



NH AUDUBON
Celebrating 100 Years of Conservation

STATEWIDE OFFICES

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REGIONAL CENTERS

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LEARNING CENTER**

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*Managed by NHA in partnership
with PSNH, the N.H. Fish and
Game Department, and the U.S.
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McLANE CENTER

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**NEWFOUND
AUDUBON CENTER**

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August 15, 2013

Site Evaluation Committee
Thomas Burack, Commissioner
Dept. of Environmental Services
PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Commissioner Burack and members of the Site Evaluation
Committee

I am writing to express concern regarding the multiple industrial scale
wind projects in various stages of planning for the area west of Newfound
Lake.

New Hampshire Audubon (NHA) owns and manages four separate
wildlife sanctuaries totaling 314 acres in Hebron on the north end of
Newfound Lake, an area well within the vicinity of the proposed Spruce
Ridge and Wild Meadows wind projects. NHA's wildlife sanctuaries are
owned and managed for the purposes of wildlife habitat conservation,
low-impact, passive recreation such as bird-watching, hiking, cross-
country skiing, snowshoeing, and in some cases, low-impact personal
watercraft recreation. All four sanctuaries are open to the public and have
foot access; three of the four have well-developed trail systems (nearly
five miles in length) and interpretive trail guides. The visitor experience to
each of these sanctuaries is based upon the foundation of wild and
natural landscapes that highlights not only the carefully managed
conditions and conservation values of the individual property, but also the
natural beauty of surrounding Newfound Lake and its adjacent hills which
can be seen from each of these properties. In particular, a few prized
locations on three of these sanctuaries offer relatively wild and
undisturbed views of the lake and its western hills.

The four NHA properties in Hebron, as well as the educational facilities
located at Paradise Point Wildlife Sanctuary, comprise the Newfound
Audubon Center, an environmental education center that has been
continuously operated during the summer months since 1969.

The Center is a significant resource for thousands of visitors annually. This includes many residents of Hebron and surrounding communities of Newfound Lake and also a large number of visitors from across NH and beyond our state's borders. The Center provides regular programming throughout the summer that annually reaches several hundred adults and children, and operates a canoe and kayak rental facility that offers residents and non-residents alike the chance to seek out and find wildlife, natural landscapes, and solitude, among other values.

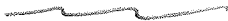
I would also note that much of the area west of Newfound Lake has been identified in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan as "supporting landscape", and many of the ridges in question are within core conservation focus areas for the Quabbin to Cardigan (Q2C) Conservation Plan.

The Q2C Conservation Plan was developed by a partnership of 28 private organizations and government agencies and is detailed in a 2008 Technical Report¹. The Conservation Plan identifies 64 core conservation focus areas, which total 486,577 acres within the total, two-state project area of approximately two million acres. Conservation focus areas consist of large unfragmented forest blocks that include significant ecological features, such as important forest soils, wetlands, and high yield aquifers, and habitat features such as deeryards and south-facing slopes.

As one of the largest remaining areas of interconnected forest in central New England the Quabbin to Cardigan region deserves special consideration and protection from significant fragmenting development.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns and look forward to providing more detail and supporting documentation should the proposed projects move forward.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Bartlett, President

¹ Sundquist, D. 2008. Quabbin to Cardigan Conservation Plan Technical Report. Prepared for the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership. Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Concord, NH.