

3/22/2015

March 21, 2014

RE: Docket No. 2014-04

Dear Ms. Murray and SEC Members:

I am a New Hampshire-born resident and hiker, and I am very concerned about the impact that the SEC rules will have on the areas where I hike. When I think of what New Hampshire stands for, I think of our forests and the wildlife within. Yet today, the International Day of Forests, I find myself writing to you to ask if productive enough wildlife impact studies have been conducted to assess the impacts that industrial wind farms are having on our most valuable State resources.

On February 7, 2015, I attended *Wind Power and Wildlife* with Carol Foss, Ph.D., at the Hopkinton, NH Town Library in Contoocook. Dr. Foss is one of the Senior Advisors for Science and Policy at N.H. Audubon. During her lecture, Dr. Foss discussed the current state of knowledge about the impacts of onshore wind energy development on native wildlife: She admitted that more wildlife impact studies need to be conducted to assess the impacts. Example: The noise generated by industrial wind farms may be masking breeding and fledgling begging calls, resulting in a loss of breeding habitats. She also admitted that the methods and metrics utilized in these studies will need to be standardized.

The problem here though is a matter of when the additional wildlife impact studies will be conducted; and, when the methods and metrics utilized in these studies will be standardized: Before or after new industrial wind farms have been installed? I am writing to you today, the International Day of Forests, to ask you to please consider the needs of our forests and the wildlife within when you consider whether the proposed rules are too broad and do not establish specific criteria for determining if "issuance of a certificate will serve the public interest." Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Herman
31 Pleasant View Road
Bradford, NH 03221

PS: I have friends who live in the Mount Cardigan area. And while they are not wildlife (per se) their lives are already impacted by the existing industrial wind farms in the area. According to Article 12 of our State constitution, their needs should also be considered.