

Tue 11/27/2012 3:15 PM

From: Lawrence, Richard J (Finance) [mailto:Richard.Lawrence@thehartford.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 12:15 PM

Subject: Wild Meadow Wind Farm project
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

I am writing to strongly object to the Wild Meadows Wind Project in Alexandria, Danbury, and Grafton, NH. We have studied with interest Iberdrola Renewables' plans for the proposed 37 wind turbines that will be 454 feet tall on the Wild Meadows site. We feel that a project of this sheer size and magnitude would be completely inappropriate for this location and would have a negative effect on one of the state's most treasured assets, Newfound Lake.

The scenic vistas from Cardigan Mountain, Newfound Lake, and Ragged Mountain would be severely compromised by the installation of 37 wind turbines, each as tall as a 40 story building. A view chart provided by Iberdrola shows that approximately 90% of the lake would have wind turbines in their view. Each turbine produces 50 to 100+ decibels of noise depending on your distance and the wind speed (80 decibels would be comparable to a vacuum). The sound when multiplied by the number of turbines would be significant. A massive row of red flashing lights at night will create a tremendous source of light pollution.

The local economy and tourism would be negatively impacted by such a scar on the landscape. A quote taken from the Newfound Lake Watershed Master Plan states: "A 2007 State-wide economic survey reported that a perceived decline in water quality and scenery could cause a 33% decline in sales, income, and jobs." The Wild Meadows Wind Project would directly affect the scenery referred to in this quote.

This region already bears more than its fair share of projects like this with the installation of 24 turbines in Groton, NH. A project that was a surprise to many of those affected who were never informed of its existence until the turbines were installed. Iberdrola has been working on Wild Meadows for three years and has not shared this information with the public. Landowners who lease to them are required to sign non-disclosure agreements. If wind turbines were so widely accepted this strategy would not make sense.

Allowing a project of this type seems at odds with all of the other environmental standards we have set in the state of NH regarding protection of our natural resources. It is at odds with the idea of NH as a place to visit, relax, and recreate with unspoiled beauty.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service says that wind turbines should not be erected near wetlands, on mountain ridges, near shorelines, or in other known wildlife concentration areas or where fog or low clouds are common during spring and fall migrations. Numerous studies have documented the negative impact on wildlife. We have seen bald eagles, Loons, and varied other wildlife at Newfound Lake and the surrounding area and are very concerned about what this project will do to these species, especially when combined with the nearby Groton facility.

The small tax breaks given to the towns the turbines will exist in are a pittance compared to the reduction in property values and lost tax revenue including the view tax not to mention the long term costs down the road when they go offline. There are immeasurable costs of ruining one of our most valuable assets. There are no local environmental benefits and energy produced would not be used locally.

Wind energy initially sounds like a good idea until you learn more about it. It is not a cost efficient green energy choice and would not be pursued without the tax subsidies to support it. Compared to the cost of creating and installing these large wind turbines, they create only small amounts of useable energy. They are very costly to maintain and when they need to be replaced are typically abandoned due to the sheer expense of removing them.

Please help us protect the cleanest lake in New Hampshire and the scenic landscape of the surrounding area by not allowing this project to proceed.

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Richard J. Lawrence
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