

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Docket No. SEC 2015 – 02

APPLICATION OF ANTRIM WIND ENERGY
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
ANNIE LAW AND ROBERT CLELAND
NON-ABUTTER INTERVENORS

May 23, 2016

Pre-filed Testimonial of Annie Law and Robert Cleland

Q. Please state your names and address.

A. Annie Law and Robert Cleland ~ 43 Farmstead Rd., Antrim, NH 03440

Q. Are you familiar with the proposed Antrim Wind Energy project?

A. Yes, we have been appellants in the proceedings before the Antrim Zoning Board of Adjustments for the MET tower, as well as interveners when AWE and the Antrim Board of Selectmen applied to the SEC to take jurisdiction of the AWE project in the Spring of 2011. We were again interveners as opponents to the approval of the project and attended most of the SEC hearings until the SEC turned down the permit due to aesthetics. We also attended the hearing when AWE appealed to the SEC for reconsideration and witnessed again that the decision remained the same.

Q. What are your main concerns about the proposed AWE Industrial Wind Farm?

A. We built our home on 43 Farmstead Rd., Antrim, NH, on Windsor Mt. 28 years ago for the peace and beauty of this rural area. Our main concern in regard to the proposed renewable energy facility is that we will be directly affected because our home is less than 1.5 miles from Tuttle Mt., directly in our view shed and we believe that we will be affected by the noise; we're also very concerned about how it will affect our health. We especially don't want to see the Rural Conservation District in Antrim destroyed.

Q. Annie, have you been involved in real estate investing?

A. Yes, I have been investing in real estate for over 36 years and feel that our property value will be greatly reduced if the project is constructed. I've done research on the effects of wind farms on property values and allowing AWE to build their proposed wind farm will reduce the property values of our home and others in close proximity to the proposed site on Tuttle Hill and the whole ridgeline to Willard Pond.

Q. How has this proposed project affected you?

A. We have been taxpayers in Antrim, NH for over 28 years and feel that our rights have been violated throughout the eight plus years that AWE began their request for a height variance for the MET tower and their proposal to build an Industrial Wind Farm, which would destroy our pristine environment in the Rural Conservation District in the North Branch of Antrim.

Q. Bob, have you ever met Jack Kenworthy before he was involved with Eolian?

A. Yes, Jack worked as a counselor at Windsor Mountain International Camp (formerly known as Interlocken International Camp) in Windsor, NH, where I have been employed for 25 years as Maintenance Director. Jack was in college at the time and we have several mutual friends.

Q. Bob, was there ever an occasion when Jack Kenworthy spoke with you about the proposed Wind Energy project?

A. Yes, in September, 2009, Jack Kenworthy was at the annual “Live Free or Die” party at Windsor Mountain International Camp in Windsor, NH and I had a conversation with him about the proposed Wind Farm and he clearly stated to me that it would have a direct impact on our property.

Q. Do you feel that Jack Kenworthy is capable of completing a Wind Project of this magnitude?

A. No, he has never done a Wind Project of this magnitude and we don’t believe he will follow through. Over the past 8 years, during all of the meetings we’ve attended in regard to the proposed Industrial Wind Farm, Eolian has told so many different stories about the number of wind towers to be constructed, anywhere from 6 towers to 10 proposed wind towers. We’ve also been told by Eolian that the height of the towers would be 400’ and now they’re proposed to be nearly 500’. How can we believe anything AWE is telling us when their story changes on a regular basis? AWE had also mentioned early on, that the Audubon Society supported the proposed wind farm, but obviously that was not the truth, because they are intervening, as we are.

Q. Bob, what is your relationship with Jack Kenworthy today?

A. I have no relationship with him any more. Annie and I have been very happy here for over 28 years until Jack Kenworthy and Eolian came to Antrim, turned our town upside down and divided our community in two, disrupting our lives with their proposed Industrial Wind Farm.

Q. How do you feel about alternative energy?

A. We both believe in a healthy environment and different sources of alternative energy, however, since we’ve been involved in trying to protect the Rural Conservation District in Antrim, we have found that wind energy is the highest costing form of energy and the citizens of Antrim won’t benefit from it. We also feel that AWE is looking to line their pockets and will more than likely sell out to a larger company once they obtain all of their approvals.

Q. Do you have any concerns about the SEC taking jurisdiction once again of this

proposed project?

A. Yes, we have reviewed the proposed project and it is exactly the same project as they proposed in 2012, with the elimination of one turbine and reducing the height of another by 40 feet. It will still have the same aesthetic effect, within a ten mile radius, as the initial previous project that was turned down for that very reason. Nothing has changed except for their persistence to construct an industrial wind farm where the SEC already said it does NOT belong, not once, but twice. AWE has proposed to build industrial wind farms in several New England states and has been turned down by all and now they're back to propose the same project that the SEC turned down in the North Branch of Antrim's Rural Conservation District, where the zoning does not allow such a project.

Q. Do you have long-term goals as residents of Antrim?

A. Yes, we were planning on retiring here in our beautiful home and environment, but don't feel that we'll be able to or will want to stay here in the event that the Wind Farm is approved and constructed. We also feel that we won't be able to recoup what we've invested here with eight 500' wind turbines and one 460' wind turbine, on the ridgeline directly in our view shed. Who will pay us market value for our home? AWE?

Q. What would you request of AWE if the project is approved?

A. We would demand a guarantee from AWE that if they do obtain the approvals to build an Industrial Wind Farm, that they or anyone they sell it to, will pay us fair market value for our home and land. We are one of many families, who feel this way in the North Branch of Antrim. Will AWE buy all of our properties at fair market value???? We don't believe so!

Q. Do you feel that the Board of Selectmen has been protecting your rights as taxpayers in the Town of Antrim?

A. No, there have been several secret meetings between AWE and the BOS in Antrim that were not publicly announced. We feel that we can't trust anything AWE is telling us and that they are misleading the citizens of Antrim to believing that this is a good thing for our town. We believe they will get the approvals needed to construct the project, sell it to a large company and take their money and run! We don't believe they'll follow through with the project and we don't trust them at all, since they have never seen a project through to fruition yet!

Q. Why do you feel that an Industrial Wind Farm should not be constructed on the ridge of Tuttle Hill to Willard Pond?

A. The proposed site is the Rural Conservation District and per the request of the SEC committee in 2012 during the hearings, a special ad hoc committee was formed in Antrim, who worked very hard to create an ordinance that would favor an Industrial Wind Farm in all areas of Antrim. When it came to a vote by the citizens of Antrim in November,

2011 ~ in March, 2012 and in March, 2014, the majority of Antrim citizens voted against the revised ordinances, not once, but three separate times!

This means that the Ordinances that were originally in place in Antrim are still in effect and maintain that the North Branch area of Antrim is a Rural Conservation District.

Unlike Lempster, we HAVE ordinances in place in Antrim, which are here for a reason, to preserve this area, NOT to destroy it by blasting our ridgelines and destroying the natural habitat of the wildlife that has been here for years!

Q. Do you have any requests of the SEC?

A. Yes, we are hoping that the new members of the SEC will clearly recognize that this is the same project as the one that was turned down in 2012, and we ask that they honor the original decision that the members of the SEC made in 2012. We are pleading with the SEC to preserve our Rural Conservation District in Antrim, respect our desire to retire here in the most pristine area of Southern New Hampshire and to encourage AWE to take their proposed Industrial Wind Project to another area that won't be compromising the values of the people living in this area and preserving the habitat of the wildlife.