

Re: Timbertop Wind 1,LLC SEC Docket 2012-04

Jane Murray, Secretary NH Site Evaluation Committee  
NH Department of Environmental Sciences  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord NH 03302-0095

Dear Committee Members,

I have lived on a small hillside in Temple NH for over 30 years. I am a retired economist and have always enjoyed thinking about new ideas, especially ones that might save money.

I became curious about windpower several years ago. I did quite a lot of research on it and began to realize that my hilltop wind is just not consistent enough. Even though my personal project would have been called "small wind" the same issues arise as occur with the larger windtower projects: inconsistency, noise, flickering, transmission costs, etc. It was also expensive. I gave up the idea.

When Pioneer Green (Timbertop Wind) proposed a project for Kidder Mountain, I went to the informational meetings held in town. I found the information to be both interesting and fairly presented. Pioneer representatives spoke at length and answered questions. I was not aware of any attempt to frighten people or present incorrect information. Quite a few people, including myself, were interested in whether we would save money on our property taxes by expanding the tax base. I was hopeful.

After much information, however, the lack of real financial benefits was obvious. And environmental impacts are real, construction of the towers, building access roads, and the effect on birds and other wildlife. Wind projects receive a federal subsidy without which they are generally not feasible. The subsidy was renewed at the end of 2012 although I believe with limited life. The marginal benefits just did not appeal to me as a wise use of resources. The Pioneer Project was also quite small—to do this efficiently would seem to require much greater numbers of towers. Perhaps the ocean with a large project such as the Cape Wind would be more feasible.

I believe we looked at this project fairly with all relevant information. I did not sense any animosity towards the windtower company. They seemed pleasant and well informed. Similarly, I felt that our planning board was diligent in rounding up relevant information. I heard no "wild, scary" statements. It just did not seem to me that the benefits were greater than the costs.

I understand they are requesting your involvement to bypass our local planning board and selectboard. I urge you to reject their request. This should be a local decision. We will live with it for a long time.

Sincerely,

Gail Cromwell, Ph.D.  
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February 13, 2013