

From: aprylleraine@yahoo.com [mailto:aprylleraine@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, December 02, 2012 6:12 PM

Subject: Wild Meadows

Dear Tim,

I have lived in the small town of Grafton, NH most all my life. I am a part of the volunteer fire and ambulance service and I get to see many things others don't. One thing I have noticed is that people here really love their neighbors (even if they pretend to hate them). We may be money poor, but we are resource rich. Our mountains, streams and ponds are known for their pristine conditions. It is to this end I write you and beg you to stop the Wild Meadows Wind Project...

I, once felt that Wind Energy was green and clean. I felt that a wind project in the Meadows (Grafton, Danbury, Alexandria, NH) would conserve the property, leaving it less impacted and more wild for future generations to enjoy, but it is very near and dear to me so I thought it responsible to look into wind energy as I really knew nothing about it.

So, I began my search. I researched energy in our state and discovered that NH is an exporter of electricity, using just 40% of the energy produced here (because of Seabrook), then exporting the rest-and that our demand has decreased and leveled off at that lower rate (despite the recent minor upswing of the economy). I also discovered that our electric rates are the 5th highest in the nation, and that the states we export to often have lower rates than we do. I discovered we do not have a very good, nor big wind energy resource in our state, and that the wind energy we will produce from our beautiful Mt. tops will be shipped out of state.

I looked into places that utilize wind energy like the western US and Europe. What I found was that wind energy is highly variable and intermittent, difficult to assimilate into the grid system we have. Some countries have balanced that intermittence by tying the wind to pump systems. The end result works a bit like a battery and the energy is much more constant by the end of the process. I also discovered that here we do not have a system like this, nor a way to store the energy when it runs in excess of demand, but rather the U.S. balances wind energy by cycling other energy plants. This causes other energies to run less efficiently (www.benetekenergy.com). Resulting in a significant increase in SO2 and NOx (which we know to create acid rain.) I also found that no fossil fuel plant has been retired because of wind power generation. What with all the talk of reducing CO2 by wind energy only 3% of our energy is produced from oil.

Studies from Illinois & Albany Universities show localized warming (micro-climates) in areas of wind projects thought to be from their churning of the upper, warmer, layers of air, that can be detrimental to the delicate plant life on alpine ridges.

Disenchanted with industrial wind's ability to help with the environment I began looking at the impacts from the project: human health and welfare (people within 1.5 miles of these projects have serious health effects, look into vibro-acoustic disease)-despite many law suits wind companies still use an 'A' weighted scale to do their sound studies, which doesn't pick up low-frequency sound---a more acceptable scale is the 'C' weighted scale that Sand Diego County, CA has recently adopted. The vista lost from Mt. Cardigan's summit, and Newfound Lake (from where if all three currently proposed projects go through you will be able to see 96, 300-454' turbines) local economics...tracing news articles back to original studies, and court law. --I challenge you to look for yourself at other wind projects look at the court cases and studies that have come out of these towns.

At this point I was forced to remove my thoughts from the big picture and think of my home. While I have learned to cope well, I suffer regularly from vertigo. Low frequency noise intensifies this. Some days I have difficulty just picking things up and not dropping them, and walking without tripping on my own feet. (If you ever meet me you won't be able to tell.) So, I thought, it will still be ok, we can move to the other side of town.

And then I learned about the bats and the birds.

I have done my research (at great cost I've taken three weeks off of work and devoted my time to studying this subject...you could very well spend a lifetime in it's complexities.)

I have thought of the country and of the state, my neighbors, and myself---then went so far as to remove myself from the equation.

Personally for me despite the blasting of 72 acres of pristine alpine Mt. ridges, despite the potential loss of our home, and neighbors the impact to our stream systems (do you know we sit on a continental divide and these ridges are the headwaters of the Gulf of Maine?--The other side of Mt. Cardigan the water flows to the Long Island sound.)

Despite all these things what finally broke me was the birds. Just look up "dead birds and wind turbines" ---there are all kinds of studies (Look into "The House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Oversight Hearing on: "Gone with the Wind: Impacts of Wind Turbines on Birds and Bats.")

What finally crushed me was an amature video: Two teenage boys sitting by a turbine w/a video camera much like my brothers used to sit awaiting frogs in the swamp, waited for a bird (turkey vulture) to fly by, watched it get hit and then drop to the ground and die. You can mix numbers up to skew studies, but a teenage boy always knows where to find the "frogs" in his neighborhood.

It is the stupidest thing, but the birds are what finally broke my heart. As I write this I feel foolish for the tears in my eyes and the pain in my chest...

There is a place for wind energy, I feel when properly sited. Residential turbines, with storage capabilities are great, but 96 turbines in one close area is just not good for NH.

To that end I have invested and will continue to invest, my time, my money, tears and voice to fight to keep our beautiful Wild Meadows, wild.

My hope is that my voice will cause others to think, to dig deeper than a stereotype- to find their own facts, and possibly their own voice.

Would you please, please vote for the moratorium on wind and energy development, study this issue, and help our state come up with a comprehensive plan that brings us safely into the future, but not at the expense of our greatest natural resources--our neighbors and our wildlife.

Thank you,

April Dugan
576 Wild Meadows Road
Grafton, NH 03240
(603)523-8836