

NH Site Evaluation Committee,

Docket 2015-02

Antrim Wind

I want to thank you again for allowing me to intervene in the Antrim Wind Project process. As I stated in my application, I would share an alternative view of the impacts imposed by the construction and operation of the facility.

I'm not, nor do I pretend to be an expert in specific matters relating to the project. I do however have a working knowledge of the site and surrounding area. I was involved with the collection of wind data that AWE acquired during the site selection phase of the project. I was hired as a subcontractor to maintain and move the LIDAR laser equipment used to confirm the MET tower data. I spent a considerable time, all across the proposed site in all seasons and all weather conditions.

The proposed area has been managed for decades as largescale woodlot property. There are countless logging roads and trails as well as obsolete roadways from earlier centuries. There are hiking trails to those that are familiar with the landscape. This area is by no means pristine woodland. The properties fall within the Rural Conservation district which allows many different uses of the land. By ballot vote, the area was approved for the construction of a commercial wind facility.

For real world comparisons I have used the Lempster Wind Project. There are many similar features surrounding both projects. I will share the actual impacts of that project compared to the perceived impacts of the proposed project.

I have spent hours in Lempster interviewing past and current town officials. I've also spent many hours at the wind site observing the turbines and assessing the concerns brought by the impacted citizens of Antrim. I have been granted unlimited access to the site and have taken advantage of that privilege. I have witnessed variations in sound levels and shadow flicker. I have searched far and wide for evidence of bird kills and found none. I've watched hawks and turkey vultures navigate the airways with no issues. Not surprising, I've not seen large mammals in my travels, but have seen wild turkeys and Canada Geese all over the wind site. At all times the turbines were in operation.

The maximum measured sound was 52db late this winter with sustained winds of 30 mph at the base of several towers. These readings were collected with handheld sound meters. I am not aware what the maximum allowed db reading is for the Lempster Facility. Antrim Wind has agreed to substantially lower sound levels.

Shadow flicker was the most notable in mid- May later in the afternoon. I was observing several towers at differing elevations. The shadows were noticeable on nearby trees but dissipated as distance increased. At ¼ mile the flicker was no longer detected.

I have not been at the facility after dark and have not witnessed the aviation lights. I've only seen them during daylight hours.

I had an informal conversation with a past Lempster Planning Board member, active during the application phase for their project. He was shocked to hear that AWE has a fixed lifespan. He was also surprised that the land owners had agreed to conserve their property after decommissioning. He thought limiting the lifespan was shortsighted as the power generation might be needed in the future. He stated that all power generation has some drawback.

I asked about complaints and local negative impacts. He was aware of 2 abatements. He stated that lower property values were a myth. (His words) There were no incidents of ice throw and no known issues with birds or wildlife. He noted that the Lempster project needed a large amount of infrastructure to deliver the power to the grid and was impressed that AWE was able to tie in with minimal impact.

He specifically noted that there is an active motorcycle track in town. That facility has affected residents and businesses with noise even though it operates on a limited basis. He said he would take 10 windfarms over the track. The town has no zoning.

I also spoke with the town administrator. I asked about the taxation issue. She stated that there is an ongoing discussions with the wind facility, the DRA and the town. Ultimately an independent assessor determines the value and the dollar amount varies. If she had to do it over she would prefer a PILOT so the revenues would remain constant. She believes that over 20yrs the dollars would equal out as the facility depreciates.

The wind facility has been an excellent neighbor. There have been no complaints other than the 2 previously mentioned abatements. There has been no effect on hunting and snowmobiling. Attached is a document provided by the administrator.

The Bald Mountain/Goodhue hill area and Pitcher Mountain are natural comparisons. Both are open and accessible to the public. Both have view sheds and both longstanding reputations for recreation. Pitcher Mountain has a clear view shed of the Lempster facility and as far as I can tell has suffered no loss of use or enjoyment since the wind farm was built. At least I can find no records to support that assumption. It might be assumed that some visitors might use the areas to gain access to the windfarm view sheds.

Goodhue Hill was recently logged to provide habitat diversity. This operation was done to best standards but still has caused permanent changes to the landscape. The access logging road and log landing were created using heavy equipment. These areas were not returned to pre-construction conditions I assume to be utilized for future logging operations. A direct comparison can be made to site alterations between the AWE project and commercial logging on property managed by the Harris Center and NH Audubon. The only difference is AWE must go through extensive state permitting and the logging operation file an intent to cut. Attached photos of the Goodhue cut and logging area.

The next observation are the similarities between Pillsbury State Park and Willard Pond. Both offer secluded natural experiences. One must travel off the beaten path to enjoy the recreational opportunities available. I have attached a few websites with testimony from actual users of the State Park. (Part of the website.) Not one user was put off by the proximity of the wind site. All glowed at the wilderness and quiet of the area. It is my belief that Willard Pond will have the same outcome. I have spoken to Park Rangers and they don't recall one complaint about the wind site. Those that brought up the wind site had positive comments.

In closing I would like to show some differences and share some personal thoughts on the impact of the proposed AWE facility. I believe the largest difference between the projects is the location of the nearest dwellings. In Lempster the closest non- participating home is 1600+- ft from a turbine. In Antrim that distance is over 2600+- ft.

The actual impact on the environment is minimal. The fish in Willard pond will not be aware of the turbines. The birds will nest and the mammals will roam as they have in the past. Humans will wander the forest and will take in the views. We will all adapt to the changes. Route 9, the second largest east-west highway with thousands of cars per day, will continue to bisect the greenway as well as the existing power lines.

The only real impact is that of human perspective. What is it that we see? What change is acceptable and what is not? How do we make that choice? The Harris Center and NH Audubon control thousands of acres of conservation easements in the area. Are the land owners being bullied to conform to their standards of land use? Do the actual land owners have a right to use their property as they see fit under applicable zoning? Does the short term benefit of clean energy and long term benefit of conserved property outweigh the discomfort some landowners in proximity?

The truth is there is pain in change and the only true constant is change. It is how we deal with these truths that define us. There are thousands of wind facilities worldwide. Many of the facilities are located in developed areas. Some of these facilities might not be in the most appropriate areas.

The site chosen in Antrim is rural. Thought was given to the placement of the facility. Infrastructure needs are minimal. Wind is prevalent. Land owners are willing. Power is renewable. Alas, the financial gain cannot be discounted. Concessions were made by the developer. This may be the best available site for wind development in New Hampshire.

I urge the board to take the real world examples provided and look hard at the potential effects of the AWE project. It is my hope that you would approve the application and allow the wind facility to be constructed in Antrim.

My sincere thanks,

Wes Enman

Attached photos

Attached Lempster document

Pillsbury State Park Website



Goodhue logging rd.



Goodhue logging rd



Goodhue Log landing



Goodhue winter view to AWE windsite



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"Standing Lincoln" Returns to New Hampshire

June 26, 2016

1:00 PM

Free

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
139 Saint Gaudens Road
Cornish, NH 03745

Phone: 603-675-2175 [Website](#) [Directions](#)

President Abraham Lincoln will return to Cornish, NH in June, where the original Standing Lincoln was created by sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens in 1885. The statue is considered to be the most important sculpture of Lincoln from the 19th century. The Saint-Gaudens Memorial will host an event at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site on Sunday, June 26, 2016, to celebrate the unveiling of the new bronze cast of Saint-Gaudens' Standing Lincoln. The event will begin at 1 p.m. with prelude music by the 12th Regiment N.H. Serenade Band. The unveiling will follow at 2 p.m. on the lawn. The keynote speaker will be Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, Jonathan F. Fanton Director, Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, and author, co-author or editor of 52 books on Lincoln and the Civil War era, who was the 2015 recipient of the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize for his book, *Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion*. Saint-Gaudens Memorial Trustee Thayer Tolles, Marica F. Vilcek Curator of American

Paintings and Sculpture at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, will speak about the sculpture. The event celebrates the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site and commemorates the 100th anniversary of the creation of the National Park Service. More information: <http://www.nps.gov/saga/index.htm> ADDRESS: Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site 139 Saint Gaudens Road Cornish, NH 03745

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Division of Travel and Tourism Development

172 Pembroke Road

Concord, NH 03301



Can you give me some background about the Wind Farm, how and why it came to be, etc.?

Sullivan County Economic Development contacted Mr. Onnela in 2003, lease option agreements signed in 2003 and 2004. Two test towers were erected, one in 2003 and one in the fall of 2004. Community Energy contacted the Selectmen and Planning Board in 2004 and permits were filed in 2005. I will direct you to our website lempsternh.org. It has the SEC findings and other information that may be helpful.

What do you think some of the positive results from this initiative are?

Green Energy. Decrease in power outages in our town, I don't know if this is from the windmills or the new poles, wires and branches cut back from the wires (a result from the wind farm) Revenue from taxation.

Have you had any noise complaints by area residents? People being sick?

Two abatements were received. One from a landowner who leases his land to the wind farm and who has a windmill right next to his house, the other party on Guilford Rd whose property abuts the wind farm and is very close to a windmill. Abatement findings attached. The town has a sound level meter. If someone complains about the noise the Town will send an officer out with it to test the noise level. I am only aware of one reading requested and that was the resident on Guilford Road who filed an abatement.

I have never heard anyone complain about being sick from the wind mills or their animals going crazy. Also we still have plenty of deer, moose, birds, bats and other critters. A study was done regarding the wind farm impact on our wildlife.

Has there been evidence of property values going down?

Town property values overall have not gone down due to the wind farm. The only adjustment I am aware of are the two abatements that are very close to an actual wind mill. (Less than 800 feet)?

Have you received comments pro or con about the hillsides being altered by the presence of the Wind Farm?

Yes. Some residents did not want to see any change to the Mountain. The road to the project however is the best road in town. We are a very rural community and many people hike, snowmobile, hunt etc. on the mountain. They continue to do so. Others say the windmills appear graceful on the mountain top. Lempster has no zoning and many residents do not want to put restrictions on the use of their land. You may not like what your neighbor is doing on his land but if you take away his right you take away your own.

Is there anyone who lives in town you would recommend I talk with?

Norm or Cathy Sturgeon, Sturgeons General Store 603-863-7472 — NO LONGER OWNS THE STORE.

Selectman Everett Thurber - Been involved with the project from the beginning. His daughter lives next to the wind farm and has animals. 603-863-2125

Kevin Onnela – Land owner who has majority of the windmills on his property and one right next to his house. 603-863-4801

Please add anything you think is relevant about this project?

I live approximately a mile from the windmills and when the air is thick I can hear them but it is a sound you have to stop and listen for. If there is other noise, wind through the trees, walking on snow, talking, traffic, you will not hear them. I encourage people to visit the town and make their own decision. I will be taking several rides to South Road with the purpose of listening for the wind mills. This is an area Mr. Lindholm from VEC said he could hear them, he was a speaker in Grafton, VT against the wind farm. Mr. Lindholm owns property without buildings in Lempster, he does not live here. He said that people are abandoning their homes because of the noise and that is not true. I made a list of all properties for sale in the area and Selectman Thurber researched the properties. Being a small town and living here all his life Selectman Thurber knows many of the owners of the properties for sale and their reason for selling. His daughter is also a real estate agent who lives in town and I have asked her personally if she was aware of any properties for sale or could not be sold because of the wind farm and she said no. I have attached a file on information previously requested from others regarding the wind farm including the abatement findings.



Wes

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<https://iamahoneybee.com/.../weekend-camping-at-pillsbury-state-park-washington-n...> ▾Aug 14, 2013 - ... for a little camping weekend. We had been talking about going to **Pillsbury State Park** for about 2 years but we made it work this weekend...

Pillsbury State Park | New Hampshire - Union Leader

www.unionleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/... New Hampshire Union Leader ▾Heavily wooded and sprinkled with several ponds and wetlands, **Pillsbury State Park** is one of the more primitive and lesser known gems of the New Hampshire ...

New Hampshire...Love it or Leaf it: Paddling Pillsbury State Park

nhloveitorleafit.blogspot.com/2009/11/paddling-pillsbury-state-park.html ▾Nov 6, 2009 - One such place is **Pillsbury State Park**, located off Route 31, about 10 miles south of Newport, NH. There's a \$4 per person entry fee, but that ...

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3:16

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New Hampshire Chronicle's Fritz Wetherbee shares the story behind a local destination, **Pillsbury State Park** ...

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www.trails.com/tcatalog_trail.aspx?trailid=HGN183-027

General Campgrounds information, features, and statistics for **Pillsbury State Park** in Washington, New Hampshire.

Pillsbury State Park | New Hampshire State Parks | AllTrails.com

alltrails.com/parks/us/new-hampshire/pillsbury-state-park

Pillsbury State Park is one of the more primitive and lesser known gems of the New Hampshire State Park system. Heavily wooded and sprinkled...

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Pillsbury State Park

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Quick Facts

Pillsbury State Park

New Hampshire

(603) 863-2860

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Things To Do

Overview

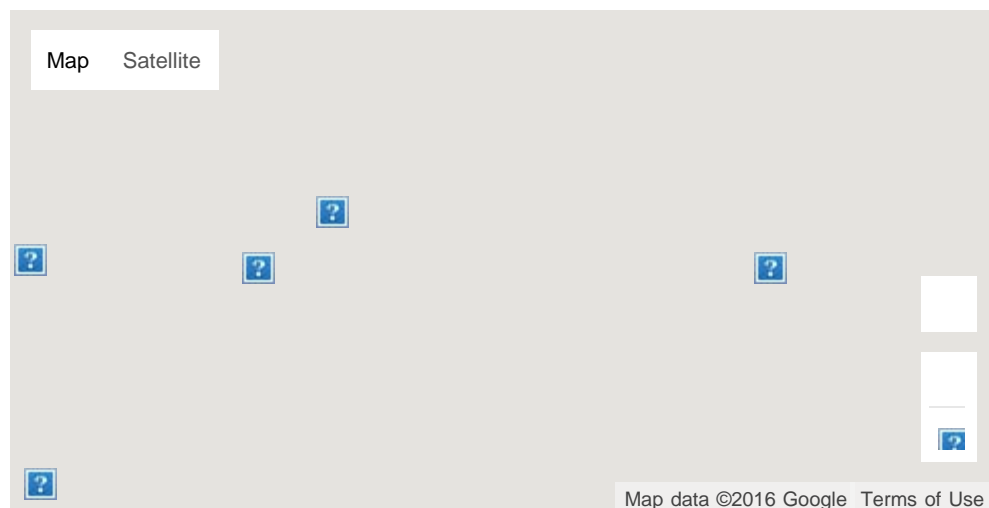
Heavily wooded and sprinkled with several ponds and wetlands, Pillsbury State Park is one of the more primitive and lesser known gems of the New Hampshire State Park system. Its diversity of habitats makes it home to a great variety of wildlife, including moose and loons. Crossed by a network of hiking and mountain bike trails, the park is an important link in the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway, a 51-mile hiking trail that connects Mount Monadnock with Mount Sunapee to the north. History buffs enjoy exploring the park's long-abandoned and overgrown cellar holes, remnants of early farm settlement and lumbering of the late 1700s and early 1800s when the area was called Cherry Valley.

Canoeing, kayaking, warm-water fishing, picnicking, hiking, and mountain biking are favorite park activities.

During the winter the park is a designated winter recreation area where visitors can enjoy nordic skiing and snowmobiling. Amenities include parking, picnic tables in private scenic locations, and pit toilets. Leashed pets are allowed in the park.

The park's campground has 35 sites, including standard individual and group camp sites. There are both primitive camping sites, including 11 remote sites, and camping with access to amenities. The campground's amenities include parking, accessible building and trails, recycling stations, fire rings, ranger station, drinking water, pit toilets, supplies for sale, and a playground.

[Map of Pillsbury \(NH\)](#)



Latitude, Longitude: **43.23732, -72.09872**

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Activities



Boating

Canoeing and kayaking are favorite activities in the parks ponds.



Bicycling

Visitors can bike along one of the park's mountain biking trails.



Camping

The park's campground has 35 sites, including standard individual and group camp sites. There are both primitive camping sites, including 11 remote sites, and camping with access to amenities. The campground's amenities include parking, accessible building and trails, recycling stations, fire rings, ranger station, drinking water, pit toilets, supplies for sale, and a playground.



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Caving

Visitors can explore the park's unique geological formations along their journey through the park.



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Fishing

There is warm-water fishing in the parks many ponds.



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Hiking

Pillsbury State Park has many hiking trails, which allow leashed pets.



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Historic Sites

History buffs enjoy exploring the park's long-abandoned and overgrown cellar holes, remnants of early farm settlement and lumbering of the late 1700s and early 1800s when the area was called Cherry Valley.



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Picnicking

There are picnic spots in the park for visitors to enjoy throughout the park.

-

Winter Sports

Pillsbury State Park is a winter recreational area, offering cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

Seasonality/Weather

This park is always open for recreation. During the off-season the park is typically not staffed and comfort stations are not available.

Park Partners

[Friends of Pillsbury State Park](#)

Directions

Driving

From I-93: Take I-89 north to Exit 5 onto Route 202/9. Follow Route 9 to Route 31 in Hillsborough, then follow signs to Pillsbury State Park

From I-95: Take Route 101 west to Route I-93 North towards Concord. Take I-89 north to Exit 5 onto Route 202/9. Follow Route 9 to Route 31 in Hillsborough, then follow signs to Pillsbury State Park

Concord, NH (1 hour, 15 minutes) Boston, MA (2 hours, 30 minutes) Providence, RI (3 hours, 15 minutes) Hartford, CT (3 hours) New York, NY (5 hours) Portland, ME (3 hours, 15 minutes) Burlington, VT (2 hours, 30 minutes) Montreal, Canada (4 hours, 45 minutes)

Phone Numbers

Primary

(603) 863-2860

Links

Official URL

<http://www.nhstateparks.org/explore/state-parks/pillsbury-state-park.aspx>

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