

Tue 1/8/2013 10:58 AM

From: Todd Westfall [mailto:todd.westfall.nh@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 3:15 PM

Subject: Wild Meadows Project

To Whom it May Concern,

First of all, I'd like to say that (like most people) I am a supporter of clean renewable energy and believe that we must break our dependence on fossil fuels, and my own property in Alexandria will not be impacted by the proposed Wild Meadows project. I also believe that the natural beauty of New Hampshire is something we should be proud of, and seek to protect. There is a stark difference between sites like Lempster and Groton, NH and the proposed sites around Newfound Lake. There are no businesses in Lempster or Groton that depend on tourism, there are very few property owners that get income from vacation rentals in those towns. See for yourself by visiting one of the most popular vacation rental sites on the web (<http://www.vrbo.com/>) search for Newfound Lake, NH and you will find over 50 rental properties. A search for Lempster, NH will find 1 property and Groton will produce no results. There are dozens of other Newfound Lake rentals at other sites and real estate offices. Vacationers can choose where they want to go, would they stay at a lake surrounded by turbines when they have other options?

Even Iberdrola's project manager Ed Cherian has conceded that 450' tall white towers with spinning blades and blinking red lights will detract from the beauty of nature. Each tower will have permanent concrete bases and crane pads (these are not part of the decommissioning plans.) Based on the size provided by Iberdrola for the Wild Meadows project, the amount of terrain permanently encased in concrete would equal the area of approximately 14 football fields. That seems significant to me. Roads and hilltops that are blasted and leveled will not be restored under the plan either, leaving miles of wilderness scarred FOREVER. The simulated photos provided by Iberdrola mostly show distant, hazy and out of focus turbines, this is certainly a distortion of the true impact as we can see the Groton towers quite clearly from a distance.

The natural beauty of this region is of HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE to New Hampshire. Please take a minute to review a few scans of postcards from my father's collection of hundreds of postcards of this area spanning generations, some dating back to the 1800's.

<https://picasaweb.google.com/112585258002190202097/NewfoundLakePostcards?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgClyh9-egoPm8iAE&feat=directlink> You will find descriptions of the beauty of the scenery by the senders over decades. One card, postmarked 1908, talks about taking a moonlight cruise with a group. I'm concerned that the experience will be spoiled for future generations by giant towers with flashing red lights. The back of one card has the following description: Nestled among the mountains and fed by springs and streams it has been called New Hampshire's most beautiful lake. Another way to see what the region means to New Hampshire is to do a Google image search for "Newfound Lake" then try the same search for "Lempster, NH" and "Groton, NH". Again there is a tremendous difference between these areas as it relates to tourism in NH.

What impact will the proposed project have on tourism and businesses in the area? What financial impact will it have on property owners who have invested so much in lakefront properties or homes with "million dollar views"? Will the property tax base be effected in the region? What impact does it have on the wind industry? Will reputations of responsible renewable energy companies be tarnished by foreign companies that irresponsibly select sites solely on their profitability? These questions should be answered before proceeding with any projects in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,
Todd Westfall
Alexandria, NH