES - Water Division
Dept. of Resources \&
Econ. Dev.
Dept. of Transportation DRED-Div. Forests \& Land
Fish \& Game Department Div. Historic Resources Dept. Health \& Human Svs.

COUNSEL FOR THE COMMITTEE: Michael Iacopino, Esq. COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC:

Peter C. L. Roth, Esq. Sr. Asst. Atty. General N.H. Atty.Gen. Office

COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, N.H. LCR No. 44
\{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Antrim Wind, LLC: Susan S. Geiger, Esq. (Orr \& Reno) Douglas L. Patch, Esq. (Orr \& Reno) Rachel Goldwasser, Esq. (Orr \& Reno) Jack Kenworthy (Antrim Wind)

Reptg. Antrim Board of Selectmen: Galen Stearns, Town Administrator Michael Genest, Selectman Town of Antrim

Reptg. Harris Center for Cons. Edu.: Stephen Froling, Esq.

Reptg. Antrim Planning Board:
Martha Pinello, Member
Charles Levesque, Member
Reptg. Intervenor Abutters Group: Janice Longgood

Reptg. Audubon Society of N.H.: Amy Manzelli, Esq. (BCM Environment \& Land Law)

Reptg. Intervenors Allen/Edwards: Mary Allen Robert Edwards

Reptg. Industrial Wind Action Group:
Lisa Linowes
Reptg. North Branch Group of Intervenors:
Richard Block
Loranne Carey Block
Elsa Voelcker

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(WHEREUPON after the lunch recess the hearing was resumed at 1:39 p.m.)

*     *         *             *                 * 

MS. BAILEY: We're back on the record, and we're going to resume cross-examination of Ms. Vissering.

MS. GEIGER: Thank you.
CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Ms. Vissering, before the lunch break I asked you some questions about your testimony -- or your supplemental testimony regarding the project's conservation plan and your statement, that you believe "additional conservation measures would be required to address the ridgeline as a whole and to ensure that any future development is not located within the more visually and ecologically sensitive higher elevation areas." Do you remember that question?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And do you remember I asked you where these ecologically sensitive, higher
elevation areas were located? Do you
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remember that question?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And I believe your response was that they were located within a priority area for land conservation, according to Antrim's Open-Space Conservation Plan; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. And could you please turn to the exhibit that's been marked as AWE 17.
A. Yeah, I have it in front of me.
Q. Okay. Now, do you agree that is a map from the Open-Space Conservation Plan for Antrim that designates the Open-Space Protection Priority Areas in yellow?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And do you know approximately how many acres those yellow areas entail?
A. If you count all of the yellow areas on this map, I think there was a -- I think I saw somewhere a chart that said how many acres there were, which I don't see on this chart right now.
Q. Well, that's okay. Let me ask you a different question. I believe that -- did
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you indicate that the -- that you were concerned about the -- I think you said that you were concerned about the conservation plan -- or conserving more property that is located in West Antrim; is that correct?

MR. ROTH: I just want to get some clarification. What do you mean by "conservation plan"? Is there a conservation plan in the record somewhere?

MS. GEIGER: I believe that the Applicant has made a commitment with the Harris Center for Conservation, and I believe that has been made an exhibit. I think the agreement has been made an exhibit.

MR. ROTH: So that's the "conservation plan" you were referring to, the Harris Center agreement?

MS. GEIGER: Right, the agreement that the project would conserve 685 acres within the project area and then surrounding the project area.

MR. ROTH: Okay. So there's no other document than the Harris Center agreement.
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MS. GEIGER: I believe that that's the conservation plan that has been described in the Application.

MR. ROTH: Okay. Thank you.
MR. IACOPINO: Mr. Roth, though, before you begin, this AWE 17, if you look at the title of it, it appears to be the "Open-Space Conservation Plan for Antrim, Final Report."

MR. ROTH: I think they're two different things. I think that the Conservation Commission of the Town has an Open-Space Conservation Plan for Antrim, dated November of 2005. But I believe that the Applicant references something that they believe is a conservation plan and which I think has now been described as the "Harris Center Agreement."

MS. GEIGER: Right. I apologize for any confusion that my questions may have created.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Basically what I'm asking, Ms. Vissering, about is in the conservation -- the
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Open-Space Conservation Plan for Antrim that the Antrim Conservation Commission has developed and that you have in front of you, in terms of a map showing, I believe, protection priorities in the Town of Antrim in yellow -- is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Now, are you aware that the project itself would fall within West Antrim?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And are you -- does it -- just from eyeballing this map, does it appear that these Open-Space Priority Protection Areas are approximately half the town of Antrim?
A. I think the -- there are various parcels that are priorities for various reasons that are identified within the plan in more detail. But there are a number of different priority areas. I think if you looked at the totality of them, it might total something like somewhere more than -- certainly more than a third, or around a third.
Q. And are you aware that the 685 acres that Antrim Wind has agreed to conserve falls
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within some of that yellow area in West Antrim?
A. Yes, I am.
Q. Okay. Now, I think you also indicated before the break that, with respect to ecologically sensitive areas that you've referenced in your testimony that you believe should be conserved, that there was some designation of some areas along the ridgeline that's ecologically sensitive by the -- by somebody in interest; is that correct?
A. No, I don't think that's what I said. In fact, I'm sure I didn't say that. I may have been referring to a different project that $I$ was using as an example, which had protected the areas surrounding the ridgeline as one of the measures of protection, that were permanently conserved, with no development at all allowed. But that was just as an example of both the extent and kind of conservation measures.

And I want to clarify that the reason I'm raising these, the conservation concerns have certainly been addressed in the town
plan, as well as other places. But there is a direct correlation between that and some of the visual concerns because of the importance of the ridge to the town of Antrim.
Q. And can you cite for me the area or the places in either the master plan or some other town document that says that the Town has established this ridgeline as an area that should be conserved?
A. No, I didn't -- I don't think I said that. I looked -- this area where the project is proposed is part of this high-priority area that is a high priority for conservation.
Q. So it was --
A. It is not necessarily the only area. It is part of that area.
Q. Part of that area?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Thank you for that clarification.

Now, isn't it true that the Antrim zoning ordinance -- I'm sorry. Let's back up.

The area of Antrim that we're talking about for this facility, would you agree it's
in the Rural Conservation District?
A. Yes.
Q. And isn't it true that the Antrim zoning ordinance allows public utilities to be located in the Rural Conservation District? MR. ROTH: I object to this question. This is a legal question that's been litigated between the Applicant and other people. And asking a landscape architect brought as a witness on visual impact to answer a legal question about whether this project is a public utility or whether it would be allowed in this particular zoning district $I$ think is inappropriate.

MS. GEIGER: I'm not asking
the witness to decide whether or not this project is a public utility. I'm just asking her whether she understands that, generically speaking, the Antrim zoning ordinance permits public utilities to be located in the Rural Conservation District.

MR. ROTH: Given the contested
nature of that, $I$ don't know how she could
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answer that question with any certainty or knowledge.

MS. GEIGER: Well, it was my understanding that she reviewed the zoning ordinances with the Town's ad hoc committee.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Is that correct?
A. I only reviewed it in terms of zoning ordinance. I was really looking at and asked to make recommendations in a specific part of the zoning regulations. I did not review the entire zoning regulations. I've looked at the town plan in more detail, which is usually the document that tends to be relevant in proceedings like these.

MS. BAILEY: Is that a
satisfactory answer?
MS. GEIGER: Yeah, I'll
withdraw the question. I think the zoning ordinances which are in the record speak for themselves. So we'll move on.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Now, your testimony doesn't specify a particular number of acres that you think the
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project should conserve, does it?
A. No.
Q. Yet, you find 685 acres to be inadequate?
A. I do.
Q. What is the basis for that opinion?
A. The bases, I think, are several. One is that it certainly doesn't address the entire ridgeline. It certainly allows, without very much specificity, building to occur. But I think more importantly, just in comparison to equivalent kinds of sites with equivalent kinds of impacts of wind projects, where you have a high priority, where the value is an unfragmented habitat -- not all wind projects are located in areas like this -- and which has been identified with these kinds of values, then it seems to me that that acreage is a very small amount of acreage that really doesn't address the kinds of impacts, either visual or ecological. And I'm going to mostly limit myself to the visual impacts. There are parts of the ridgeline that have not been conserved at all and --
Q. Would you view the Applicant's conservation \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
efforts to be a positive then, if they haven't been conserved at all and now they're going to be conserved as a result of this project? Wouldn't that be a benefit?
A. I think it's a very inadequate attempt to do this. I think, given the impacts of this project to a high-value area that is specifically identified in the town plan, as well as other statewide initiatives, that that is a very small amount of conservation.
Q. Could you provide me with a cite to the town plan where it says that this is a high-value area?
A. This map.
Q. This map, meaning the open --
A. Yeah. These are the high priorities for conservation, and those are -- the particular values are identified in the conservation plans.
Q. So could you point me to where it says that?
A. I don't have a town plan in front of me.
Q. Let me show you. This has been marked as ACC 2. But here's a copy of it, the Antrim Conservation Commission Exhibit 2.

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A. No, but the project is located within that area.
Q. It's a subset within that area; correct?
A. It's a part of the area, yes.
Q. It's part of the area. Okay.

Could you turn to Page 16 of what $I$ just handed you, ACC 2, please.
A. Okay.
Q. Do you see there at the bottom of the page there are some -- there is a list of -- the committee has developed a set of principles with which to guide its recommendations about land conservation priorities? Do you see that?
A. Yes.
Q. Doesn't it say there, the second bullet point, "Conservation easements will be the primary tool or strategy for protecting lands"?
A. Yes.
Q. Doesn't it also say, "Land conservation priorities cannot include all land. We can't save it all"?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Now, Ms. Vissering, are you aware that if this project is not built, the property upon which the project is proposed to be located, and the property this project would conserve if built, could be developed into three-acre building lots with houses and driveways, et cetera?
A. Well, I guess I would say that would be hypothetical.
Q. Would it be permitted by the Antrim Zoning Ordinance?

MR. ROTH: I object to that. Again, she's asking for a prediction about how the Antrim zoning regulations might be interpreted by the local planning people with respect to a residential development. I don't think that she's qualified to do that, nor should she be required to do that.

MS. GEIGER: Let me rephrase the question.

BY MS. GEIGER:
Q. Isn't it true that the Rural Conservation District, as defined and described in the ordinance, would allow for or would permit
residential housing to be built?
A. But not necessarily along the upper slopes. Because, given the documentation in the town plan, the Planning Commission has the right to perhaps not require, but to encourage development patterns that would place development on the least valuable land within any particular piece of property. That's pretty typical of what planning commissions are able to do. So it's not --
Q. Is that required in this zoning ordinance, though?
A. Is it required?
Q. Yes.
A. No. But given the value of this land, the Planning Commission -- I'm a member of my local planning commission -- would undoubtedly be taking a very serious look at how develop -- what development patterns were -- they would permit within this district.
Q. Okay. Now turning to your recommendations for this project. Your fifth recommendation is to "identify and address all areas from \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
which portions of roads, ridgeline clearing, cut and fill slopes and/or turbine pads may be visible." Are you saying that if roads, ridgeline clearing, cut and fill or turbine pads are simply visible and have no unreasonable adverse effect, that their visibility must still be mitigated?
A. That is generally considered -- let me get close to the microphone.

The offset visibility of roads and turbine pads is one of the significant concerns about wind energy projects. And it becomes especially sensitive when they're seen from above, where that's more likely, because it's one thing to see the turbines emerging out of intact forest; it's another when the ridgeline itself is very evidently changed or altered with visible cut and fill slopes. So that creates another visual impact that is potential. And my concern was that that be looked at very carefully, to make sure that that was not going to occur from any locations. And that would be visible from public viewing areas.
Q. Did you consider that issue? Did you look at that issue?
A. I looked at the grading plans in detail. And I think in my report $I$ mentioned a number of places where I had concerns that there could be some visibility. There's certainly the area from Goodhue Hill where there is visibility. So it requires doing line-of-sight assessment, which is not unusual to have done for looking at specific areas where the cut -- the fill or cut slope is potentially above the tree line. If you can look at the grading plan, you can pretty easily pick out where those areas might be.
Q. Your sixth recommendation is, "General revegetation of cut and fill slopes and all non-permanent surfaces must occur immediately following construction." Isn't the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services requiring this as a condition of the alteration of terrain permit?
A. I don't know. I haven't seen that document.
Q. Okay. Your seventh recommendation is, "Any significant visibility of the substation and
the $0 \& M$ building [sic] may need to be mitigated with screening plantings." Now, you agree with that being your
recommendation; correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Do you know whether the substation will change the character of the proposed site of that station?
A. What $I$ was concerned about there, and it may -- this may not be an issue. But what I noticed is that the way that substation is designed, the expansion of the substation, is that it goes -- it's designed sort of against the contours. So it does kind of step down the contours to some extent. But there's a quite large area that is being built into the slope. So my main concern was the visibility from Route, is it 9 that runs along through there?
Q. So it's near Route 9; correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And isn't it also adjacent to a large utility right-of-way with several high-voltage transmission lines?
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A. Yes. But generally, even whenever a subdivision is -- excuse me -- a substation is proposed to be expanded, the visual impact is something that one would look at and possibly improve. I know that's something I get involved with a lot for the Public Service Department in Vermont. And that's a high priority, to try to at least mitigate it to the extent possible.
Q. Did you know that Public Counsel requested vegetative screening for the Groton Wind Project substation in Holderness, New Hampshire, and the Site Evaluation Committee here denied that request because it would provide no discernible benefit?
A. Okay.
Q. The last two paragraphs of your supplemental testimony indicate that the project's expanded 10-mile viewshed analysis identifies approximately 33 additional recreational or cultural sites with potential visibility of the project. And you conclude by saying that, quote, The identification of the additional resources affected by the project,
unquote, further supports your conclusion that the project has an unreasonable adverse impact on aesthetics in and around Antrim; is that correct?
A.

Yes.
Q. Are you saying that simply because the project may be visible from some locations between five and ten miles away from the project, that this constitutes an unreasonable adverse impact?
A. What I said in my testimony, and which I think is important there, is that there certainly can be impacts from five to ten miles away, as well as zero to five. When you have -- and this was my concern: When you have a lot of resources throughout the area, all of which has visibility of the project -- in other words, the majority or vast majority of the lakes and ponds in the region would have visibility of the project -- that creates its own impact. It's a different kind of impact from the lakes and ponds that might be in very close proximity. But nevertheless, there are many, many lakes
and ponds within this area which would have visibility of the project.
Q. But, in fact, you have expressly said that visibility by itself doesn't determine whether or not aesthetic impacts would be unreasonable, does it?
A. Well, exactly. So, for example: If this project were only visible from Gregg Lake, if that was it, I probably would have had very different findings than the fact that it is visible from many, many different resources within the area. That's one of the considerations. It is not unreasonable for a project to be seen from a particular, let's say, lake or pond. But when you have particular sensitive 2 resources that are part of that environment, and you are seeing it from numerous lakes and ponds all throughout the area, that begins to sort of magnify the impact.
Q. Did you visit those numerous lakes and ponds throughout the area?
A. I did visit some, and for others I relied on the viewshed analysis.
Q. Okay. Okay. Thank you, Ms. Vissering. I have no further questions.

MS. BAILEY: Thank you.
Committee questions. Mr. Dupee.
MR. DUPEE: Thank you, Madam
Chairman. Take a moment to organize my thoughts. So bear with me.

INTERROGATORIES BY MR. DUPEE:
Q. So, I guess, in general, you mentioned that in reviewing this Application --
(Court Reporter interjects.)
Q. So, Ms. Vissering, when you looked at the Application, you concluded that, although there are some issues of concern to you, that issues could be mitigated that would perhaps make the proposal acceptable; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. So, for example: You talked about conservation easements. So you might be able to -- if there was an aesthetic impact at one point in the process, perhaps that could be made up for or mitigated by offsetting benefits someplace else. Is that what you're thinking?
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A. I think that's possible. I would -- it is always preferable to mitigate on site, to the extent that it's -- that that is possible, because that is still an important resource for the town. And what -- just as an example of some mitigation that $I$ have seen, as I said, in a very similar situation, it included both mitigating on the site, in terms of permanent conservation easements, as well as, because of the impact to identified unfragmented habitat, it included conserving some unfragmented land somewhere else.
Q. So if that possible mitigation didn't exist, there was no possibility for mitigation, what would have been your opinion of this project? Would it have an unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics?
A. I think the possibility -- well, let's say hypothetically there is no possibility for -is that what you're suggesting?
Q. I'm stating --
A. Hypothetically, there's no possibility for that type of mitigation?
Q. Correct.
A. It's hard for me to conceive that it wouldn't be possible. But it would be... I guess I would have to say that... this is a hard one. I'm just not able to imagine that there isn't some solution there --
Q. Let me restate it.
A. -- that could not be found.
Q. So if $I$ restate my question, basically, if you have a proposal in front of you as is, no changes, straight up or down, would you find that to be an unreasonable adverse effect or not?
A. I guess I would.
Q. Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Chairman
Ignatius.
CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.
INTERROGATORIES BY CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS:
Q. Good afternoon.
A. Good afternoon.
Q. Couple, I hope, quick clarifications. Let me ask you -- we spent some time looking at the last page of your supplemental testimony in the discussion of temporary lighting. If you
look at Page 3 -- this is in PC 4 is the exhibit number -- Page 3, which is the last page of your supplemental testimony --
A. Yes.
Q. -- and second to the last question about radar-controlled lighting. And you had said that even the temporary use of night lighting would result in unreasonable visual impacts.

To be sure I understand what you're saying, is the use of the word "temporary" relating to "temporary" meaning on and off with the radar-activated style of lighting, or is your use of the word "temporary" meaning standard lighting might go into effect prior to the radar-controlled lighting going in?
A. Yes, I should clarify that. I think my concern is that there be a definite plan in place for radar-activated lighting with the certainty that it is feasible, and that it's feasible that it will definitely be installed. So I guess when I say
"temporary," my concern had been that it would be -- the project might be approved and
that they would find out later down the road that this wasn't going to work. And then, of course, at that point it would be very hard to say, oh, you have to dismantle the project because you don't have -- so I think that's my concern. So that the idea of, yes, there is -- it has been approved, we know with absolute certainty that it can be and will be installed by such-and-such date, and that for six months we have to do lighting, that would not be a problem, in terms of that definition of "temporary."
Q. So if FAA had approved radar-controlled lighting for this project already, and that was the only thing that would ever be installed, that would resolve your lighting concerns?
A. Yes.
Q. And if we knew that -- I'm not sure how we'd know this -- but that somehow the FAA was going to say it was okay six months from now, and there might be a limit of only six months of traditional lighting before the radar kind went into place, that would also resolve your
lighting concern?
A. Yes.
Q. It's the open-ended possibility that it might never go to the radar --
A. Exactly. Yeah.
Q. Okay. On lighting effects, you stated that that is a significant part of any of these projects' visual impacts. And I was struck with that, that for all of the photo simulations done, there is no photo simulation of lighting impacts. Is that done in the industry or not?
A. Lighting is very hard to simulate, because unlike just a two-dimensional image, it has -- there are many variables to lighting and how it looks, because it's not just showing a little red ball or a little yellow ball on an image like this. It has a -- it pulses, and that's one of its characteristics. But it also has a sort of shine to it. It's just visually complex, and so it is very hard to simulate. I know it has been done in some cases. But I know other people who have told me, "I will never
do this again because $I$ was torn apart on the witness stand."
Q. Do you have -- one other clarification.

You had stated that, in your view, the size of turbines that were used in the Lempster project would be more appropriate for the setting that Antrim poses. And someone had asked you, did you think that was about 2-1/2 megawatts, or you may have thought that may have been $2-1 / 2$ megawatts.
A. Yeah, that's what I think.
Q. If that isn't the right number of megawatts, is it -- is your thought about the size of Lempster, the megawatt level, or the ones that you've seen in Lempster, whatever those measurements may be?
A. The latter. I believe those are 2-1/2
megawatts. Of course, these days, it doesn't always mean -- have a direct correlation with size, because there are turbines of varying sizes with different output. So I think I'm more concerned about the dimensions than I am with the particular output of the turbine. And those dimensions would include
particularly the height of the nacelle and particularly the sort of, $I$ mean, the taper in the towers. But that's the diameter.
Q. Okay. My recollection is they were 2 megawatts. But I may be wrong about that. But your point, though, is the size that they present in that setting is what you think would be more appropriate?
A. Yes.
Q. You were asked by Ms. Manzelli about the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Corridor and that that was another area of -- I'm going to forget how you characterized it exactly -- but a resource that's of value of some sort. And can you just describe what that means, what the Quabbin-to-Cardigan project is?
A. I'd have to preface this by saying this is not my area of expertise exactly. But I am familiar with the concept for a variety of reasons.

It is the idea of protecting unfragmented habitat as a valuable resource, particularly for wildlife and eco systems. And so there has been an effort to try to
identify, in many states around New England -- this one obviously includes Massachusetts and New Hampshire -- those areas where unfragmented habitats still exist. They're becoming more and more rare because of the development. So, where you find large contiguous blocks of land, where development has not occurred. And so that area, that particular corridor was identified based on studies that were done to find those blocks. And it was -- so it was given a high priority for conservation for that reason.
Q. And you may have already said this. But is part of the Antrim project site within that corridor area?
A. Yes.
Q. There was quite a lot of discussion this morning about your testimony in this case, that the project is visible from many different locations, but even though it may only be 95 percent of the viewshed, that within that 5 percent there are significant resources. Is that a good paraphrase?
A. Yes. So there are certain -- and I have
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throughout focused primarily on places like lakes, ponds and trails, as opposed to village centers and historic sites. So there are quite a number where there is the combination of a large amount of the lake or pond visible -- with visibility, including areas where all the turbines or most of the turbines are visible. Then there are some where you are seeing perhaps a fairly significant area of the pond with visibility. So I counted about 14 ponds that had that kind of combination of a fairly large area of the pond with visibility and/or a large number of turbines visible, and another, I think, 11 sites -- I mean, these are some -- a few of these are trails, too -11 ponds with another -- with some degree of visibility on the pond. So in this fairly limited area, it's a fairly substantial number of lakes and ponds.
Q. Is your concern not the mathematical percentage of locations that have visibility, but what those particular locations are?
A. I guess $I$ would back up and say that, if I
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were just looking at Gregg Lake, Willard Pond and the two sort of summits near there, possibly including the Meadow Marsh Preserve, all of which are in very close proximity and have very high visibility, that, to me, would have been probably significant enough for me to say, yes, this is -- these are -- at least given the design of the project at present, this is unreasonable.

So I think that the additional sites, some of them that came up -- and one of them was Powder Mill Pond, which is another one with no motor boats allowed, just canoes -you look on the Paddlers' web site, and it's known as being "a highly scenic pond," with -- according to the latest simulation, had all, pretty much, I think, nine of the turbines appear to be visible from that pond. That's quite a bit further away, but it's yet another situation.

So there are -- I think my concern was both the specifics of the particular sites, in addition to the added impact of -- to the area as a whole, because the ponds are places
where the -- the ponds are places where we get an open view. They're places where you spend time. They're places that you come, in part, for the scenic beauty of the area. Hills are part of that context. So they're all part of what I would call "sensitive areas."
Q. Thank you. Those are my questions. MS. BAILEY: Mr. Simpkins.

INTERROGATORIES BY DIR. SIMPKINS:
Q. I had a few questions regarding this issue of state or national significance and whether resources are of state or national significance.

The first question $I$ had is, this morning in your testimony you mentioned about several of these things are of regional significance, but "regional" can have different interpretations. And I was just curious. When you say "regional," what scale are you referring to?
A. Well, I guess I'm sort of imagining that, depending on the particular location that we're talking about, some of them probably
are a little bit more local, perhaps in neighboring towns like Gregg Lake. Then there's the Willard Pond natural area. I'm guessing that serves a much broader area that would be -- that perhaps includes the lower half of New Hampshire, maybe probably people from Vermont, northern Massachusetts. That kind of thing would tend to -- it's the kind of resource that certainly would be one that people visiting the area might go to. So I'm not sure if I'm answering that very well.
Q. Yeah. Basically what $I$ was getting at is you could say "regional," meaning the New England regions. But you're --
A. Yeah, I'm thinking of --
(Court Reporter interjects.)
Q. But you're thinking, I mean, "regional" could mean like New England region. But your definition of "regional" means on a smaller than statewide scale is what I was getting at, it sounds like.
A. That's correct, because I think we're talking about whether it achieves state significance. And so when I'm saying "regional," it is
potentially less than that. Though, I would say some of those properties, like the Audubon Sanctuary, has received funding, Forest Legacy funding, for example. That is certainly something that is a national -- or at least the bigger "region" that you were referring to kind of significance. So it's another thing that is sometimes looked at in terms of the value or importance of a place, is the extent to which there has been public funding that has gone into protecting that, because that becomes something that is important to the people of New Hampshire.
Q. Okay. Well, that kind of gets into some of my next few questions.

Did you say this morning that you did not recognize resources of statewide significance during your review of this area?
A. What I said, I believe, if I'm answering this correctly, is that $I$ didn't -- I didn't see the resources necessarily as being of statewide, what I would call "statewide significance," in the sense of something that might be important to the state as a whole.

Although, there's probably not a whole lot of difference between a state park, like Pillsbury and the Audubon Nature Center, in terms of they both probably tend to be served more by kind of a regional group of people; and yet, one would tend to, just because it's state-owned, might be considered of state significance. But I'm not sure that's legitimate.
Q. In Mr. Guariglia's prefiled testimony of October 11th, he mentions, "Resources of statewide significance are of greater aesthetic significance by virtue of their preservation by a governmental agency for benefit of the state's citizens." Would you agree with that statement?
A. That sounds reasonable.
Q. So, following that, would you consider a conservation easement held by the state and purchased with state and/or federal funds to be a resource of state significance?
A. That's kind of where $I$ was going with the Forest Legacy money. Because there's certainly been -- Bald Mountain is an example
of an area that was protected with Forest Legacy money. So in that sense, that would certainly make it of statewide importance, in terms of investment of money and funds.
Q. Are you familiar with the ranking process that a property goes through for the Forest Legacy Program?
A. Not precisely. I looked into that, and I do know that scenic quality was one of the considerations, as well as ecological value.
Q. And besides -- you mentioned Bald Mountain. Are you familiar with any other Forest Legacy or state-held conservation easements within, say, five miles of this project area?
A. I didn't come across any. But I didn't look.

I only looked at a couple years of the donations of the Forest Legacy money. So...
Q. Okay. Thank you. No further questions.

MS. BAILEY: Mr. Stewart.
INTERROGATORIES BY DIR. STEWART:
Q. My questions revolve around the mitigation issue. And to put it in context, I manage the Water Division for Environmental Services, and we have the Wetlands Program.
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And we have mitigation criteria for wetlands impacts, and those criteria vary with the value of the wetlands. Now, 10 or 12 years ago, we had nothing -- or maybe 14. And we've gradually put this in place to satisfy federal requirements, basically, for mitigation for wetlands.

So I'm trying to understand the magnitude of mitigation that we should expect on this project and others. And what I see here is we've got about, you know, I think it's 625 acres proposed of conservation land for 10 windmills now. Another issue with the wetlands is that not all wetlands are created equal, so that the mitigation shifts with the value, or the impact in this case.

So I'm trying to understand what an adequate mitigation package would look like, in your mind, in terms of the magnitude of conservation that would have to occur. And I'm an engineer, so $I$ think in units. And in this case, we've got a proposal for 62 acres per windmill. So I'm trying to understand where do we go with that? And I think we're
early in this process, probably nationally, in terms of this mitigation. So, could you comment on that?
A. Yes. Just as a reference -- and this might be useful for you to look at -- this was a big issue in discussions in Vermont for the Lowell Wind Project, because it has very similar characteristics, and it's being highly valued for unfragmented habitat. Has also quite a few scenic values. And what struck me about some of the decisions -there were two parts. One was the immediate conservation easements along the immediate ridgeline, which were done in several parts, depending on landowners. But they did -- the characteristics, I think -- now, this was about twice the size of this project, in terms of the numbers of turbines. So you'd have to take that into consideration.

But there were -- along the immediate ridgeline, there were a number of conservation packages, which I think added up to somewhere in the vicinity of 600 maybe, 600 acres, something like that, of the area
next to the wind project which had -- where no building was allowed. They were permanent conservation easements. And they had restrictions on forestry, mostly to protect various types of habitat. In addition to that, there was about 1600, or a little over 1600 acres, of unfragmented habitat that was conserved near the project, not on the ridge, to sort of compensate for the fragmentation that was happening on the ridge itself.

So, you know, probably be better to have you look directly at that decision. But there were two different decisions, because the final order for the Public Service Board identified the ridgeline easements, and then there was a separate agreement on -- that was part of a second order identifying the other conservation easements.
Q. How many windmills or turbines?
A. Twenty-one.
Q. Twenty-one? So that's more or less double what we have here.
A. Yeah. But I think what struck me is two things: One is that the entire ridgeline
was -- came under some kind of conservation easements that had allowed no development, I mean, other than the area of the wind project itself. And so there was certainty that there would be -- that that -- and I'm not sure of the exact area around the ridgeline that was protected, but it was a fairly significant part of the upper portions of that ridge. And, of course, forestry was allowed.
Q. Were you involved with this project? I assume you were.
A. I was only involved very peripherally. I was hired by the Green Mountain Club, because they had views of the project that was from a shelter about six miles away and also high elevation summit.

And so my recommendation in that project was not in opposition to the project, but requiring mitigation. And some of it was -some of the mitigation had to do with looking at the decommissioning plan for the project, the revegetation of the project. And so this part I was not involved with, but I was -- I
just am knowledgeable because I was looking through the order.
Q. Do you know if there were any -- the 1600 acres, was that a somewhat arbitrary number, or was there some objective basis for that?
A. Well, it was between the ridge and an already conserved pond. So it was a very -- I think it was chosen as a very -- I don't know why the numbers were chosen. But it was chosen because of its high value.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Ms. Lyons.
INTERROGATORIES BY MS. LYONS:
Q. Good afternoon.
A. Good afternoon.
Q. You spoke about the Recreational

Opportunities Spectrum a little bit.
A. Yes.
Q. As you know, there's six classifications, major classifications for the Recreational Opportunities Spectrum. How would you classify the Willard Pond and Gregg Lake areas in that spectrum?
A. Well, I'm not sure I'm going to use the exact correct terminology. But I would definitely say that that is at the primitive end of the Recreation Opportunities Spectrum. The specific goal is minimal development and retaining the natural landscape to the greatest extent possible. It does -- it isn't a wilderness classification. They do do forestry logging on that land. So --
Q. Are you referring to the recreational area itself, or are you referring to what the landscape is looking upon? Because these areas are developed.
A. Well, it is developed in the sense -- yes, it is. But it is a -- it has the access road. It has parking. It has access to the pond. But other than that, it's a fairly -- there is one old structure that was part of the property before the preserve and the dam. That's pretty much -- and some trails. But other than that, there's very, very limited development.
Q. So you're not specifically using the Forest Service's definitions then for --
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A. I may not be, because I think they -- I'm trying to -- I'm not using specifically their definitions, more of the concept, that idea of very -- the range of opportunities from the very primitive with minimal developments, such as, for example, the Appalachian Trail, and the two very heavily developed recreational areas, like ski areas.
Q. As a tool, because mostly the Forest Services uses that for internal management -- so, looking at things within a forest or in a recreation area -- how would this Committee apply it, looking externally, affecting -you know, an external project affecting something on an adjacent piece of land?
A. By "adjacent piece of land" --
Q. Willard Pond. It's usually used as an internal management tool to determine setting.
A. Okay. So what I'm thinking of is less -- I mean, being very strict about the Forest Service, because the Forest Service's approach is every piece of land ideally, doesn't always happen, is designated with a \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
certain, $I$ guess they call it the ROS rating. But what I'm thinking of is that when you're in state planning -- and I was involved in the Vermont Recreational Plan at one point -- there is an attempt to provide a range of experiences. So as a state thinking about recreation, it is important to provide the citizens of the state a range of different opportunities, some of which are very developed, some of which are very primitive. Often the state park system tends to provide that range of opportunities. So I think the way I would think about it is that you have a -- you have certain places where you're trying to -- where the objective is to provide "a natural occurring landscape" -- I think the Forest Service uses that term -- so there's no evidence of something, or minimal evidence of something that is developed. And those are areas where you would try to avoid putting up a cell tower or something like that. So in that sense, I think it's a recognition that that is a value, that there are certain places
where that is what our objective is to do, is to try to retain that to the extent possible, the opportunity to be able to be in a natural setting, which can't happen all the time. We do see development from the Long Trail -Long Trail, that's my bias -- the Appalachian Trail. We do see development from other -which is -- you know, obviously my recommendation here is not to hide all these turbines from -- there will be turbines, in my recommendation at least, visible. But they would be further away, slightly smaller, reducing the impact.

I have mixed feelings about that. I think that the Willard Pond Sanctuary is my biggest concern here because it provides a unique opportunity, a kind of unique setting that is increasingly rare. But what I felt -- I know you're asking sort of generally how could this be used in general, which would be -- my recommendation would be, when you have a situation like that, that raises red flags, you try to see if -- to what extent you can minimize those kinds of
impacts to a recreation area like Willard Pond.
Q. And my last question is: In your answer to one of the other Committee members, you had said that you were looking specifically at these recreation areas where lots of people gather and can, you know, have a gathering place. But you discounted town centers, which I would think would have as much, if not more, people at.
A. Yes, that's a good question. And the reason for that is, in town centers, $I$ do think that they're extremely important parts of the landscape in New Hampshire. But the reason I paid less attention to those is that what -if you look at the resource of the town center, the resource is right in front of you; it is your immediate surroundings. To some extent, it is the ridgelines beyond. But most of the resource in a town center is the buildings, the street, the community, the stores. And that is absolutely critical. But it's usually not a place where you are necessarily there as you might be on a lake
looking around at the surrounding mountains. That would not be the most dominant part. In addition to which, my experience in most -walking through most villages is that the buildings themselves often tend to -- and the trees often tend to quite significantly reduce the sort of impact, the dominance of a project like that. But I think it's a good point.
Q. Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Dr. Boisvert.
INTERROGATORIES BY DR. BOISVERT:
Q. Sort of picking up on that same theme. You mentioned that historic properties were not considered in your visual analysis -- visual impact on historic properties. Can you explain why?
A. Yes.

MR. IACOPINO: Can you push that mic over?

DR. BOISVERT: Oh, sorry.
A. Do you need to maybe ask that again?
by MR. BOISVERT:
Q. Yes. Could you explain why you did not
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include historic properties in your visual analysis?
A. Yes. So I looked generally at some of the historic properties. And the approach that I've taken on historic properties is that, unless there is something in the documentation of historic significance of the property that suggests that the surrounding scenery was an important component of its past and that that surrounding scenery, whatever it is, is specifically affected, I do not feel that that is necessarily something that would be a visual concern to me. Most historic buildings are part of a landscape that is evolving, that is changing over time. And I can think of a few examples where this has come up, at least for me, in the context -- well, in a couple of contexts. One's in Maine and one's in Vermont. But someplace like Plymouth Plantation, perhaps, where you have a situation where you're there to experience, transport yourself back to another time, there's also the -- I would be most concerned with historic resources that
are open to the public, because those are the ones that are important to the public, which is what $I$ think generally is the focus of the State of New Hampshire's concerns. And of those in this particular case, the one that perhaps was of -- that $I$ did take a look at, and I think was in my report, was the Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery. But it was my feeling that there was quite a hedgerow of existing trees in the direction of the project, that it would probably be visible, but certainly not very dominantly visible from that vantage point.
Q. Are there not historic landscapes? Speaking in general, not --
A. Yes.
Q. -- specifically New Hampshire.
A. And I did actually come across that issue in New York, where there were designated historic landscapes, where the landscape itself was the resource. And there, I think that's a legitimate concern. But I didn't see anything in this particular case that suggested to me that there was going to be a
major visual concern from a historic resource.
Q. Are you familiar with the criteria of significance for listing properties on the National Register of Historic Places?
A. Somewhat, yes.
Q. Are you aware that setting is important for some properties, but not for others?
A. Yes. And I should say that I reviewed the historic report that was done for this project -- and I was unable to find in it the actual documentation, though maybe $I$ was not looking in the right place, and maybe it was in an appendix that $I$ couldn't find -because that to me is helpful, to know what were the criteria that were used to identify this as a historic site.
Q. I see. Thank you.

INTERROGATORIES BY MS. BAILEY:
Q. Good afternoon.
A. Good afternoon.
Q. I have a few questions about the

Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative. I think you
bring it up for the first time almost at the
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end of your supplemental testimony, and you say, "The project ridge is also identified as an important conservation corridor in the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative." And that's all you say about it, I think. Is that accurate?
A. Yes. And it probably was not as well articulated. I raised it primarily as a layer, another layer of concern about that particular property with regard to the conservation easements because of its identification. But it's -- it is -technically, it is not an initiative that is addressing scenic concerns; it is addressing ecological concerns.

So, in looking at the Antrim -- the ridge in question in Antrim, clearly, my concerns would be some of the visual impacts that would be happening from the project. But the easements are -- tend to be -- have more -- are designed to achieve a number of different goals. And so -- and one of those -- and certainly the importance of that ridge has to do, in part, with the fact that
it is not presently developed, which, you know, has a scenic attribute. Undeveloped ridgelines do contribute to the scenic qualities of the surroundings, but it is also related to this idea of unfragmented habitat. So they're a little bit intertwined.
Q. And the ridgeline is physically part of the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative?
A. Yes. It's a very broad area that is defined in that initiative that runs from Massachusetts all the way up. But, yes, this is part of it.
Q. Whose initiative is it?
A. It's a broad coalition of state organizations, public and private organizations that have put this together.
Q. So did you classify this as something that has state significance?
A. Because of that? Because of -- not because of the -- necessarily because of the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative.
Q. Okay.
A. There is that -- somebody had mentioned the Sunapee Trail System --
Q. Greenway.
A. -- yeah, Greenway System. And I think that -- and asked me if I would consider that of state significance. And I thought, yes, that probably does have state significance.
Q. But the Quabbin-to-Cardigan doesn't have New Hampshire state significance?
A. From an ecological point of view, it is an initiative, a plan, that is relevant. But I'm not sure that it -- and it is certainly something the state is very much involved with, but -- so I guess it's a little difficult for me to say how that exactly relates to this particular ridgeline, in terms of state significance.
Q. When you say -- sorry. When you say "state," do you know what state agency would be responsible for this?
A. I would guess that part perhaps -- I don't know if the Department of Environmental Management is involved or some department within that agency. That would be my guess.

MR. ROTH: Madam Chairman, if
I may, apparently I've just been informed \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
that there is an exhibit in the documentation submitted by the Blocks, LB 6, which is a fact sheet of some pages.

MS. BAILEY: Well, can we get that in the Blocks' testimony maybe?

MR. ROTH: Yeah. I'm just suggesting if you have questions about it, you can refer to it. I'm not trying to blow the record here. But $I$ just want to make you aware that it is there.

MS. BAILEY: Great. Thank you.

BY MS. BAILEY:
Q. Okay. Can you look at PC Exhibit 1 and the photograph of Willard Pond where you did the Simulation 1B?
(Witness reviews document.)
Q. Okay. That's Willard Pond at the dam; right?
A. Yes.
Q. Is that in the wildlife sanctuary area, do you know?
A. Where I was -- where the photograph was taken?
Q. Yes.
A. Yes. Well, it's on the pond. I'm not sure exactly. I know the pond is state-owned. There's... I didn't -- I didn't distinguish, I guess, because I don't know where boundaries are. But it's certainly -- the sanctuary is entirely around the pond.
Q. Okay. Can you tell me which one of those towers is T9?
A. No.
Q. So you don't know which one is T10 either. You know, I'm asking because you recommended --
A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I'm not sure which one is T9 on this one.
Q. Okay. So I assume, then, you didn't do a visual simulation to show what the towers would look like if we adopted your recommendations to eliminate T9 and 10 and reduce the height of the towers.
A. No.
Q. So how do you know, then, if we adopt that mitigation plan, that it would be adequate to preserve the Willard Pond in the way that you think is necessary?
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A. Well, when $I$ made that recommendation, it's partly because of Willard Pond. It's partly overall because of many different viewpoints of the project. Because even from Gregg Lake, from many of the vantage points, there would be a difference between seeing 8 turbines and 10 turbines, just in terms of the scale of the project and the proximity, of course, the proximity of the turbines to the pond, and partly because that limits the -- it also limits the amount of roadway this is required coming in close proximity to the Willard Preserve.
Q. Do you think that any of the roadway would be visible from this vantage point?
A. No, I don't think so.
Q. Okay. You see the tower to the left of the two turbines on the right-hand side in that picture?
A. Yes.
Q. Is that the met tower, or is that a cell tower that's existing? Do you know?
A. That's the proposed met tower.
Q. It's not the one that's there right now?
A. Oh, sorry. I'm trying to remember if we -- I think we -- I think it is the proposed -- it is the proposed met tower.
Q. Okay.
A. Yeah, because I think it would be -- the existing one wouldn't read on this photograph. They're very hard to pick up with a camera.
Q. Oh, are they -- well, it's harder to see, obviously, than the wind turbines.
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. So if I understand your testimony, it would be better if it had less turbines and the turbines were less high, that the visual impact would be less than it is now, but there would still be a visual impact.
A. Yes.
Q. Then your testimony is that that visual impact would no longer be unreasonable?
A. Well, that plus the other recommendations that I made. But yes.
Q. Okay. If the Applicant decided that -- let me start over.

If we made those conditions, and they
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had to build the shorter towers, and they had to eliminate two of them, and the Applicant decided that the project was no longer financially viable because the power generated by that configuration wouldn't exceed the cost of building it, would that be a good result, that the project would be eliminated?
A. So I think --

MR. ROTH: Madam Chairman, I know this is kind of unusual to object to a question by the Committee. But her expertise and her role is not to decide the ultimate policy question about whether a wind farm should or should not be built on this site. MS. BAILEY: I understand.

But I think she has lot of experience in wind-development siting, and I think she has an opinion about the value of wind energy.

BY MS. BAILEY:
Q. Do you have an opinion about the value of wind energy?
A. Well, I do.

MS. BAILEY: So I don't think
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it's an unreasonable question to ask her opinion. Perhaps the other chairman could help me out on this.

MR. ROTH: I'm not going to argue with you on this, but $I$ just wanted to voice my objection. I think it's perhaps going too far to ask her for that ultimate conclusion. That really is up to you.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: I think it's fair to ask her her point of view, if you want to pursue it.

BY MS. BAILEY:
Q. I'd like to know your point of view.
A. So one of the things that this project has made me think about is that it is somewhat unfortunate that, to me, as I look at this project, there were some big red flags there from the outset. I don't know if anybody ever said this to the developer. But if you compare this project with Lempster, they are night and day. Lempster is hardly visible from anywhere. It's the perfect project. Here we are, five miles, ten miles away, and this is a very, very different setting. So
my feeling is that -- and I guess what I feel sad about is that, had there been some kind of state agency that could look at this and say, Look, you've got some really red flags here. You might want to think about a different kind of project here, because a lot of time and money goes into the planning for these projects. And anybody could have looked at this. I don't think that what I'm saying is quite shocking -- exactly shocking. Looking at this compared to some other projects, it is -- you've got a lot of public resources.

And so I guess the answer to my question is: The reason I thought this was a good wind site generally is because it's near power. It's a ridge that isn't -- isn't too difficult, $I$ think, to get up on, in part.

But on the other hand, it's got some real
impacts. And I guess I think that this is
something that it would be nice to start that discussion a little bit earlier in the process to get a project that is
appropriately scaled to the site. And I
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think that's really important to do, because you're going to be -- well, there will be many more of these projects, and I think it's important to get them right. Because when you get them wrong, that's when the public is -- the wind energy doesn't fly. It's -so I guess that's my -- if that is clear. The basic answer is: This needs mitigation. And I'm sort of guessing that the changes can be made. But it would have been easier for them to have been made earlier in the process.
Q. Okay. Do you remember the conversation you had with Ms. Manzelli about defining "scenic views," and it was based on some research that was done in the '70s, I think you said?
A. Oh, yeah. I think I was talking about the U.S. Forest Service's methodology.
Q. And I think what I heard, or what I took away from that discussion -- and correct me if I'm wrong -- that's the question. The way we think about a scenic view -- the way the general population thinks of a scenic view is this definition that was based on how we
think of scenic views, how we thought of the scenic views in the '70s?
A. Okay. So what the -- there are a range of different principles and ways of seeing landscapes. They're not new. They probably go back to the days of the ancient Greeks and well before. They are the same principles that artists use in terms of looking at visual objects, visual places, whether it's towns, cities, countrysides. And so, I mean, just to give you an example that the U.S.

Forest Service uses, they have a -- to some -- the terminology has changed a little bit, but the idea is basically the same.

So there is a diversity or a variety rating. So, in other words, if you think about a flat forest, there's much less visual diversity in that than hills. You add a lake, you add a waterfall, something, you're increasing the visual diversity. So, I mean, that's an example of one of the basic principles. And that is what is sort of the basis for looking at landscapes and evaluating sort of the variety rating. They
have different categories of common landscapes. Minimal landscapes, which would be ones with a lot of, for example, industrial development; common landscapes, which would be sort of ordinary, maybe some woods or something like that. And "outstanding" isn't the word they use. It's something else. But those would be ones with a high degree of variety of things like diversity in slopes. They look at diversity of slopes, diversity of water features, diversity of vegetation, patterns of vegetation, field and forest maybe. That is one of the basic underlying principles. So it's very -- you can use that over and over again to look at whatever landscape you're looking at. Then you have to look at some of the detracting elements that come in. So there are a number of basic principles like that.

And then, to some extent, what the other -- one of the other considerations that is used by the Forest Service, that Mr. Guariglia talked about to some extent, was
the idea of contrast. You have an existing condition. You introduce something new. To what extent does it contrast with what's there in form, line, color, texture, something like that? And, of course, you know, wind energy projects have -- are fairly highly contrasting because they're located in highly visible locations on top of a ridge; they're white. On the other hand, one of the attributes of wind energy projects that helps them is that there is a kind of uniformity of the elements. You're not having a wind turbine next to a cell tower, next to a silo, next to $I$ don't know what. So there is something that tends to hold them together.

I'm sort of rambling a bit here and probably going way too far than I need to. But I guess the idea is that there are a number of basic principles that you can begin to look at, in terms of the degree to which your project will contrast with the existing conditions and how it affects that, the relative scenic quality of the existing condition. So, Willard Pond is a great
example; a landscape with high scenic quality; water; rocky; you know, hills up above; diverse vegetation; very little detracting elements.
Q. And do you know if any research has been done about how the public perceives wind towers when they're introduced into the scenery?
A. There has been some. Unfortunately, most of what I have seen to date has been focusing on much smaller turbines than -- they were the old ones. So there have been some books. There's one called Wind In View. But I have not found it particularly helpful because it's -- it looks at more situations that occur out in California, not the kind of situations we have here. So I am -unfortunately, I have not seen any great, what $I$ would consider to be really excellent studies of wind projects. And what we have here in New England is somewhat distinct because they are on these bigger ridges. We definitely need them. We need studies.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Mr. Iacopino.
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MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.
INTERROGATORIES BY MR. IACOPINO:
Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Vissering. I have a few questions for you, but first, just a couple of housekeeping ones to make sure I understand that I got it right.

You indicated in your -- during your cross-examination by Ms. Geiger, when she asked you to look at AWE 17, you referenced that you considered the designation of priority area for land conservation as being one of the criteria that came from the local government that informs your opinion about this particular project; correct?
A. It was informing my opinion particularly with regard to the question of the conservation that -- but yes.
Q. At that time, you also indicated that it was that and some other statewide initiatives. I'm just curious as to what those statewide initiatives are that you believe existed with respect --
A. Oh, that was the Quabbin-to-Cardigan that I referred to.
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Q. Okay. So it wasn't -- it was not the State of New Hampshire type of -- I mean, in other words, nothing -- no government-sponsored, state-sponsored initiative.
A. No. Various state agencies are involved in that, so it's not -- it's sort of state -it's a coalition, I think, of state and private entities and nonprofit entities.
Q. You indicated that, early on in your testimony, I think it may have even been during your direct testimony, that there was a Vermont project that had the same values and conservation measures as this one. Is that the Lowell project that you're talking about?
A. Yes, that $I$ was referring to.
Q. And yet, Lowell is roughly twice the size of this proposed project?
A. Yes. So you'd have to kind of take that into consideration in looking at what was recommended.
Q. And do you know what the turbine sizes are in Lowell?
A. They're using -- that's a very big mountain.

They're using the 3-megawatt, I think is what they ended up with. I don't know which turbine, though.
Q. And do you know what the turbine heights are in Lowell?
A. They are -- no. But they're probably comparable to what is being proposed here. But of course -- yeah, that was a very different situation, in terms of the -- how it was seen and the size of the mountain.
Q. Well, the ones here are almost 500 feet.
A. Yeah.
Q. Does that --
A. No, I know, and --
(Court Reporter interjects.)
Q. You worked on the Lowell project. Do you recall what the size of those turbines would be?
A. I think they amended their application after I was involved to use a different type of turbine. So I'm not exactly sure what's being proposed. But as I said, I think they're comparable to what is being proposed here in size.
Q. You also compared the Lowell project to the Sheffield project in Vermont. And you indicated that -- I thought you said that Sheffield's larger turbines required more construction impacts.
A. It was the opposite.
Q. Lowell?
A. It's the Lowell project, yeah.
Q. Okay.
A. Yeah, there's been a lot of discussion in the state, because one of the projects seemed to have far fewer impacts than the other. The Sheffield project had far fewer impacts than the Lowell project.
Q. And you attributed some of the difference between those two projects to the impacts of construction -- building the roads, building the turbine pads -- and that, I think, if I understood you correctly, you're asserting the proposition that there is more visibility of roads and turbine pads as a result of using these larger turbines.
A. I was -- the difference seems to be -- there is some more visibility with the Lowell
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project, but that's mostly because there are nearby high-elevation areas. Not very nearby, but six miles away. But it is seen from above.

But, no, the real differences seem to be simply in the effect on the mountain landscape itself, not necessarily from public vantage points, and which was interesting to me, less as a concern from sort of off-site aesthetics, as just lessons to be learned in terms of how to minimize the amount of regraded, altered landscape within a mountain setting.
Q. Okay. So you're sort of outside your area of expertise. You're actually talking about environmental issues and ecological issues.
A. Yes, exactly.
Q. Okay. So, from a visual impact, is -- let me understand. Is it your opinion that the larger turbines cause a larger visibility of both turbine pads and roads once a project is constructed, or not?
A. Yes. I mean, the reason $I$ was interested in this is that the more -- the larger the
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turbine pad has to be and the wider the roads, the greater the likelihood for any kind of off-site visibility even from below, because, depending on the terrain, you know, there's substantial cut and fill slopes involved with these projects. And so there is the potential for some exposure of cut and fill slopes, not just, as I said, turbine emerging from the forest, but actually seeing from another vantage point the cut and fill alteration. So, with that concern in mind visually, that's why $I$ was interested in the difference between those two projects.
Q. Did you do any comparison of, for instance, construction plans between those two projects?
A. I've been trying to get a hold of construction plans, and I've not been able -I actually have the Lowell ones, but I don't have the -- I don't have the Sheffield ones. And I've wanted to look at the differences.
Q. Have you done any analysis, for instance, of what the road widths will be at the end of construction between those two, the Sheffield
plant and the Lowell plant?
A. One of the differences seemed to have been that the -- at the Sheffield project, the turbine pads were very small because of a construction technique that they used which required only a single part of the turbine at a time. Each one was brought up, erected, and then another one. So the turbine pad didn't have to store every part of the turbine as it did at Lowell, so the turbine pads only needed to be large enough to hold a very small amount of equipment.
Q. But I guess my question is: Have you done any sort of analysis of what the actual, at the end of construction, what will be visible and what will not be on those two projects and then compared them to each other?
A. From off-site visibility, I have not at this point.
Q. Do you know what the after-construction road width is expected to be with respect to the Antrim project?
A. There's the access road. I know I've -- I was aware of these. I believe that the
access road was somewhere in the vicinity of something like 16 feet, finished.
Q. Okay.
A. The summit road --

MR. ROTH: Ms. Vissering, if I may, it's in your report on Page 2.

THE WITNESS: Thank you. I
knew it was in there.
(Witness reviews document.)
A. Yeah, the access road is 16 feet. And then it will extend to 30-foot wide, with a 9-foot crane path on either side it says, with additional widths required for clearing and grading. The crane path does get revegetated generally with the remaining 16-foot-wide road, though I --
Q. So the road width is expected to be 16 feet wide, for the most part, throughout the project. How does that compare with what you've observed at Lowell and Sheffield, I guess?
A. I think that it's pretty -- it's pretty identical to Lowell. And I don't know about Sheffield because, as I said, I haven't been
able to get a hold of the plans.
Q. You have indicated -- and I'm going to jump off of something that Ms. Bailey asked you.

You indicated during your direct examination that you've taught at the University of Vermont, I guess, courses in scenic quality, or that deal with scenic quality.
A. Yeah, Visual Resource Planning. Hmm-hmm.
Q. And you indicated that that sort of field of study is based upon the study of human perceptions of the viewscape, I guess; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. It's fair to say human perceptions change over time; isn't that correct?
A. To some extent. And they're also geographically based. I think one of the things in the research is it's often important as to whether you're talking about New England, California, out West. Those are different -- there are likely to be -- the same principles will be involved, but specific perceptions, for example, of timber
harvesting would be different.
Q. And are those changes in perceptions over time, are those studied in your field as well?
A. There's always research going on, in terms of people's perceptions. And, yes, they do change over time.
Q. Is acceptance of new things one of the things that lead to changes in perception?
A. Yes. And there's quite a few examples of that. But landscapes change. We have new technologies, and we do adapt to those.

Power lines have remained consistently unappealing. I will say that from the studies.
Q. But that's not this case.
A. Exactly. On the other hand, there certainly are -- I think new forms of technology do become more acceptable.
Q. Are there any studies in that regard, with regard to wind turbines, as far as you are aware?
A. The only study that $I$ am aware of is one with the Searsburg project, the old Searsburg
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project, which was -- the turbines were under 200 feet tall -- in which they did a survey. This was Jim Palmer, who was hired by the power company, Green Mountain Power I think it was, that developed the project. He did a pre-construction survey to find out people's attitudes and then did a post-construction survey to find out people's attitudes. And generally, the project appeared to be an increase in acceptability following the construction of the project.
Q. And was Mr. Palmer's paper peer-reviewed?
A. Yes. I think you could probably find it if you Googled it.
Q. I was told earlier today to "just Google" something. So I'll get good at that.

Okay. During the course of your testimony, you sort of indicated -- you didn't sort of -- you testified, and I think it's in your report as well, that you look at the places to assess based upon the values of the resource; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And you seem to have a list of what the
pertinent values are that you look for. And I think it's right in the beginning of your report, if $I$ can find it now. I think there are seven of them that you list on Page 4 of your visual impact assessment.
(Witness reviews document.)
A. Yes.
Q. In there you call them "visual sensitivities." Are those synonyms, "values" and "visual sensitivities"?
A. Yeah, I wanted to clarify, because what I looked for initially was not the value of the location, but the character of the area. So, what are its existing attributes, which may include -- which might include a value such as this is recreation area. So it has that -- that would be one of its particular values.

But then, this would be a way of looking at kind of sifting through some of the many, many viewpoints that -- and I think there were hundreds of them that were identified by Mr. Guariglia -- and say these are the ones that I want to focus on for these reasons,
that they have -- their value might go up because of certain attributes -- or the concern.
Q. You recognize that people in other endeavors may have a different list of values when they look at the same areas.
A. So, okay.
Q. I mean, is that true?
A. Well, yes. So, for example: I mean, I'm saying that it's used by the public. Obviously, there's people here for whom the fact that it's their home is a consideration, yes. But that's -- that, to me, is where I -- looking at the state resource or the concern to the state is focused.
Q. You recognize, though, that other people could look at the Willard ridge, and a logger would look at it and say, hey, I can make a lot of money by harvesting a whole bunch of timber off that ridge; right?
A. But the logger is not doing a visual impact assessment, and I am.
Q. I know. But you're saying that's based on values, though; right?
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A. I'm saying that it's based on visual values. And the visual values come out of -- the visual values come out of methodology of study of practice. So, while it's true -- I mean, $I$ actually am doing a timber harvest study right now for the State of Vermont, so I can relate to that.

But nevertheless, even in timber harvesting, foresters now are trained in aesthetic values. I mean, that is one of the considerations in forest harvesting that becomes important, because people care about it. And I think that what I'm trying to do here is look at the aesthetic attributes of the landscape and to make some determination based on a logical set of criteria as to what extent might this project -- this particular project, not a logging project, but this project affect the existing condition. And part of that has to be to understand how -part of understanding how much it might be affected would be these variables here. It would be affected because it's very close, because there's something unique about it,
because there's an extended duration -- these are all basic principles used in almost every methodology -- duration of view, that you can actually see the project.

And the reason that $I$ give a high -have a high concern about the natural setting is that, when you are in a setting, a built setting -- that's one of the reasons for the town center -- you're in a built setting or you're in among many other -- you're in a developed landscape. That's a different kind -- character of an area. There are places that have identified recreational, scenic or cultural values. That gives me some clues. They're identified as
"recreational" settings. So those are -those have to be the -- that's part of the sifting process.
Q. So you would use these same criteria if you were reviewing a wind farm, a logging plant or a housing development --
A. Yes.
Q. -- to be on that ridge?
A. Yes.
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Q. Okay. During your cross-examination by Ms. Geiger, I believe you were asked whether it's possible that on -- that the Gregg Lake simulations that you did and the Goodhue Hill simulations, whether another expert might view the impact differently. And I believe in those two cases you assigned a "moderate to significant" impact. And you indicated it's possible; is that right?
A. In any -- most visual impact assessments that I have seen, there are basically some similar criteria that are used for doing the visual assessment, which is very similar to mine. I mean, I think we can all agree what the character of the area is. We can certainly agree as to what will be seen. And these are the criteria that are often identified through many different methodologies as to why we -- why -- the degree of impact. And that's obviously where we disagree on the degree of impact.

My feeling is that I look at this, and I look -- based on my experience and my knowledge, $I$ try as best $I$ can to articulate
these are the impacts -- this is the resource, these are the impacts, and why. That's my job, to come to a conclusion and to back up that conclusion with some kind of logic.
Q. I understand what you did and the way that you came to your conclusion. The question $I$ thought was posed to you, and maybe I misunderstood the question, but was that, if somebody else applied the same criteria that you applied, that they could come up with a different classification for those two views, Gregg Lake and Goodhue Hill. In other words, you put them in the moderate to significant range. The way I understood your answer was someone else applying the same criteria as you might put them in the moderate range or maybe in the significant range. Is that the right way to understand your answer to the question?
A. I think, clearly, it's possible. You've probably had many people in front of you looking at the same resource and the same project --
Q. Actually, you're one of the most frequent.
A. Oh, dear. No, I mean, in my experience, that happens -- having sat on different sides of the table, and I have -- but I like to think that I can logically explain why I come to my conclusions.
Q. Right. But I guess my point that I'm getting at is another expert might come to a different conclusion, and using your same criteria be able to logically explain their conclusion; is that right? I mean, do you disagree with that? Or is your classification of "moderate to significant" the only classification that anybody with your expertise could come up with on viewing -- on assessing those impacts?
A. Oh, I see. Okay. Well, in terms of the "moderate to significant," that particular nomenclature --
Q. Well, any of your assessments. I mean, the question goes to any of your assessments. She happened to ask about those two.
A. Okay. So you're talking generally about the way I go about looking at --
Q. Yeah, but I'm not asking you to explain again, because I think you explained it well. The point is that, the way $I$ understood -and I may have misunderstood your answer before. But the way I understood your answer was that you conceded to Ms. Geiger that, applying the same criteria, you might come up with the classification that you did. And let's say you came up with moderate as opposed to being on the cusp of moderate to -- you might come up with moderate. But another expert might say it's minimal or might say it's significant, depending upon who the expert is, but using the same criteria.
A. I think that that is -- I think that it is definitely -- it is possible that somebody would come up with a different conclusion than I did. I would hope that they would have explained in detail why they came to that conclusion --
Q. Okay.
A. -- because I guess that's something I feel very strongly about. I need articulating the \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}

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| 1 |  | reasons in a way that somebody can |
| 2 |  | understand. The logic and rationale is |
| 3 |  | important. |
| 4 | Q. | And I agree with you. I guess my point, |
| 5 |  | though, is you do believe that it is possible |
| 6 |  | for two people, reasonably experienced like |
| 7 |  | yourself, to come up -- using the same |
| 8 |  | criteria, to come up with a different |
| 9 |  | classification at the end of the day. |
| 10 | A. | I've seen it in the past. |
| 11 | Q. | Okay. Also, and I just... you testified |
| 12 |  | about the unfragmented habitat being one of |
| 13 |  | the values for your assessment. And we heard |
| 14 |  | earlier in this proceeding about unfragmented |
| 15 |  | land in the context of wildlife and the |
| 16 |  | environment. I'm sure we're going to hear |
| 17 |  | more of that as well. |
| 18 |  | I just want to be sure. When you're |
| 19 |  | talking about "unfragmented habitat," you're |
| 20 |  | only talking about it from the visual |
| 21 |  | standpoint; is that correct? |
| 22 | A. | Yes. |
| 23 | Q. | Okay. And can you explain how the fact that |
| 24 |  | the -- all right. Let me back up. |

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It wouldn't -- you wouldn't want to get into an argument, then, whether or not the proposed project actually fragments the land up there from an ecological or environment standpoint.
A. Technically, that's not really my concern. So what is the concern with the unfragmented habitat, solely from the visual point of view? I mean, why is it that that becomes such as a value?
A. I was largely talking about that in connection with the easements. And the reason those become important visually is because of the importance of the ridgeline generally. Ridgelines in general, this one in particular, to a -- to the undisturbed forest habitat along that ridgeline is part of its visual appeal at the moment. It is something that is very different from seeing houses up there, for example. The undisturbed forest landscape is something that is visually important and that, to some extent from viewpoints, at least one viewpoint would be lost. But to the extent
that that is part of the compensation for the project on top of the hill, that would be a mitigation. In other words, we have the wind project, but at least the rest of the hill is not developed.
Q. You started off saying that your concern with the unfragmented habitat had to do with the easements. You're talking about the 625 -or 675 acres of easements that's been offered -- conservation easements that's been offered in the vicinity of the project?
A. I missed the first part of your question.
Q. You said -- when I asked you about the unfragmented habitat, you said you were talking about that in the context of easements.
A. That's correct.
Q. And the easements you're referencing are the 675 acres that --
A. Yes --
Q. -- has been set aside with the Harris Center.
A. Yes.
Q. All right. And actually, you seem to have both the quantitative and qualitative problem
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with those easements. You don't think that it's enough land, and you don't think that the easements are good enough, if I understand you correctly.
A. Yes, I think it's partly quantitative and it's partly qualitative, in the sense of it certainly is not an easement that doesn't prevent development, but it -- and it also doesn't protect the entire ridge.
Q. Okay. The easements, as I understand them, they permit logging and they permit the building of a single-family home on each parcel, I guess it is. Is that your understanding?
A. Yes.

MR. ROTH: Madam Chairman, I'm
sorry to interrupt Mr . Iacopino. We've been -- the witness has been on the stand for something like two hours now. I guess I would like to recommend that we take a break and give her and the reporter a small recess, not so $I$ can consult, just so everybody can have a break.

MR. IACOPINO: Well, I have
about five or ten minutes of questions.
MS. BAILEY: Does the reporter need a break?

THE COURT REPORTER: I'm okay.
MS. BAILEY: You're okay?
MR. ROTH: Ms. Vissering, are you all right for another five to ten minutes?

THE WITNESS: Yeah, that would be fine.

BY MR. IACOPINO:
Q. So, as I understand it, those are two of the issues that -- concerns that you have with the conservation easements that have been proposed.
A. Yes. And as you said earlier, the quantity or the extent of them, yes.
Q. With respect to the issues with the easements that have been proposed, what -- is it realistic to believe that building single-family homes somewhere on these parcels is going to have a visual impact if these turbines are built?
A. It's certainly possible. Are you suggesting
that because there's already turbines up there --
Q. Well, I think --
A. -- there's already an impact up there?
Q. Well, isn't what you told us, the concern with the turbines becomes the focal point when somebody observes the ridge from the various viewpoints?
A. So I guess -- I think maybe I could answer it this way: With a wind project, the idea of a wind project, but everything else is -retains the sort of condition of a natural, even if it's logged, forest is very different from houses in the high elevation. So I think one concern would be that -- would be that you'd be sort of, in addition to the wind project, adding new impacts, new visual impacts, in the form of visible houses.
Q. And what about the logging aspect of it? Does that --
A. I think the logging is pretty much consistent with the existing condition. It's a temporary -- it's a kind of temporary impact that over a few years tends to be very often \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
not particularly noticeable, and it evolves. It's green.
Q. If the easements had -- if the proposed easements had prohibited construction of a single-family home, but still permitted the logging, would that satisfy your qualitative concerns about the proposed easements?
A. I think if they were the kind of easements with no development, that would be an improvement. But I still have some concerns, as you indicated, with the --
Q. Quantity?
A. -- the quantity. Thank you. I'm losing it a little bit here.
Q. I only have a couple more questions.

You indicated that you believe that
Lempster is a great project because it's not visible from anywhere. Have you been out to the Lempster project?
A. I've been out a couple times.
Q. Have you ever had the opportunity to drive down Route 10?
A. Yes. It's definitely very visible from Route 10.
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Q. Have you ever had the opportunity to drive up County Road and go past the pond on County Road?
A. Is that the road that's sort of on the east side?
Q. If you're coming from Sunapee area, you bank a left at the little village. I don't -that's County Road.
A. I think I've been on it.

MR. ROTH: It goes towards the town of Washington.

MR. IACOPINO: Yes.
A. And I should say, I am aware that it's certainly visible.

BY MR. IACOPINO:
Q. Okay. What do you base the statement that it's "not visible from anywhere" or --
A. Nowhere --
Q. -- is it just some hyperbole?
A. No, no, no. What concerns me here, if this project were visible from some of the state roads and the town centers, I wouldn't -- I would not have many concerns at all. It is not visible -- there may be some slight
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visibility from the state park that's on the other side. But other than that, there is very -- that might be the only resource, sort of recreational resource, kind of highly -what $I$ would call a "visually sensitive resource" from which it is visible. Most of the road, there's already lots of development and there's power lines. This is a different context. This is not a place where from 25 lakes and trails there is necessarily high visibility. And I shouldn't -- especially in close proximity with all of the turbines. It's very hard to see all of those turbines from anyplace around there.
Q. Okay.
A. And -- excuse me -- there were already three, at least three cell towers on top of that hill to begin with, maybe two. So this was a hill that already had development on it.
Q. And then the last question $I$ have is -- you had mentioned being on the planning commission in your town, and you had suggested that there was some ability for the planning commission to do something to
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discourage housing development in an area like Willard -- the Willard Ridge. I'm sorry. What did I say? I'm sorry. Conservation commission is what your testimony was. I think the point you were making was that the Antrim Conservation Commission could take some action to discourage housing development in the area of this project on the ridge.
A. Oh, I did say -- at least I meant to say planning commission. That's what I'm on. They would be the governing body for development, unless we have a DRV in --
Q. So, sort of like a planning board. We have the Antrim Planning Board.
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Now, is that based upon your review of the rules, either site plan rules, subdivision regulation, zoning code or any anything in Antrim? Or is that just the general understanding that you have based upon your own experience?
A. So $I$ recall reading in the town plan, there is language about the -- trying to encourage,

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| 1 |  | especially in these areas, using the kinds of |
| 2 |  | tools like conservation subdivision, cluster |
| 3 |  | development, that kind of thing, as a method |
| 4 |  | for trying to avoid the impacts to the |
| 5 |  | sensitive landscapes in that -- in those |
| 6 |  | areas. |
| 7 | Q. | Okay. So you believe that there is something |
| 8 |  | in the Antrim ordinances that would provide |
| 9 |  | the planning board with that authority? |
| 10 | A. | They would have some tools. I mean, with |
| 11 |  | these techniques, they're -- you can't always |
| 12 |  | insist that somebody do it exactly the way |
| 13 |  | you want them to do it, obviously. |
| 14 | 2. | And I lied because I said I only have one |
| 15 |  | more question, but I do have one more. |
| 16 |  | With respect to your simulation on |
| 17 |  | Goodhue Hill, you testified that there was |
| 18 |  | obviously logging done in the vicinity of the |
| 19 |  | viewpoint. And I believe that that's not |
| 20 |  | that chart that you have up, but it's on one |
| 21 |  | of the charts that you have there. I believe |
| 22 |  | it's 1A. |
| 23 | A. | Yeah, there we go. |
| 24 | 2. | The top two. Okay. That's actually 1C. I'm |

sorry. 1D. That's actually 1D that you have up right now. The top two photographs were the ones that we're interested in. That's the Goodhue Hill viewpoint; correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And that's what you indicated had been recently logged?
A. Yes. That was an intentional logging by Audubon to clear that. It was within the confines of an old field. It was an old field, and they were clearing it for partly view reasons and partly ecological reasons.
Q. Okay. Well, that was going to be my question. How did you know it was done to create a view?
A. Oh, because I spoke with the caretaker at the Audubon.
Q. Do you know how long before the photograph was taken that it was actually cleared?
A. Very recently is my understanding. Within a year, I believe. I think it had been the summer before.
Q. If that had not been different than the view from that viewpoint -- I'm sorry.
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| 1 | If that had not been done, the view from |
| 2 | that viewpoint would have been significantly |
| 3 | different than presently existing in those |
| 4 | photographs; correct? |
| 5 | A. Certainly. Yes. |
| 6 | Q. I don't have any other questions. |
| 7 | MS. BAILEY: Okay. Now it's |
| 8 | time for our break. And then we're going to |
| 9 | have redirect, okay. Thank you very much. |
| 10 | MR. ROTH: Thank you. |
| 11 | MS. BAILEY: Let's come back |
| 12 | at 4:00. |
| 13 | (Whereupon a recess was taken at 3:49 |
| 14 | P.m., and the hearing resumed at 4:12 |
| 15 | P.m.) |
| 16 | MS. BAILEY: Okay. We're back |
| 17 | on the record, and we're going to have |
| 18 | redirect from Mr. Roth. |
| 19 | MR. ROTH: This is going to be |
| 20 | very brief, I hope. |
| 21 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION |
| 22 | BY MR. ROTH: |
| 23 | Q. Ms. Vissering, during Attorney Iacopino's |
| 24 | questions, he asked you about statewide |
|  | \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\} |


pre-construction/post-construction study for the Searsburg project. Do you think that the Searsburg project is comparable to this one?
A. That was the first Searsburg project, which was under 200 feet. So the turbines were not lit. They were very small. So it was certainly a single study done of a much earlier project.
Q. That was -- do you think that the study has any value or any valuable lessons for the Committee to consider with respect to this project in the town of Antrim?
A. I would be very hesitant to draw any conclusions based on one study at one particular site, just because every site is very different.
Q. Now, I also believe it was during Attorney Iacopino's questioning, there was a discussion about the degree of impact and whether other professionals such as yourself could reach a different conclusion following the same methodology. Do you remember that?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Do you think that another view about \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
this project than the one you reached would be correct?
A. No.
Q. Are you confident about that?
A. I feel very confident in my own conclusions.
Q. Okay. And was there -- as far as you know, is there any other visual impact study in this case where the same methodology was followed and a different conclusion was reached?
A. No, there's no other -- there was no other study that used the same methodology.
Q. And was any other -- did any other study using a different methodology reach different conclusions about specific resources in this case?
A. Well, there was the -- there was certainly the approach that Mr . Guariglia used that was based primarily on the -- I would say largely on the simulations and the amount of area from which the project would be visible.
Q. Okay. That's all I have for redirect. Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Thank you. Ms.
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Vissering, thank you for your testimony. You may be excused.

Okay. Let's prepare for Mr.
Tocci. I'm going to use the phone to call Mr. James so that he can listen on mute. (Pause in proceedings) (WHEREUPON, JAMES TOCCI was duly sworn and cautioned by the Court Reporter.) JAMES TOCCI, SWORN

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. ROTH:
Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Tocci. Or is it evening?
A. Close.
Q. I'd like to start with you introducing yourself. State your name and town of residence and occupation for the Committee to get to know you.
A. Yes. My name is Gregory C. Tocci, T-O-C-C-I.

I live in Sudbury, Massachusetts, at 30 Nobscot Road. I'm president of Cavanaugh Tocci Associates, and senior consultant -senior principal consultant with the firm.
Q. And what's your occupation?
A. Consulting engineer in acoustics.
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Q. Okay. And can you describe for the Committee some of your qualifications and experiences?
A. Yes. I'm a professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the state of Rhode Island. I am a board-certified noise-control engineer. I am a past president and first vice-president for board certification in the Institute of Noise Control Engineering. I'm a member and Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and past president of the National Council of Acoustical Consultants.
Q. And are you the same Greg Tocci that produced the testimony that's in this case and that's in front of you there, 1 believe, as PC 2 and PC 5?
A. Yes, I am.
Q. Okay. And to the best of your knowledge and information and belief, is the testimony that you gave in those documents true and correct?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. Is there anything in there, in those documents, that at the moment you can think of that you would like to correct or amend?
A. No, there isn't.
Q. Okay. And if you were to be asked today all the same questions that are -- that you answered in those testimonies, would you answer them the same today?
A. I believe I would, yes.
Q. All right. I would like to call your attention to some of the prefiled testimony that was filed -- the supplemental prefiled testimony that was filed by Mr. Rob O'Neal. Are you familiar with that testimony?
A. Yes, I am.
Q. I'm going to ask you a couple questions about some of the statements that Mr. O'Neal made about your testimony and ask you to respond or clarify, as the case may be.

Now, in his testimony on Page 6, he described that -- he asserts that the experience that people have with Mars Hill and Falmouth are not applicable to the Antrim Wind situation, and one of the reasons is that the turbines -- I believe it's the turbine blades will have different sound profiles because of the pitch control/stall
control issue. Would you comment on that.
A. He has indicated that as being the case for Falmouth, that the wind turbine in Falmouth is a stall-controlled blade. And unlike pitch-controlled blades, at a certain point that they -- the sound levels will increase with increasing wind velocity, where a pitch-controlled reaches a certain sound power level, and the sound power level remains constant with increasing velocity.
Q. And why is that distinction not really -- why does that not really matter?
A. Well, in any event, the qualitative characteristic of the complaints that have been issued by people in Falmouth certainly bear merit here. The turbines here are larger, although they are variable-pitch machines, so they will plateau. Sound levels at Falmouth under high wind conditions could be noisier than they are here. But at high wind conditions, $I$ don't have any further information on the characteristics of that turbine, however.
Q. Okay. Do you think that there's any
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comparability between the Mars Hill
configuration and the situation at the Antrim location?
A. More so in the sense that at Mars Hill, that, I believe, is also a variable-pitch turbine, but smaller in size than proposed here at Antrim.
Q. Okay. Mr. O'Neal also expressed the view that your technique of extending, if I'm getting this correctly, the sound energy from the machines proposed to be used in this case 40 percent more, because of their greater size than what was used in Falmouth, is not reasonable. Do you agree with that?
A. I disagree. I disagree. At some point there will be a point where the sound power from the Falmouth turbine would be proportionately less than that produced by the proposed turbines at Antrim.
Q. So if $I$ understand correctly, you think it's fair to sort of extrapolate based on the size of the turbine?
A. It's not unreasonable to expect that sound levels produced by the Antrim turbines would \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
be larger. But now having cited that the Falmouth turbines are stall-controlled and the complexity of sound power levels increase with the wind velocity obviously makes that much more complicated to say is it 40 percent, less or more.
Q. Now, you were here when Mr. O'Neal testified a couple weeks ago in some of his rebuttal to your supplemental prefiled testimony. And I want to call your attention to a couple things and see if there's anything you want to clarify.

In his testimony, Mr. O'Neal said that 15 decibels was never measured in the Antrim pre-construction studies done by you or by he. And can you explain your view on that?
A. It's true that it was never directly measured. However, when we corrected our noise data collected in an attended measurement during the night on one occasion, over the night, when we removed the sound produced by insects and a very small amount of sound produced by the microphone itself, we ended up with an estimated sound level of

15 decibels, or approximately 15 dBA.
Q. And he also seemed to express that it was extremely -- in his words, "extremely, extremely rare" that you would find baseline levels of sound between 15 and 19 decibels. Do you agree with that conclusion in this kind of circumstance, in this kind of location?
A. Well, in part. Obviously in a more built-up area, it be unusual to find sound levels this low. But we did find a sound level at two locations that are pretty far apart over the same evening. And so I'd say it's characteristic of this area and areas like it.
Q. Okay. That's all I have in this regard.

MR. ROTH: And the witness is now available for cross-examination.

MS. BAILEY: Thank you.
Mr. Froling.
MR. FROLING: No questions.
MS. BAILEY: Mr. Beblowski,
Mr. Jones, Ms. Sullivan. Ms. Longgood. MS. LONGGOOD: Hi. Yes, I
have a few questions.
CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MS. LONGGOOD :
Q. And again, my name is Janice Duly Longgood. I live at 156 Salmon Brook Road, which is very, very close to this project. Four of the turbines are within one mile of my home. And as I have read your testimony, it stated that the residential impact where the sound collector was on Salmon Brook is 800 feet away from where my driveway goes in. I am closer to the turbines than where the sound-collection unit was placed. I am closer in to the ridge. And it states that $I$ could have a significant residential impact. Can you explain to me, in your opinion, what will this be like for me with these turbines and the noise levels? And again, I apologize. I'm fairly ignorant about these kinds of matters.
A. As $I$ understand it, Salmon Brook Road is Location 3 in the study conducted by Epsilon. And I have determined that the baseline sound levels I've defined is about 32 dBA. So it's

|  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | very, very quiet. |
| 2 | Q. | It's extraordinarily quiet. |
| 3 | A. | And that if insects were removed from that 32 |
| 4 |  | dBA, that the adjusted background sound level |
| 5 |  | would be very low, comparable to what we |
| 6 |  | measured. And as $I$ understand it, the |
| 7 |  | turbine sound levels are expected to be 42 |
| 8 |  | dBA. That would be quite a large impact. |
| 9 |  | Now, the background sound level, though, at |
| 10 |  | this location -- Location 3 is 800 feet |
| 11 |  | away -- I would expect the background sound |
| 12 |  | levels at your residence would be about the |
| 13 |  | same as what -- as they were measured at |
| 14 |  | Location 3. |
| 15 | Q. | Although they were logging during that time. |
| 16 |  | It's been verified when they were doing that |
| 17 |  | during the day. I don't know if that would |
| 18 |  | have been taken into consideration, but -- |
| 19 | A. | That certainly would have contributed to |
| 20 |  | background sound levels. But the background |
| 21 |  | sound levels that Epsilon collected were over |
| 22 |  | two weeks, and the baseline sound level that |
| 23 |  | we used in looking at these data were mostly |
| 24 |  | nighttime sound levels. So I'd expect that |

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logging would not have been an issue here, that we're still talking about the low sound levels. And they wouldn't be any lower than what we've suggested in our first supplemental prefiled testimony.
Q. So if I read this chart correctly, you're stating that the sound level with AWE would be 42?
A. That is correct, if you're reading chart -Table 2.
Q. Yes, I am. Have you known of any folks that have had adverse impacts from that kind of sound level?
A. My understanding is that, from the literature, is that complaints of sound levels below 32 dBA are rare, and that above 30 dBA, the potential for complaints does exist. Now, in another document, I think it was the -- I don't have it in front of me. But I had looked at a study in the Netherlands, and from that construed that there would be a potential for complaints for sound levels as high as 40 or 42 dBA.
Q. Particularly since I've lived in this very
quiet environment for 28 years, I'm sure that this will have a significant impact; right?
A. The statistics say that, yes, some people will have complaints, yes.
Q. Hmm-hmm. And four of the turbines will be within a mile, the closest one being 3,000 and something feet from my home and 1,000 feet -- 1,800 feet from the property line. So, in your opinion, is there a collective effect of having that many turbines so close to my residence?
A. I don't think it's a matter of the number. It's the aggregate sound level at your residence, which I understand is 42 dBA. Whether that would be produced by one turbine or a number of turbines I'm not sure makes a difference. It's the fact that it's 42 dBA.
Q. Okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate the information.

MS. BAILEY: Thank you.
Mr. Stearns.
MR. STEARNS: No question.
MS. BAILEY: Ms. Pinello or
Mr. Levesque.
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MR. LEVESQUE: No questions. MS. BAILEY: Ms. Manzelli. MS. MANZELLI: No, thank you. MS. BAILEY: Ms. Allen. MS. ALLEN: No questions. MS. BAILEY: Mr. Block.

MR. BLOCK: Yes, thank you. CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. BLOCK :
Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Tocci.
A. Good afternoon.
Q. Let me find my notes here.

I read in your prefiled testimony, you
made a statement that, on Page 20, right after that Table 2, says, "I am... of the opinion that criteria found to be suitable for residential areas are not acceptable for wilderness areas valued for their quiet."
A. Could you point that out to me, please.
Q. It's Paragraph 14 on Page 20 of your
prefiled -- yeah, your supplemental
testimony.
A. Yes, I have it here.
Q. It's right under Table 2, first sentence \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}

Q. Would that be -- okay.

So the sound levels that I'm seeing here that you've projected in your Figure 2, if $I$ read this correctly, it looks after your adjusted baseline, and particularly Locations 2 and 3, Loveren Mill Road and Salmon Brook Road, look like they're extremely low; 19 and 17 decibels, respectively?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. That does make sense to me.

So if I'm reading this correctly, the final column in that impact, is that to be interpreted as basically the increase or difference that would happen after imposing the wind turbine noise on the -- on that environment? Is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. So I assume that the higher level you see on there, the more effect one would notice.
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Have you -- do you have any sense, or have you read any studies about people who live in these quiet areas, in terms of their
sensitivity to sound, are people who live in quiet areas more sensitive to sounds than people who live in, say, a residential or urban neighborhood?
A. I have no data to make that distinction. But it sounds reasonable if people move there for a quiet environment.
Q. So people might become accustomed to the quiet, who spend many years in that situation.
A. I imagine they could.
Q. Okay. That seems likely to me, too.

So you've got -- continuing on that page, you say that in wilderness areas within 4,000 feet of the facility, wind turbine sound will exceed the background by 25 decibels, 25 dBA. And then at the very bottom of that page you said, "Wind turbine sound would then dominate the acoustical environment in much of the remote area surrounding the AWE facilities, thus greatly diminishing the wilderness experience."
A. Yes.
Q. So do I understand from that, that it's your \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
opinion that the addition of sound of that wind turbine in that wilderness area is of significant concern?
A. Yes, I would say so, at times. Yes.
Q. One second, please.
(Pause in proceedings)
Q. Do you think that there -- do you know of any mitigation methods that might be applied to decrease that sound problem?
A. The only thing $I$ know of are curtailing operations and possibly feathering blades in order the reduce the power generation or noise generation, although $I$ can't say what that benefit would be.
Q. Okay. But it sounds like either of those situations would have an effect also on production output, I assume.
A. I would expect so, yes.
Q. All right. No further questions. Thank you very much.

MS. BAILEY: Thank you. Mr.
Kimball.
MR. KIMBALL: No questions.
MS. BAILEY: Ms. Linowes.
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MS. LINOWES: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MS.LINOWES:
Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Tocci.
A. Good afternoon.
Q. I have a number of questions for you. I'm going to be referencing a number of exhibits, and I'll just go down the list to make sure you have them.

The first would be your prefiled and supplemental testimony, PC 2 and 5. I'll be referencing Mr. O'Neal's report, which is the sound survey and the modeling, as well as four exhibits that $I$ submitted as part of the record; these will be IWAG-N1, N4, N8 and N7. Okay?
A. I assume $I$ have them here, but I don't have them in view.
Q. Okay.
(Discussion off the record between Atty.
Roth and Ms. Linowes.)
BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. Mr. O'Neal's testimony and his report -- I \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
just want to make sure we're clear on what he set out to do, and so let me just verify this with you.

There are two elements to his study. One was to measure the background sound levels pre-construction -- so, the current ambient back -- or background levels. Would you agree that's one component?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. And the second component is to model or predict the sound levels entered into the community once the project is operational. That would be the second element?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. Is there anything else that you recall that he did as part of his study, or would that cover it?
A. In general, $I$ would say that covers it.
Q. Okay. Now, your testimony, in reading it, I just want to understand your intent. Your -you conducted -- or you evaluated the pre-construction -- or the background noise study that he had done, as well as conducted some background noise levels yourself. Is \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}

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experience.
Q. Okay. Now, have you ever conducted post-construction noise monitoring at an operating commercial wind energy facility?
A. No, I have not.
Q. Have you been asked to conduct pre-construction noise-level surveys in advance of a potential wind energy facility, other than what you did today?
A. Yes, we have.
Q. Okay. And what projects -- those are the projects that you list in your testimony?
A. That's correct. There may be additional ones since then.
Q. Okay. And have those projects been built? You want me to go through --
A. No, I think maybe the -- why don't I take a look at the list. And you're citing a list in my prefiled?
Q. Yes, that's correct.
(Witness reviews document.)
A. Sorry. My prefiled testimony doesn't list projects. There is another document --
Q. It may -- oh, your resume? I remember seeing \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
it. I didn't intend to reference -- get the list, but it's okay.
A. It's listed in another document, but $I$ don't have it in front of me, at least as part of submitted exhibits.
Q. Okay. Well, Groton was one of them; right?
A. Yes, it was.
Q. But none of - maybe this will help.

Of those projects that you remember conducting pre-construction noise studies, to your knowledge, have you -- has anyone conducted a post-construction study on those projects do you know about -- that you know about?
A. Not that $I$ can recall.
Q. Okay. Now, are you familiar with the ISO 9613-2 standard?
A. Yes, I am.
Q. And have you -- are you familiar with the CadnaA software?
A. Yes, I am.
Q. And what is that?
A. CadnaA software is a computer program that allows the sound pressure level at receptor \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
locations to be determined on the basis of sound power levels produced by noise sources.
Q. To be determined or to be predicted?
A. No. The noise source has to be known. That data is entered into the model. The model is used to predict what the sound pressure level is at a receptor location.
Q. Okay. Thank you. And have you ever used that software?
A. Yes.
Q. Have you used it to model turbine noise propagation?
A. It may have been done by others in my firm, yes.
Q. But have you?
A. We've done several projects. And there have been associates of ours that used the software, but it was not under my direct supervision.
Q. Okay. Is that no?
A. So $I$ would say no.
Q. Okay. Now, I wanted to clear up some confusion that $I$ think I'm still having. On Page 5-1 of Mr. O'Neal's report, if you can
get -- bring that up --
A. Somebody want to point that out to me? MS. LINOWES: Mike, do you know the exhibit number?
A. I did bring a copy with me, if I'm allowed to use that.

MS. LINOWES: Mike, do you know the exhibit number? I'm sorry.

MR. IACOPINO: AWE 3,
Appendix 13A, electronic Document 25.
MS. LINOWES: Thank you.
BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. Now, on Page 5-1, under Section 5.2, he states, "An ambient sound level survey was conducted to characterize the current acoustical environment under varying wind conditions in the community." Is that -- do you see that?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. And then he goes on to say, "Current noise sources in the project area include: Noise from wind blowing through vegetation, birds, traffic," et cetera.
A. Yes.
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Q. Okay. Now, his study was entirely largely unattended. And was that the case of your study, too, or -- you did indicate you attended it at some point. Was it largely unattended?
A. We did two studies, one unattended and one nighttime study attended.
Q. How long was the attended?
A. It was about eight hours, I think.
Q. Mr. Tocci, if you conducted an attended study, why is there a need to do an unattended study?
A. There is a definite need for doing an unattended study. The purpose of these studies is to answer the question: How quiet does it get? Now, that's a matter of leaving a monitor out for quite a long time without measuring, gathering enough data. It's possible that, you know, a full view of how quiet it gets may not occur. Now, it is necessary in placing monitors to be -- to consider the environment, to make sure that there are no constant noise sources in the vicinity that might otherwise influence the \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
data. For example: Streams or mechanical equipment, distant traffic perhaps might be an issue.
Q. Okay. That's very helpful.

So you're stating that the purpose, just to reiterate, when -- is to actually go to the most quiet point. Discover the most quiet point, or as quiet as you can find within an area; is that correct?
A. Well, not exactly. I think I would -- that may be the case. But $I$ would say that when monitors are placed, they're placed with regard to where people occupy those areas, and certainly at a location that would be distant from any constant noise sources. So there is a judgment call that needs to be made.
Q. Okay. Then I'd like to draw your attention to Page 5-4 of Mr. O'Neal's study. And I'm at the bottom of the page. And if you look at -- it's 5.6.1. He has Location 1. Oh, I'll wait until you get there.
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Now, he says, "Sound levels at the L 1
monitor were influenced by vehicular traffic on Route 9, steady fan or water noise, leaf rustle, insect noise and bird calls." And then in the next -- leading into the next page, he says at the bottom, "The diurnal fluctuations in sound level... are very apparent at this location, driven mainly by engine and tire noise from traffic on

Route 9."
A. Yes, I agree with that.
Q. So, other than rain events -- I mean, it appears that he has picked a pretty -- a fairly noisy area. Would you -- from the sounds of his description.
A. If I could refer to... that's Location 1. When you say "noisy," that may be relative to other areas in this location. I would say it's among the noisier.
Q. Okay. Now, on Location L2, the next one, Loveren Road [sic] --
A. Yes.
Q. "L2 monitor was influenced by traffic noise along Route 9, aircraft, birds chirping, insect noise and rustling vegetation."
A. Yes.
Q. And then says, "The sound levels at this location are primarily controlled by the insect and bird noise in the area, as well as vehicular traffic..." One of the quieter areas that was monitored?
A. What $I$ want to be sure we all understand is that, when we characterize background sound level, we characterize it using the 90th percentile sound level. So, although you may have very noisy aircraft flying over at times or noisy traffic, that may not necessarily influence that 90 th percentile sound level statistic.
Q. Can we know that from what he wrote here?
A. Not from what he wrote.
Q. Okay.
A. It may be apparent in the data.
Q. And I will talk to you about that in a moment.

Now, in Location L3 --
A. Yes.
Q. -- here it appears that he says it was -- the L3 monitor was influenced by flowing water
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from a nearby brook, aircraft, distant traffic noise from Route 9, crackling branches and bird noise. Would you recommend someone site a monitor right near a brook, a flowing brook?
A. I'd be concerned about that as causing the background sound level to be misrepresented perhaps.
Q. Was that --
A. For one -- I'm sorry. Let me repeat.

I would say that water-flow noise could create a misrepresentation of the background sound over a wider area.
Q. And that was one of your concerns raised in the Groton project, wasn't it?
A. Yes, it was.
Q. Now if I could go to Location L4. Again, insect noise, distant vehicular traffic, occasional vehicles passing on Reed Carr Road. And it also states, "Daytime sound levels during the first week were influenced by deck construction at a residence." So, not necessarily the quietest area?
A. Well, again, we're looking at the 90th
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percentile sound level. And at Location 4, we had a baseline sound level of 29 dBA . So I would say that that would be a quiet sound level. These transient sounds occurred during the day and did not affect sound levels at night, although certainly insect noise would. Vehicular traffic, probably not. Aircraft, probably not.
Q. Now, he's stating that he picked up an L9 that ranged from 23 to 60.
A. Yes. That's quiet.
Q. Sixty?
A. No, 29.
Q. Oh, okay. So he said 23 to --
A. Twenty-three, yeah.
Q. Did I say 29?
A. I'm sorry. Yeah.
Q. Okay. And then again, similar, L5, where it states "traffic from Gregg Lake Road, insects, birds, dogs barking and mechanical noise from across the lake."

So, now the question. I just want to verify in his -- if you go to Page 5-3, he has the locations that he selected. And he
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states under L1, he did capture the broadband A-weighted noise, as well as the one-third octave band sound. This be would on L1.
A. Yes.
Q. For L2 and L3, he grabbed just the A-weighted?
A. Yes, I see that.
Q. L4, he grabbed the A-weighted and one-third octave band, and on $L 5$ he grabbed just the A-weighted. Do you see that?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. And just to complete his evaluation, the data that he collected, he only cited a met -- a wind measuring device at Location 5. Do you see that?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. Okay. All right. Now what I would like to do is call your attention to a document.

Let's see. It will be IWAG-N7. Have you seen this document before these proceedings?
A. Some of them I have. I don't --
Q. But this one in particular?

MR. ROTH: Do you have it?
A. Can you show it to me? I don't have it in
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front of me. Is it in the stack?
MR. IACOPINO: Which number is it?

MS . LINOWES: IWAG-N7.
(Pause in proceedings)
MS. LINOWES: Peter, I have a copy here.

MR. ROTH: Yeah, it doesn't seem to be in this binder.

BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. Cape Vincent was one of the projects you had worked on?
A. That's right.
Q. And do you know Paul Schomer?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. And had you seen this document?
A. I believe I have seen it. But it's been quite some time since $I$ looked at it.
Q. I should tell you it's quite a bit longer than what I have here. I just took the beginning portions, and then the ending is the analysis. I didn't...

Okay. I wanted to call your attention first to a paragraph that Mr. Schomer
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references. And I asked Mr. O'Neal about this as well. This is on the page before the last -- or the third page before the last -MR. IACOPINO: For our clarification, I have a 52-page document, okay. So --

MS. LINOWES: Oh, okay. I was saving copying costs.

MR. IACOPINO: Do you have page numbers?

MS. LINOWES: Page 34.
MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.
MS. LINOWES: It should have an italicized paragraph at the end, on the bottom of that page.

BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. So, Mr. Tocci, what Mr. Schomer is doing is citing a paragraph out of a paper written by George Hessler. Do you know George Hessler, or of him?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. Okay. And I want to first point to the very last sentence of that italicized paragraph. And what he is stating there is that -- and I
believe this is consistent with what you're saying -- that every baseline ambient sound survey, what it should be doing is identifying the lowest sound level that is consistently present and available to mask project noise. Do you see that?
A. I do.
Q. Okay. So would you agree with that?
A. Could I read it again, please?
Q. Yes. I read it -- it's a little bit odd, the wording. But, yeah, if you want to read it out loud, then --
A. Well, if I read the whole thing, it says -(Court Reporter interjects.)
A. "TO exclude certain contaminating noise and to correct measured sound levels for self-induced wind noise, it is necessary to record not only the A-weighted sound level, but also the octave band frequency content of the background sound level. For example: This approach allows the mathematical
subtraction of high-frequency insect noise from summertime survey results, yielding a modified A-weighted sound level that can be
used as a year-round design basis. Without this adjustment, one might easily overestimate the long-term background level, particularly the nighttime level that is present at the site. It is the lowest sound level that is consistently present and available to mask project noise that is sought in every baseline ambient sound survey." I would agree with that.
Q. And after we went through each location where Mr. O'Neal sited his monitor and the information that he was picking up at each monitor, did he -- do you think he agrees with this paragraph?
A. I can't speak for Mr. O'Neal.
Q. Did he follow Mr. Hessler's recommendations?
A. No, I don't think he did.
Q. Okay. And the A-weighted sound level he picked up at all five locations; yet, he only picked up the octave band, the one-third octave band at just two of the locations. So is it possible for him to make corrections at those locations with regard to insects, wind noise, wind-induced noise on the monitor, and
other corrections? Is it possible at three of the five locations?
A. I would say at those locations that he had and went through an octave band monitor, that he would have been able to make an insect correction -- correction for insect sound. I'm not sure about wind sounds.
Q. So at the other three, though, he would not be able to. Those would be part of the data?
A. That is correct, unless he were to create an adjustment and apply it.
Q. Okay. Now I want to call your attention now to Page 4 in that same document. Now, you had stated that you have seen this document. You believe you've seen this document. This document is a critique of a pre-construction noise survey -- background noise survey taken by -- that was conducted by George Hessler or Hessler \& Associates. Is that your understanding as well?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. Okay. So Mr. Schomer, on Page 4, states some of the concerns that he has with the study conducted by Hessler \& Associates at this
other wind project -- proposed wind project. And the first, which is $A$ on that page, states that Hessler chooses noisy positions at the sites, meaning that at each location where he could have placed his monitor, he placed it in noisy locations.
A. I see that he has said that.
Q. Is it -- in looking at what Mr. O'Neal did, was it -- does it appear that Mr . O'Neal may have done the same thing?
A. Well, in some cases -- again, I have not visited these locations. But he does cite sound levels that are constant. And there may be a concern in those locations that there could be sources of sound that may vary through the year or may be such that the background sound there might only be relevant to locations close to a river, for example.
Q. He goes on to say, "Hessler chooses noisy sites, not just locations within an area that he could put the monitor." But in general, he chose locations that are noisy. Could it be said -- can the same thing be said -- and he says "Hessler neglects" -- this is in the
middle of the paragraph -- "neglects to tell the reader that this site that he" -- one of the sites is the marshaling yard of heavy construction equipment for a large water project and less than 100 feet from part of a construction site; so the kind of activities that might inflate the background noise level."

MR. PATCH: I'm going to object to the question. I think the witness has already responded that he hasn't visited the site. So I don't think he's capable of answering this question. He hasn't visited the sites that Mr. O'Neal used for his study.

MS. LINOWES: Yeah, I'm not asking him -- I'm asking him based on a characterization of Mr. O'Neal's own characterization of the noises at the sites he's placed the monitor.
A. Well --

MS. BAILEY: Wait a minute, please.
(Discussion among Subcommittee Members off the record.)
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MS. BAILEY: I think this is in the nature of cross-examination. It is friendly cross, but I'm going to allow him to answer the question, to the extent he can answer it.

MS. LINOWES: Madam Chair, I don't consider my cross-examination friendly.

MS. BAILEY: Okay. Sorry.
MS. LINOWES: Thank you.
MR. IACOPINO: Do you want to withdraw your question?

MS. LINOWES: Sure, I think I'll withdraw the question, and I'll ask the next one then.

BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. The noisiest -- that Hessler chooses the noisiest time of year to conduct the study --

MR. IACOPINO: No, no. This wouldn't be fair. I'm sorry. I was joking when I said, "Do you want to withdraw your question?" It wouldn't be fair to not let you ask the question that the Chair has allowed you to ask. I'm sorry. So please reask your question. I'm sorry to bog things
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down here.
MS. LINOWES: But that's okay.
I'll move on.
BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. I'll just ask you to confirm it in terms of the time of year. Could there have been quieter times of the year when Mr. O'Neal conducted his study?
A. Yes, I would expect so.
Q. So -- oh, and the same being for Mr. O'Neal. Did I say Mr. Hessler? I meant to say Mr. O'Neal.
A. I thought you said Mr. O'Neal.
Q. I did.

MR. ROTH: You said Hessler.
MS. LINOWES: Oh, I did? It's
late. It's really late.
BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. Okay. Just bear with me for one second.

Okay. Now I wanted to talk about some questions that Mr. O'Neal had from the Committee about that -- let me just find it. He was asked, when the Committee was cross-examining him or asking questions of
him -- the question presented to him was:
"In your opinion, is it normal in your industry to take these sound measurements without correcting for insect noise and to report them without correcting for insect noise?

And he responded, "It has certainly been done both ways. We try to acknowledge, and we do in our report, that there were insects present. And there were certainly some times when the insects likely influenced the sound levels. But they're obviously part of the landscape... and you may correct for them; you may not. There doesn't -- you don't have to do it."

Based on what you understand of what you had stated already in terms of collecting background noise levels, is it true that the noise -- the acoustics industry does not recommend that insects be removed in a study like this?
A. I don't agree with that at all. I think that when it's possible to extract a clearly identifiable contributor to the environment
that is not a constant part of the environment, and where the background sound level that you're -- that is trying to be characterized is one that represents all the quietest times of year, as well as noisier times of year, it seems reasonable that a correction should be made for insect sound.
Q. So there is a standard.
A. I can't point to a standard that says you must do that.
Q. I'm sorry. Okay. I'll withdraw that question. That was not what I meant to ask.

There's an understanding, though, that if you're looking for a background noise study, you would do what you just stated.
A. That or re-measure it at a quieter time of year.
Q. Okay. Now I wanted to ask you a couple questions regarding wind-induced noise on the microphone.

The question had come up -- I had asked some questions of Mr. O'Neal. And one of the -- and I had asked him the size of the wind screen that he used, and he sort of
ballparked it and said about three to four inches. That sound like a standard-size wind screen?
A. Yes.
Q. And then there are larger wind screens?
A. There are.
Q. And the larger the wind screens, the better they are at resisting wind-induced noise?
A. At low frequencies, yes.
Q. And do you -- if you could, explain what wind-induced noise is and why that's a problem.
A. Wind blowing over a microphone without a wind screen produces turbulent buffeting of the membrane that transduces sound pressure into electric pressure -- or into electric signal. A wind screen keeps the air from actually buffeting against the microphone membrane; however, there still is low-frequency turbulence generated as wind blows by the wind screen. That low-frequency sound is received by the microphone, which is not able to distinguish between that and real
low-frequency sound from a distant source.

There has been a paper by, I think it's David Hessler, that showed that the performance of larger wind screens tends to be a little bit better in terms of reducing low-frequency sound produced by air buffeting in the downstream side of the wind screen.
Q. Now, with that, $I$ have a document that $I$ submitted as part of evidence -- or as an exhibit, rather. IWAG-N8, are you familiar with that document?
A. Not as you name it.
Q. Oh, it's titled, "Experimental Study to Determine Wind-Induced Noise and Wind Screen Attenuation Effects on Microphone Response for Environmental Wind Turbine and Other Applications."

MR. IACOPINO: Did you provide copies of that?

MS. LINOWES: Yes, I e-mailed that and gave you a copy of it. This was on November 2nd.

MR. PATCH: Could you state the cite again? Do you have extra copies? We don't have N8.
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MS. LINOWES: I don't have extra copies.

MR. ROTH: Oh-oh, you're going to be in trouble.

MS. LINOWES: I will -- it was -- I will bring extra copies tomorrow. I apologize. I e-mailed it to all the parties.
A. I believe I'm familiar with it. But I don't have it in front of me at this point.

BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. I'm really only going to talk about two paragraphs, if I can proceed.

MR. ROTH: Does he need to read it?

MS. LINOWES: No.
MR. IACOPINO: Is there not an original in the report?

MS. BAILEY: Off the record for a minute.
(Discussion off the record.)
MS. BAILEY: Okay. We're back on the record.

BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. Okay. I would like -- do you understand the \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
general study that was conducted?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. Okay. And I wanted you to just go to the Conclusions and Recommendations, which is the page before the last. And I'm going to read you the first paragraph, okay.

It states, "The data show that reasonably good results when measuring in low to moderate wind conditions are possible even with conventional 60-millimeter wind screens, but that a larger-diameter wind screen offers significantly better performance in the lower frequencies." Do you see that?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. Okay. And so the -- can you tell us what "low to moderate" wind conditions are? What is that, in general?
A. It defines it earlier in the paper. I have to look that up.
Q. That's okay. But is it 3 meters per second?
A. You want me to look through the paper to find it?
Q. No, that's -- so, basically, lower wind conditions than at an operating wind project
at full power.
A. Three meters per second would be a relatively low wind speed.
Q. Okay.

MR. PATCH: I don't think we know that it's 3 meters. So I'd just object. I think the witness offered to look through. And if there's someplace in the report that says that, then I wouldn't object, but -BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. Then do you want to check that? I believe it's on the first page of the report.
A. It says, "For wind turbine power project assessments, ambient sound levels when the wind is blowing in the $3-$ to 10-meter-per-second range, measured at 10 meters above the surface, is very relevant because that is when typical wind turbines first begin to generate significant noise." Does that answer your question?
Q. I'm not sure. I don't know if he's stating what "low to moderate" wind speeds are then. He's just stating the range at which the turbines operate in.
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A. Okay.
Q. So what would -- as an acoustician, what would you characterize as "low to moderate"?
A. Let me just continue. It says here,
"Consequently, background sound levels that occur during moderate winds are of the most interest. Reference 1 offers techniques for measuring wind turbine sources using a ground plane microphone setup to eliminate wind-induced noise, but background baseline measurements are made above grade with wind."

So far, he has not indicated what "moderate" means, other than to say that wind turbines typically begin their generation between 3 and 10 meters per second.
Q. Okay. So, then it goes on to the second paragraph under the Conclusions and Recommendations, and it talks about a special case. It says, "In the special case of background sound level surveys for wind turbine projects, where the objective is to determine the environmental sound level/masking level as a function of wind speed, the suggested practice, based on this
lab study, is to use a large 175-meter wind screen and mount the microphone at a maximum elevation of about 1 meter above grade." Do you see that?
A. I do.
Q. Now, the character -- if you were to talk about what Mr. O'Neal was doing, wasn't his study to look at the background sound level surveys for wind turbine projects? Wasn't he trying to recreate -- at least understand this special case?
A. Well, $I$ can't exactly speak for Mr. O'Neal. But the data that he gathered in his report was, I believe, 10 meters above grade at the ridgeline where winds could be considerably higher than where sound measurements were being conducted.

So this concept that you note here really applies to what noise might be produced at the microphone for a wind speed at that microphone location.
Q. So if you could look to Page 6-2 of Mr.

O'Neal's report.
(Witness reviews document.)
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Q. It appears where he's talking about the worst-case reference sound data... at 10-meter reference height for the Antrim turbines... do you see that?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. "...indicates that 7-meter-per-second winds will produce the worst-case sound levels." And then in the middle of that second paragraph he talks about 10 to 13 hours per location where the -- of 9.3 meters per second or higher wind speeds. Do you see that? So he was collecting data during high wind conditions to try to understand a worst-case scenario, similar to what is described here as the special case.
A. I do see -- I do see that sentence. And if I could read that, it says there were 10 to 13 hours per location of 9.3-meter-per-second wind speeds at a 57-meter height during the background measurement program, excluding precipitation.
Q. And then he goes on. He says he created two tables, an Leq and L90 sound levels, based on what he registered as worst-case wind speed.

Do you see that?
A. I see the table. Allow me to read the sentence that ties that together. It says, "The minimum, maximum, average and median background sound levels for each location under the highest wind turbine sound-producing conditions without precipitation are summarized in Tables 6-1 and 6-2."
Q. So does that sound like that special case that Mr. Hessler is talking about which says, "In the special case of background sound level surveys for wind turbine projects, where the objective is to determine the environmental sound level masking level as a function of wind speed," and then he goes on to talk about the suggested practice?
A. Well, it is complicated. There were a couple factors to consider here. One is that the wind speeds being measured were being measured at 10 meters above grade at the ridgeline, and those sound levels were collected in this table at the time that the ridgeline wind velocity was above 9.3 meters

the witness not to endure any further cross-examination from anybody, I nonetheless think it's fair for Ms. Linowes to ask Mr. Tocci, a sound expert, to critique Mr. O'Neal's work. Seems to me a reasonable path for cross-examination.

MS. BAILEY: Do you have anything to add, Ms. Linowes? MS. LINOWES: That's exactly what I'm trying to do. I think there's a lot of information about noise being brought here. He has already made comments that rather enhanced the record with regard to the background noise study. So I'm trying to get a better understanding of the overall background noise level and whether it was done -- whether the procedures that were followed are correct.

MS. BAILEY: Do you have
questions about his testimony as well?
MS. LINOWES: I do have some questions about his testimony.

MS. BAILEY: Okay. Just one
second, please.
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simple question [sic], and that is whether or not wind-induced contamina -- wind-induced data -- or wind noise on the microphone that is contaminating the data. If that's a non-issue, I'll just move on. But if you didn't have a wind device -- a monitoring device at your receptor, you may not know either.
A. I think it's not a significant factor for two reasons: One, many of these microphones were in relatively sheltered locations; and second, again, we were looking for the lowest background sound levels typically achieved in a 24-hour period over the several 24-hour periods measured, most likely when wind was at very low velocity even at the ridgeline.
Q. Which microphones -- excuse me. Which microphones were isolated? Because you had stated you did not visit the other sites. Are you talking about your own?
A. That is correct. I did not even visit my own. That was done by other staff members of my firm. But $I$ assume that the description for these appeared that they were not open
areas.
Q. For which ones?
A. Well, let's read them through them all --
Q. You're talking about Mr. O'Neal's?
A. Mr. O'Neal's and our --
Q. But you didn't see them --
A. No, I did not see them --
Q. So you don't really know --
(Court Reporter interjects.)
MS. BAILEY: Ms. Linowes,
you've got to remember the court reporter, please.

BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. Okay. I'll move on.

Now, Mr. Tocci, I want to look at the table that you had referenced earlier. This is in your supplemental testimony. I'll get you the page in a second. But it's at the end of your supplemental testimony that Ms.

Longgood and also Mr. Block had asked you
about. It's on Page 20 in the
October 11th --
A. Yes, I have it.
Q. Okay. Now, before I ask you questions about \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
the numbers that are here, you make -- you used the term "annoyed" in your commentary. Do you see that?
A. I do.
Q. Okay. Now, I'm wondering, as an acoustician, can you give us either a quantification or a qualification of the term "annoyed"? Because I think that in a layperson's mind that might mean something different from what you might be thinking. Can you tell us what "annoyed" means?
A. "Annoyed," as it's usually used in surveys, is a self-reported characteristic or a self-reported reaction to sound by individuals in a community. So it may not mean the same thing to any two persons, but it is -- and for that reason it's quite subjective. And I can't tie a specific number in any way to the term "annoyed".
Q. Do you know Dr. Alice Suter?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. You know of her, or you actually know her?
A. I've met her, yes.
Q. She actually defined the term, and I'm
wondering if you would allow me to read to you what she has written.
A. Sure.
Q. Okay. She wrote, "'Annoyance' has been the term used to describe the community's collective feelings about noise ever since the early noise surveys in the 1950s and 1960s, although some have suggested that this term tends to minimize the impact."

Does that sound -- that sounds familiar?
Have you ever read that?
A. I think I have read that.
Q. And she goes on to say, "While 'aversion' or 'distress' might be more appropriate descriptors, their use would make comparisons to previous research difficult." And then finally she says, "It should be clear, however, that annoyance can connote more than a slight irritation. It can mean a significant degradation in the quality of life. This represents a degradation of health in accordance with the World Health Organization's definition of health, meaning total physical and mental well-being, as well
as the absence of disease." That's what she says "annoyance" can mean.
A. Yes.
Q. Do you agree with that?
A. Yes, in part. Most community survey data that I have seen uses the term, or tries to collect the reaction of communities using the terms "annoyance" or "annoyed" and "highly annoyed."
Q. Okay. So when you say, "significant residential impact, 25-percent chance of residents annoyed" -- and this is on Location 2 --
A. Yes.
Q. -- and you also use it elsewhere -- it could mean a significant impact on those people; correct?
A. That term, as it was used, the data that was used was taken from the Netherlands study by Pedersen. So those terms need to be looked at in the context of that particular study.
Q. You're using them. But can you help -- can you define them, or you can't define them?
A. I don't think $I$ can define them. I think \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
that, again, that's a self-reported characteristic that was collected in the survey conducted by Pedersen.
Q. All right. So now $I$ want to ask you about these numbers that you have here. On the baseline you have for each location -- I'm going to ignore the two that you had introduced, the Gregg Lake and Willard Pond. I don't understand where these numbers came from. These numbers do not correspond to any numbers that $I$ could see from Table 6-2 of Epsilon's report. Maybe I misread that. Your footnote says they're from Table 6-2.
A. Which column are you referring to?
Q. Baseline.
A. Baseline. No, that doesn't directly come from the Epsilon report. Epsilon had provided to me the noise data that they collected, all of the data samples, and then I used that data sample set and calculated or determined my own baseline. And that's explained here in the -- on Page 19.
Q. So this data on Location 1 , he had collected octave data. Did you subtract out the
insects?
A. No, I did not.
Q. So your statement here, going across Line 1, is you took his data, including the insects, including the traffic noise and whatever else was included there. So you did not remove the insect data, and you proceeded to say that there will be no residential impact between the base -- because the baseline would equal the post-construction operating wind noise -- wind turbine emissions. Is that what you did?
A. That's right. I had no information, or at the time wasn't aware of any information that I had that would allow me to subtract insect noise. And I think I described that as "insect or other indigenous sound adjustment could not be determined from the data presented." So I wasn't able to do that. Or maybe I overlooked something. But I was not able to make that correction.
Q. Should anyone who resides near this location take comfort in the fact that you're saying that there will be no residential impact in
this location?
A. I would suggest that, as we had done quite a while ago, that background sound should be reassessed during times of when there is no insect noise present in order to cover that circumstance.
Q. So, can you answer my question?
A. Could you repeat the question, please?
Q. Anyone who lives at Location 1, should they take comfort in the fact that you are stating there will be no residential impact in your testimony?
A. Not necessarily. I would say no, because there was no insect-removal adjustment made.
Q. Okay. Looking at line -- Location 2, your baseline again, based on the data that you were given by Epsilon --
A. Yes.
Q. -- there was no octave data at Location 2. How did you qualify making this adjustment?
A. What I did was look at the data that was contained in the report prepared by -- the sound-level assessment report prepared by Epsilon. And one thing was puzzling about \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
the data. The data had reversed diurnal pattern -- in other words, it was noisier during the night than it was during the day. And I simply said that, well, all of that difference would be the result of insect sound. So I simply made an estimate using that data and said, well, what is a reasonable nighttime sound level, by looking at the daytime sound level and estimating what a nighttime sound level might be. And I thought that the 15 -decibel reduction that $I$ applied to account for removing insect sound was probably a modest reduction.
Q. You didn't notice that same kind of diurnal/nocturnal difference at Location 1?
A. No, I did not.
Q. But $I$ take it you noticed it at Location 3?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. Now, there was no octave data at Location 3 either; is that correct?
A. I'd have to go back and look at the report and see. I don't recall.
Q. Now, at Location 4 there was octave data. You made no adjustment.
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A. That's correct. I did not.
Q. And so you're saying your Location 4, you're seeing -- you came up with a baseline of 29 , no adjustment compared to AWE's -- I take it their predicted noise level at 39 dBA?
A. That's correct.
Q. But you don't -- this is comparable to Location 1.
A. It is. And again, there was no insect sound observable in the A-weighted data.
Q. Did it occur to you to call Epsilon and ask them? Or perhaps you did. Maybe you did. I'm sorry. I don't want to --
A. I have not spoken to them about insect data -- the insect noise in their data.
Q. So this document table that you put together for October 11th, when did you conduct your own noise-level studies? You did those before -- that was all part of your supplemental testimony.
A. Yes, it was.
Q. And yet, you proceeded to produce this table without looking for additional information, after having been out there collecting your \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
own data? I guess I'm confused why you did that. How is this table informative to anyone?
A. Well, it is informative. It has the data that we collected at night. It showed that Locations 1 and 4 and 5, there was no evidence of a reverse diurnal pattern that was evident at Locations 2 and 3.
Q. But if you had understood that insect data was dominating those times of day, and if you understood that he had the octave data, why not just get that data?
A. I was -- I neglected to get that data. I may have it, I may not. I'd have to look for it.
Q. So -- okay. Now, when you state under your Comments -- I'm going to look at Location 3 for a second -- "significant residential impact," and then you state " 25 percent and 18 percent," you're saying that's based on that paper?
A. That's right.
Q. The Pedersen paper?
A. Indirectly what $I$ did was $I$ used the Pedersen paper to estimate the possible likelihood of
residents being "annoyed" or "very annoyed," and applied that to ranges of sound that were determined for Antrim.
Q. Okay. And now, Mr. Tocci, you said that you have not run the CadnaA software to do predictive modeling --
A. No, not for Antrim.
Q. -- on wind turbines.
A. Not for Antrim.
Q. And you're comfortable with the modeling that's been done, the results?
A. I would say I'd be comfortable with it, yes.
Q. And -- okay. I'll get to some of those other questions about modeling with Mr. James.

Now, I just have another quick set of questions and then I'm done.

In cross-examination by the Committee in the transcript, Mr. O'Neal was asked about the noise levels. And he goes on to say that the noise levels that are being predicted are outside the house. So at 40 decibels, 35 decibels, you should subtract 10 to 15 additional decibels to estimate what it will be inside someone's home. Windows open, you
can subtract 10; windows closed, especially here in New Hampshire, at least 15; so, 40 decibels becomes 25 to 30 in the home. So my question to you is: Does that level of attenuation apply to all sounds in the spectrum, from low to high frequency?
A. No, it doesn't.
Q. Can you elaborate? What would be the difference?
A. Low-frequency sound transmission into a building tends to be greater. In other words, the noise reduction capability of a building is a little bit less at low frequencies than it is at high frequencies for closed-window conditions. Open-window conditions are a little more complicated than that.
Q. Now, just so we're clear, we're talking about low-frequency, audible noise.
A. That is correct.
Q. Hmm-hmm. Okay. And we have often heard -wind developers will often say that when you're outside, the wind is blowing, turbines are operating, the sound of the wind will
mask the sound of the turbines. When you're inside, does the sound -- you don't have the wind blowing in a quiet bedroom. So you can -- can you hear that noise when you're in the bedroom, even if it's not necessarily a low frequency?
A. Well, it depends upon how loud it is outdoors and what the noise-reduction capabilities of the building facade are. And if it's loud enough, yes, you would hear it inside.
Q. Okay. Are you aware that -- you know some of the work that Rob Brandt and Stephen Ambrose did down in Falmouth. You've read their report.
A. Yes, I have.
Q. And are you aware that they found cases where houses that had great rooms and large open areas tended to have more of a problem with sound turbine noise than those which had more walls and closed-in areas?
A. Yes, I understand that's what he has said.
Q. Can you explain why that might be the case?
A. Be a bit speculative. But I had discussed this with Stephen Ambrose and had suggested
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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | through the roof. Is there a difference in |
| 2 |  | how that might enter the house, or are the -- |
| 3 |  | how it might be attenuated? |
| 4 | A. | Well, every facade component has a different |
| 5 |  | sound-transmission capability, and so it |
| 6 |  | would matter a very small amount. |
| 7 | Q. | Including through a fireplace or a chimney? |
| 8 | A. | Yes. |
| 9 | Q. | Open spaces? |
| 10 | A. | Could be issues. |
| 11 | Q. | So this is a noise, actually, depending on |
| 12 |  | the location, the entry point could be |
| 13 |  | different than if it were -- the expectation |
| 14 |  | is it's coming from the walls -- through the |
| 15 |  | walls. |
| 16 | A. | If I understand correctly, you're wondering |
| 17 |  | if noise sources low to the ground exposing a |
| 18 |  | wall surface, as opposed to being above the |
| 19 |  | building and exposing the roof and chimney, |
| 20 |  | would there be a difference. There could be |
| 21 |  | a difference, yes. |
| 22 | Q. | Okay. And then two last questions, and I'm |
| 23 |  | done. |
| 24 |  | Okay. I want to reference IWAG-N4. And |
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Okay. And this report, on the first page under Introduction, he states, "Low-frequency noise, considered as the frequency range from 10 hertz to 200 hertz, causes extreme distress to a number of people who are sensitive to its effects." Are you -- do you agree with that?
A. At a high enough level, yes, I would.
Q. At a high enough level what?
A. High enough sound level in that frequency band, frequency range.
Q. Okay. And then he also states, "Attempts to assess low-frequency noise" -- I'm sorry. This is on the second page, the second paragraph. "Attempts to assess low-frequency noise by conventional wide-band noise methods often fail, illustrating the inadequacy of these methods for low frequency" -- "often fail, so illustrating the inadequacy of these methods for low frequencies."
A. Yes, he says that.
Q. Okay. So, and then says, "In particular, the regulatory dominance of A-weighted levels leads to dismissal of valid problems with low
frequency, so compounding the difficulties of some complaints."

Is it possible that a wind project can be operational -- can be operating entirely within compliance, as in not above 45 decibels A-weighted, not above 50 decibels A-weighted, but still have a significant impact on people living nearby because of the low frequencies?
A. For the A-weighted limits that you've cited, 45 and 50 dBA, I'd say there is a possibility that low-frequency sound could be problematic in those communities.
Q. And yet go unnoticed because the sound measurements were done A-weighted.
A. It would be perceived perhaps by persons who would then complain about it. But it may not be adequately controlled or identified through an A-weighted sound measurement.
Q. Last question. When Mr. O'Neal was on the witness stand, I had asked him if he could -if there was anything that existed in nature that was 107 decibels, which was the loudest noise level coming from the Acciona turbine.

He said "nothing in nature." So I asked, was there something mechanical or man-made, and he had said what came to mind to him was a cooling tower on top of a library.

Is that the first thing you think of when you think about 107 decibels sound power level?
A. Well, 107-decibel sound power level is not particularly loud, necessarily. It's all relative. Cooling tower probably doesn't get quite that loud. But don't confuse sound power level with sound pressure level.
Q. I understand. I asked him to map it to an existing thing that makes that -- that has that sound power level.

Can you give us something so we understand, so people in this room can understand what 107-decibel sound power level sounds like -- might sound like?
A. Sure. Let me give an example here. If I remember correctly, a pretty well-enclosed emergency generator operating might have a sound power level of 107 dB . Now --
Q. What is that? What is that?
A. Emergency generator. It's a diesel engine driving an electric generator. It's used to generate sound power for -- I'm sorry -- it's used to generate electricity for facilities during times when there are power outages. I use that only as an example. Certainly, without any enclosure, the sound power levels are considerably higher. But the point is, an emergency generator at 107 sound power level, you still might be walking in that area, within say 100 feet of it, and would perceive a sound level that's considerably higher than you would for a 107 power -- 107 dBA sound power level of a turbine located hundreds or thousands of feet away on the top of a mountain ridge. So you have to be a little careful about making comparisons like that, because what people perceive is sound pressure level. Sound power levels is the capacity of a source generating sound energy. Did I answer your question?
Q. Not at all. But I'll move on. Thank you. MS. BAILEY: Okay. Before we get started with Mr. Patch, does everybody
just want to take a five-minute stand-up break? Because we have about another hour to go and -- let's make this a short break, okay. Thank you.
(Recess taken at 5:53 p.m., and the hearing resumed at 6:05 p.m.)

MS. BAILEY: Okay. We're back on the record, and we're going to start with cross-examination by Mr. Patch.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. PATCH:
Q. Mr. Tocci, I have a couple follow-up questions based on some of your responses to questions you've already been asked on cross.

First of all, Ms. Longgood asked you a question. I think it was basically to the effect that, would she hear some noise from all of the turbines. I don't remember if you remember her asking a question related to that.
A. I do.
Q. And the predicted modeling that Epsilon did actually makes a very conservative
assumption, doesn't it?
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A. In what way?
Q. Well, I'm looking at 7.2 of their report, Page 7-2. And it says, "Sound levels were computed assuming that the receptors are always located directly downwind from all turbines simultaneously." Do you remember reviewing that in the report?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. And isn't that a pretty conservative assumption, because does that ever actually happen?
A. No, it doesn't happen. It's the requirement of ISO 9613-2.
Q. Okay. But it's still a pretty conservative assumption, isn't it?
A. It is conservative with respect to wind direction.
Q. You had an exchange with Ms. Linowes that I found to be very confusing. Maybe I'm the only one that found that. But I want to go back and revisit that. And she ended up saying that she took that as a "Yes" answer to her question, and I wasn't sure there was -- and this was actually an exchange that
related to essentially the larger -- or the longer the blades, the higher the low frequency. And I wonder if you could just explain again what it was you were trying to say about that particular issue.
A. No, it was not the higher the low frequency. It was the longer the blades, the slower the rotation rate, the lower the blade passage frequency. Whether it's higher or lower is another matter altogether.
Q. And so what's the impact on low frequency, then, of longer blades, lower RPM?
A. Longer blades, lower RPM, would suggest that low frequencies are being generated that may be well out of the audible range, but may have some other anatomical responses that are as yet not well quantified in the literature.
Q. I want to go back to the chart that she asked you some questions about. I think it's on Page 19 of your supplemental testimony.

MR. ROTH: Page 20?
MR. PATCH: Page 20. Sorry.
BY MR. PATCH:
Q. And I want to make sure I understand how that
right-hand, far right column entitled, "Comment" was arrived at, because it has some very specific percentages in there. And it refers to "annoyance." And I think you said "annoyance" generally tends to be self-reported. So I'm just having a hard time understanding. If "annoyance" is self-reported, then how do you get to the percentages that you have in that right-hand column? The whole thing is just very confusing to me, and I thought you could maybe try to explain that.
A. Sure. I don't know if you have this, but on Page 6 of my response to the Applicant's first set of consolidated requests, I have a discussion of a paper by Pedersen called, "Pedersen 2009." It's a paper discussing the impact of sound produced by wind farms in the Netherlands. That table -- do you have that available?
Q. I do.
A. That table reports, in Column A, contour ranges below 30 dBA, 30 to 35,35 to 40 , and it says "Contour ranges of Antrim Wind sound
levels." Then I have on Column B the number of structures in the contour range. Then I have Column $C$, the corresponding LDN ranges that correspond to the sound levels produced by Antrim. Now, obviously there is an assumption there that Antrim Wind wind turbines are operating constantly in order to determine the corresponding LDN ranges. Now, the reason why this is important is because that allows me to use the results of the Pedersen paper to indicate what the percent "annoyed" and percent "very annoyed" are in Columns $D$ and $C$.

MR. IACOPINO: Before you do that, can you explain to us again what you're looking at? What document?

THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm
looking at a document that I prepared entitled, "Gregory C. Tocci Response to Applicant's First Set of Consolidated Data Requests Propounded on Witnesses for Counsel for the Public."

MR. IACOPINO: Does this have
an exhibit number or --
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MR. ROTH: That was not provided as an exhibit.

MR. IACOPINO: Proceed.
MR. ROTH: I can do so if you wish, but not tonight.

MR. IACOPINO: Why don't we proceed.
A. The percentages that are reported in the table are those taken from the ranges of sound level in Column $A$ and the percentages in Columns $D$ and C. So, for example: When a sound level falls between 30 and 35 dBA , the range of percent "annoyed" or "very annoyed" is 8 to 20 -- 8 to 2 -- 2 to 8 percent.
Q. I mean, as you say in that response, though, the percentages that Pedersen came up with were based on a 37-percent response rate from those to whom surveys were sent.
A. That's right.
Q. So maybe, I guess, that calculates out to about 63 percent that didn't respond. Maybe because they weren't annoyed?
A. I had mentioned that it is unlikely to think that they weren't annoyed entirely. And so \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}

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indicated, I think, the Baseline column, the first column after the Locations, that those numbers -- the footnote says "From Table 6-2 of the Epsilon November 2011 report." And as Ms. Linowes already asked you, those aren't actually the numbers from that table in the Epsilon report that you indicated; right?
A. No, not exactly. It's the data from the Epsilon report, which was the data that was shown plotted in the Epsilon report. I used that data in a spreadsheet form to compute the second column in Table 2.
Q. And so how did you get that -- I guess I don't understand how you came up with these numbers then. You took the data that was the basis for Table 6-2, and then you did some calculation and came up with those baseline numbers that you have here.
A. Sure. The baseline numbers are explained on Page 19. It says, "To accommodate scatter observed in measured data, the baseline sound level is defined as the 90th percentile of the 10-minute interval, insect-corrected, background sound levels measured when the
average 57-meter above-grade-level wind speed exceeds 9.3 meters per second."
Q. So that explains how you got the numbers in that baseline column?
A. It does.
Q. Insect-corrected. But I thought from the next column that some of them -- it says "insect-removal adjustment, zero."
(Witness reviews document.)
A. In the Locations 1, 4 and 5, 1 did not see a reverse diurnal pattern that suggested insect noise was a significant contributor at those locations.
Q. For at least those locations, it wasn't insect-corrected then.
A. I did not insect-correct at those locations, no.
Q. That table, again on Page 20 of your testimony, I don't see anywhere in your testimony that you actually reference it. You sort of interpret it. So I was just trying to understand what the purpose of the table was.
A. The purpose of the table was to provide some \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
subjective response that residents might have to wind turbine sound at those locations, the locations indicated.
Q. Okay. I want to shift gears a bit here.

In your supplemental testimony, PC 5, Page 9, you say that the measurements you did in August show that insects -- "insect noise raises sound levels at Gregg Lake and Willard Pond by 20 to 25 dBA at night, and that insect noise tends to go away during the day." Do I have that correct?
A. That's correct.
Q. If that's the case, then why aren't the day numbers that you're testing show the appropriate background numbers to use?
A. Could you clarify the question? I don't quite understand it.
Q. Well, I mean, you seem to be suggesting that insect noise was really only an issue at night. So then, shouldn't the day numbers that you accumulated be the ones that would be the appropriate background numbers to use?
A. If I could -- I'm not sure I understand the question. You may be right, but $I$ don't
quite understand the question.
Q. Your daytime numbers basically don't have any insect contamination, do they?
A. They might have some.
Q. But I thought you said in your testimony that it was basically a night issue, not a day issue.
A. It's mostly a night issue, yes, but not entirely.
Q. Then maybe you want to explain what you mean by "not entirely."
A. If you look at... well, in our own data, I'd just like to point out, for example, in Figure 2A, if you look at midnight, consistently sound levels at midnight are considerably higher than during the day. That doesn't necessarily mean there are no insects during the day. But certainly, insects sound predominates at night.
Q. One of the basic premises of your supplemental testimony seems to be that ambient noise levels in this area get down to 14 to 15 dBA -- for example, on Page 9, where you say, "In the absence of insect noise,
background sound levels would average 15 dBA." Do I have that correct?
A.

Yes.
Q. Are you saying that that happens consistently, that the ambient noise levels in this area, and I'd suggest during the day, get down to 14 to 15 dBA consistently?
A. The data that's presented here is for nighttime sound levels. What happens during the day, we've not done insect-corrected sound data during the day. So I can't say that extends into the day. But the data we presented, computations we did were only for nighttime data that we collected on that one occasion.
Q. So you're saying consistently at night, then, the background levels get down to 14,15 dBA?
A. By "consistent," I'm referring to the fact that from 10-minute sample to 10-minute sample, sound levels were consistently 14 to 15 dBA.
Q. Have you actually ever measured such low levels? I mean, this is just an estimate that you're doing; right?
A. Well, this is measurements that were actual measurements with insect-correction applied, a small amount of noise reduction applied. But yes, on occasions we've measured sound levels as low as 17 dBA outdoors. But it's not often.
Q. And so 15 would be a pretty rare occurrence, wouldn't it?
A. I would think so. But it was something we found to be consistently the case, 10-minute sample to 10-minute sample, on the night we monitored.
Q. I mean, 15 is like a completely pristine forest with no insect noise, isn't it?
A. I would say so, yes.
Q. Have you ever recommended 15 dBA as a baseline sound level in any projects you've worked on?
A. Not that $I$ can recall.
Q. On Page 18 of your testimony you say, "In Epsilon's data, it appears that insects raised background sound levels by at least 15 dBA."
A. Yes.
Q. How do you know that? How do you know it's 15?
A. That's an estimate based on...
(Witness reviews document.)
A. If you turn to page -- well, it's Figure A-2 of the Epsilon report. Figure A-2 reports --

MR. ROTH: Mr. Tocci, can you give us a moment to find it?

BY MR. PATCH:
Q. Do you have a page number for that?
A. There is no page number.

MR. ROTH: The colored charts
in the back of the --
MR. PATCH: It's in the back of the report?

MR. ROTH: Yeah, the
continuous sound level measurements in Appendix A of the report.

MR. PATCH: All right. Okay. CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Page 34 in the electronic version.
A. Let's look at data that occurred at midnight on September 18, 2011. I'm sorry.

September 19. At midnight, sound levels
there appear to be about 10 to 15 dBA louder than they are during the day or early morning, at about 6, $7 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. in the morning. And that difference in sound level I think is attributable to insect sound. And that's what we found in our measurements at Gregg Lake and at Willard Pond. So it is on the basis of observing the difference between midnight and 6 a.m. that we assumed that there was about a 15 dBA increase in background sound associated with insects alone. The same is generally true for many of the days in Figure $A-3$, which is for Location L 3.

BY MR. PATCH:
Q. I'm going to refer to Page 19 of your supplemental testimony. In here you refer to the findings of the Pedersen 2009 study. And you say, "Basically, no complaints of sound by residents were recorded for wind turbine sound below 30 dBA"; correct?
A. I recall that, yes.
Q. And in that text on Page 19, above that reference to the Pedersen study, you list
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recommendations $I$ had were criteria I don't believe were accepted.
Q. And they were similar to this, weren't they?
A. I believe they were.
Q. As I understand it, you are proposing that a baseline be established and that wind turbine sound should not be allowed to be more than a defined margin above that baseline; is that correct?
A. That's what I'm suggesting, yes.
Q. And then measurements would be taken at residential receptor locations, and if they did not exceed the baseline by more than 5 dBA, then no sound impact would be expected; if they exceeded by between 5 and 10 dBA, then that would be a modest noise impact; and if it was more than 10 , that would be a significant impact under your proposal.
A. That's correct.
Q. In the next sentence after you list these criteria, you say that the criteria should be applicable to residences where AWE sound does not exceed 30 dBA.
A. That's correct.
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Q. I guess I don't quite understand that. These criteria would only apply when sound levels from the project do not exceed 30 dBA?
A. No, they would apply to the project when sound levels exceed 30 dBA . Below 30 dBA is presumed, on the basis of Pedersen and others, that sound levels would be acceptable, irrespective of background sound level.
Q. So that sentence needs to be corrected, doesn't it? "The above criteria applicable to residences where AWE sound" --
A. Oh, I'm sorry.
Q. -- "does not exceed 30 dBA."
A. You're correct. It should read "the above criteria applicable to residences where AWE sound exceeds 30 dBA."
Q. On Page 21 of your supplemental testimony, near the very end, you say that background levels on the northwest side of Willard Pond would be as low as 15 dBA without insect sound, which I guess means some time other than summer nights.
A. That is correct.
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Q. Or as you've already testified, I think, maybe it isn't just summer nights, because there's actually insect sounds going on on summer days as well, isn't there?
A. Yes, I would expect so.
Q. And then you say that along these trails, the project sound levels will range from 30 to 35 dBA, which is clearly far quieter than any standard this Committee's adopted in the past; is that correct?
A. I believe so.
Q. And then you go on to say --

MR. ROTH: Same objection with respect to the limitations of what he knows about what this Committee has done in the past.

MR. PATCH: Well, I guess I
would ask the Committee to take official notice of -- and maybe you already have, now that I think of it -- but of the prior orders that the Committee --

MS. BAILEY: We have.
MR. PATCH: I think you did
the Lempster order and the Groton order,
which are the relevant ones. I don't think the GRP order actually had sound levels in it.

MR. ROTH: I have no objection to that. But I would point out that the Groton order does include some of Mr. Tocci's recommendations with respect to the Baker River Campground.

MR. PATCH: That would be appropriate on redirect. I don't think it's appropriate for Mr. Roth, at this point in time, to offer that into the record.

MS. BAILEY: I agree. So the Committee has taken administrative -- or judicial notice of those orders.

MR. PATCH: Okay. Thank you.
BY MR. PATCH:
Q. And then that same point in the testimony where you're talking about Willard Pond, you go on to say that this suggests that the wind turbine sound will be audible. Is that what you say at that point?
A. I say that along those trails, AWE's facility sound levels will range between 30 and 35
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dBA, suggesting that wind turbine sounds will be audible.
Q. Is audibility a criteria that you're suggesting that this Committee adopt? That's a pretty qualitative criteria, isn't it, audibility?
A. It is not. I'm not suggesting that. I'm simply saying, later on, later in the sentence, "thus, also detracting from wilderness experience there as well." That's my comment.
Q. I mean, it wouldn't really be fair to have an audibility criteria. If you did that, you would have effectively -- if you were to use that, not just in this particular project, but for other projects, audibility as a criteria, then, in effect, you'd have no human development, as such.

MR. ROTH: Objection. I think what the sentence says is that he's talking about detracting from a wilderness experience. This report -- and the whole purpose of this proceeding is to establish whether there will be unreasonable adverse
effect on aesthetics, I suppose, is the noise criteria. And to the extent that people using a wilderness trail, you know, are affected in some way by audibility of wind turbine noise, it seems to me that that's a criteria of some sort. We're here to assess impacts, not simply to impose a criteria or a strict numerical limitation.

MS. BAILEY: Do you think that the witness could say that?

MR. ROTH: Maybe. Did you get
all that?
THE WITNESS: Yes, I did.
MS. BAILEY: Mr. Roth, you
need to let the witness testify, really, please.
A. Yes. I'm not proposing here that there be a numerical limit applied to wind turbine sound that would cause it to be inaudible. I'm simply saying that audibility is a characteristic of a wilderness area. And by virtue of wind turbine sound being audible, it would affect that wilderness character.
Q. I mean, there are planes that fly overhead at \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
that same location, aren't there?
A. Yes, I understand there are.
Q. And aren't there electric boats that can use the pond or people that use the pond, or car noises of cars that bring in kayaks? Aren't there audible noises in that area?
A. I would imagine so, yes.
Q. In our July prefiled testimony, you cite the experience at the Mars Hill project in Maine. And I think you've had a couple of questions related to this already. But I just want to clarify. Isn't it true that some of the homes in Maine are less than a thousand feet away from the wind turbines; whereas with this project, the nearest would be at least 2600 feet or a half-mile away?
A. Yes, that's my understanding.
Q. And then you also in your testimony cite the experience with wind turbines in Falmouth. And the homes there are within 1300 feet, aren't they?
A. I think I say that. If I could look that up?

MR. ROTH: Doug, is there
someplace in his testimony that he says that,
that you can point him to?
MR. PATCH: I'll try to find it.

BY MR. PATCH:
Q. In the interest of saving time, would you agree to accept that, subject to check? It didn't seem as though you disagreed they were about 1300 feet away.
A. Frankly, I don't recall. I thought they may have been a little bit further than that, but as close as 1300 feet.
Q. Okay. Then why don't we move on.

I mean, you've had a couple of questions about the difference between pitch-controlled and stall-controlled wind turbines, in terms of sound levels?
A. Yes, I have.
Q. And pitch-controlled turbines basically reach their maximum sound level at a certain wind speed. And that's what we're talking about in this case with the Acciona; correct?
A. That's correct.
Q. And that's the case, I believe, at Mars Hill. But the stall control increased almost -- I'm
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going to say this word wrong because I can never pronounce it right -- linearly -- maybe I said it right -- linearly with wind speed?
A. It does increase with wind speed.
Q. Okay. On a linear basis?
A. Yes. That would -- I don't have -- I've never seen characteristics for that wind turbine. I can't answer that. But I would assume that would be the case.
Q. And since that's the type of wind turbine at Falmouth, do you think that that's part of the reason why they've had a number of complaints, in addition to the fact that the residences are located as close as they are?
A. I don't know. I'd have to look to the wind turbine characteristics. I can't answer that.
Q. In terms of Gregg Lake and Willard Pond, the two areas where you did your sound level measurements in August, aren't they actually used most frequently during times when there is insect noise, during the summer month?
A. During the summer months. I imagine they might be used during the winter months as \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
well.
Q. But more frequently in the summer, presumably, if they're lakes.
A. Presumably, yes.
Q. In your prefiled testimony, PC 2, Page 6, Paragraph 11, you discuss a European study. I guess we've actually already covered that. This is the study where -- that points out that having wind turbines visible from a house significantly increases the risk of annoyance in some people. I mean, we've already talked about that I think.
A. Yes, but $I$ would rather quote that directly. I'm not sure the term "significantly" is used.
Q. Okay. But it increases the risk of annoyance.

In the report attached to your July 31st prefiled testimony -- actually, I'm sorry. Mr. James -- I'm talking now about Mr. James. And the report attached to his July 31 prefiled testimony --

MR. ROTH: Doug, is that
exhibit available to him? And can you
identify it more specifically so I can go try and find it over there if it's around?

BY MR. PATCH:
Q. Do you have Mr. James' testimony, by any chance?
A. I do not have it with me.

MR. ROTH: Is it there on the table, Mike?

MR. IACOPINO: Checking right now. Yeah, it should be. NB 1. There's also NB 8, which is his December 10th testimony. July 30 is NB 1.

MR. ROTH: Is there another one of these books? This seems to start with 34. Is this your book?

MS. GOLDWASSER: Yes.
MR. ROTH: This is yours? Oh, I'm sorry.
(Pause in proceedings)
MS. BAILEY: We're going to go back on the record, because I asked the reporter to let that discussion about where we are in the exhibits be off the record. So we're going to go back on the record now. Go \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
ahead, Mr. Patch.
BY MR. PATCH:
Q. In my question I referred to the report attached to his July 31 prefiled testimony. I did that because he has like a very brief prefiled testimony, and then he has a report that $I$ think goes on for at least eight pages.

But on Page 3 and 8 of that report, he discusses sound emissions from wind turbines that are not audible, or low-frequency sounds. And he says that it has been demonstrated that they can cause disturbances to our organs. Do you recall that?
A. I see here, the third paragraph on Page 3, a discussion of -- it says, "It must be understood that these complaints have two distinct aspects..." and he goes into a variety of anatomical complaints.

MR. ROTH: Excuse me. I guess
I don't know if this is an objection or clarification. But I guess I have not heard the witness indicate that he has previously seen this report.

BY MR. PATCH:
Q. Have you seen this report?
A. I have seen the report in the past and skimmed it at that time.
Q. Do you agree with the concerns that Mr . James expresses about low-frequency sounds?
A. Could you point out what aspects of the document or phrases in the document that $I$ should be pointed to?
Q. Well, the problem is he doesn't have line numbers on there. It's pretty dense. But I can try to find it. But I note that he says that it has been demonstrated that they can cause disturbances to organs. Do you want me to try to help you find that?
A. Yes, for the purposes of understanding the context that he says that. That's all right. I take it on Page 3 --
Q. Yes.

MR. ROTH: About halfway through the last paragraph $I$ think is where the discussion ensues.
(Witness reviews document.)
A. I'm sorry. If you could point that out to
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me, that would be appreciated.
MS. BAILEY: This can be off the record.
(Pause in proceedings)
MS. BAILEY: Okay. Back on the record.
A. Okay. The sentence reads, "These symptoms are not a result of the audible sounds being processed by auditory functions of the cochlea, but are instead from infrasound and low-frequency sound mediated by the cochlear vestibular organs." I have -- I am aware of other experts having made that same claim.

BY MR. PATCH:
Q. Do you agree with that?
A. Would it -- this appears to me to be information that $I$ would accept by another expert. But I'm not an expert in this area to be able to say that, in fact, is the case. But I know of it to have been claimed by others.
Q. And you were Public Counsel's witness in the Groton Wind hearings before this Committee; correct?
A. Yes, I was.
Q. And do you recall your testimony in that docket, "Modern upwind-styled wind turbines avoid the propensity to generate the significant levels of low-frequency sound common in older turbine arrangements"?
A. Yes, I do.

MR. PATCH: And just for the record, that was Day 3, the afternoon of Day 3 transcript, Page 86.

BY MR. PATCH:
Q. And do you recall your testimony in that docket, to the effect of, "Designing wind turbines so that the blades are upstream of the tower support has mostly eliminated low-frequency excitation in newer wind turbines"?
A. Yes, as compared to older turbines.

MR. PATCH: And again, that's Day 3, Pages 86 and 87.
A. Yes. BY MR. PATCH:
Q. And do you recall your testimony in that docket about a paper by Bel Acoustic
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Consulting, by a George Bellhouse?
MR. ROTH: I guess I have to object. He's asking the witness to remember testimony that was, when, three years ago? Two years ago? And he doesn't have a copy of the testimony in front of him. He was not asked prior to this hearing to review the testimony. So he's going, you know, basically just from memory. And I just don't think it's fair to go this route here and expect him to draw conclusions about a paper that he may have spoken about, whenever that was, two or three years ago.

MR. PATCH: Well, the witness said that he remembered saying that. I mean, if he didn't remember, I've got the testimony here and $I$ was going to show it to him. But if he remembers it, seems to me it's saving the Committee time by not having to show him. MS. BAILEY: I agree. He says he remembers it. So if he doesn't remember it, he can be refreshed.

BY MR. PATCH:
Q. Do you recall your testimony in that docket
about a paper by Bel Acoustic Consulting, part of a literature review provided by Public Counsel?
A. No, I don't recall that.
Q. Okay. This is actually the afternoon session, as $I$ indicated, of Day 3. And it says, "Witness: Tocci," and it's -- the question I'm asking you now is, are you familiar with a paper by G. Bellhouse on low-frequency noise and infrasound from wind turbine generators? It was part of a literature review provided by Public Counsel. MR. ROTH: I'm going to -- I have to object right now. I'm not sure what he's showing him, whether that's the transcript of the testimony or something they retyped. And, you know, I got my knuckles wrapped this morning for showing up with exhibits that weren't marked and weren't provided to the other parties. And here we have exactly the same thing -- you know, including a snarky scolding from Attorney Geiger about it. This is why we don't have -- this is why we mark things in
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advance. So I object to this particular approach.

MS. GEIGER: I don't think he's marking it. I think he's just referring to it.

MR. PATCH: Yeah, I'm not asking it to be marked. I've already asked to take official notice. We have certain portions of the record and --

MR. IACOPINO: Mr. Patch, you should show it to the other parties so they know what you're referring to.
(Atty. Patch complies.)
MR. BLOCK: Madam Chairman, I'd like to also submit an objection, because it seems to be approaching some of the issues that our client has brought up. And I would like to have received a copy of this also.

MR. IACOPINO: You should take a look at it while he has it there, too, Mr. Block, and any other parties that want to look at it.

Mr. Patch, wait a minute a
moment while Mr. Block reviews.
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MR. PATCH: I will. Just trying to set it up so...

MS. BAILEY: Mr. Roth, I believe that Mr . Patch is attempting to impeach the witness's testimony by a prior inconsistent statement. He's not offering this as an exhibit.

MR. ROTH: I'm not sure what -- it's not clear to me what he's doing yet. I'm just concerned that the exhibit was not seen by me and not provided to other parties. And so --

MS. BAILEY: It's not an exhibit, though. Next question.

BY MR. PATCH:
Q. I'm interested in the response that you gave to a question at the bottom on Page 88, where you quote the last statement or last sentence of the abstract by Bel Acoustic Consulting. And I wonder if you could read that into the record. It begins at Line 22 and carries over until Line 1 on the next page.
A. It says here, this is a -- it says -- the last statement or last sentence of that
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abstract is, "There is no evidence to indicate that low-frequency sound or infrasound from current models of wind turbine generators should cause concern."
Q. Okay. Thank you.

Insofar as the so-called Wind Turbine Syndrome, as the Committee noted in the Groton order at Page 81, you testified that none of the literature demonstrates a correlation between incidences of Wind Turbine Syndrome with sound levels at receptor locations in proximity to wind turbines. Do you recall that? I can show you that. The Committee has taken official notice of that particular order, and I can show you that statement in the order in which the Committee essentially restates your testimony. But do you recall making that --
A. I don't recall, offhand. I'd be pleased to look at it.

MR. ROTH: If Attorney Patch wants to just ask him about Wind Turbine Syndrome, maybe that's the most direct route. BY MR. PATCH:
Q. I'm sorry. I'm going to move on from that. It doesn't appear to be where my notes say it is, and I don't want to hold the Committee up.

I'm showing you what I would represent to you is the May 6, 2011 order of this Committee in the Groton Wind project. And I'm showing you Page 81. And I'm just going to read it to you and ask you to confirm that this is what it says.

It says, "However, according to Mr . Tocci, none of the literature demonstrates a correlation between incidences of Wind Turbine Syndrome with sound levels at receptor locations in proximity to wind turbines."
A. Yes, that's what it says.
Q. And similarly, and I can bring this, I guess, to your attention as well. In terms of vibroacoustic disease, you said, in that case, that sound levels produced by wind turbines simply do not rise to the level where it could have an adverse effect on the connective tissue of the heart and lungs. Do
you recall saying that?
A. I don't. I would be pleased to read a record of that.
Q. Okay. And again, I'm looking at Page 81 of that order, and I'm looking at a description of your testimony. And it says, "However, according to Mr . Tocci, the sound level produced by the wind turbines simply does not rise to the level where it could have adverse effect on the connective tissue."
A. I see that it says that there. I don't know at what point I may have said or written that.
Q. Well, there is a cite to the transcript of November 3rd, Afternoon Session, at Page 50, in the order. So, presumably that's where it was said.

And this Committee, in the Groton case, imposed noise restrictions or noise conditions. Do you recall specifically what those were?
A. No, I don't.
Q. If I represented to you that it was 55 dBA, or 5 dBA greater than ambient, whichever is
greater at the outside of the facade at any residence during the day, and 45, or 5 greater than ambient at night, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., does that sound like that's the case? And I can show you the order if you dispute that.
A. I've never seen the order afterwards, so I'd be pleased to look at it.
Q. Okay. I'm looking at Page 86 of the order. "We condition the Certificate upon a requirement that the sound level from the Project shall not exceed 40 dBA, or 5 dBA greater than ambient." This is for the boundaries of the campground that was owned by Ms. Lewis. But then the general requirements are noted above: "Sound levels generated by the facility shall not exceed 55 dBA, or 5 dBA greater than ambient, whichever is greater, at the outside facade of any residence during the daytime. And at night, from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m., the sound levels generated by the facility shall not exceed 45 dBA, or 5 dBA greater than ambient, whichever is greater, at the facade of any residence."

Did I read that correctly?
A. Yes, you did.
Q. You had a few questions about the different locations that Epsilon had used for their -for the study that they did of the noise levels. Do you remember those questions?
A. I recall that $I$ was questioned about those locations, yes.
Q. And the Location No. 1 I believe is along Route 9. And there was some implications, I think from the questions from Ms. Linowes, that there were, you know, certain noises at that particular location. Do you remember those questions?
A. In general. If I could turn -- could you refer to a page in the report?
Q. I think it's Figure 7-1, actually, in the report.

MR. ROTH: I believe that Ms.
Linowes's questioning was about text on Page 5-4 and 5-5 and 5-6.

MS. BAILEY: In the Epsilon
report?
MR. ROTH: In the Epsilon \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
report.
MR. PATCH: Yeah, 5-4.
BY MR. PATCH:
Q. I think 5-4 is the page --
A. Yes.
Q. -- where there was a discussion about the different locations and some of the noises that were found to be present at those different locations.
A. Yes.
Q. As an example: Location L1, do you believe that this location represents sound levels for residences along Route 9? I mean, steady fan or water noise, leave rustle, insect noise, bird calls, vehicular traffic, isn't that pretty consistent with the noises that would typically be present along Route 9 ?
A. Well, that might be case. But remember, I haven't seen -- I haven't been to the site. But the way it's described, I assume that Epsilon had selected locations that are representative, and I've just taken that for face value.
Q. Okay. Well, Location 3, I think there was an \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
implication that -- well, first there's a reference to a nearby brook. And there was an implication that somehow the results of that were skewed by the brook. Do you remember questions like that from Ms.

Linowes?
A. I remember similar questions.
Q. If there was a brook and there was a steady, you know, source of water, wouldn't that be a primary source of sound? Wouldn't you expect some levels to be sort of flat and steady as a result of that?
A. I would.
Q. So could you take a look at Appendix $A$ then.
A. Yes, I have it here.
Q. Figure A-3.
A. Yes, I have it here.
Q. Do you see a lot of flat lines in there that suggests steady water noise?
A. No, I don't.
Q. I think in response to a question from Ms.

Linowes you had suggested that winds were measured at 10 meters on the ridge?
A. That's my recollection, yes.
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Q. Isn't it true, if you look at Page 6-2 of the report, the Epsilon report, that the measurements were actually taken from a -- at the 57-meter height AGL at the meteorological tower?
(Witness reviews document.)
A. Reading the second paragraph on Page 6-2, it says, "A wind speed of 9.9 meters per second at hub height, 92 meters AGL, using the IEC procedure described above, corresponds to a wind speed at the 57-meter height AGL..." It seems to imply that measurements were made.

At a previous paragraph it says, "Worst-case reference sound data provided at a 10-meter reference height..." It's not clear -- it would appear to me that wind speed measurement was at $10-$ meter height. But it clearly wasn't measured at 57 meters height, because it says that it was computed -- appears to be computed at a 57-meter height. So I guess it's not clear at what height the wind speed was measured at.
Q. Doesn't it actually say that the sound data \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
provided was at a 10-meter reference height?
A. If $I$ could read it, maybe that would help clarify it.
Q. Sure. Take a minute, please.
A. "Worst-case reference sound data provided at a 10-meter reference height for the Antrim wind turbines... indicates that 7-meters-per-second winds will produce the worst-case sound levels, 107.4 dBA... This corresponds to hub-height wind speed of 9.9 meters per second... and above using the IEC logarithmic profile."

All right. So could you repeat your question, please?
Q. Well, I mean, as it says there, it corresponds to a wind speed at the 57-meter height AGL at the meteorological tower. Is that correct?
A. Yes, it does.
Q. That's all the questions I have. Thank you. (Discussion among Subcommittee Members off the record.)

MS. BAILEY: Questions from
the Committee?
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MR. BLOCK: Can I ask the Chair a question, please? Is it possible for myself and for Mr. James to be provided with all the documents that Mr . Patch referenced there? We do not have that stuff. And for us to be able to research that and find that before the morning is a little --

MR. IACOPINO: Actually, I believe they're all on the web site under "Transcripts."

MR. BLOCK: Transcripts? I just looked on the web site. I don't find them on the web site, on the SEC web site. I don't find the transcripts there yet.

MS. BAILEY: We're talking about transcripts from the Groton case.

MR. BLOCK: I looked on the Groton page there.

MR. FROLING: I did find them on the web site.

MR. PATCH: I know they're on the web site, but I'd be happy to provide the hard copy I have to Mr. Block.

MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.
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MS. BAILEY: Okay. Yeah, we can do that after the Committee asks questions of Mr . Tocci.

MR. BLOCK: Thank you.
MS. BAILEY: Okay. Who has questions? Ms. Lyons.

INTERROGATORIES BY MS. LYONS:
Q. Good evening.
A. Good evening.
Q. Very early on in your testimony, probably within the first five minutes, you were talking about constant noise sources, like machinery, streams, roadways. How are those different than insect noises that could be often happening? Why would you correct for insect noises and not these other noises?
A. Reason why we correct for insect noise is because it's so easily identifiable in the measured spectrum. If you look at, I believe it's my first supplemental testimony, on Page 6 and Page 7, Figures 3-A and 3-B show very significant peaks occurring above 2,000 hertz. And by virtue of that insect noise being so identifiable and concentrated at
those frequencies, it is fairly easy to make that correction. To make other kinds of corrections -- for example, traffic noise or other kinds of noise sources that produce sound energy over a much wider spectrum -- is much more difficult to do and so it is customarily not done.
Q. Why would it be considered a correction if it is part of a typical sound in that time period?
A. It's a correction in the sense that it is typical of that time. It will always occur during that time of year. But at other times of the year, that insect sound wouldn't be present, or would be at a lower level or perhaps a higher level.
Q. Why are we -- why would you layer that background sound at another time period? Wouldn't each time period be in itself what the sound is rather than correcting for a sound that is not occurring?
A. It depends upon how you look at it. When we do environmental impact analyses, usually we look for the quieter times of year. Not
necessarily the quietest, but the quieter times of the year. So that would be after the freeze in the fall and extending to, depending upon the part of New England, perhaps as late as May before insect sound begins. So there would be several months where insect sound would be absent.

Background sounds would be typically much more quieter.
Q. Isn't that a little bit, then, skewing, because you could have a loud time of the year, and that's the background for that time period, and then the increase in sound that's potentially with the wind turbine, wouldn't it be less of an increase? Because we're always basing it on the quietest time of the year. But is that not the average?
A. Let me -- there are maybe two ways of answering that. First, the -- where insects would be present all the time, 365 days a year, then obviously you leave it in. But there are substantial times of the year, several months, where insect sound is absent. And so with respect to a person's perception
of sound, it would be greater during those quieter months than it would be during the summer.

But second, if you notice, most of the analysis has been done on an A-weighted sound level basis. In other words, we report A-weighted sound levels both for background and for sound produced by the wind turbine facility. That doesn't really present the full picture of how people will perceive wind turbine sound. The mass -- the insect sound, though it's at a very high level during the summer, won't necessarily cover up, so to speak, wind turbine sound, because wind turbine sound would be at a lower frequency. And so it would still be perceptible and not really masked entirely by insect sound.

So, part of the reason for removing the insect sound is to arrive at an A-weighted sound level that, when compared to wind turbine sound level, would give a better perception about the potential impact of wind turbine sound.
Q. Thank you.
\{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\} MS. BAILEY: Chairman Ignatius.

CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS: Thank you.
INTERROGATORIES BY CHAIRMAN IGNATIUS:
Q. Mr. Tocci, I've read your testimony and obviously listened today, and I still am not sure I understand your recommendations.

I know on Pages 19 and 20 of your supplemental testimony that you really get to the heart, I think, of what your recommendations are by calculating a baseline and then setting some standards for when the baseline -- when the -- I'm sorry -- when the wind facility is higher than 30 dBA, then you go to a three-step test of how much higher it would be. And yet, I can't figure out what you do with those things. How do you measure them is one question. But secondly, if you find that it is greater than 30 within those three different bands, then what happens?
A. Well, one of the ways of looking at it is -in the Groton decision, for example, the way the Groton decision was provided was that during the day, sound levels would not exceed
either 55 , or 5 dBA above ambient, the higher of those two. For the campground, it was a lower -- I believe it was 40 , and 5 dBA above that background.

Well, in a sense, what I'm arguing here is that background should be the background that is occurring at night. And so it's essentially the same way of framing it, only with a lower level. Instead of 55 during the day and 45 at night, it would be closer to 30, and/or 5 dBA above background, the greater of the two.

In order to provide some, you know, perception of how people would perceive it, to give some description to it, I have -basically, instead of just having the single $5 d B$ margin, $I$ 've included two other margins, 5, 10, and then more than 10 , as a way of providing some perspective on how people would perceive wind turbine sound.
Q. So the three bands you described is to give an idea of what the reception of those sounds might be.
A. That's correct.
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Q. All right. The actual recommendation of what you're asking the Committee to make a condition, if it were to approve this project, is that you would have a limit -well, tell me. I don't want do it for you because I'm going to get it wrong. Tell me what the limits would be and over that there's some sort of consequences.
A. I would suggest that it would be either -- it would be the greater of 30 dBA , or 10 dBA above the baseline background, with insect correction applied. Now, in lieu of applying an insect correction, which has been somewhat argued here, what we might do is reassess the baseline at a time during the year when insects would be absent. So it would be that background plus 10 dBA, or 30 dBA, whichever of the two is greatest.
Q. And that would be applied year-round or only for the months you have no significant insect activity?
A. I would say it would be applied year-round. However -- I would say it would be applied year-round. And the reason for that is,
assuming that a wind turbine -- whatever sound it produces during the summer would also be produced during the winter. So if the criteria is met during the summer, it certainly would be met during the winter. Now, that's with the winter, the non-insect background sound. And in a sense, we might be, in doing that, applying more of a limit than might be needed during the summer because of insect sound in the background. But in designing a wind farm and evaluating its economies, I think it's necessary to say what is the most stringent condition under which we need to operate, and that I would assume would be times of the year when there is no insect sound.
Q. Well, let's look at your chart on Page 20, because I'm just -- I'm not following the steps that one goes through. And I'm a regulator, so $I$ want to figure out what are people supposed to do and what am I supposed to do about it if they don't follow the rules.

So let's not look at Location 1, because
that's a more complicated one. Let's take Location 2. Your recommendation, you had said, would be to take -- the limit would be 30 dBA , or 10 dBA over the baseline?
A. That's correct.
Q. So you've already demonstrated from your calculations that it exceeds that because it's 35 from the facility.
A. That's right.
Q. So, does that mean it shuts down? What does that mean then? What --
A. Well, let me -- the first columns, 2 and 3, that's Baseline and Insect Removal. Unfortunately, we're talking about a time of year when insects are an issue, and that is an added complication of how to remove insect sound. But the 34 minus 15 is 19 , that would be a baseline without insect sound. That's what you would expect to find as a baseline during the winter, for example. Now, it would be totally appropriate to go back and make measurements during that time of year in order not to -- in order to be sure that it's fair to the facility. But the 19 plus 10 is

29 , and 29 then would be the applicable limit.
Q. And the calculations made by Mr. O'Neal is that, at that location, 35 would be the level.
A. Yeah, 35 is -- so, 35 would be -- the expected facility sound level would be about 6 dBA higher than what we are -- what I am suggesting here as a limit.
Q. And are the AWE numbers adjusted for insect removal already?
A. The AWE numbers are sound produced by the wind turbine alone. It's not background. It's just wind turbine sound.
Q. All right. Thank you.

So in that Location No. 2, it would be out of compliance under either of your tests; either the baseline plus 10 , which will get you to 29, or if you said if it was just 30. So what would be the consequence?
A. Here there would be a -- there would be -it's the baseline plus 10 is 29. But it's below 30 , so 30 becomes the limit. Now we're 5 dB above the limit. So there would be an
impact. I can't say what the consequence would be, in terms of what action would need to be taken, but it would have to be recognized that there's a potential for a noise impact.
Q. Well, you said in your testimony that there's very little one can do to mitigate. You described some, at least to the low frequency, and maybe I'm overstating that, that you can change a bit, but it doesn't have much sound reduction. Is that fair?
A. That's right. There is very little that I believe can be done with respect to lowering sound produced by a wind turbine facility.
Q. So what would a -- here's my concern: If I look at this chart, it looks like, if I'm understanding your calculations, in most every case the proposed facility would be out of compliance.
A. In many cases, yes.
Q. And so it then forces one to ask: All right. If it's going to be out of compliance, not in the rare instance, but in most everything on this page, then are there mitigation steps
that could be taken to bring it into compliance? And if there are not, then why would we be permitting this at all?
A. That's a question $I$ have. I'm just indicating that the reaction of people to sound, that this is a potential for being problematic during quiet periods of time -quiet periods of the day and night.
Q. And when you said "the reactions of people to the sound," is that referring back to what you described as "self-reporting" of people who described "annoyance" that really couldn't be quantified, but to each person means something that's important to them?
A. There's a certain, I believe, probability on the basis of that Netherlands study that a certain portion of people would say that they were "annoyed," yes.
Q. All right. Thank you. Nothing else.

INTERROGATORIES BY MS. BAILEY:
Q. Okay. I'm looking at the table that you were just on in your supplemental testimony, and I'm looking at the second column. And let's look at Location 3. The second column is

Baseline. And the footnote says that comes -- that number comes from Table 6-2 in the Epsilon report. Can we look at the Epsilon table -- can we look at the table in the Epsilon report?
A. Yes.
Q. Where does the number 32 come from in Location 3?
(Witness reviews document.)
A. Unfortunately, it's not spelled out. I referred to the Epsilon report, but it essentially is data in Figure A-3. So --
Q. So the footnote is incorrect.
A. The footnote is correct, but the actual data is in a spreadsheet that -- this is a plot of the data in the spreadsheet.
Q. Well, the footnote says, "From Table 6-2 of the Epsilon report."
A. Let me go to that.
(Witness reviews document.)
A. I see the problem. Table 6-2 reports a minimal L90 of 24 . I'm reporting a baseline of 32 , a higher sound level.
Q. And you're saying you're getting that from \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
table --
A. Yes, it's incorrect. The 32 comes from an explanation.
Q. From an explanation of what?
A. I'll need to clarify this. On Page 19 there's a sentence that says, "To accommodate scatter observed in measured data, the baseline sound level is defined as the 90th percentile of the 10 -minute interval, insect-corrected, background sound levels... measured when the average 57-meter AGL wind speed exceeds 9.3 meters per second."

Now, for Location 3, what we do is go to Figure 6c in the first supplemental prefiled testimony --
Q. Okay. Hold on.

MR. ROTH: I'm sorry, Greg.
Where are you at?
THE WITNESS: Yes, Page 13 of
the supplemental prefiled testimony.
MR. ROTH: Yours.
THE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MS. BAILEY:
Q. Which is the testimony that you're reading \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
from.
A. That's right.
Q. So the testimony -- the table is in the first supplemental prefiled testimony.
A. It is. And the data to which I'm referring now for where that 32 dBA comes from is on Figure 6c on Page 13.
Q. Okay. So the baseline data in the table is coming from your supplemental testimony, not the Epsilon report.
A. That's right.
Q. Okay. And that's on Page 13 of the supplemental testimony?
A. Page 13.
Q. That would explain why I couldn't find it in the Epsilon report. Okay.
A. If I could explain Figure 6c?
Q. Figure 6c?
A. Page 13 .
Q. That's that scatter chart?
A. That's right.
Q. Okay. I'm there.
A. Okay. The horizontal axis is wind velocity in meters per second; that's the 57 AGL wind
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speed. The vertical axis is the 90th percentile sound pressure level measured for each 10-minute interval by Epsilon. Now, notice the data scatters considerably.

What I've done is recognize, first, that there is a slight tendency for sound levels -- background sound levels to increase with increasing wind speed at the ridgeline. So what I've done is considered only the data at where sound levels -- where wind speeds are at 9.3 meters per second and higher. And what I've done is taken the 90th percentile of that, of those data points, with wind speeds at 9.3 meters per second or higher. It's the green line with a number 32.4 next to it. That 32.4 is the baseline that I've reported in my Table 2 of the prefiled testimony.

In essence, the suggestion I have is that the limit on the facility noise be no more than 10 dB above that baseline.
Q. Well, no, that's not what $I$ heard you tell Chairman Ignatius. You said it could be no more than 10 dB above that corrected for
insect and a whole bunch of other things.
A. Right. This data in the Location 3 is not corrected. And so, going back to Table 2 -I spoke out of turn here.

Going back to Table 2, the first column, Baseline, for Location 3 is 32. Then I looked at the data on Figure A-3 and arrived at an insect correction -- an estimated insect correction of 15 decibels. I subtracted the 15 decibels from the 32 to arrive at an adjusted, insect-corrected baseline of 17. Now it's 17 plus 10 is 27. But that's below 30. So the limit ends up being 30 for wind turbine sound, and the estimated facility sound is 42; 12 dB higher than the 30 dB suggested limit here.
Q. So what does that mean?
A. Well, that's the -- there's a potential for significant residential impact; 25-percent chance of residence "annoyed"; 18-percent chance of "very annoyed." Those percentages might be a little lower for reasons that were cited earlier, that the Netherlands study was only 35 -- 37 percent of the people
responding, but that it would be perhaps 20 percent, 15 percent. So there would be a probability that, I believe, that there would be people that would complain.
Q. And if you adjusted that 25 percent, multiplying by .7, you get 17-1/2 percent.
A. That's -- yes, you're right. No. Wait a minute.
Q. It seems to me like you're just playing with numbers and mooshing around math to get the result. I mean, $I$ can do the same kind of math. You didn't do it correctly, or you didn't do it based on the footnote that you have in there. The footnote is completely wrong; correct?
A. The footnote is not correct with respect to where the baseline data came from. The baseline data came from my analysis of the Epsilon data in determining a baseline for sound levels, background sound levels that occurred when wind speeds were at 9.3 meters per second or higher.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

MS. BAILEY: Mr. Iacopino --
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well, are there any other Committee questions? Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: I just have one.
Thank you.
INTERROGATORIES BY DIR. STEWART:
Q. Has anything changed substantially in the public health literature or knowledge of the effects of sound since you worked on the Groton project? So in other words, in the last two years, anything substantially changed in terms of the research on the effects of sound on -- you know, from these projects?
A. I believe when I worked on the Groton, and this is just my recollection, the latest papers were in 2008. And since then, there seemed to be more papers claiming impacts of low-frequency sound. The problem is that there are no population surveys like the Netherlands study. The Netherlands study was very helpful. That came out in 2009. That was a survey of, you know, a reasonable number of people. The Falmouth work I think was helpful, although, as pointed out, that
was for a different kind of turbine. There are too many complaints coming from wind turbine facilities to say that there's nothing there. There have been years and years of papers claiming that low-frequency sound is not an issue. It's at very low levels. Oddly enough, there's been very little reported at blade passage frequency, where some of the motion sickness is believed to occur.

So $I$ know it is an issue in the profession to say that there's something there, but it has not been studied. And unlike noise sources in the past, where there was -- the Environmental Protection Agency assessed noise impacts and then provided regulations that protected the public, but in the end protected the industry as well. That kind of -- there is no agency looking at this in any great detail. There are just these complaints that keep coming up, again, mostly from residences located really close to these facilities. But there's enough of an issue there to call into question that
low-frequency sound could be an issue and that the usual ways of evaluating noise, using A-weighted sound levels and so forth, may fall short of trying to identify those issues.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

INTERROGATORIES BY MR. IACOPINO:
Q. If I understand what you just said, you're saying that there's a question. But I mean, as far as you're concerned, in your opinion, is there evidence to demonstrate that either vibroacoustic disease or Wind Turbine Syndrome is caused by the operation of wind turbines?
A. All that is clear to me is that there's individual cases called out, but no understanding as to why it occurs or what -or how to make an association between a measurable sound level and a response that would be described as "Wind Turbine Syndrome." That relationship, to my knowledge, doesn't exist.
Q. So your opinion hasn't changed since Groton with respect to that issue.
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A. I don't think so, no.
Q. All right. During your cross-examination by Mr. Patch, he asked you about whether or not the analysis that is performed by the Applicant -- by Epsilon, assuming that all the turbines are blowing in the same direction at the same time in order to come to the sound measurements -- or the expected sound measurements, he asked you if that was conservative. And you responded, "It's conservative with respect to wind direction."
A. Yes.
Q. And I noted that you added that last clause on there. Is it your position that the results of using that type -- those types of assumptions do not result in conservative results -- in other words, a conservative expected sound level?
A. There were other points that were brought out in the report that reflect a conservative estimate of sound levels, two of them in particular. One of them is no foliage was included in any of the propagation
algorithms. Second, they assumed hard ground
everywhere, which was shown in a previous paper by Kalisky and others, that that is the appropriate way, the appropriate setting in the 9613 algorithm.

So I think the way Cadna was used and the modeling that was done was correct, with the possible exception that, you know, we have not seen a report for what the sound power level is of the wind turbines. We've simply accepted their assertion that the sound power level produced by the wind turbines is 107 dBA .
Q. As reported by the manufacturer.
A. As they reported it on the basis of their estimates.
Q. Okay. But in general, then, that analysis that was used by Epsilon -- what did you call it? The 913?
A. ISO 9613.2, yes.
Q. So you would agree, then, that that does yield a generally conservative estimate of what the sound levels are going to be.
A. I would say so, yes.
Q. Are you aware of any wind energy production \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
facility that is limited under any standard to 30 dBA?
A. No, I am not.
Q. How many miles per hour is 9.3 meters per second?
A. May I use a calculator? I think it's 18 miles an hour, but that's my recollection.
Q. It seems to me that you ignored an awful lot of data points by choosing that sort of cutoff to adjust Epsilon's numbers. Can you explain why you would ignore that many data points?
A. Below 9.3 meters per second, the wind turbine would be producing less sound power than 107 $d B$, so that the relative difference between wind turbine sound and background sound would be decreasing. It would be less impact.
Q. Okay. That explains it'd be less impact. But why did you ignore those data points?
A. We're evaluating -- I evaluated impact for the condition of maximum turbine sound pressure level at receptor locations.
Q. Okay. I don't have any other questions. MS. BAILEY: Can we do
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redirect, please?
MR. ROTH: Can I have a few minutes to --

MS. BAILEY: Sure.
MR. ROTH: May I have five minutes?

MS. BAILEY: Yes. We'll go until quarter of eight p.m., for the record. (Whereby a recess was taken at 7:42 p.m., and the hearing resumed at 7:51 p.m.) MS. BAILEY: Let's go. We're back on the record. Mr. Roth.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. ROTH:
Q. Okay. Mr. Tocci, during Ms. Linowes' cross-examination, she asked you about the phenomena where noise -- where outside noise can be reflected in a great room or a large room in a house. Do you remember that?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. And you referred to a "standing wave." Do you remember that?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. What's a standing wave? Can you give a \{SEC 2012-01\} [DAY 7 AFTERNOON SESSION] \{11-28-12\}
little bit more, sort of a description of the standing wave and the phenomena that Ms.

Linowes was asking about?
A.

Yes. Spaces that are devoid of sound-absorbed materials -- you'd find that, for example, in a bathroom or a tunnel or other places that are hard-surfaced -- what will happen is at certain frequencies, that space will build up sound energy to amplify sound at that frequency. And this most often occurs at low frequencies and has been -- we have noticed in certain places, certain buildings, where low-frequency sound levels outdoors are actually lower than they are indoors. That's a standing wave effect. In other words, the sound transmits inside the space. It builds up and amplifies a little bit higher than it actually is outdoors. That would be a standing wave effect.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

During the Committee's questioning, it was suggested that 9.3 -- using 9.3 meters per second leaves out a lot of information, I guess was the suggestion. Why did you use
9.3 meters per second?
A. Because that is the wind speed, as $I$ understand it, that the highest wind turbine sound level will occur -- highest sound power level will occur.
Q. And where does that come from?
A. That was provided to us in the Epsilon report.
Q. And did Epsilon use that same figure in their assumptions in modeling?
A. I believe they did.
Q. Okay. Now, there was a suggestion during questioning by the Committee that, if they accept your methodology and criteria, that in many instances and in many of the locations that were chosen, the project would be out of compliance. Do you remember that?
A. I do.
Q. And the question $I$ have for you is: Isn't it true that the Antrim Wind base number, in terms of the sound -- or not the base, but the sound of the turbine is a worst-case figure?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. And what does that mean for this particular problem?
A. Well, the way the criteria have been developed and wind sound power level -- sound pressure levels have been developed are the extremes. It's the loudest sound pressure level that would otherwise occur and compared to the lowest background sound level that would occur. So if you were to permit yourself a dynamic sound pressure level that goes up and down, along with the fact that turbine sound levels are going to go up and down as well, it is entirely possible that, you know, substantial periods where, if you were able to stop the turbine, measure background and turn it back on, you may find it to be within the criteria that I have suggested.
Q. So is that another way of saying that the project isn't always going to be out of compliance?
A. That's correct.
Q. Would you determine whether the project is -how would you determine whether the project
is out of compliance at any given moment during operation?
A. There are a couple of ways that it gets done. One is to find a proxy location far from the facility where background sound level has been previously shown to be able to be related to a receptor location close to the to the facility. So you'd measure background sound there while the facility is running, and presumably, if that is within the criteria, then compliance would be met. The other way to do it is to shut the wind turbine facility down, measure background and turn it back on.
Q. So it's going to be subject to somebody making a complaint and then there being measurements?
A. That's correct.
Q. And when we were here a couple weeks ago, Mr .

O'Neal testified about -- I believe he testified about mitigation measures. And in your testimony a few minutes ago, I think I got the impression that you believe that mitigation is not possible. Can you square
that and perhaps correct what I think is a misimpression?
A. Could you repeat that again?
Q. Well, let me -- yeah, I know. It's late.

Mr. O'Neal testified that you could mitigate sound excedences by things like thermal pane windows, additional insulation, that sort of thing.
A. Yes. And those are controls applied at receptor locations as a means of reducing sound transmission from outside residences to the interior of residences. That would be done by enhancing the sound isolation performance of windows, walls if necessary. And in order to allow windows to be closed during periods when it might want -- they might otherwise be open, mechanical ventilation could also be used.
Q. Okay. So it's possible, then, that if it were determined, in the worst-case scenario set forth in your chart here, that the facility was out of compliance, the response could be mitigation; correct?
A. It could. Mitigation at receptor locations.
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Q. Thank you. That's all I have.

MS. BAILEY: Okay. Thank you very much. At this point, 1 think we'll close the hearing for today and see you back here in 12-1/2 hours.
(WHEREUPON the hearing was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.)

C E R T I F C ATE
I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes of these proceedings taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my skill and ability under the conditions present at the time.

I further certify that I am neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action; and further, that $I$ am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.

Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter Registered Professional Reporter N.H. LCR No. 44 (RSA 310-A:173)

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