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June 4, 2013

Mr. Edward F. Miller  
Senior Vice President of Public Policy  
American Lung Association of the Northeast  
1800 Elm Street  
Manchester, NH 03104

**Subject: SEC Docket 2012-1 – Application of Antrim Wind Energy LLC for a Certificate of Site and Facility**

Dear Mr. Miller:

This is in response to your May 31, 2013 letter to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) requesting that they reconsider its decision to deny a Certificate of Site and Facility for the Antrim Wind Energy (AWE) project in Antrim, NH.

In your letter, you express legitimate concern about emissions from energy production as a major cause of lung disease and a commitment to the development and expansion of clean, renewable energy sources. You also state “it is critical that we take advantage of every opportunity to move away from fossil fuels to produce our energy” (emphasis added). By comparing wind power to energy from fossil fuel plants, you are making a false comparison and missing the point. I agree that clean, renewable energy sources should be expanded to replace energy produced from fossil fuel plants, however, the real question is whether wind power is the best and proper choice to do so, especially on the ridgelines of New Hampshire.

First, to your point that wind power is a reasonable and proper replacement of energy from fossil fuel plants, you fail to acknowledge or consider that wind energy does not replace fossil fuel plants. According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) there were over 45,000 wind turbines operating in the US at the end of 2013. In addition, there is many times that operating elsewhere throughout the world. I know of no case where a single fossil fuel plant has been shut down and replaced by wind energy. The fact is that wind energy cannot be stored and is an unreliable and uneconomical source of power, especially in the mountain regions of New Hampshire where wind speeds are relatively low, unpredictable and highly variable. As a result, wind power cannot be counted on as a constant source of power or a replacement of conventional sources of energy.

Second, your position that NH should take advantage of every opportunity to move away from fossil fuels blindly assumes that wind power is the best alternative use of our

limited resources. For every dollar the federal, state and local governments, as well as additional costs to the consumer, spend on wind power, which is not economical or reliable in this location, is a dollar that is not available to be spent on other, more feasible and effective, renewable energy sources such as solar, hydropower, biofuels, nuclear, etc. We don't have unlimited resources and we should spend our money wisely on renewable energy technologies that give us the best return for our investment.

Third, your argument ignores the adverse impacts that wind energy has on our environment, wildlife, water quality, health, economy, regional development, aesthetics, property values, etc. Other renewable resources do not have the same level or number of adverse impacts of wind power; are more economical to build and operate; and do replace fossil energy facilities.

Fourth, the attraction of New Hampshire to its residents and tourists is largely due to the natural beauty of its landscape, mountains and lakes. We reside here, and others visit and vacation here, to experience that natural beauty. Other sources of power, renewable and conventional, while having adverse impacts, those impacts are more limited in both breadth and degree and touch the lives of far fewer people than does wind power.

While I understand and support your aim of weaning us away from fossil fuels for health (and other) concerns, your efforts would better serve that objective if they were directed towards alternative, renewable technologies that work better in the mountain regions of New Hampshire.

Thank you for all the good work that the American Lung Association does but I urge you to reevaluate your blind support of wind power, when other choices are available that would accomplish your goals more effectively and economically.

Very truly yours,



Peter T. Silbermann

cc: Ms. Jane Murray, Secretary NH Site Evaluation Committee

