

19 Brad Chase Road  
Danbury, New Hampshire 03230  
August 19, 2013

Commissioner Thomas S. Burack, Chairman  
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
c/o New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Commissioner Burack and Members of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee:

As residents of New Hampshire, we are writing to express our grave concerns about the health, safety, and environmental impacts of industrial wind projects in our state, and to support statewide efforts to protect New Hampshire communities from industrial wind turbines. Industrial wind turbine projects on the surface sound appealing for the state in terms of potential financial benefits and energy savings – and, in fact, politicians and residents alike may support this so-called “green energy” alternative without fully understanding the long-term negative impacts of these projects. Independent studies (i.e., not wind industry-funded research) are beginning to demonstrate the negative consequences of wind turbine projects on the environment, wildlife, property values and health of local residents.

Wind turbines negatively impact the environment through habitat destruction and loss, habitat disruption, and direct fatalities. According to one report, current estimates of bird and bat mortality used by the wind industry for wind project development are gross underestimates mainly due to restricted search areas and exclusion of certain carcasses or wounded birds, and that a more realistic estimate of annual fatalities of all species of birds and bats is closer to 39 million. Habitat loss and impacts on soil erosion are also a concern. For example, in a current lawsuit in Herkimer County, New York (i.e., Hardscrabble Wind Project) against a large wind energy company, plaintiffs complained about sediment in their water since the turbines were erected and mentioned that they can no longer hunt on their land or simply enjoy watching the wildlife because the wind turbines have scared all of the game/wildlife away.

Furthermore, there are a number of independent economic impact studies showing that wind turbines can negatively impact property values by as much as 40% for homes located near wind turbines. Given the state of the economy now with a likely slow recovery ahead, the last thing that any New Hampshire resident needs is another reason to decrease property values.

Finally, there have been numerous scientific studies linking noise and flicker from wind turbines with sleep disruption, depression, headaches, nausea, dizziness, and anxiety in humans. There are anecdotal reports by residents living near wind turbines of low milk production in farm animals. For many industrial wind turbine projects across the country, there seems to be an ongoing and unresolved noise issue from wind turbines.

Our town of Danbury, New Hampshire is a proposed site for industrial wind turbines (part of the Wild Meadows Wind Power Project), also encompassing the towns of Alexandria and Grafton. While it is not surprising that wind power companies tout the support they receive from towns and local residents, that is not the case for this and other area wind projects planned for the Newfound Lake Region. To date, Selectmen and residents from two of these towns have written to the state of NH opposing these projects and opposition to the wind turbines among residents is building in the third town.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we ask that you file our letter in the Wild Meadows Wind Power Project dossier in opposition to this project. Please also share our letter with the other members of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee.

Respectfully Yours,

*Seth Emont*

*Nancy Emont*

Seth and Nancy Emont