

Office of Selectmen

**TOWN OF DANBURY**  
Incorporated 1795

23 HIGH STREET  
DANBURY, NH 03230  
Phone/Fax (603)768-3313

Email: danbury\_selectmen@comcast.net

February 26, 2014

Department of Environmental Services  
Thomas S. Burack, Chairman  
PO Box 95  
Concord NH 03302-0095

Iberdrola Renewables is proposing its Wild Meadow wind farm to be built in Alexandria and Danbury. We have held a number of public forums on this subject with representatives of the company and members of the public. The Danbury Selectboard determined that this project would impact our Town in a way that we felt it was necessary to give every voter in Danbury the opportunity to express their opinion on this project.

We sent a letter and a ballot to each voter and asked them to respond. A copy of the letter and ballot is attached. 46% of the letters sent were returned, of those, 249 were in opposition to the project and 116 were in favor.

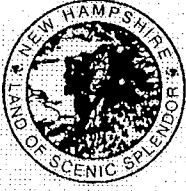
Based on this strong response, our Board voted 3- 0 to not support the proposed wind project. Thank you for considering our position when reviewing this proposal.

Sincerely,

James D. Phelps, Chair

Sandra J. Spencer

Lyn H. England



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December 2013

Dear Voters of Danbury:

There is a proposal to construct a wind farm on the northern side of Danbury, on Forbes Mountain and Tinkham. This project would also extend into Alexandria. This project is called the Wild Meadow Wind Farm and would be similar to the Lempster and Groton Wind projects.

There would be 15 towers in Danbury and 8 in Alexandria. The towers are 308 feet tall and the tip of the blades would be 492 feet when at their highest point. They would be lighted as required by Federal Aviation Administration Regulations. They would be located on the top of this ridge and would be visible from Route 4, Route 104 and many of the town roads as well.

The Wild Meadow Wind Farm would become the largest taxpayer in Danbury, with annual payments of \$545,000 proposed in the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement put forward by them. This represents 20% of the property taxes raised in Danbury in 2013. By comparison, our present largest taxpayer's bill is \$120,000.

The PILOT is an agreement between the wind farm and the town to agree to a fixed tax bill over a defined period of time. This provides the town with a predictable income that would not decrease as the wind farm towers depreciate.

The proposed PILOT is for \$545,000 per year with an annual 2 1/2% increase. It would be for 15 years with renewal options available. The proposed PILOT is based on the formula used with Groton and is subject to negotiation and agreement with the Selectboard and may be higher.

This additional income would not affect our local school taxes since our assessment with the Newfound Area Schools is based on average daily membership (attendance) and is not based on valuation.

State education taxes do not take utility assessments into consideration, there is a separate state tax on utilities, so any school aid we receive would not be affected either.

Our county taxes would increase as a result of this project. In 2013, our county taxes were 12% of the total taxes raised. The valuation on this project would be based on current value and would be done by the NH Department of Revenue Administration. When new, the valuation would be higher and then decline as the project ages. The county taxes will be greater when the project is new and then decline as the project ages and the valuation decreases.

Additional information about this project is available at the Danbury Town Hall or on-line at [Iberdrolarenewables.us/wild\\_meadows](http://Iberdrolarenewables.us/wild_meadows). NH Wind Watch.org provides information opposing wind farms.

The NH Site Evaluation Committee is established to determine if energy projects such as this one should be permitted. The Town of Danbury does not have the ability to approve or deny this project but can enter its voice into the discussion and will be considered by the Site Evaluation Committee.

We are seeking your input to determine if Danbury supports or opposes this proposed wind farm. Enclosed you will find a ballot to indicate your position on this project. The results of this ballot will be the position of the Town and will be forwarded to the Site Evaluation Committee.

We encourage you to do your own research on this proposal and participate in the ballot process we have put forward. Your ballot must be postmarked or returned to the Danbury Selectboard no later than January 2, 2014.

The ballots you received are numbered to prevent duplication, but are mailed randomly so no one will be able to determine how you voted.

Thank you for your consideration and participation.

Danbury Selectboard

# 288

WILD MEADOW WIND PROJECT IN DANBURY

\_\_\_ I SUPPORT THE WIND PROJECT.

\_\_\_ I OPOSE THE WIND PROJECT.

INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE ABOVE AND  
RETURN YOUR BALLOT TO:

DANBURY SELECTBOARD, 23 HIGH STREET  
DANBURY NH 03230

It must be RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED No Later Than JANUARY 2, 2014

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