

10/17/13



Dear Commissioner Thomas Burack,  
Chairman New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee

As residents of Danbury, New Hampshire, we are writing to express our grave concerns about the health, safety, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed Wild Meadows Industrial Wind Turbine Project (proposed by Iberdrola Renewables) and other 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. But, 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 and that a more realistic estimate of annual fatalities caused by wind turbines 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 against Iberdrola Renewables in Herkimer County, New York (i.e., Hardscrabble Wind Project), 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%. In the latest town-wide property revaluation in Danbury, the total town assessment declined by 25%. The tax rate (per \$1,000) has increased from \$18.75 in 2010 to \$23.22 in 2012 – a 24% tax rate increase. The last thing our town 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, and quality of life. There are anecdotal reports by residents living near wind turbines of low milk production in farm animals and even interference with cell phone, internet, and TV reception. 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.

We respectfully ask that you consider an immediate moratorium on the Wild Meadows Wind Power Project and all future wind turbine projects in New Hampshire. We believe you also will find growing public support for this viewpoint in our town and across the state of New Hampshire.

Respectfully Yours,  
*Robert Plaisted*  
*Martha Plaisted*