

September 13, 2015

Dear SEC,

I support the comments made by Lori Lerner, President of NH Wind Watch, and Lisa Linowes of The Wind Action Group in their letter sent to the SEC dated August 26, 2015 as well as other information that they have submitted to SEC regarding the siting of Industrial Wind Turbines and Energy Projects. I know that they have done their research, know the facts and are not relying on the bias demonstrated by developers, lobbyists and lawyers who profit from energy projects in our state and who don't have to live through the destructive consequences of poorly sited energy project such as Groton Wind. Just listen to the people who live near Groton Wind, and the surrounding areas including Rumney and around Newfound Lake, and you will hear resoundingly that this was a poorly sited project, and that Iberdrola has been a poor corporate citizen. More so, none of the area towns want another energy project in the area.

The past is done, so what have we learned from this and from other similar projects as the rules are being re-written as directed by legislation. Everyone should have learned the importance of PUBLIC representation in this wonderful democracy of ours, and that PUBLIC comment should be taken into account. The PUBLIC **wants** and **expects** that the rules that the SEC adopts will protect our beautiful state, its people and wildlife, and **not** the profits of merchant energy developers, lobbyists and lawyers.

I am more knowledgeable about industrial wind projects which is what I will address in my comments, and expect that the SEC will either be equally knowledgeable in this area, or learn as I have done. You see, I was originally in favor of industrial wind in NH because I thought naively that they were green, but after becoming more informed, I now understand the importance of siting these projects correctly:

1. First of all, NH does not have ideal wind conditions for industrial wind turbines. Wind power is viable in certain places such as in the Midwest and offshore where the wind is fairly strong and consistent <http://www.slideshare.net/kateblair7965/dr-ben-lucenhwindwatchjanuary182013>
2. Wind turbines will destroy the natural beauty of the region because companies have to blast off the tops of mountains to place their large concrete pads on. They also have built large road to these mountains. They also need to put large poles and a mess of wires on the roads (Take a look at Tenney Mountain Highway...a picture is worth a thousand words).
3. Tourism is huge for New Hampshire and tourists will visit other states, without wind turbines...or at least, without them in tourist areas. Residents and tourists are attracted to NH due to the natural beauty of its landscape, mountains and lakes. We reside here (and others visit and vacation here), to experience that natural beauty. Wind power will have a chilling effect on aesthetics, tourism and economic development in the area
4. The tall (500') turbines will be totally out of scale to the ridgelines as they will stand 25%-40% above the height of the ridges themselves. To make a comparison, the Washington Monument is 555' and it is not on top of a mountain.
5. Wind power provides no economic benefit to the region as a whole as NH is a net exporter of power to MA and CT.
6. When properties are adversely impacted, their value decreases. I and many other people would NOT have bought in NH if I thought that there was a remote possibility of having our beautiful scenery marred with these large industrial wind turbines, Northern Pass, etc.
7. There are already 5 renewable projects in the Newfound area (1 wind, 2 biofuel and 2 hydropower). We have done our share, and the rules should not allow additional ones to be placed here.
8. Wind power is twice as expensive as conventional power sources.
9. Use of wind power does not result in the closure of any conventional fossil fuel plants since wind power is not sustainable.
10. Wind power projects increase the local costs as the costs of the transmission and power grid improvements to accommodate wind power must be borne by the local power companies and the costs are passed on to the local customers, even if the power is used in other states.
11. The developers select poor host towns without zoning or master plans.
12. Wind power technology is flawed for use in NH as we have low intermittent wind that cannot be stored.

13. In fact, wind power is often curtailed and not used by the grid even in times of high energy demand in favor of other sources of power that are more sustainable and have less impact on the power grid.
14. Europe and other places where wind power projects have been implemented have high energy costs, are eliminating their subsidies to wind power developers, and are moving away from wind power in favor of other renewable sources of power.
15. There is very low reduction of carbon emissions, if any reduction at all, since most power on the NH grid is nuclear (50%) and natural gas (25%) and carbon emissions from conventional plants is increased due to inefficiencies caused by having to continue running in standby mode (spinning) while wind power is on the grid.
16. There is a strong coalition against wind power in the Newfound/Cardigan and other regions including NH Wind Watch, the AMC, Newfound Lake Region Association and many homeowners' associations.
17. ISO-NE has produced data showing that since 2008, there has been a significant drop in electricity demand with slow to no growth expected for many years.
18. Wind projects create very few permanent jobs. The 10-month construction may provide temporary jobs which are mostly filled by out of state workers. Once operational, there's an average of 3-4 permanent jobs per wind project.
19. The wind power developers do not set aside sufficient funds to decommission (take down) the towers at the end of their useful life (it looks like it is far less than the 20-25 years as stated by wind corporations). This then falls to the host community.
20. Wind power is a low capacity/high priced renewable. Other renewable sources of power such as hydropower, solar, biofuel, nuclear, etc. are more economical.
21. The promised local tax benefits are often not realized as there are offsetting costs and tax abatements as a result of the project.
22. The wind turbines do not produce as much power as is claimed due to mechanical problems, the lack of sustainable wind, and curtailment by the grid operators.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your attention and desire to also protect NH's beauty, which once destroyed, we will not be able to get back.

Sincerely,

Karen Lukeman