

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 2:15 PM

Subject: FW: "National Renewable Energy Laboratory: Wind Benefits Overstated"

March 1, 2013

Rethinking Wind's Impact on Emissions and Cycling Costs

EXCERPTS:

Recent reports by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others suggest that the emissions-reducing benefits of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar may have been overstated and the cost of cycling fossil-fueled plants underestimated. These findings may change how utilities and policymakers weigh the costs and benefits of wind and solar energy.

and

NREL researchers, along with analysts from Intertek-APTECH (IA), said that regional integration studies have shown that wind and solar may cause fossil-fueled generators to cycle on and off and ramp more frequently. They identified increased cycling, deeper load following, and rapid ramping as leading to potential wear and tear on fossil-fueled generators. They said this additional wear and tear can lead to higher capital and maintenance costs, higher equivalent forced outage rates, and degraded performance over time. What's more, they said that heat rates and emissions from fossil-fueled generators may be higher during cycling and ramping than during steady-state operation.

and

Turbine blade damage and generator failures were linked to ramping. These findings came after Lefton and his team analyzed some 400 data sets that included long-term operating and maintenance costs and cycling data. The findings showed that even combustion turbines and reciprocating engines designed for quick starts, ramping, and cycling showed higher maintenance costs, elevated numbers of forced outages, and increasing numbers of generator failures.

"Generator failures used to be rare, but now they rank third in insurance claims filed for combined cycle machines," Lefton said. He noted higher incidences of heat recovery steam generator tube failures as well as more frequent turbine overhauls. Other maintenance issues linked to cycling include thermal barrier coatings that spall off, leaving the base metal exposed and vulnerable to cracking.

and

The Hughes study examined wind farm performance in the UK and Denmark and concluded that, after allowing for variations in wind speed and site characteristics, the average load factor of wind farms declines as they age, probably due to wear and tear. By 10 years of age, the contribution of an average UK wind farm to meeting electricity demand was said to have fallen by as much as one-third.

and

The normalized load factor for UK onshore wind farms was found to decline from a peak of about 24% at age one to 15% at age 10 and 11% at age 15. The decline in the normalized load factor for Danish onshore wind farms showed a fall from a peak of 22% to 18% at age 15. For offshore Danish wind farms, the normalized load factor was shown to fall from 39% at the start of commercial operation to 15% at age 10.

and

Hughes said that the reasons for the observed declines in normalized load factors could not be fully assessed using the data available, but he speculated that “outages due to mechanical breakdowns” appeared to be a contributing factor.

Read the full article at:

<http://www.powermag.com/issues/features/Rethinking-Winds-Impact-on-...>

Citizens' Task Force on Wind Power - Maine



Check out the blog post 'National Renewable Energy Laboratory: Wind Benefits Overstated'

Blog post added by [Long Islander](#):

[Long Islander](#)

March 1, 2013 Rethinking Wind's Impact on Emissions and Cycling Costs EXCERPTS: Recent reports by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory...

Blog post link:

[National Renewable Energy Laboratory: Wind Benefits Overstated](#)

About Citizens' Task Force on Wind Power - Maine

A coalition of citizens advocating responsible, science based, economically and environmentally sound approaches to Maine's energy policy.



546 members
522 photos
103 videos

47 discussions
1348 blog posts

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:00 AM

Subject: FW: [truth_about_wind] The BEST video on health effect of wind turbines

Sent: 3/3/2013 9:48:32 A.M. Eastern Standard Time

Subj: [truth_about_wind] The BEST video on health effect of wind turbines

Video: Health effects explained
(abridged, more potent version of Wind Rush)

It isn't just annoying noise

What's interesting in the new documentary **WIND RUSH** is not the usual mantra about clean energy. What's interesting is that the health effects of windfarms are recognized by health professionals, and explained very clearly. **So we made an abridged version grouping the parts that help understand why there is a health problem.**

Here it is below. **It's an eye-opener** for most people.

VIDEO <http://www.epaw.org/documents.php?lang=en&article=ns51>

Not to be missed in the abridged version above: the explanations of Dr Nissenbaum, starting after 2 minutes 34 seconds (2:34 as shown on the meter below the video), then after 3:24, and after 5:10 (do not miss this last one): **MODULATION is a big problem.** And so is **low frequency sound (including infrasound):** do not miss Dr Alec Salt on that subject. In fact, do not miss any of the doctors and professor who speak - they are grouped together for your convenience in the abridged video.

Mark Duchamp [+34 693 643 736](tel:+34693643736)

Executive Director, EPAW

www.epaw.org

President, Save the Eagles International

www.savetheeaglesinternational.org

Chairman, World Council for Nature

www.wcfn.org

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Saturday, March 02, 2013 12:04 PM

Subject: FW: Check out "Germany- Wind and Solar Energy Drive Electric Prices up 40% in 5 years!" on Citizens' Task Force on Wind Power - Maine

Germany Debates Fracking as Energy Costs Rise

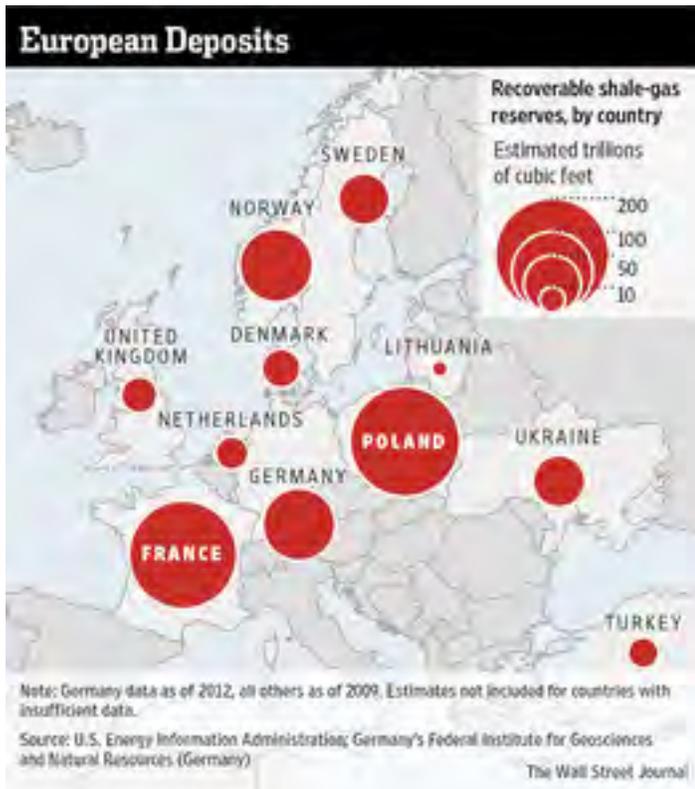
By [WILLIAM BOSTON](#)

http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424127887323293704578334181310238980-1MyQjAxMTAzMDAwMjEwNDIyWj.html?mod=wsj_valetbottom_email

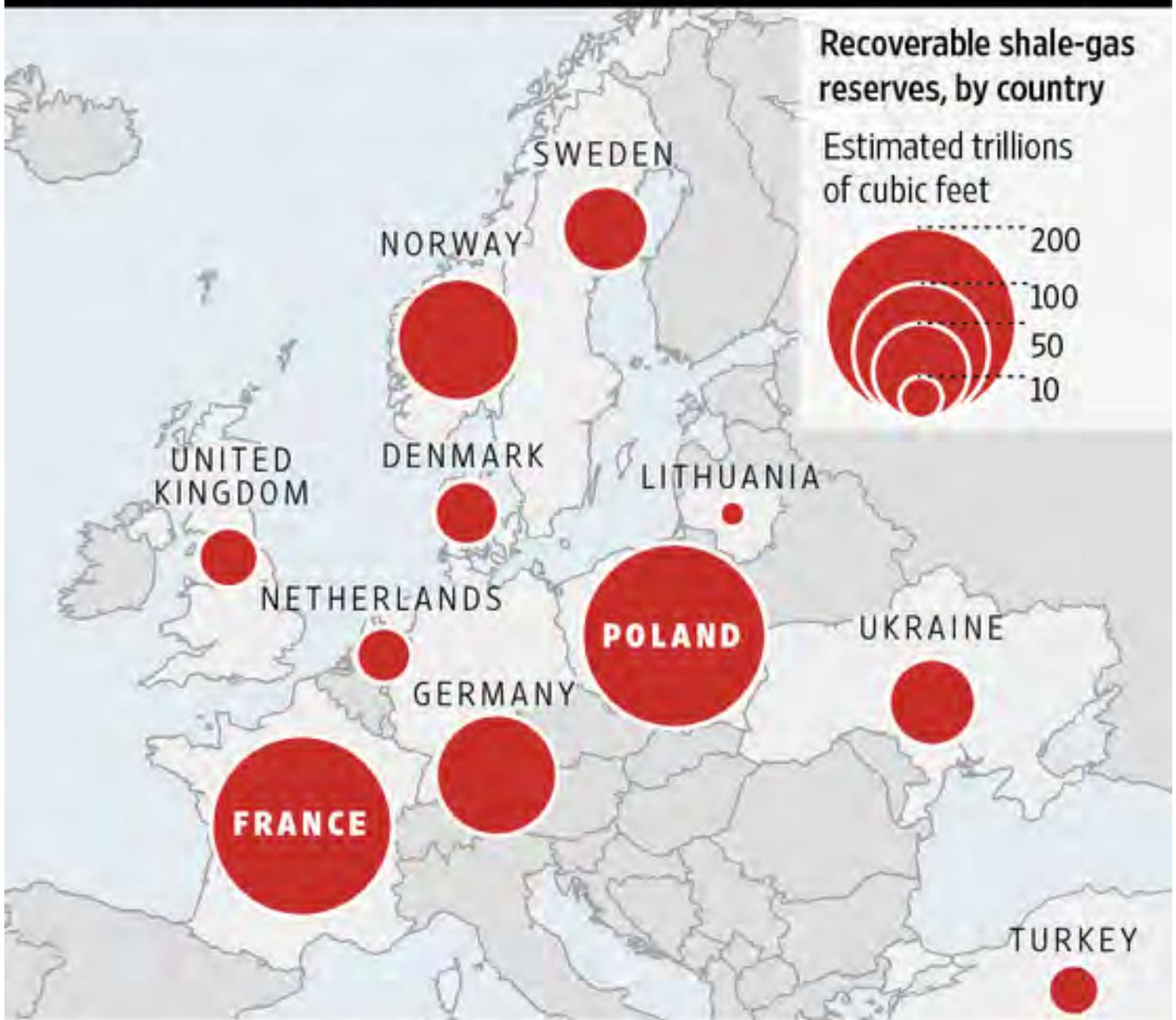
BERLIN—Germany is debating whether to allow hydraulic fracturing, a controversial drilling technique to extract natural gas from shale, amid concern that rising energy costs in the country could threaten its industrial backbone.

The German public is deeply suspicious of the drilling practice, commonly known as fracking. Many Germans worry that the process, which involves using a high-pressure mixture of water, sand and chemicals to break apart energy-rich rocks, could contaminate underground water supplies.

Enlarge Image



European Deposits



Note: Germany data as of 2012, all others as of 2009. Estimates not included for countries with insufficient data.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration; Germany's Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (Germany)

The Wall Street Journal

The Wall Street Journal

This week the government unveiled a proposal that it hopes can bridge the gap between pro-fracking advocates in industry and environmentally conscious voters. Through a change to existing laws, the government is

proposing banning fracking near any water supply and in all national parks and conservation areas. Drilling anywhere else would be subject to approval based on an environmental-impact study.

The fracking debate comes as Germany is pursuing a radical restructuring of its energy sector. In the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan in 2011, Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) abruptly declared that Germany would abandon nuclear power and transition to renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. As the use of nuclear power declines, Germany is filling the gap with a combination of renewable energy and coal-fired plants.

Yet Ms. Merkel's "energy revolution," as the shift away from nuclear has been dubbed, is having unexpected side effects.

Subsidies for renewable-energy producers that are financed in part through household electricity bills are causing electricity prices for ordinary consumers and industry to rise. Germany's biggest industrial power consumers have seen electricity prices per kilowatt hour rise nearly 40% in the past five years, according to the Cologne Institute for Economic Research, also known as IW. Electricity prices for industry are nearly 15% higher than the average in the 27-nation European Union, IW said.

"We have reached the pain threshold," said Michael Hüther, IW's director. He added that data show that energy-intensive industries are already beginning to curtail investment in Germany because of higher electricity charges.

"We are beginning to observe a creeping disinvestment," he said.

As the country turns its back on nuclear power, it is also seeing its carbon emissions rise. Long a leader in cutting carbon-dioxide emissions, Germany's emissions rose 1.6% last year, according to the Environment Ministry, the first rise in years.

It is unclear what immediate impact increased natural-gas supplies would have on German electricity bills. Still, the availability of cheaper natural gas could help avert a large-scale return to coal in 2020. That is the year that Germany will shut down about six nuclear power stations and many of the country's coal-fired power plants will also shut down due to age. A plentiful supply of domestic natural gas could provide a better bridge fuel to replace nuclear power as Germany continues to build its alternative energy supply, say analysts. If fracking is ultimately banned in Germany, analysts warn that Germany could miss out on a broader European energy boom. Eastern European countries like Poland and Ukraine have large shale deposits and are keen to exploit them.

Experts don't believe Germany has the kind of massive shale-gas deposits that are transforming the U.S. energy market. But there could be enough natural gas trapped underground to meet Germany's gas needs for about 50 years, based on the current rate of gas consumption, at costs below what Germany now pays for imported gas, analysts say.

So far, Ms. Merkel has sided with her wary public, expressing doubts about the viability of fracking in Germany and pledging to allow it only if it can be proven entirely safe. Ms. Merkel is trying to please the broader public, which surveys show is frightened by fracking, while not alienating industry, which is lobbying the government to do something about Germany's soaring energy costs.

"The compromise here is to allow for pilot projects to do testing," said Miranda Schreurs, director of the Berlin-based Environmental Policy Research Center and an adviser to the German government on the issue. "The government is trying to keep the door open for fracking to be able to say that if they do it, it will be safe."

Germany's energy industry welcomed the fact that the government has shied away from an outright ban on any fracking. The government's proposals are a compromise between the environment minister, who initially wanted to ban fracking, and the economy minister, who wants to allow it. Industry sees the compromise as a step that would allow for some testing and which could help determine whether fracking is harmful to the environment.

"Only at the end [of testing] will we be able to judge using all relevant criteria whether this makes sense—economically, environmentally, and regarding its acceptance by society," a spokesman for chemical and energy group [BASF AG](#) [BAS.XE -0.48%](#) said. "To do that, we need the framework which is now being established." Germany's powerful environmental lobby says the government's proposals don't go far enough and demand an outright ban. The opposition Green Party called the government's move a smoke screen. "It's like banning skiing in the Sahara," said Oliver Krischer, a Green Party member of parliament. "An environmental-impact study, which is also embraced by the gas industry, will do little."

Write to William Boston at william.boston@dowjones.com

A version of this article appeared March 2, 2013, on page A11 in the U.S. edition of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: Germany Takes New Look at Fracking as Energy Bills Soar.

Date: Sat, 2 Mar 2013 16:33:07 +0000

From: share@windtaskforce.org

Subject: Check out "Germany- Wind and Solar Energy Drive Electric Prices up 40% in 5 years!" on Citizens' Task Force on Wind Power - Maine

[Citizens' Task Force on Wind Power - Maine](#)



[Long Islander](#)

Check out the blog post 'Germany- Wind and Solar Energy Drive Electric Prices up 40% in 5 years!'

Blog post added by [Barry @ SaveOurSeaShore](#):

SaveOurSeaShore Editor Note: This shows the cost of wanton renewables investment both monetarily and CO2 wise. From the Wall Street Journa...

Blog post link:

[Germany- Wind and Solar Energy Drive Electric Prices up 40% in 5 years!](#)

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To control which emails you receive on Citizens' Task Force on Wind Power - Maine, [click here](#)

From: Rob Pforzheimer | [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 11:33 AM

Subject: Doctors blow the whistle on wind turbines

[Doctors blow the whistle on wind turbines](#)

Posted on 03/04/2013 <http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/03/04/doctors-blow-the-whistle-on-wind-turbines/by-OWR>



[2013 03 03 – NAPAW](#)

An impressive number of health practitioners, researchers and acousticians around the world are voicing their concern about the effects of wind turbines on people’s health (1). Their list was just published by the Waubra Foundation, the European Platform Against Windfarms(**EPAW**) and the North-American Platform Against Windpower (**NA-PAW**), the latter two representing over 600 associations of windfarm victims from 27 countries. These health professionals should be honored, assert the three NGOs: it takes courage to uphold the rights of victims against the powerful coalition of vested interests which supports the wind industry. In Australia, where the controversy is reaching new heights, a wind industry executive has been singling out **Dr Sarah Laurie** in a bid to make the public forget the many other health professionals who alert to the dangerous effects of wind turbines: “...the largest public relations issue for the industry at the moment is the theory of an ex-doctor that infrasound or low frequency noise from wind turbines is likely to make anyone within 10 km of a wind turbine sick.”

The blog **Stopthesethings**, which rose to fame denouncing the wind industry, replied:
“So, the largest public relations issue for the wind industry is Sarah Laurie?
One woman against the deep pockets of the pro-wind lobby.
One woman speaking with local communities.

One woman gathering data about the other side of your story, the one not covered in your press releases, presentations, websites, newsletters, advertisements, promoted by your highly paid PR consultants, and not covered by the Clean Energy Council with its army of lobbyists and government access.
One woman speaking out, working for two and a half years as a volunteer.
What a compliment!” (2)

Sarah Laurie is a physician who has taken time off to fight her own cancer, and look after her family. “She is by no means an `ex-doctor`,” says EPAW’s Mark Duchamp. “**She replied to that libelous spin at a Senate hearing on wind turbines**” (3).

Dr Nina Pierpoint, PhD, MD, who intensively studied the health problems of 10 windfarm neighbor families, and coined the phrase **Wind Turbine Syndrome** in the process, has also been attacked and vilified. “Yet her meticulous, scholarly and pioneering work has been used around the world by turbine victims and their physicians, to better understand the reported symptoms and illnesses. **The study has been rigorously peer reviewed, translated into multiple languages, and even quoted by health officials**”, adds Duchamp. Dr Sarah Laurie, CEO of the Waubra Foundation, fully agrees: “Dr Pierpont used her multidisciplinary skills and academic experience to evaluate the data she collected. Many of her colleagues do not understand why her study is so important, until they start seeing the sick people.”

Acousticians too are involved in the growing controversy (1). Some have published research demonstrating that wind turbines emit **infrasound and low frequency noise (ILFN)**, and that these emissions **resonate inside homes** to the point where residents sometimes resort to sleeping on the veranda rather than in their bedrooms. An important acoustic study, just published, concludes that “enough evidence and hypotheses have been given herein to classify LFN (low frequency noise) and infrasound as **a serious issue, possibly affecting the future of the (wind) industry.**” (4)

What makes that study special, among all others that collected similar evidence?

Sherri Lange of NA-PAW replies: “It was conducted by four different firms of acousticians: two of them have done work for the wind industry, whereas the other two never did. The idea was to ensure **objectivity.**” Not least among acousticians speaking up for the victims is **Professor Henrik Moeller**, Denmark’s most highly regarded acoustician. In spite of the risk for his career, he has severely criticized his government for manipulating the data to allow the siting of wind turbines too close to homes. We know now that this causes chronic sleep deprivation, leading to a **debilitated immune system** and a variety of diseases.

“This list below reveals some of the true heroes of our times. They will be vindicated,” concludes Lange.

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CEO, NA-PAW

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– Dr Sarah Laurie (Australia) [+ 61 439 865 914](tel:+61439865914)

CEO, Waubra Foundation

sarah@waubrafoundation.com.au

LINKS:

To follow the heated battle as it unfolds in Australia: www.stopthesethings.com

– Health effects of ILFN can cause death: <http://www.epaw.org/documents.php?lang=en&article=ns50>

To access Dr Pierpont’s peer reviewed study and other material: www.windturbinesyndrome.com

FOOTNOTES:

(1) – List of health practitioners, researchers and acousticians who have investigated or voiced concern for the health and well-being of wind turbine neighbors: see at the end, or Pdf attached, or go

to: <http://www.epaw.org/documents.php?lang=en&article=ns53>

(2) - <http://stopthesethings.com/2013/01/10/wind-energy-and-the-reconstructed-smoking-milk-bottle/>

(3) –
<http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;db=COMMITTEES;id=committees%2Fcommse%2F400af4f-682e-4745-a5c7-a550b12826a2%2F0003;query=Id%3A%22committees%2Fcommse%2F400af4f-682e-4745-a5c7-a550b12826a2%2F0000%22>

(4) – Low Frequency and Infrasound at the Shirley Wind Farm in Brown County, Wisconsin <http://www.windaction.org/documents/36887>

The quote itself is to be found here, just before 5.0 Recommendations:

[Report Number 122412-1 21-18-12 FINAL \(3\).pdf](#)

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* * *

Below is the list of health practitioners, researchers and acousticians who have investigated or voiced concerns for the health of wind turbine neighbors– apologies to those we forgot to mention, and please advise us of errors and omissions at dmette@epaw.org

In alphabetical order

1 – Professor Mariana Alves Pereira, Biomechanical Engineer (Portugal, 2007)

2 – Dr Ian Arra, Public Health Physician (Canada, 2013)

3 – Mr Stephen Ambrose, Noise Engineer (USA, 2011)

4 – Associate Professor Jeffrey Aramini, Epidemiologist (Canada, 2010)

5 – Dr Huub Bakker, Engineer, (New Zealand, 2010)

6 – Dr Linda Benier, Ear Nose & Throat specialist (Canada, 2011)

7 – Dr Owen Black, Ear Nose & Throat specialist (USA, 2009)

8 – Mr Wade Bray, Noise Engineer (USA, 2011)

9 – Professor Arline Bronzaft, Psychologist & Researcher (US, 2010)

10 – Dr Nuno Castelo Branco, Pathologist (Portugal, 2007)

11 – Dr Christian Buhl, Institute of Biomedicine, Aarhus University (Denmark)

12 – Dr Micheal Cooke, General Practitioner (Ireland, 2012)

13 – Mr Steven Cooper, Acoustician (Australia, 2011)

14 – Dr Herb Coussos, Medical Practitioner (US, 2010)

15 – Dr R Crunkhorne, Ear Nose & Throat specialist (UK, 2013)

16 – Mrs Jane Davis, Nurse (UK, 2010)

17 – Professor Phillip Dickinson, Acoustician (New Zealand, 2009)

18 – Associate Professor Con Doolan, Mechanical Engineer (Australia, 2012)

19 – Mr Chuck Ebbing, Noise Engineer (USA, 2013)

20 – Dr Alun Evans, Epidemiologist (Ireland, 2011)

21 – Dr Amir Farboud, Ear Nose & Throat Specialist (UK, 2013)

22 – Professor Jerome Haller, Neurology and Paediatrics (US, 2008)

23 – Professor Colin Hansen, Mechanical Engineer (Australia, 2010)

24 – Dr Chris Hanning, Sleep Physician (UK, 2010)

25 – Professor John Harrison, Physicist (Canada, 2010)

26 – Dr Amanda Harry, Rural Medical Practitioner (UK, 2003),

27 – Professor Henry Horn, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (US, 2008)

28 – Mr Les Huson, Acoustician (Australia, 2011)

29 – Dr David Iser, Rural Medical Practitioner (Australia, 2004),

30 – Associate Professor Rick James, Noise Engineer (USA, 2009)

- 31 – Dr Roy Jeffrey, Rural Medical Practitioner (Canada, 2010)
- 32 – Dr Mauri Johansson, Occupational Physician (Denmark, 2012)
- 33 – Mr George Kamperman, Noise Engineer (USA, 2009)
- 34 – Professor Ralph Katz, Epidemiologist (US, 2008)
- 35 – Dr Noel Kerin, Occupational Physician (Canada, 2010)
- 36 – Ms Carmen Krogh, Pharmacist, Researcher (Canada, 2009)
- 37 – Dr Eckhard Kuck, Oral Surgeon (Germany, 2012)
- 38 – Dr Sarah Laurie, Former Rural Medical Practitioner (Australia, 2010)
- 39 – Dr David Lawrence, Rural Medical Practitioner (USA, 2012)
- 40 – Professor Joel Lehrer, Ear Noise & Throat specialist (US, 2008)
- 41 – Dr Hazel Lynn, Medical Officer of Health, Grey/Bruce County, ON (Canada, 2012)
- 42 – Dr Robert McMurtry, Former Dean of Medical & Dental School, University of Western Ontario (Canada, 2010)
- 43 – Dr Andja Mitric Andjic, Rural Medical Practitioner (Australia, 2011)
- 44 – Dr Sarah Myhill, Rural Medical Practitioner, Wales (UK, 2012)
- 45 – Professor Henrik Moller, Acoustician, Aalborg University (Denmark, 2011)
- 46 – Dr Michael Nissenbaum, Medical Practitioner (US, 2010),
- 47 – Dr Helen Parker, Psychologist (US, 2011)
- 48 – Dr Robyn Phipps, Researcher (NZ, 2007)
- 49 – Professor Christian Sejer Pedersen, Acoustician (Denmark, 2011)
- 50 – Dr Eja Pedersen, Medical Sociologist (Sweden, 2006)
- 51 – Dr Nina Pierpont, PhD, MD, Specialist Paediatrician, Fellow American Academy of Paediatrics (US, 2009)
- 52 – Professor Carl Phillips, Epidemiologist (USA, 2010)
- 53 – Dr Peter Prinds, Physician (Denmark)
- 54 – Mr Rob Rand, Noise Engineer (USA, 2011)
- 55 – Mr Bruce Rapley, Scientist (NZ, 2013)
- 56 – Dr Sandy Reider, Medical Practitioner (USA, 2013)
- 57 – Professor Alec Salt, Neurophysiologist (USA, 2010)
- 58 – Dr Paul Schomer, Noise Engineer (USA, 2012)
- 59 – Norma Schmidt, Retired Nurse (Canada, 2010)
- 60 – Associate Professor Vivi Schunssen, Occupational Physician (Denmark, 2012)
- 61 – Dr Daniel Shepherd, Psychologist, Psychoacoustician (New Zealand, 2010)
- 62 – Dr Wayne Spring, Sleep Physician (Australia, 2011)
- 63 – Mr Mike Stigwood, Acoustician (UK)
- 64 – Dr Scott Taylor, Rural Medical Practitioner (Australia, 2011)
- 65 – Dr Henning Theorell, Medical Practitioner (Sweden, 2012)
- 66 – Dr Bob Thorne, Psychoacoustician (Australia, NZ)
- 67 – Mr Peter Trask, Psychologist (Australia, 2012)
- 68 – Dr A Trinidad, Ear Nose & Throat specialist (UK, 2013)
- 69 – Dr Alan Watts, Rural Medical Practitioner (Australia, 2011)
- 70 – Dr Colleen Watts, Scientist (Australia, 2011)
- 71 – Associate Professor Libby Wheatley, Medical Sociologist (USA, 2012)

WHO definition of Health

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.

Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946; signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States (Official Records of the World Health Organization, no. 2, p. 100) and entered into force on 7 April 1948.

The Definition has not been amended since 1948.

Extract from British Institute of Acoustics Code of Conduct

All members of the Institute shall at all times:

- order their conduct as to uphold the dignity and reputation of the profession and of the Institute and of its members and officers
 - *safeguard the public interest in matters of safety, health and the environment*
 - exercise their professional skill and judgement to the best of their ability
- discharge their professional responsibilities with integrity, honesty and diligence.

<http://www.ioa.org.uk/membership/code-of-conduct.asp>

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 1:09 PM

Subject: FW: WSJ Blogs - Estimates of wind power's potential are way too optimistic, a new study says. - Ideas Market

Subject: WSJ Blogs - Estimates of wind power's potential are way too optimistic, a new study says. - Ideas Market

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

* Please note, the sender's email address has not been verified

see what's in the shadows.

[WSJ Blogs - Estimates of wind power's potential are way too optimistic, a new study says. - Ideas Market](#)

This article can also be accessed if you copy and paste the entire address below into your web browser.
http://blogs.wsj.com/ideas-market/2013/03/04/the-hot-air-in-wind-power/?mod=wsj_nview_latest&mod=wsj_valetbottom_email

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 1:05 PM

Subject: Birdwatch News Archive-Legal eagle deaths

<http://www.birdwatch.co.uk/channel/newsitem.asp?c=11&cate=13663>

Birdwatch News Archive



Bald Eagle is currently increasing after recovering from DDT poisoning, loss of habitat and prey, and hunting, but how long can that trend continue if unmitigated numbers are killed by wind farms? Photo: Mary Lynn

Stephenson (commons.wikimedia.org).



Legal eagle deaths

Posted on: 04 Mar 2013

A month after a pair of Bald Eagles had their nest removed by a Canadian energy company, wind farms in the USA will now be immune from prosecution if they inadvertently kill the raptors.

Last month a pair of Bald Eagles had their nest removed from Summerhaven Wind Project wind power site near Fisherville, Ontario, Canada. The location is ultimately projected to support 56 wind turbines and be operated by NextEra Energy Canada, the largest North American producer of wind and solar power. (The CEO of NextEra, Lewis Hay III, is an Obama jobs council adviser). The nest was well within Ontario's Natural Resources Ministry recommended "minimum setback of 800 m from a renewable energy project component to a Bald Eagle nest", but despite this, on 4 January the ministry issued a permit for NextEra to remove the nest and a large part of the nest tree the very next day. The company stated that removing the nest in the first days of January would allow the eagles time to seek an alternative location and "avoid disturbing them during their critical nesting period."

While the Canadian incident may be a one-off, in the USA Bald and Golden Eagles have been shown to be at continued risk from being killed by wind energy projects, but in consequence the US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed providing wind companies with extended and generous 30-year permits for the 'programmatic take' of eagles.

This is essentially a rule-loosening manoeuvre as, currently, the federal government allows renewable energy companies to get permits to avoid prosecution for the loss of a limited number of eagles as part of their normal operations – that is, through wind turbines and power lines – if they also promise to offset the damage.

Until now, the permits were renewed every five years, giving the public regular opportunity to assess a company's site operations. Apparently, however, at the request of wind energy interests and in accordance with a recent rule change, the federal government is about to make the permits valid for a full 30 years without the possibility for public review.

When reviewing the five-year standard in 2009, the government concluded that it should not grant permits for longer than the five years "because factors may change over a longer period of time such that a take authorized much earlier would later be incompatible with the preservation of the Bald Eagle or the Golden Eagle."

Clearly, there is no way to foretell the status of eagles accurately over the course of the next three decades, and the policy is considered far too lenient by many conservationists.

Requests have been made for the revised rule to be shelved until Sally Jewell, President Obama's nominee for Secretary of Interior, has had time to fully review the proposal and evaluate its potential impact on eagle populations. The request from the American Bird Conservancy is available to read here: www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/130219a.html.

From: Pam Arborio [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 12:04 PM

Subject: Fwd: Jericho Town Meeting

I realize each of the Siting Commission Board members are private citizens as well but the volatile nature of the decisions that will result from this board's recommendations make it even more important members should recuse themselves if a strong position is held. As someone who will be directly affected by your final results Ms. Symington's recent comments are of an immediate concern. It sounds like she has already made decisions on the path to be taken,

Respectfully,

Pam Arborio

Brighton, Vt.

[redacted]

Subject: Jericho Town Meeting

Hello from Jericho-

Industrial Ridge-line Wind was discussed at Town Meeting in Jericho today.

The case for Jericho becoming immediately involved in the wind power siting process was presented by Conservation Commission Chair, **Tom Baribault**. He pointed out the proximity of Bolton Mountain and warned of the negative potential consequences Industrial Ridge-line Wind could have on Jericho's watershed, particularly Mill Brook.

Bill Butler spoke next, pointing out the inadequacy of Green Mountain Power's hydrology calculations, relative to storm water runoff at the Lowell Mountain wind power site. He reminded the townspeople that Lowell Mountain experienced an unusually large flood event last August, while the rest of Vermont just had "heavy rain." He observed that if flooding from Hurricane Irene had been just one foot higher in Jericho, every bridge along Mill Brook, from Bolton Mountain to the Winooski River, would have been threatened. He asked the citizens of Jericho to send a message, through their representatives, to the Vermont Legislature that Jericho wants to see more citizen involvement in the siting of large Industrial Wind projects, particularly relative to the threat to watersheds, infrastructure such as bridges and roads, and public safety.

Gaye Symington, former Jericho State Rep. and former Speaker of the VT State House, spoke strongly against the resolution. She stated that she was on the Governor's Wind Power Siting Commission. Gaye said that she had been to the Sheffield and Lowell Mountain wind power sites and there was no problem.

After some discussion the question was called and the **resolution was passed 48 to 37.**

BB/Nature & Myth

Stephanie Kaplan

[redacted]

From: Pamela Arborio

Date: March 6, 2013 11:16:25 AM EST

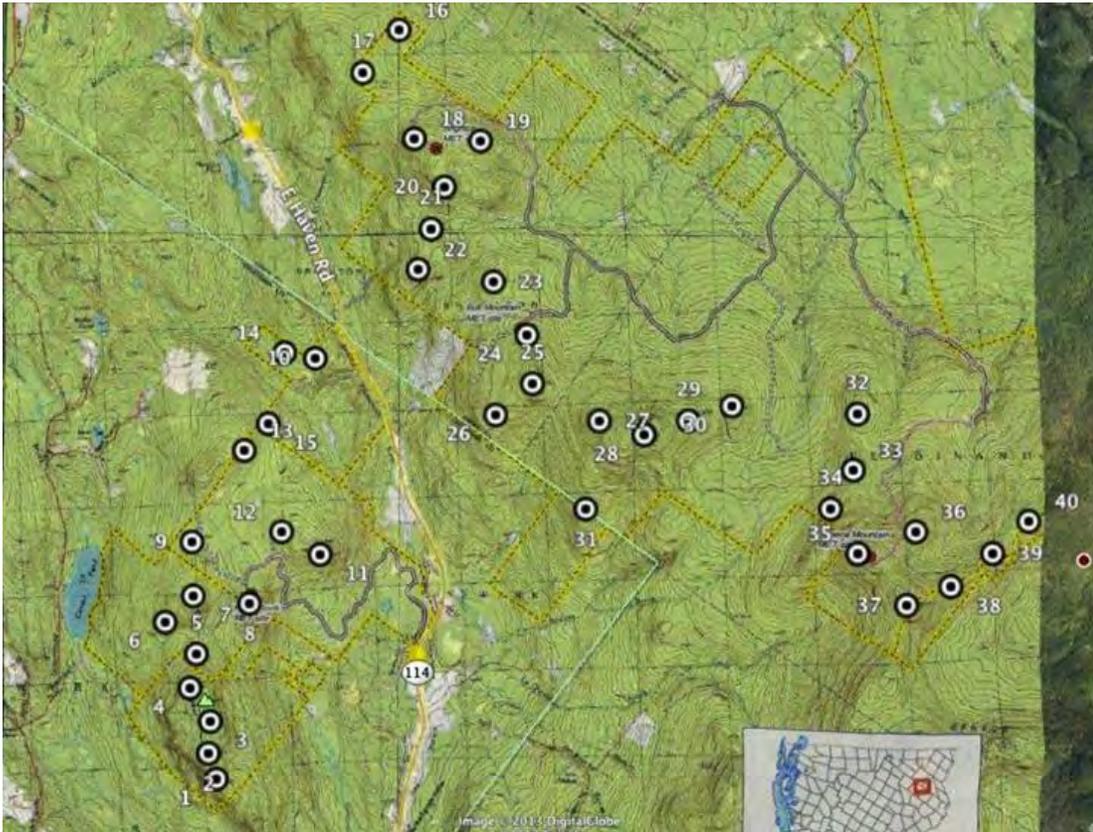
Subject: Fwd: Emailing: Eolian UTG proposal map.jpg/Docket #7867

This is a map showing possible turbine sites if SMW/Eolian follow through on their goal to move the entire project to Ferdinand. You will note a great many could be seen by Brighton and Charleston and, even more important, there are no transmission lines or grid access now or for the foreseeable future.

Pam Arborio

Brighton

Subject: Emailing: Eolian UTG proposal map.jpg



From: Rob Pforzheimer [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 11:09 PM

Subject: Court tells DEP to lower nighttime noise levels on Saddleback wind farm

<http://bangordailynews.com/2013/03/05/news/state/court-tells-dep-to-lower-nighttime-noise-levels-on-saddleback-wind-farm/>

Court tells DEP to lower nighttime noise levels on Saddleback wind farm



By [Judy Harrison](#), BDN Staff
Posted March 05, 2013, at 1:16 p.m.
Last modified March 05, 2013, at 2:34 p.m.

View [Carthage, Me.](#) in a larger map

PORTLAND, Maine — The Maine Supreme Judicial Court on Tuesday vacated a decision by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection over nighttime sound requirements for the Saddleback Ridge Wind Project in Carthage, Canton and Dixfield.

The court unanimously agreed with the groups' appeal of a ruling by the Board of Environmental Protection that backed the DEP's decision that the nighttime noise level for the windmills should be at or below 45 decibels. Writing for the court, Justice Warren Silver said the nighttime decibel level should be 42 or below. While the project's application was pending before the DEP, the agency recommended to the Legislature that for the health and safety of those living near wind farms, the acceptable nighttime decibel level should be lowered from 45 to 42, the opinion said. The DEP set the nighttime noise level for the Saddleback project at 45 decibels five months before the Legislature approved its recommendation that the acceptable nighttime level be lowered to 42 decibels.

At the time the DEP approved Saddleback's application on Oct. 6, 2011, the standard for nighttime noise levels was 45 decibels.

The new law requiring the lower level went into effect June 19, 2012.

The justices heard oral arguments in the case when they convened in Bangor on Nov. 8, 2012.

From: Rob Pforzheimer
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 9:48 AM

Subject: Energy costs should be no secret

EDITORIAL <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/energy-costs-should-be-no-secret-195827981.html>

Energy costs should be no secret

Posted: Mar. 7, 2013 | 2:09 a.m.

The Nevada state Legislature has enacted regulations requiring your electric company to buy an ever-increasing portion of its power from less reliable, more expensive, politically favored sources, including solar farmers who know how to buy American political juice.

That added cost gets passed on to every Nevadan - including businesses who could hire more people or pay higher salaries if they weren't paying artificially jacked-up power bills.

And this in a decade when newly discovered fossil fuel resources, right on this continent, promise a 200-year supply of domestic energy, not held hostage by any foreign potentate.

Not only does that mean prices should actually be falling, it also means alternative energy sources can't be made the better buy in just a few years, simply by government subsidizing their efforts "just for a while," to give them "that little push" they need.

Are you ready to pay tax subsidies on one end, and higher electric bills on the other ... for 200 years? And how do lawmakers plan to respond when consumers start to squawk about this unnecessary burden? Why, they want the numbers kept secret, of course, so you can't even complain.

For the second straight legislative session, lawmakers in Carson City have proposed a bill that would keep secret from voters and ratepayers the terms of utility sales agreements entered into by the providers of so-called "renewable" energy, including price per kilowatt hour.

Senate Bill 123, which revises regulations designed to encourage use of these "renewables," has a section that would prohibit the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada from disclosing "any information" concerning a contract, lease or agreement between a utility and the provider of "green" power.

The law would make power-purchase deals "proprietary" and classify their information as "a trade secret" unless both the utility and provider agree to publicize the terms.

It's not clear who requested the rule's inclusion in SB 123, but similar language in an ill-fated 2011 bill came from solar, geothermal and wind companies in Northern Nevada, then-Sen. Mike Schneider, D-Las Vegas, said at the time.

Eric Witkoski, the state consumer advocate who represents ratepayers in utility rate cases, has concerns about the language. Keeping green-energy prices secret only raises added questions and encourages wild conjecture about the cost of "clean" power, he said.

(In fact, manufacturing windmills and solar panels causes plenty of pollution, and both have to be backed up by fossil generators, anyway, since they work far less than 24 hours a day.)

When the Review-Journal asked to see pricing details on power buys from seven clean-energy projects back in 2010, arguing consumers had a right to know the costs, NV Energy officials said disclosing the price per kilowatt hour could affect competition and future green-energy costs

The Public Utilities Commission told NV Energy to release the prices. The contracts revealed that the seven green-power contracts cost NV Energy 8.6 cents to 13.5 cents per kilowatt hour, compared with roughly 4 cents per kilowatt hour for wholesale power from natural gas.

Less than a year later, in the next legislative session, the confidentiality clause appeared in AB416. If the state Legislature has any role in setting energy rates, it should be limited to making sure energy providers compete on a level playing field, where those who can offer the most reliable power at the lowest price have a fair chance to advertise those advantages, and prosper.

When the Legislature plays favorites, requiring power companies to buy a certain percentage of their power from alternative producers - regardless of cost - they're already way out of bounds. In addition to inviting graft and corruption (for who's to decide who's favored?) this artificially drives up rates, crippling any economic recovery, while also sending false signals that indicate alternatives to fossil fuels are a good investment. (If they really were, why would anyone need to keep the numbers a secret?)

But to do all that, and then slap on a blanket of secrecy so consumers can't even calculate for themselves what it's really costing to allow lawmakers to use our electric-bills-on-steroids to reward lobbyists, campaign donors, and tree-huggers singing Kumbaya?

That's priceless.

Submitted on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 - 15:29 Submitted by anonymous user: [140.233.95.84] Submitted values are:

Name: Sigrid Howlett

Town: Cornwall:

2) Energy Sources and/or Facilities: Please check the type of energy generation you wish to comment upon:
Wind

3) **Comment :**

Instead of planting windmills on mountaintops, we could place them down the medians of our interstate divided highways. Unlike beautiful mountaintop ridgelines, interstate highways already have noise pollution, and no one hikes on them or looks to them for beauty and solace. The expansive space between divided highway lanes is highly underutilized public land which could be advantageously put to use generating environmentally-friendly power on pathways which already connect the great metropolitan areas of our country. In an ideal future world we could even fill up our little electric cars at stations situated right along the highways, with views of the windmills that power them!

We exhaust a lot of energy on our highways. Why not get some energy back from them? Highway medians could be the wind paths of the future.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<http://sitingcommission.vermont.gov/node/7/submission/846>

Submitted on Friday, March 8, 2013 - 16:14 Submitted by anonymous user: [66.189.135.218] Submitted values are:

Name: Erik G Sohlberg

Town: Saint Johnsbury

2) Energy Sources and/or Facilities: Please check the type of energy generation you wish to comment upon:
Wind

3) Comment :

Re: Draft Possibilities and Options

Date: 3/08/13

I support all of the options listed in the draft under the fifth of the seven charges of the Siting Commission except Option 3 (Energy Generation Parks). I also support Option 1 (Generic Siting Guidelines) under the seventh charge. These options should be chosen for implementation because the PSB has failed to recognize the soundness of the arguments of opponents especially of the Lowell project. Particularly galling in that case was the low level of Board concern for aesthetic impacts and the disturbance of the core of an undeveloped large forested mountain tract. For Sheffield, I was surprised that the project was approved without the PSB requiring shorter towers and blades in order to reduce noise impacts in adjacent rural neighborhoods.

Another major concern I have with the Board's actions has been its failure to recognize the economic fragility of the communities surrounding where some of these projects have been built or proposed. The type of visible physical alteration posed by projects involving multiple tall structures can alter the desirability of a place to visit (and thus to locate a visitor dependent business) or buy a primary or seasonal house. These projects could easily cause marginally economically viable communities to decline.

If the Siting Commission takes the above suggestions, I believe that Vermont could accommodate some wind projects involving a dozen or so turbines per project of tower heights on the order of 150 feet, such as the original Searsburg project.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<http://sitingcommission.vermont.gov/node/7/submission/851>

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 9:09 AM

Subject: \$4.8 Million in Taxpayer Giveaways per Wind Energy Job

\$4.8 Million in Taxpayer Giveaways per Wind Energy Job

http://www.americanenergyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/AEA_Report_Navigant-Wind_20120306.pdf

According to a [report](#) by Bonner R. Cohen published this week by the American Energy Alliance and the National Center for Public Policy Research, a one-year extension of the wind production tax credit, "the industry's most lucrative taxpayer giveaway", would cost up to \$4.8 million for each direct wind manufacturing and construction job added.

From:

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 11:25 AM

Subject: How to fight greedy BIG WIND

All,

A guide on how to fight BIG WIND from Hawaii.

Willem

<http://mikebondbooks.com/2013/03/08/ten-ways-to-kill-big-wind/>

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 9:39 AM

Subject: Vestas Policy on Noise from Wind Turbines

Documents <http://www.windaction.org/documents/37671>

Vestas Policy on Noise from Wind Turbines

March 10, 2013 by Vestas

Summary:

Vestas recommends relative noise limits that take into account local background noise levels (where new wind turbines are sited near existing ones, already present turbine noise should not be calculated as part of the background noise).

Wind power plays an increasingly significant role in global efforts to address climate change and ensure security of energy supplies. Many issues arise as countries deploy wind power to ever greater degrees, among them the desire to develop noise regulations that are well-designed for large-scale wind power integration. As the world-leading turbine manufacturer, Vestas has made significant strides in recent years to reduce turbine noise levels relative to the megawatts they produce. As Vestas - and the industry as a whole - continues developing new, modern turbines, this trend is expected to continue. Re-powering programs in which many smaller and older turbines are replaced with fewer larger ones will reduce noise emissions for the same installed wind power capacity (MW) and will also likely reduce the number of neighbours exposed to noise emissions. Technical developments, however, could be supplemented by regulatory developments, particularly in the many countries that are significantly increasing wind power's integration into their energy mixes. Governments traditionally regulate the amount of noise that can be emitted from a wide range of industrial and other human activity. The goal of noise regulation is to limit noise emissions to acceptable levels, as defined by relevant (national, regional, or local) government authorities. With specific regard to wind turbines, there are typically four different approaches that governments take:

Absolute noise limit (type 1): maximum allowed noise level at the wind speed creating the highest noise emission must not be exceeded as measured at the nearest neighbour to the turbines;

Absolute noise limit (type 2): maximum allowed noise level at pre-defined wind speeds must not be exceeded as measured at the nearest neighbour to the turbines;

Relative noise limits: turbine noise emission must not exceed the level of background noise (both turbine and background noise are measured as a function of wind speed); such limits are often supplemented with a low absolute maximum noise limit to cover those situations in which turbines are located in areas of very low background noise;

No noise limits.

Vestas recommends relative noise limits that take into account local background noise levels (where new wind turbines are sited near existing ones, already present turbine noise should not be calculated as part of the background noise). Vestas believes this type of regulation is the most effective and flexible, in that it ensures minimal noise disturbance for wind turbine neighbours while allowing turbines to be located in relatively noisy areas (areas with industry or roads, for example) that are rich in wind resources. Such areas are also often close to existing electrical grids, which can minimize the cost of connecting wind turbines to the grid.

Vestas also recommends that governments supplement relative noise limits with a low absolute maximum limit in areas of very low background noise (e.g. quiet countryside), which ensures minimal noise disturbance for turbine neighbours also in these places.

Web link: <http://www.vestas.com/en/about-vestas/strategy/pol...> **Download File(s):**

[Exh_ALB-RJ-3.pdf](#) (393.98 kB)

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 10:48 AM

Subject: Re: Energy costs should be no secret

Vermont's political elite does the same, but the info is leaking out to the point secrecy efforts become silly. We should encourage whistleblowers.

-----Original Message-----

From: Rob Pforzheimer [redacted]

Sent: Fri, Mar 8, 2013 9:47 am

Subject: Energy costs should be no secret

EDITORIAL <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/energy-costs-should-be-no-secret-195827981.html>

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From: Annette Smith

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 11:22 AM

Subject: comments on deliberations

I think your idea to try and implement the CEP is misguided. In particular, the idea of trying to identify how much renewables should be built in Vermont and then trying to identify locations and have them be implemented through the regional plan ignores the fact that the CEP is not etched in stone and is not necessarily going to be valid 10 years from now.

It appears that the commission views the CEP as a document that must be followed through 2050. For instance, the really excellent energy plan done in the late 1990s is not yet 20 years old, and it is no longer relevant because of the changing fundamentals.

Think about where we were with computers in 2000. Think how much has changed. The same thing is happening with energy innovation. There are tremendously exciting things happening with solar, serious research is ongoing to re-use nuclear waste to create energy, and there seem to be some potentially relevant developments in wind energy technology that will be more appropriate for Vermont than the current three-bladed model. Since I live next to a small brook, I am also very interested in micro hydro that does not involve rearranging the water flows, but rather a run of river device that could be dropped in a stream and create a trickle charge. That would be huge for many of us living with solar off grid, and would enable a lot more people to disconnect from the grid.

Another aspect of what the future may hold for electricity generation involves micro-grids. I have a fundamental disagreement with the notion that is regularly expressed by the siting commission that we are going to be needing more electricity in the grid. While electricity consumption may rise, I suggest that based on following the research over the years, the technology is heading in the opposite direction of big grids and more large scale projects. Living off grid with solar for 25 years, I especially understand the challenges of intermittent power. But I also understand that the majority of my electricity consumption is from solar, and what is needed that does not yet exist is something to replace or improve on the battery storage and fossil fuel generator that is necessary when the sun doesn't shine, which I estimate is about 5 to 10% of the time in terms of my electric system. An example of something that may work is the Bloom Box, which is a small fuel cell that could run on biofuel. If that becomes available on the consumer level, that could be a game changer. There are also some exciting things happening with storage, not just on the utility scale level but also the homeowner level. The technology is not moving in the direction of larger central power plants with lots of power lines. I understand that is the current model under which the region is operating, and the utilities have not figured out how to make money on local distributed or home generated electricity, but the technologies are improving and research is being turned into marketable products and the energy world looks very exciting and potentially different even 5 years from now.

I encourage you to think outside of the box in which you are currently deliberating on future energy deployment. We have real projects coming along right now creating tremendous disruption to our communities. We have a process that does not work for our towns and citizens that is draining resources from the public, and a tremendous imbalance where the system is totally supportive of corporate developers and offers nothing in the way of support for communities and people whose lives are literally being destroyed by this corporate renewable energy development model. I hope your focus will shift to recognizing and trying to solve the very real problems that have been presented to you. Trying to figure out how to implement the CEP in the short term means creating a system that works for everyone, not just corporate developers who will make millions of dollars at the expense of Vermonters.

Based on what I have heard so far in your deliberations, you have not grappled with a fundamental issue which is that the PSB ignores all the expert witness testimony the public has provided. The ideas you are considering will not change that. The PSB was provided excellent expert witness testimony in the Sheffield and Lowell and Georgia Mountain wind cases and to a person they were all ignored. No amount of improvement in the process leading up the PSB process will address what Scott Johnstone has noted is what is necessary for good public process, which is that people must feel that they were listened to. ANR has also not listened to expertise offered on water quality permits. The level of anger and frustration on this fundamental point is very high, and I am sorry to note that you do not seem to have heard it. You are now doing what the public is complaining most about, which is that no matter how much money they raise, no matter how many lawyers and experts they hire, no matter how much they participate fully in the PSB process (at this point with zero assistance from anyone except those of us in the non-profit sector), the PSB listens only to the developer's experts. That is now resulting in people being made sick by wind turbines because the PSB ignored the credible experts who told them they were setting a standard where people are known to get sick and it is resulting in solar projects that are not appropriate for neighborhoods. We have not yet seen how the PSB is going to treat the biomass projects. I have repeatedly pointed out that as someone in the role of advising people on how to participate in the PSB process, I can no longer ethically recommend that they raise the money to hire the lawyers and experts to participate in the PSB process.

I hope these comments are helpful to your deliberations.

Annette Smith
Executive Director
Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.



From: Rob Pforzheimer
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 1:20 PM

Subject: FW: Letter to the Editor Orleans Record 3-14-13

3/14/2013

Wind Woes - Andrew Whittaker

Wind woes

To the Editor:

Anyone who has roamed, hunted, or otherwise enjoyed the high back country, could only be alarmed by what has happened in Lowell and Sheffield, and especially at what is proposed in Newark, Brighton and Ferdinand. I know and love what is in my backyard, and I respect that other rural Vermonters do the same. It is disturbing that we have a House leadership that has thus far showed no willingness to hear from people on this issue, in fact, quite the opposite.

The proposed trade-off of our mountains to address climate change is a bad deal. Natural and intact forested habitats are an ally in sequestering carbon. The electrical grid should be capped, not expanded into wild and forested areas. Carbon emissions should be reduced where they occur. Communities should be empowered to take control of their energy future, not divided by dubious projects. The money directed to wind credits would be more effectively spent by communities and for communities, on small scale renewable projects that directly reduce carbon emissions. Greater focus needs to be directed to transportation, where much of our carbon emissions derive.

We need leadership on this issue, and if Senate bill 30 is any indication, we may be getting it. However, if the bill is passed, and the House is compelled to act despite its aversion to even taking testimony, then responsibility presumably passes to town plans, district commissions and ANR to protect these fragile mountain habitats from development. As the original bill directed ANR to "be advocates for the environment," there should also be a commitment to fulfilling responsibilities and repairing the broken trust of residents who have seen their government stand down for developers. However, given Act 250's statutory protection of high elevations, the true value of S. 30 is that it would re-establish for future generations the value and regard that Vermont and Vermonters place in their Green Mountains.

Andrew Whittaker
Kirby, Vt.

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 11:27 AM

Subject: FW: Columbia Journalism Review Strikes the Underbelly of the Wind Industry

Subject: Columbia Journalism Review Strikes the Underbelly of the Wind Industry

To:

Columbia Journalism Review is a leading media watchdog organization with national and perhaps international stature whose mission is to "encourage excellence in journalism in the service of a free society".

It is thus no small thing when they write up a publication or journalist as they have just done with George Smith, the former longtime head of the Maine Sportsman's Alliance and a household name in Maine with considerable influence in the state. http://www.cjr.org/the_observatory/maine_windmills_tourism_george.php

Smith, a graduate of Columbia's ivy league cousin Harvard, attributes the whole thing to a small oversight on his part. But this is not an isolated incident and Smith has been a longtime vocal proponent of wind power - perhaps all the while receiving money from the wind industry.

Even bigger, Smith's transgression is not an isolated incident but rather a tiny tip of the tip of the iceberg that is the wind industry's use of its money to buy its way into legitimacy, into our communities and into our precious natural landscapes with devastating and absurd effect on our hard won sanctuaries which they pejoratively call our backyards.

This piece by the Columbia Journalism Review may seem small on one hand but is in fact a direct shot to the solar plexus of the wind industry's underbelly of shady dealings. Let us not forget that the company whom Smith is mixed up, First Wind, ended up signing an ethics agreement in NY State after an investigation by then state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. <http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/attorney-general-cuomo-launches-investigation-wind-power-companies-conduct-across> Or that former U.S. Congressman Eric Massa (D-NY), while in office wrote a scathing letter to President Obama requesting nullification of massive federal stimulus grants to this company whose business model he called "lie, cheat and corrupt".

http://api.ning.com/files/NcM3r-746Kpo4z8Pp-qk06aTScjeN2xkg1CgtnfPAqviLDzd25fsdR0rZM29s9CaaEQv8nvnt2O43YVarp3goAnI1-I*Tdwb/Massa_USRep_DNY_letter_to_Obama.pdf

Or that a number of the company's founders trace back to scam artist Enron and have been linked to other extraordinarily seedy entities.

And let's not forget First Wind's connections to the Obama Administration, e.g., Larry Summers and Rahm Emanuel. <http://www.futureofcapitalism.com/2009/09/clean-energy> and <http://www.futureofcapitalism.com/2009/09/clean-energy-ii>

And First Wind is but one company in an industry whose playbook calls for buying its way into "astroturfed" legitimacy, using tactics such as "armies of bloggers" to create false buzz and word of mouth and providing substantial money to so called environmental organizations in return for "greenwashing", i.e., the "Good Earth Keeping Seals of Approval". To say nothing of its veil of secrecy fastened down with "confidentiality agreements" and its MO of negotiating with so called public officials out of public view. An industry whose office of choice seems to be the back room and dark alley way.

It would be to all our benefit if we could build upon this recent shot to the wind industry, connecting it to the constellation of other shady dots that they have left in their wake - and somehow make this the big story it

deserves to be.

We who live near wind projects have been the canaries in the coalmine with wind power but now the public at large, fed up with our government so called representatives, and increasingly the complicit media, may now be ready to tune in. Timing is everything.

Is there a reporter in the house?

04:00 PM - March 13, 2013

Windmills, tourism, and transparency

Maine blogger's ongoing conflict-of-interest problems spark concern

By [Curtis Brainard](#)

The former executive director of the [Sportsman's Alliance of Maine](#), who's now a fulltime media personality covering travel and outdoors issues in the state, got a lesson in disclosure last week after failing to mention a conflict of interest in a post touting windmill tourism on his blog at the *Bangor Daily News*.

The question is, will the lesson stick?

In addition to running the Sportsman's Alliance, from which he retired in 2010, George Smith has been a weekly columnist for two other Maine newspapers, the *Kennebec Journal* and the *Morning Sentinel*, for 20 years, and it's not the first time he's been called out for a lack of transparency. This time, at least, he responded to criticism with a follow-up post apologizing for his oversight.

The latest episode began on February 28, when Smith added a post to George's Outdoors News—the *Bangor Daily News* blog he [launched](#) in July—under the headline, [“Wind Towers Maine's New Tourist Attraction.”](#)

He reported that:

First Wind, working with local snowmobile clubs and the Maine Snowmobile Association, has linked its wind towers in a 590-mile circuit through some beautiful Maine country.

[First Wind](#), a renewable energy company based in Boston, also hosted an annual event called the Stetson Wind Snowmobile Ride-In on February 16 in which 200 people participated, Smith noted, including a quote from First Wind's local director of development that was taken from a [press release](#) about the event:

We routinely hear from snowmobilers and ATV users that the first three questions heard from visitors to towns located near wind projects are Where is the Gas? Where is the Food? And How do I get to the wind farm?

The catch, as a local group concerned about the impact of wind-power development on Maine's outdoor-recreation areas quickly [pointed out](#), is that First Wind is listed as a “Premium Level Supporter” on the home page of Smith's website, [GeorgeSmithMaine.com](#).

The [“Advertising & Sponsorship Opportunities”](#) page on the website explains that “Premium Level” supporters contribute at least \$5,000 per year, and are entitled to various forms of promotion on Smith's website, on Wildfire (his TV talk show), and on his blogs. It's unclear which blogs this refers to (he has a few), but *Bangor Daily* is included on his website's menu bar.

I called [Michael Dowd](#), *Bangor Daily News*'s Metro/Standards Editor*, to ask about the apparent conflict of interest, and he asked for some time to review the evidence. The next day, I got a call from Anthony Ronzio, the

paper's director of news and new media, who said that at the editors' urging, Smith had addressed the issue in a follow-up [post](#) that morning.

"I made a mistake..." Smith wrote at his blog. "So let's head this off by letting you know that I agree with the anti-wind folks and my editors at the BDN, that I should have disclosed that First Wind is a sponsor of my website, georgesmithmaine.com. I do not hide that fact. Their sponsorship is highlighted right on the home page of the website and repeated in my Outdoor News Blog there."

In the post, and in a follow-up phone call that I made, Smith said he'd originally intended to publish the offending post on his personal website, where his connection to First Wind is clear. When he made a last-minute decision to put it on the *Bangor Daily News* blog, he forgot to add the disclosure.

The paper now [hosts](#) almost 100 unpaid bloggers on its site, and leaves it to them to remember such details, according to Ronzio. *Bangor Daily News* has been building up the community in earnest for two years, and continues to [solicit](#) new additions on a variety of topics. It vets bloggers before they join, but once onboard, the paper doesn't edit or review their posts before they go live.

TAGS: [conflicts of interest](#), [outdoor recreation](#), [renewable energy](#), [tourism](#), [wind energy](#)

Curtis Brainard is the editor of The Observatory, CJR's online critique of science and environment reporting. Follow him on Twitter [@cbrainard](#).

Comments [Post a Comment](#)

I spoke with 4 snowsledders who attended to Stetson run and none cared for the turbines. All wanted to ride the trail and get free food. The wind company leases the land from private landowners, so they are the ones allowing the trails to connect. The trails would still be used, probably more so if the turbines had not been built. George also claimed support from locals, but he was selective whom he interviewed. The Hot Spring Lakes campowners and paddlers would have given thumbs down but of course they were not interviewed. Georges' report was a thinly veiled PR piece as he tried vainly to put lipstick on the pig which is the wind industry

#1 Posted by **Mike DiCenso** on Wed 13 Mar 2013 at 11:04 PM

You did a good job of covering George Smith covering his a--, but he is not innocent of simple forgetfulness. He is too wily for that. Its too bad this article didn't include a few excerpts from the comments posted on his blog. The comment reveal a lot of background.

The sad truth is that all media in Maine have been totally biased in favor of pushing the wind industry's propaganda and stifle the growing citizen criticism of the destruction of Maine's magnificent natural resources and unique "Quality of Place". The wind industry targeted the editorial staffs of all the Maine media as well as the Baldacci administration. There has been no investigative piece on this controversial, multi-faceted issue of proliferation of industrial wind turbines that are totally unreliable, produce less than 25% of capacity and are driving electricity prices up in a region that does not need the fickle trickle of power from them.

#2 Posted by **Brad Blake** on Wed 13 Mar 2013 at 11:23 PM

Previously "Enquiring Minds" had access to this level of fabrication only at supermarket check-out lines. These days it's available anywhere. Sadly, many folks accept this tripe as truth. Instead it is often the work of shills with agendas to fill, especially when money in the form of "sponsorship" is involved. This practice is similar to lobbyists gaining the support of politicians through campaign contributions. This variation, however, represents paid-for propaganda designed to sway the opinion of citizens.

The grid-scale wind industry is parasitic, relying on cronyism, favorable regulatory treatment, massive federal subsidies, and out-sized power rates. No wonder they resort to using this brand of deceit to get their way. They're in a hurry, too, because the truth is getting out. Ride-ins, free food, and bluster about job creation and free/clean power won't cut it much longer. The window of opportunity is starting to close on them, and folks like Mr. Smith might as well go to Washington where this sort of aroma is always blowing in the wind.

#3 Posted by **Brian Ruth** on Thu 14 Mar 2013 at 07:05 AM

George also failed to mention in his "piece" that he has agreed to testify on behalf of his benefactor, First Wind, at an upcoming hearing before the Maine DEP. At issue is whether First Wind should be given a permit to build the Bowers Wind project which would place 459' tall wind turbines on mountaintops and ridges overlooking the Downeast Lakes. This is a vast network of 24+ wilderness lakes, anchored by world renowned Grand Lake Stream. These are not your ordinary lakes. Incredibly, there are 14 lakes within 8 miles of the project that are officially recognized as "Scenic Resources of Statewide Significance".

I don't know George Smith personally. I wish he would familiarize himself with the damage this project will do to Maine before selling his name to support it.

disclosure: I am president of the Partnership for the Preservation of the Downeast Lakes Watershed, the volunteer group opposing this project. No one is paying me or our 200 members for what we do, say or write. Visit www.ppdlw.org for the facts on the Bowers Wind project.

#4 Posted by **Gary Campbell** on Thu 14 Mar 2013 at 09:18 AM

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 8:44 AM

Subject: How Maine can balance clean energy and protection of wildlands

<http://bangordailynews.com/2013/03/13/opinion/how-maine-can-balance-clean-energy-and-protection-of-wildlands/>

How Maine can balance clean energy and protection of wildlands

By Ann Ingerson, Special to the BDN

Posted March 13, 2013, at 4 p.m.

At a time when battles are raging over multiple energy projects in Maine, from oil pipelines to windfarms, policymakers must do more to find a balance between needed new clean energy sources and protecting the lands and forests we love. We don't have to choose between protecting our wild lands and advancing renewable energy if we take the time to do it right and consider an array of options.

Maine is already a regional leader in renewable energy production thanks to its abundant resources. Hydropower has fueled local industry for several centuries. Wood-fired electricity generators are scattered throughout the state, including decades-old operations at paper plants. Several new factories produce wood heat pellets.

More than 1,200 megawatts of wind are either operating or proposed, and a first-of-its-kind floating turbine facility was recently approved offshore. Maine has set an ambitious target of 3,000 megawatts of new wind by 2020 as part of an effort to grow renewable energy further.

Yet renewable energy development is beginning to face roadblocks as Mainers and the entire New England region ponder the potential consequences of continued energy development for our rural landscape, tourism economy and way of life.

A report recently released by The Wilderness Society illustrates some of the potential landscape effects of reaching our stated renewable energy goals. Our maps and acreage calculations demonstrate that nearly all new energy sources have a downside. Keeping Maine's most iconic places intact requires guiding development away from the most sensitive locations and getting serious about reducing energy use.

Through public dialogue based on solid information, policymakers should recognize that some places should simply be off-limits to development. That means working together to guide future development to appropriate places and offsetting unavoidable impacts by protecting priority landscapes. We need to have candid discussions about how much new energy generation is needed, of what type, where it can best be located and how to limit overall environmental effects.

New development must also be balanced with energy conservation. Maine has one of the lowest per capita rates of spending for efficiency programs of any state in the country, and there is a huge gap between the state's efficiency goals and the resources necessary to reach those goals. The state also remains heavily dependent on fuel oil and propane for heat, weatherization activity falls drastically short of the need and building energy codes apply only in the largest communities.

Like many predominantly rural states, Maine also uses tremendous amounts of energy for transport. Nearly half of the state's energy-related greenhouse gas emissions come from this sector. Increased funding for Maine's Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and PowerSaver programs, or trade-in incentives such as the expired

federal “cash for clunkers” program, could reduce energy use, while giving low-income Mainers a break from energy inflation by helping them finance home renovations or a new, more efficient car.

Reducing energy demand takes good-faith efforts by thousands of individuals, organizations and businesses. Sometimes that requires upfront costs to achieve long-term savings, but, most importantly, it requires changing long-term habits.

Unlike many issues before the state and the entire country today, leaders from both sides of the aisle, and from coast to forest, are coming together to have educated conversations about our energy future. We need to continue the dialogue and build science, economics and a bit of common sense into our energy plans.

We can’t ignore the effects, nor can we afford to do nothing. We need a path to cleaner energy sources and stronger efficiency programs to have a truly balanced approach. An honest look at energy development effects could be just what we need to inspire such efforts, as we recognize that saving energy saves the landscape we value.

Ann Ingerson is the northern New England resource economist for the [Wilderness Society](#).

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 10:41 AM

Subject: Proposed wind development could be hurting home sales on Amherst Island

[Proposed wind development could be hurting home sales on Amherst Island](#)

Posted on [03/15/2013](#) <http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2013/03/15/proposed-wind-development-could-be-hurting-home-sales-on-amherst-island/> by [OWR](#)

[CKWSTV](#)

Janet Grace, Real Estate Agent, Royal LePage: “All it takes is just saying well there is a project that has been proposed that entails bringing 33 to 37 huge wind turbines and people just say oh no no no we’ll walk away from that.” This is the second time Best’s home has been put on the market and without a buyer she is left with few options.



Please note, this article was submitted by three separate people, Vanessa Mills Holmquist, Rob Pforzheimer, and Willem Post. It is included only once in this report.

Subject: Studies Show Land-Based Wind Turbines Cause Property Values to Plummet; Health,

I find it appalling that Big Wind promoters and stakeholders can continue to promote the false notion to the public (and/or to work against the public good!!!) that there are no legitimate reports about Big Wind affecting property values!

What side does the PSB/DPS/Shumlin's siting commission sit on? Can we hope it

(naively that the position is one of neutrality? hmmm.....

http://finance.boston.com/boston/news/read/23620271/studies_show_land

Studies Show Land-Based Wind Turbines Cause Property Values to Plummet; Health, Economic, and Environmental Factors are Cited as Major Issues

By: [Wind Wise-Massachusetts](#) via [PR Newswire](#)

Posted on March 06, 2013 at 08:35 AM EST

FALMOUTH, Mass., March 6, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Land-based wind turbines can cause property values within two miles of the 30 to 50 story high structures to plummet by 15 percent to 40 percent, according to comprehensive appraisal studies.

The individual real estate impact reports covered the towns of Falmouth, Nantucket, Shelburne, Dennis, and Brewster and are emblematic of similar studies in other states, according to Michael McCann, president of McCann Appraisals of Chicago.

"The wind turbines near residential areas are devastating to home values," McCann said. His firm has conducted more than 20 appraisals of homes near existing or proposed land-based wind turbines in more than two dozen communities across the country.

The studies were credited by Wind Wise-Massachusetts (WWMA) as a significant contributing factor, along with negative health impacts, in the withdrawing of 43 wind turbine projects in the Commonwealth during the past eight years.

Wind Wise-Massachusetts (www.windwisema.org) is a statewide alliance of environmentally active grassroots organizations and individuals who are concerned about the negative health, environmental, and economic impacts of poorly-sited wind turbines. The organization has supporters in more than 200 cities and towns.

In Nantucket, a property value impact study for a proposed 325 foot wind turbine at the Town's Landfill found that the turbine could dramatically alter vistas and sight lines and raise noise and health concerns.

The study said the home values for over 600 residential properties within a two-mile range of the wind turbines could be reduced by 10 per cent to 25 per cent and, in some cases, 40 percent. The appraised value for the homes in the area was \$1.1 billion.

A town meeting in Nantucket overwhelmingly defeated the proposal last March. A plan for a smaller wind turbine was defeated last October.

In Shelburne, 770 homes within two miles of a proposed industrial wind turbine installation could have seen their total value decrease by \$27.3 million to \$72.8 million, based on another McCann Appraisals study.

The proposed project was withdrawn and the town voted to ban all industrial wind turbines in Shelburne at a town meeting last year.

In Falmouth, property values near existing wind turbines decreased by an average of 27 percent according to a paired sales appraisal analysis.

CONTACT: Barry Wanger, [+1-617-965-6469](tel:+16179656469), Barry@wangerassociates.com

[Joanne Levesque](#)

I would like to provide evidence of what can only be described as a clear violation of private property rights, and as the arbitrator in the recent Granite Links vs Town of Milton wind turbine decision pointed out...Milton violated "taking" provisions when Town Meeting voted in 2010 that a turbine could be built on town-owned land "as of right." The arbitrator said that "as-of-right siting" sidestepped "all of the controls that a developer normally has to fulfill." So too, do all cities and towns that permit wind projects that trespass on private properties. In support of this contention, I will share a recent communication with "friends" who find themselves in a desperate situation, trapped in a "toxic" home with no help from either state or local officials. A real travesty! (excerpt...See More

[Larry Lorusso](#) · [Raft Guide](#) at [Moxie Outdoor Adventures](#)

As one the new "Wind Crash Test Dummies", I can say industrial Wind facilities make terrible neighbors, plus they trashed the mountain top.

[Jim Aylward](#)

People who live near proposed or installed turbines are the new "Wind Turbine Crash Test Dummies". There are no safety standards for industrial wind turbines at the state or federal level - it's left up to individual towns and cities to determine if a turbine that was rejected in the next town as being unhealthy for their residents is OK for our residents. It's crazy. No consistency at all. Turbine designs must be tested in computer simulations first, and then against actual sample turbines set up in a test field for noise impacts. Plus, proposed sites and the surrounding areas must be tested for no-turbine ambient noise. IMHO, turbines should never be installed anywhere near where people live, work or go to school. Would you buy a car that has never been tested for safety? Of course not! It's just Common Sense!

[Bill Slycat](#) · Top Commenter

It's just common sense. Put a 40-story noisy industrial machine with blades each the size of a cell tower into a residential area and home values plunge. The wind industry is the new tobacco industry as far as denying negative impacts goes. And they are well funded too.

[John Danis](#) · [Guilford High School](#)

No surprise. At every Zoning Board meeting the Wind people sit there with a straight face and say there is no proof of reduced home values, bold face liars!

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 12:11 AM

Subject: Germany's Green Energy Disaster: A Cautionary Tale For World Leaders

"Germany is dirtying the planet in the name of clean energy – and sticking its citizens with an ever-escalating tab so it can subsidize an energy source which will never generate sufficient power.

This is the cautionary tale of command energy economics – one other nations would be wise to heed."

3/14/2013 @ 8:56AM |2,293 views

Germany's Green Energy Disaster: A Cautionary Tale For World Leaders



(Photo credit: Wikipedia)

By Howard Rich

There's nothing wrong with expanding renewable energy sources. The more choices available in this (or any) marketplace the better consumers will be served – both from a price and a quality standpoint. However serious problems are caused when government starts using taxpayer resources to subsidize or incentivize these expansions. Things get even worse when centralized planners start manipulating market choices or trying to manage the marketplace itself by controlling the generation of power.



To Reduce Lawyers' Drag On Growth, How About A Law Ph.D.? [Capital FlowsContributor](#)

Federal Spending Under Various Scenarios

%GDP	Actual 2010	Projectal				-2010 Long Term Budget Outlook
		2022	2030	2040	2050	
Extended-Baseline Scenario						
Major Mandatory Health Care Programs ^a	5%	7%	6%	10%	12%	↓
Social Security	4%	5%	5	6%	8	
Other Mandatory and Defense and Nondefense Discretionary Spending ^b	12	8%	8	7%	7%	
Spending Excluding Interest	22%	20%	22%	24%	28%	
Alternative Fiscal Scenario						
Major Mandatory Health Care Programs ^a	5%	7%	6%	11	12%	↓
Social Security	4%	5%	5	6%	8	
Other Mandatory and Defense and Nondefense Discretionary Spending ^b	12	9%	8%	9%	9	
Spending Excluding Interest	22%	22%	25%	27%	28%	
Proposal						
Major Mandatory Health Care Programs ^a	5%	5%	6	5%	4%	↓
Social Security	4%	5%	6	6%	6	
Other Mandatory and Defense and Nondefense Discretionary Spending ^b	12	8	5%	4%	3%	
Spending Excluding Interest	22%	17	17%	16%	14	

Source: CBO, Letter to Congress (June 2) - April 2011.
Note: Spending amounts include interest when it is not included in other major programs.



Unwilling to Get Real On Spending, Obama Pulls Out the 'Washington Monument' Card [Capital FlowsContributor](#)



Why The Standard Private Equity Fund Is Losing Its Luster [Capital FlowsContributor](#)



[EPA Nominee Gina McCarthy Has A History Of Misleading Congress](#) [Capital FlowsContributor](#)

This is precisely what is happening in [Germany](#) – where command economists have failed spectacularly in their bid to force a national transition to renewable energy.

In 2000 [Germany](#) passed a major green initiative which forced providers to purchase renewable energy at exorbitant fixed prices and feed that power through their grids for a period of twenty years. Promulgated by a Socialist-Green coalition government – this initiative has since been embraced by Germany’s Conservative-Liberal majority, led by Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#). In fact Merkel has doubled down on Germany’s renewable energy push in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in [Japan](#) – ramping up government’s plan to phase in renewables while taking the country’s nuclear power industry offline.

Merkel’s government shut down eight reactors in the immediate aftermath of the Fukushima disaster (which was caused by a tsunami – a threat [Germany](#) isn’t exposed to) and has vowed to shut down all remaining nuclear facilities by 2022. The problem? Despite heavy government subsidization, renewable energies simply aren’t filling the void.

“After deciding to exit nuclear energy, it seems as if Ms. Merkel’s coalition stopped its work,” a former German environmental minister [told The New York Times](#) last year. “There is great danger that this project will fail, with devastating economic and social consequences.”

A year later the project *is* failing – resulting in what one German industry expert [termed](#) a “chaotic standstill.”

Merkel’s energy plan called for the addition of 25,000 megawatts of sea-based wind turbine power by 2030. However through the first six months of 2012 only 45 megawatts had been added to Germany’s existing 200-megawatt supply, according to an industry analyst [quoted by Reuters](#). And despite massive subsidies funded by a household energy surcharge (which currently comprises [14 percent](#) of German power bills), major wind projects in the North Sea are being delayed or canceled due to skittish investors.

The basic problem? Wind farms are notoriously unreliable as a power source. Not only that, they take up vast amounts of space and kill tens of thousands of birds annually.

“Generating energy with wind involves extreme fluctuations because it depends on the weather and includes periods without any recognizable capacity for days, or suddenly occurring supply peaks that push the grid to its limits,” a [2012 report](#) from Germany energy expert Dr. Guenter Keil notes. “There is a threat of power outages over large areas, mainly in wintertime when the demand is high and less (power) gets delivered from abroad.”

A typical 20-turbine wind farm occupies an area of 250 acres. So in order for Merkel to achieve her objective, she would have to cover an area six times the size of [New York](#) City with turbines. Not surprisingly the erection of all those turbines – along with the infrastructure needed to route their inconsistent power supply back to the German heartland – would be astronomical.

“The costs of our energy reform and restructuring of energy provision could amount to around one trillion euros by the end of the 2030s,” Germany’s environmental minister [announced last month](#).

That sum could rise even higher, as last month a Harvard University study revealed the extent to which the power generating potential of wind farms has been “overestimated.”

“The generating capacity of very large wind power installations may peak at between 0.5 and 1 watts per square meter,” the study [concluded](#). “Previous estimates, which ignored the turbines’ slowing effect on the wind, had put that figure at between 2 and 7 watts per square meter.”

Such are the shifting sands upon which Merkel has staked her country’s energy future.

Because renewable power sources have been so unreliable, Germany has been forced to construct numerous new coal plants in an effort to replace the nuclear energy it has taken offline. In fact the country will build more coal-fired facilities this year than at any time in the past two decades – bringing an estimated [5,300 megawatts](#) of new capacity online. Most of these facilities will burn lignite, too, which is strip-mined and emits nearly 30 percent more carbon dioxide than hard coal.

In other words Germany is dirtying the planet in the name of clean energy – and sticking its citizens with an ever-escalating tab so it can subsidize an energy source which will never generate sufficient power.

This is the cautionary tale of command energy economics – one other nations would be wise to heed.

The author is chairman of Americans for Limited Government.

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 12:04 AM

Subject: Feds Ask For Help in Wind Turbine Eagle Deaths

[REWIRE](#)

[News](#) > [ReWire](#) > [Wind](#) > Feds Ask For Help in Wind Turbine Eagle Deaths

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From one of the comments to this article:

"There are no raptors, no scrub jays, no songbirds, no burrowing owls and not even a bat any more. They have all been killed by the turbine blades and transmission lines"

[WIND](#)

[Feds Ask For Help in Wind Turbine Eagle Deaths](#)

by [Chris Clarke](#)

on March 13, 2013 3:59 PM

<http://www.kcet.org/news/rewire/wind/agency-asks-for-help-in-wind-turbine-eagle-deaths.html>



Golden eagle in flight | Photo: [Alaska NPS/Flickr/Creative Commons License](#)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has asked the public for help in gathering information on eagle mortality in the wake of the [death of a golden eagle at the North Sky River wind facility](#) in Kern County on January 29. The eagle was found near a turbine just one month after the facility started operation in December 2012.

The facility, owned by Florida-based energy developer NextEra, had been the [subject of lawsuits](#) over potential threats to eagles and other birds.

"We are asking individuals as well as wind energy companies with information or knowledge about the death of eagles that may have been killed due to contact with wind turbines, to contact us," said Jill Birchell, special agent in charge of the FWS Office of Law Enforcement for California and Nevada, in a [press release Monday](#).

When it's built out, North Sky River will hold 100 turbines on 12,781 acres of privately owned lands in the Tehachapi Mountains northwest of Mojave. At maximum output, the facility will generate 297 megawatts of power. North Sky River isn't far from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Pine Tree Wind Farm, itself the site of a number of reported deaths of raptors, including eight reported eagle deaths in a two-year span.

The request from FWS also comes after [revelations](#) that the agency held a series of secret meetings with high-level "stakeholders," including wind industry leaders and representatives of large environmental groups, to help craft policy as the agency works toward extending the timespan of "take" permits for bald and golden eagles from five to 30 years.

FWS is in charge of enforcing protections for eagles under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and it's under the provisions of that law that the agency issues take permits to wind developers to allow those developers' turbines to kill eagles under certain circumstances.

According to Monday's release, no such permits have been issued in the Tehachapi wind development area.

"Un-permitted take of eagles is the illegal take of eagles," Birchell said in the release. "We want power companies or any company involved in planning to build wind generation facilities in the Tehachapi range, where a significant golden eagle population exists, to contact the Service well in advance of construction and work with our biologists to develop conservation plans that will avoid take of eagles to the extent practical and serve as the basis for an application to lawfully take eagles for companies who proceed with wind development in this area."

Criminal penalties for harming eagles run up to a maximum fine of \$5,000 and a year's imprisonment for a first offense.

FWS is asking that anyone who may have information regarding eagle deaths can contact the FWS Office of Law Enforcement in Sacramento at [\(916\) 569-8444](tel:9165698444) or [via email at lawenforcement@fws.gov](mailto:lawenforcement@fws.gov).

[ReWire](#) is dedicated to covering renewable energy in California.

About the Author Chris Clarke is a natural history writer and environmental journalist currently at work on a book about the Joshua tree. He lives in Joshua Tree. [MORE](#) ▶ 3 COMMENTS

[ethics](#) says :

This sounds favorable but somewhat confusing. This project lies in Kern County, CA and code for wind turbine sites require either security fencing around each turbine or the entire site fenced, whether on private land or public. Although species are sometimes bashed from the air and fall to death on the ground below, there are times when the species are slammed and manage to fly or glide a bit further to free themselves of the security fencing, where the public could then potentially assist with this request, if sited all around the facility in anticipation of this to occur.

The other confusing number that keeps circulating is the 297MW. This is a valid concern since it equates to impacts. First in September 18, 2009 a letter sent to Kern County noted "Figure 2" for rezoning and a 297MW final capacity increase. December 15, 2009 KC Planning BofS Staff Report notes a rezoning request on 52,000 acres by Kern County Planning Department along with others.

May 6, 2011 the Draft EIR noted in the Reduced Project Size Alternate C" removal of up to nine WTGs in the northeast portion of the site to increase the distance between the WTGs and both Butterbred Springs and the nearest Golden Eagle nest."

August 8, 2011 Recharge News <http://www.rechargenews.com/wind/article1292558.ece> notes PG&E has reached an agreement to buy the output 163MW NSR wind project. It also notes an expected capacity factor of 35%. Using a

"standard calculator" this equates to 57.05MW expected.

August 11, 2011 the KC Planning Commission approved the zone change request minus the nine WTGs noted above.

September 13, 2011 page 433 of the EIR - The KC BofS perhaps using a "non-standard calculator", noted once operational, the project will provide up to 339MW of installed capacity (this included a small adjacent project which included about 13WTGs).

August 27, 2011 pages 172-173 of the September 13, 2011 EIR Staff Report noted the WTGs were changed to GE 1.62 MW units. Using a "standard calculator" this would equate to roughly 163MW by multiplying 102WTGs by 1.6MW.

In comparison this is 134MWs below the approved and noted capacity of 163MWs on the Power Purchase Agreement and when compared to the KC documents. Perhaps BLM CACA047847 on 9,706 acres of land already applied for in 2005 then acreage increased in 2010 by Boulevard Associates, Inc. and named North Sky River Type II may be the additional

land and capacity expected. Or, perhaps the "non-standard" calculator is not only used when forecasting MWs, but when reviewing the species deaths or impact factors. If so, this could greatly increase these numbers. Wish we as the public could assist more.

[March 14, 2013 12:37 PM](#)

[Jim Wiegand](#) says :

The wind industry and FWS are quick to point out how dangerous power lines are to all birds including eagles and condors. But there really is a huge difference between the killing power of turbine blades and power lines, unless of course one supports bogus research. Power lines are not swatting birds out of the air while moving at 200 mph. Power lines can also be easily seen by birds (which have great eyesight) under most daytime circumstances. Bats can also easily avoid power lines. There is also tremendous difference between a power line a collision and a turbine blade strike. With a power line collision there is a reasonable chance for survival, but when a blade moving at 200 mph, hits a bird it is all over. The chances of getting hit by a turbine blade are also far greater, not only because the blades are moving at a tremendous rate of speed, but the impact square footage from the rotor sweep of one turbine is equal to over 200 miles of 1 inch diameter power line. So if you have a hundred 2.5 MW turbines in a 100 square mile area, it is the equivalent to the square footage of over 20,000 miles of power lines moving at a high rate of speed crammed into a small area. There really is no question that wind turbines are far more deadly for birds than power lines.

It should be no surprise to the FWS that the North Sky River wind project Pine will be extremely deadly for golden eagles, condors, or anything else that flies. At maximum output, the facility will generate 297 megawatts of power. When look at the combined rotor sweep of the project, the spinning blades will be equal to over 25,000 miles of power lines stuffed into 12,781 acres. The killing has only just begun.

But if the upper levels of the FWS really wanted to get to the bottom of the golden eagle kills at North Sky River they would start by overturning all the gag orders that were signed for this project. Otherwise the public is not ever going to help when everything is on private land patrolled by wind farm security. But of course the FWS know this because they help the wind industry set up this whole scenario. They would also find out how worthless the eagle radar systems are.

As for this statement from the FWS in the article....."Un-permitted take of eagles is the illegal take of eagles," Birchell said in the release. "We want power companies or any company involved in planning to build wind generation facilities in the Tehachapi range, where a significant golden eagle population exists, to contact the Service well in advance of construction and work with our biologists to develop conservation plans that will avoid take of eagles to the extent practical and serve as the basis for an application to lawfully take eagles for

companies who proceed with wind development in this area.".....It is time the FWS quit playing this whole "develop conservation plans that will avoid take of eagles" game because there is no way to every make the propeller style turbine safe for any eagle. These damn things are killers. If you did intend on killing eagles you would never put these turbines in eagle habitat. There is one other game the FWS should immediately stop, that being the inflation of eagle population numbers for the industry so it appears on paper that these turbines are killing a lower percentage of the population.

[March 14, 2013 1:25 PM](#)

[sandcanyongal](#) says :

The wind energy development companies are deplorable. The principals have one focus - \$\$\$\$\$\$. There is one single answer to stopping another bird or bat death - retrofit and install protective shields over the blades to prevent another bird or bat from being slaughtered. Until they're fitted and fully functional, shut the current installed base down. The equipment is dangerous to the ecosystems. Maybe some of the readers have never experienced nature but many of us fully acknowledge that our survival hinges on the health and diversity of our surroundings. It's astounding that the designers of this equipment did not consider the necessity, include birds, bats and nature, the people who are ill from infrasound, having to deal with the daily harrassment of noises from hundreds of spinning blades. The design element of basic safety rules for moving part, like every computer fan is covered for the safety of the user is standard and yet equivalent safety measures weren't considered for these nearly 500 foot high wind generators with 186 foot fiberglass blades, spinning at 200 mph at the tips? Then, to pepper these giants into the most ecologically sensitive breeding, nesting, migratory corridors on this planet and expect acceptance of them isn't going to happen. To the contrary. Give me a break.

The executives did not fulfill their responsibility to the energy industry or taxpayers paying top dollar to subsidize this renewable power model. We all expected a sustainable product in return and that they would be basis for energy development for the next 100 years. Instead they produced junk, and the reason for resounding opposition worldwide. Those men and women should be fired for incompetency.

We all had high hopes with wind energy, even people like me who oppose the primitive models put into production. What disappointment it was to see all of the square milesprime farmland gone, that should have been kept intact to feed our local community as our planet heats up. You can't eat fiberglass or concrete. It's time to end this ecological disaster and shut that equipment down until birds, bats and wildlife are permanently and fully protected, instead of lobbying to change the Endangered Species Act, Desert Conservation Policies and in California to gut CEQA. The transmission lines need to be adjusted down to ground level. Brainiacs, you're paid to figure out these national issues. Do your jobs and make us all so proud we hail you as sustainable heroes of the 21st century.

For the record I live in the Tehachapi Pass. There are no raptors, no scrub jays, no songbirds, no burrowing owls and not even a bat any more. They have all been killed by the turbine blades and transmission lines thanks to the 8500 of them in operation in eastern Kern County. ...the wind in the Tehachapi Pass & Mojave is diminishing each year. Will bet the wind operators are losing money.

[March 16, 2013 2:53 AM](#)

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 10:51 AM

Subject: Some basic facts about wind energy It doesn't work

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/mar/16/gunderson-some-basic-facts-about-wind-energy/?page=all#pagebreak>

GUNDERSON: Some basic facts about wind energy

It doesn't work

By Bill Gunderson

Saturday, March 16, 2013



[Enlarge Photo](#)

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS Wind turbines from the Maple Ridge Wind Farm tower ...[more >](#)

QUESTION OF THE DAY

[Do you think the budget cuts at the Pentagon are hurting our military preparedness?](#)

[View results](#)

If only wind energy worked, it would be great. But it does not — at least not that well. What's worse, most people do not know, especially the Green Energy True Believers. Those who do know, however, do not care.

They tell us wind is an ideal way to solve “global disruption” — which is what they are calling global warming this week. The only thing standing in the way of wind energy, they say, is the ignorance of the fossil-fuel crowd.

Let's put aside for a moment all the talk about global warming: Whether it exists. Whether it is man-made. Whether wind turbines will slow it down.

Let's even forget for a moment that the plunging price of natural gas and its increasing popularity as a substitute for coal has reduced carbon emissions to their lowest level in 20 years. It is threatening to make wind power even more financially obsolete.

When you set these facts aside, here is what remains: Wind turbines do not last as long as promised. They do not produce as much energy as hoped. Moreover, they require more maintenance than anyone imagined.

Wind energy turns out to be a lot like solar energy.

The Daily Mail recently reported that the University of Edinburgh found “for onshore wind, the monthly ‘load factor’ of turbines – a measure of how much electricity they generate as a percentage of how much they could produce if on at full power all the time - dropped from a high of 24 per cent in the first year after construction, to just 11 per cent after 15 years.”

That's a 55 percent drop, for you dinosaurs who still think that is important — and that is just for turbines still working.

There's a reason why so many wind projects got so much attention on the drawing board, but when it comes time to build them, they wither away. The offshore wind project in Delaware is a good example: One day it was hailed as the secret to the universe. The next day, it was gone. It disappeared down a black hole when people who actually had to pay for it and build it figured out what it actually was going to cost them.

It was the real numbers that scared them off. In America, these numbers are harder to come by — another red flag for investors — but as many as 1 in 4 wind turbines just does not work. Some do not even spin. Others spin, but do not generate electricity, so it is hard to tell by looking at them.

Hawaii provides the favorite example: The 37 turbines at the Kamaoa Wind Farm stood derelict for more than six years after it was discovered that repairs were more expensive than replacements. This is just one of six abandoned wind farms in one of the most wind-ideal places on the planet.

The Altamont Pass Wind Farm in Northern California used to be the largest wind farm on Earth. Now it is best known as the largest killer of eagles and other raptors. The turbines are shut down for four months a year to protect the birds during their migration. So much for that pro-forma.

As many as 4,500 wind turbines have been built — and abandoned — in California alone.

How long can that last? Ask that question of a True Believer at your own peril. They say making money is no longer the point of being in business; saving the planet is.

Even [Al Gore](#) is getting out of alternative energy such as wind. Just check the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filings for his company, Generation Investment. Not a wind play in the portfolio.

There may be one million reasons to invest in wind, or to install a windmill. Most involve bragging to your friends that you are saving the planet. But if you need the energy or the money, don't — because right now, wind is still nothing more than a faith-based initiative.

Just ask [Al](#).

Bill Gunderson is a wealth management and investment advisor.

Read more: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/mar/16/gunderson-some-basic-facts-about-wind-energy/#ixzz2Nu2nthjz>

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From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 11:48 AM

Subject: Wind turbines and the myth of green energy

Wind turbines and the myth of green energy

Struan discusses the fallacy of industrial wind power and describes the widespread landscape vandalism that is taking place all over Scotland.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmwvJHseBtA&feature=youtu.be>

From: Justin Turco

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 12:08 PM

Subject: Wind turbines and the myth of green energy

Dear Siting Commission,

Not sure if you've seen this video.

I hope as you fulfill the responsibilities of your commission, you take the time to look closely at the materials like this, being sent by the people who represent regular folks like me. To infer that just because only a "few" send you information for review, that it is an indication that only a few are interested....would be incorrect.

In towns where wind turbines have been built, and in towns where wind turbines are proposed....people have educated themselves and they care. If every town had a wind farm proposal on the table this issue would already be dead or at least would have already been given the serious consideration that it deserves.

Thanks for carefully reviewing and documenting the information that has been selected for you to view.

Justin Turco
Ira, Vermont

From: Annette Smith

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 1:39 PM

Subject: Fwd: Battling nerve condition, water-quality advocate Bill Bartlett keeps fighting | Burlington Free Press | burlingtonfreepress.com

Please read this article and watch the video. The issue of anti-degradation is discussed. ANR has developed a "protocol" without any public process, by-passing rule-making. Bill Bartlett is using his energy to point out that ANR is not protecting water quality, but is allowing for the degradation of it.

http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20130317/GREEN01/303170015/Battling-nerve-condition-water-quality-advocate-Bill-Bartlett-keeps-fighting?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cp&nclick_check=1

Annette Smith
Executive Director
Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.



From: Annette Smith

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 12:34 PM

Subject: Act 250 database

Here is an example of Act 250's database. I typed in "Danby" (my town) in the relevant spot and it came up with all the Act 250 applications ever filed for development in Danby. Click on the "Detail" link and you get all the documents related to the case. For instance the Fuller Sand & Gravel pit is going through a permit amendment, and all the documents are there for me to read, and posted in a timely manner. The PSB site completely fails this ability, and Act 250 already has the structure to do this.

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/ANR/ACT250/Act250SearchResults.aspx>

Detail	1R0945- 2	Fuller Sand & Gravel, Inc. DANBY/RUTLAND	02-27- 2013	Pending
Detail	1R0208- 7	TINMOUTH MOUNTAIN CORP DANBY/RUTLAND	01-17- 03-27- 1997 1998	
Detail	1R0208- 4	TINMOUTH MOUNTAIN CORP DANBY/RUTLAND		
Detail	1R0112	UP THE CREEK DANBY/RUTLAND		
Detail	1R0609- 6	Danby Haunt, LLC DANBY/RUTLAND	01-18- 2012	
Detail	1R0750- 7	Pike Industries, Inc. DANBY/RUTLAND	02-08- 05-03- 2012 2012	
Detail	1R0609- 7	Danby Haunt LLC DANBY/RUTLAND	12-07- 2011	
Detail	1R0962- 1	SH&L, Inc. DANBY/RUTLAND	09-28- 11-02- 2011 2011	
Detail	1R0136	E.C. & SONS CROSBY DANBY/RUTLAND		

[Detail](#) 1R0609- Danby Haunt, LLC 04-20-
5 DANBY/RUTLAND 2011

[Detail](#) 1R0962 SH & L Inc. DANBY/RUTLAND 07-15- 09-10- 08-11-
2009 2009 2009

[Detail](#) 1R0609- Danby Green Property Subsidiary 11-17-
4 Trust DANBY/RUTLAND 2010

[Detail](#) 1R0136- E.C. & SONS CROSBY
1 DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0247- Lawrence White DANBY/RUTLAND 06-30- 07-21-
2 2010 2010

[Detail](#) 1R0953 Letitia & John Sisters 07-23- 08-13-
DANBY/RUTLAND 2008 2008

[Detail](#) 1R0945 Fuller Sand & Gravel 08-01- 08-22-
DANBY/RUTLAND 2007 2007

[Detail](#) 1R0750- PIKE INDUSTRIES, INC. 03-01- 03-22-
6 DANBY/RUTLAND 2007 2007

[Detail](#) 1R0286- VERMONT STORE FIXTURE 05-04- 06-01-
6 CORP. DANBY/RUTLAND 2006 2006

[Detail](#) 1R0903- DANBY HILL FARM, INC. 11-23- 02-23- 12-05-
1 DANBY/RUTLAND 2005 2006 2005

[Detail](#) 1R0796- OTTER CREEK STORAGE 12-15- 01-12- 12-29-
3 DANBY/RUTLAND 2005 2006 2005

[Detail](#) 1R0560- STEPHEN AND MARLENE 04-01-
03 GANNON DANBY/RUTLAND 2005

[Detail](#) 1R0750- PIKE INDUSTRIES, INC. 03-04- 04-01-
5 DANBY/RUTLAND 2005 2005

[Detail](#) 1R0909 CVPS DANBY/RUTLAND 11-28- 12-24-
2003 2003

[Detail](#) 1R0915 MARY JANE IHASZ 09-17- 10-07-
DANBY/RUTLAND 2004 2004

[Detail](#) 1R0903 DANBY HILL FARM, INC. 04-11- 05-23-
DANBY/RUTLAND 2003 2003

[Detail](#) 1R0356- WHITE DOG TAVERN TOM 10-18-
1 MUSSO DANBY/RUTLAND 2002

[Detail](#) 1R0869 CVPS DANBY/RUTLAND 07-21- 09-15-
2000 2000

[Detail](#) 1R0869- CVPS DANBY/RUTLAND 03-02-
EB 2001

[Detail](#) 1R0796- OTTER CREEK STORAGE 02-22- 03-22-
2 DANBY/RUTLAND 2002 2002

[Detail](#) 1R0796- SARGENT & GOODELL D/B/A 08-20- 09-24-
1 OTTER CREEK STRG 1999 1999
DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0867 CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC 05-26- 06-23-
SERVICE DANBY/RUTLAND 2000 2000

[Detail](#) 1R0778- SMOKEY HOUSE CTR 06-05- 06-26-
1 DANBY/RUTLAND 1998 1998

[Detail](#) 1R0750- FULLER SAND & GRAVEL 08-13- 09-24-

	4	DANBY/RUTLAND	1999	1999	
Detail	1R0845	CVPS DANBY/RUTLAND	07-09-1999	08-06-1999	
Detail	1R0750-3	FULLER SAND & GRAVEL DANBY/RUTLAND	05-01-1998	06-12-1998	
Detail	6O0016-4	GEORGE & ALICE ARASKIEWFICZ DANBY/RUTLAND	09-25-1998	08-30-2002	07-08-1998
Detail	8B0520	OMYA INC. DANBY/DORSET/	03-28-1997	05-16-1997	
Detail	8B0440	THOMAS LANDVEST DANBY/RUTLAND			07-20-1989
Detail	6O0016-2	RINALDO VASQUEZ DANBY/RUTLAND			
Detail	6O0016-1	RINALDO AND ANNE VASQUEZ DANBY/RUTLAND			
Detail	6O0016-3	RINALDO AND ANNE VASQUEZ DANBY/RUTLAND			
Detail	1R0796	SARGENT & GOODELL DANBY/RUTLAND	04-05-1996	04-19-1996	
Detail	1R0781	JANE AND STANFORD ZECHER DANBY/RUTLAND	05-26-1995	07-21-1995	
Detail	1R0778	SMOKEY HOUSE PROJECT INC. DANBY/RUTLAND	01-20-1995	04-14-1995	02-07-1995

[Detail](#) 1R0771 METTOWEE LUMBER & 05-27- 07-01-
PLASTICS CO. 1994 1994
DANBY/BENNINGTON

[Detail](#) 1R0750- FULLER SAND AND GRAVEL INC. 04-11- 05-09-
2 DANBY/RUTLAND 1997 1997

[Detail](#) 1R0750- FULLER SAND AND GRAVEL INC. 02-17- 03-17-
1 DANBY/RUTLAND 1995 1995

[Detail](#) 1R0611 GEORGE MCCLURE 04-20-
DANBY/RUTLAND 1987

[Detail](#) 1R0609- ANNE ROTHMAN 03-25- 05-27-
2 DANBY/RUTLAND 1994 1994

[Detail](#) 1R0609- ANNE K. ROTHMANN 09-19-
1 DANBY/RUTLAND 1988

[Detail](#) 1R0609 ANN K. ROTHMAN DANBY 04-13-
GREEN DANBY/RUTLAND 1987

[Detail](#) 1R0583 FRED LATORELLA
DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0560 PERRY DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0560- TONY PERRY DANBY/RUTLAND
2

[Detail](#) 1R0560 TONY PERRY DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0391- LAWRENCE WHITE 02-14-
8 DANBY/RUTLAND 1997

[Detail](#) 1R0391- LAWRENCE WHITE 10-13- 10-26-
7 DANBY/RUTLAND 1995 1995

[Detail](#) 1R0391- LAWRENCE WHITE 05-17-
6 CONSTRUCTION 1991
DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0391- LAWRENCE WHITE 09-13-
5A CONSTRUCTION 1991
DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0391- LAWRENCE WHITE 05-17- 03-04-
5 CONSTRUCTION 1991 1991
DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0391- LAWRENCE WHITE 05-17- 03-04-
4 CONSTRUCTION 1991 1991
DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0391- LAWRENCE WHITE 02-08-
3 DANBY/RUTLAND 1988

[Detail](#) 1R0391- WHITE DANBY/RUTLAND
2

[Detail](#) 1R0391 LAWRENCE WHITE
DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0374 FRANCES AND GERALD
FRAYNERT DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0356 MURPHY DANBY/RUTLAND

[Detail](#) 1R0319- LAWRENCE WHITE 10-13-
7 DANBY/RUTLAND 1995

[Detail](#) 1R0286- VERMONT STORE FIXTURE 03-08- 04-19-
5 CORP. DANBY/RUTLAND 1996 1996

[Detail](#) 1R0286- VERMONT STORE FIXTURE 03-18- 04-29-
4 CORP. DANBY/RUTLAND 1994 1994

[Detail](#) 1R0286- VERMONT STORE FIXTURE CORP 01-21- 02-19-
3 DANBY/RUTLAND 1993 1993

[Detail](#) 1R0286- VERMONT STORE FIXTURE CORP 10-23- 12-04-
2 DANBY/RUTLAND 1992 1992

[Detail](#) 1R0286- VERMONT STORE FIXTURE CORP 02-29-
1 DANBY/RUTLAND 1988

Annette Smith
Executive Director
Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.



From: Annette Smith

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 12:26 PM

Subject: The PSB hearing ANR permit appeals

On the subject of the PSB hearing appeals of ANR permits, please note that the Lowell wind project stormwater permits were appealed to the PSB, the technical hearings were in July, and the PSB has not yet issued a decision. The developer chose to begin construction before the first round of appeals, the project is now complete, and the issues surrounding the poor permits that ANR issued that are resulting in degradation to water quality have not been ruled on. This system is beyond ridiculous. It is incredibly expensive to bring an appeal, the applicant never used to begin construction until the appeals had run, but now in two wind cases the applicant has chosen to begin (and complete) construction before the decisions were issued, and due process no longer exists.

Annette Smith
Executive Director
Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.



From: Annette Smith

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 11:44 AM

Subject: What's wrong with the PSB website?

This email contains links to all the information available in 2011 about the wind projects that have been developed in Vermont. Note that the PSB had three different websites.

publicservice.vermont.gov

state.vt.us/psb

psb.vermont.gov

Sometime in the last year, the state abandoned two of those sites, and all the material that was on them vanished. The PSB also links to web pages that developers put up, but for instance First Wind took theirs down for the Sheffield site. As it was, it was a lot of work to try and find testimony and decisions on the PSB sites, but now that they have eliminated two of them, and with the developers removing their materials, the information is completely lost, except for what is on the current PSB website. In building its new website, will the PSB add back in all the information that they threw away when they dropped those other two servers?

<http://vermontersforacleanenvironment.wordpress.com/2011/02/18/what-is-an-appropriate-setback-from-property-lines-for-a-big-wind-turbine/>

§ East Haven: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/dockets/6911/>

§ Sheffield: <http://www.state.vt.us/psb/document/7156upc/upc-main.htm> and <http://psb.vermont.gov/docketsandprojects/electric/7156> and <http://psb.vermont.gov/docketsandprojects/electric/7156/ordersandmemos> and <http://www.sheffieldwind.com/sheffield/permitting.cfm>

§ Deerfield: <http://www.state.vt.us/psb/document/7250Deerfield/deerfield-main.htm> and <http://psb.vermont.gov/docketsandprojects/electric/7250> and <http://www.iberdrolarenewables.us/deerfield/index.html>

§ Georgia

Mountain: http://www.state.vt.us/psb/document/7508GeorgiaMtn/7508_main.htm and <http://psb.vermont.gov/docketsandprojects/electric/7508> and <http://www.georgiamountainwind.com/permitting.htm>

§ Lowell: <http://psb.vermont.gov/docketandprojects/electric/7628> and <http://www.kingdomcommunitywind.com/home/section-248-permit-filing-for-wind-towers/> and <http://energizevermont.org/2010/01/lowell-vt-green-mountain-power-kingdom-community-wind-information/>

Annette Smith

Executive Director

Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.



From: Annette Smith

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 11:33 AM

Subject: comments on town plans, ANR permits, and Act 250 components in the PSB process

1. Suggest that a process similar to Interim Zoning be enabled so that towns that are hit with a big wind project have the right to engage in town plan amendment process, which is our most democratic process for creating the clear written community standard that the PSB needs. Most town plans contain conflicting information and they are of no use to the PSB. Since 2/3rds of Vermonters supposedly support wind, every town should be able to amend their town plan and presumably 2/3rds of the towns will support ridgeline wind development. Right now town select boards, planning commissions and residents struggle to understand what voice they have. Their voice is their town plan. Numerous towns have jumped on it and begun the town plan amendment process, but it is often the result of a lot of wasted time before select boards where residents have to petition the SB to tell the Planning Commission to open up the town plan and amend it to incorporate the town's vision in response to a big development proposal. Interim Zoning gives towns 2 years. The Town Plan amendment process takes about 6 months, but in fairness towns should be allowed at least 1 year to complete the plan update.

2. ANR's permits must absolutely not be given any deference. Under the way that ANR is currently operating, ANR staff spends hours with the applicants' developers and zero time with anyone else. VCE's direct experience with ANR on the wind mountain stormwater permits has been that ANR has slammed the door on us and our experts, they have ignored ALL public and expert input provided to them, there is no transparency, nobody writes anything down, there is no administrative record, and there is now no reason for anyone to even bother commenting on the draft permits because of the ANR's track record of ignoring all public comment. Until ANR opens its doors to experts other than the applicant in the drafting stage, until ANR develops an administrative record, ANR has not earned any deference for their permits.

3. I have said this before and will say it again. You cannot fix the PSB process. You will be talking about incorporating some of the things that Act 250 has into the PSB process, like a coordinator (or case manager), like a better website, like enforcement. You are talking about how to regionalize the planning. You have an existing structure called Act 250 that has elements that you are now going to try to recreate at the PSB. You never had a discussion about the potential merits of using the Act 250 process. You blew it off with practically no discussion at your meeting at the Agency of Commerce, you didn't even talk about the pros and cons of the different processes. The PSB has a horrible website, you cannot track cases, the PSB is hostile to the public and offers no assistance and they don't want to accept a coordinator or case manager, the PSB has no enforcement abilities. Act 250 has all that. I asked Bill Burke, District One Coordinator for ANR when he spoke at last month's Rutland Regional Planning Commission meeting about the comment Jan Eastman made that we can't have regional energy decision-making, it has to be on the state level, and what is his response to that since we have environmental reviews on a regional basis. He responded that in Act 250 there was a recognition that each region has its own personality and issues and Act 250 honors those differences. I encourage you to have the conversation about the pros and cons of Act 250 before unilaterally throwing it out.

Annette Smith
Executive Director
Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.



From: Annette Smith

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 2:34 PM

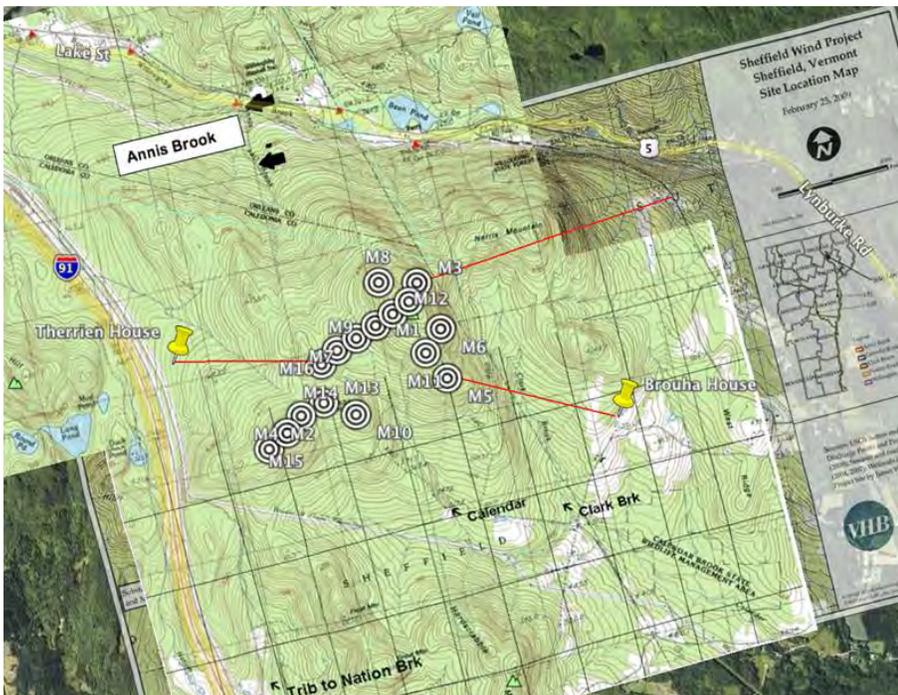
Subject: ANR's sampling sites for water quality around Sheffield wind mountain

Attached please find a map showing the location of the 16 wind turbines on the mountain in Sheffield, and the sampling sites ANR is using for water quality monitoring. Those are depicted by black arrows. The maps showing these locations came from ANR. The closest one is .9 miles from the nearest turbines. Most of them are more than a mile from the mountain. The same situation exists around the Lowell Mountains, where the ANR permits have approved sampling sites more than a mile from the turbines, with no requirement to monitor water quality on the headwater streams either before or after construction.

The siting commission made itself available only to the wind company's experts, who are claiming the water quality at the Sheffield site at one point has even improved. ANR required no baseline water quality monitoring prior to development of the site, and the Agency is requiring no water quality monitoring of the streams on the mountain, either at Lowell or Sheffield.

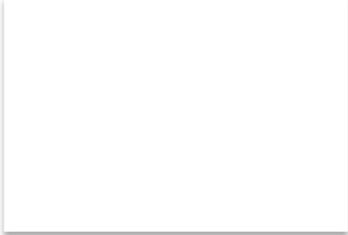
Rather than protecting and maintaining water quality as required by Vermont's Water Quality Standards, ANR has sacrificed the headwaters and streams on these mountains. The only water quality monitoring required by ANR on the Sheffield mountain is of the settlement basins. This is not something that ANR or the wind company experts are disclosing. It is critically important that the siting commission, especially the past ANR secretaries, understand why some of us are so upset about ANR's handling of the stormwater permits for these sites. When you were Secretary, would you have issued permits that allow for development on mountain tops, without any requirement to monitor the streams next to the development? Would you have been okay with sampling points more than a mile downstream from where the impacts are taking place?

These headwater streams require cool water for aquatic life. Without requiring sampling for temperature and other important parameters necessary for healthy aquatic life, ANR is basically kissing those headwaters good-bye.



And it gets worse for those of us who care about protecting water quality and are enormously frustrated by what ANR is permitting. ANR is about to issue the draft permits for the Deerfield Wind project on USFS land, again with zero input from anyone other than the developer's experts. Ask ANR how many meetings their staff have had with VHB's staff, and how many meetings they have had with anyone else other than the developer's experts.

Annette Smith
Executive Director
Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.



From: Annette Smith

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 3:51 PM

Subject: Other issues with the ANR water quality permits for wind sites -- underestimating stormwater runoff

ANR's permits for the Lowell site use modeling that underestimates the potential stormwater runoff by anywhere from 20 to 30%. ANR ignored this comment and has allowed the use of whatever the developer's expert wanted.

http://psb.vermont.gov/sites/psb/files/docketsandprojects/electric/7628-A-E/Towns_Torizzo.pdf

13. Q. Have these regulated impervious surfaces been modeled as impervious surfaces?

A. The access road from the project entrance up to the substation area has been modeled as an impervious surface, with a corresponding CN value of 98. Above that location, the access road, along with the crane paths and crane pads, were modeled with CN values of 89 and 91, which are not representative of impervious surfaces, and result in lower predicted runoff rates and volumes as compared to an impervious surface. Therefore, it appears that even though the crane paths, crane pads and access roads on the site are all considered jurisdictional impervious areas, Mr. Nelson did not actually model them as impervious, which has resulted in an underrepresentation of the actual and expected flow from these surfaces. Since the STPs are designed based on the modeled flow, these underestimates in the model will result in STPs that are under-designed and insufficient to protect water quality from being degraded.

21. Q. What does it mean that offsite gravel roads were modeled with the identical CN values used to model the gravel roads on the project site?

A. This means that the CN values that GMP selected for the project gravel road were not chosen based on the actual science or inherent pervious conditions of the proposed design, but rather that it was GMP's standard practice to assign incorrect CN values to gravel road surfaces both onsite and offsite without regard to the actual conditions.

23. Q. What is the consequence of utilizing the artificially lower CN values of 89 and 91 to model runoff from the gravel road surfaces versus using standard CN values of 96 or 98?

A. Increases in predicted runoff and total storm volume are significant when CN values for gravel surfaces are adjusted to CN 96 as recommended in HydroCAD, and to 98 to represent a completely impervious condition. I conducted a test scenario to independently summarize the volume and rate increases in runoff in one of the project subwatersheds WP-L by adjusting the gravel road CN values upward. It was determined that adjusting the CN value to 96 resulted in 22% greater peak discharge and 20% greater overall storm volume compared to GMP's modeling analysis. Similarly, by adjusting the CN value to 98, a 30% increase in peak discharge and 28% increase in overall storm volume was observed (Exh. Towns-AT-5).

Don Lake, a stormwater guru who advises Vermont's water quality division, agrees with Andres Torizzo that the CN values used to estimate stormwater runoff at the Lowell site were not based on science, but on "professional judgment". His full testimony is here, and I recommend you read it. This is science. What ANR is approving is not based on science.

<http://psb.vermont.gov/sites/psb/files/orders/2012/2012-7/Lake PFT.pdf>

10. A. ...The Curve Number tables published by USDA-NRCS have been developed over many years of study, and these tables specifically include Curve Numbers for gravel roads. In this situation, GMP has used "professional judgment" to assign a different Curve Number to a gravel road surface than is called for by the USDA-NRCS. Professional judgment should only come into play when there is a land use condition that is not covered in the published Curve Number table -- gravel roads without rights of way included are specifically included in the USDA-NRCS table and in the HydroCAD Curve Number table, and are assigned a Curve

Number of 96. Gravel roads have been studied extensively by USDA-NRCS, and in my opinion the gravel roads proposed by GMP will behave no differently than any of the thousands of roads that have been studied by USDA-NRCS to develop their tables. Thus, it was inappropriate for GMP to resort to professional judgment to assign a Curve Number value for the gravel roads.

Note from Annette: Lowell had a major flooding incident last summer, and at this year's town meeting some of GMP's wind money was dedicated to the bill that the town still has for fixing the damage to the town's infrastructure. 90 year old local residents said they have never seen anything like the damage that was done. Of course, after the fact, how do you prove it was the result of ANR's bad permits?? The PSB has not yet ruled on this issue, yet ANR is about to issue more permits for yet another wind project on mountains above 2500 feet.

Annette Smith
Executive Director
Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.



From: Annette Smith

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 4:22 PM

Subject: Another issue with ANR permits: "the use of level spreaders should not have been approved"

This email covers the issue of the use of level spreaders at the Lowell wind site, as approved by ANR. ANR is about to issue a draft permit for the Deerfield wind site, and based on the application materials VCE has seen, it will also involve the use of level spreaders. This email contains an excerpt from the testimony of Don Lake, stormwater guru and advisor to ANR's stormwater program, along with excerpts from Princeton Hydro's presentation based on the draft permit ANR issued. ANR ignored all public comment on their draft water quality permits for the Lowell wind site.

<http://psb.vermont.gov/sites/psb/files/orders/2012/2012-7/Lake PFT.pdf>

15. A. ...The design specifications for level spreaders set forth in the VSMM, Section 3.7, subsection 2.3.7.2 call for the level spreaders to be constructed of rock that "must be well-graded with a median size of approximately 3 inches and a maximum size of 6 inches." Such a construction practice is a departure from accepted level spreader design which requires a compacted or a hardened, solid edge placed on the soil to provide a "lip" over which water discharges to create sheet flow.

In order to obtain sheet flow, this "lip" must be placed perfectly level, otherwise water will discharge over the lowest point and concentrate in that area. The shot rock called for in the design of the level spreaders here will be quickly infiltrated by the water entering the structure and will disperse through the downslope wall of the structure before it can be converted to sheet flow. The water will flow out through the void spaces between the rock and the resulting discharge will be in the form of small rills, or shallow concentrated flow.

The result will be water that is discharging with more velocity than GMP assumed in their modeling, and with more erosive force. This will likely result in erosion downslope from the level spreaders that has not be contemplated in GMP's stormwater management plan. Based upon the above, the use of level spreaders, based on these design criteria, should have not have been approved.

The attached photo is from a recent EPSC report from the Lowell Mountain site which shows exactly the circumstance that Don Lake described in his testimony (above) is occurring.

In their presentation during the public comment phase of the Lowell draft water quality permits, Princeton Hydro staff scientists addressed the problems with level spreaders. Their full presentation is here: http://www.vce.org/401_Presentation.pdf. In summary, level spreaders are not recommended or permitted elsewhere for slopes greater than 15%. In the case of the Lowell wind site, all but one of the sites where level spreaders were permitted are above 15% slope, and many of them are above 25%. ANR ignored all these comments.

The trouble with level spreaders

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Level spreaders are conceptually an ideal way to release stormwater since the vegetation and soil allow for the removal of fines from runoff that cannot be removed by settling or filtration. Unfortunately, **the performance record of spreaders in the field is dismal.** They are frequently under-designed and, **despite the best installations, are rarely perfectly level, which results in the release of stormwater at a particular point. This concentrated runoff can result in catastrophic erosion downslope. Given such design failures, the use of spreaders is not encouraged.** However, where slopes are gentle and the water volume is relatively low, spreaders may still be the best method. When proposing their use, the designer shall carefully evaluate the site for possible concerns.

Source: Erosion and Sediment Control Standards of the King County, Washington Surface Water Design Manual



National Level Spreader Search

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Source	Lip Construction	Upstream Sediment Removal	Inflow Conveyance and Slope	Buffer Characteristics	Maximum Buffer Slope
NRCS	Concrete curbing for high flow applications	Pretreatment required	Max. 1% grade over last 20 linear feet	Well-vegetated regular slope	10%
North Carolina	Concrete or metal	Pretreatment required		Conducive to maintaining diffuse flow and well-vegetated	4% for initial 10 feet and 6% for forested buffers
Pennsylvania	Concrete cast in place		Max. 1% grade over last 20 linear feet	Well-vegetated and uniform slopes	6% and 4% for initial 10 feet
Massachusetts	Erosion stop and matting		Max. 1% grade over last 20 linear feet	Completely vegetated and uniform slopes	10%
King County, WA	Lumber or other rigid material			Well-vegetated and uniform slopes	20%
Virginia	Rigid or vegetated	Pretreatment required	Max. 1% grade over last 20 linear feet	Well-vegetated and uniform slopes	10%
New Hampshire	Rock	Pretreatment required		Well-vegetated and uniform slope	15%
Maine	Rock		Max. 1%	Vegetated and regular topography	15% for water quality purposes
Vermont	Concrete	NA	NA	NA	NA
Army Corps	Matting			Smooth and well-vegetated	10%



Lowell Proposed Level Spreaders

Inflow conveyance channel

max. slope = 1%

Level spreader buffer

max. slope = 15%

Level Spreader	Inflow Conveyance Slope	Average Buffer Slope	Maximum Buffer Slope
LS-A1	2%	3%	6%
LS-A3	11%	12%	40%
LS-A4	Pond	21%	40%
LS-A6	10%	12%	20%
LS-A7	1%	13%	20%
LS-A8	4%	18%	25%
LS-A9	7%	15%	17%
LS-A10	33%	22%	25%
LS-A11	50%	21%	50%
LS-A12	20%	16%	50%
LS-A13	17%	14%	25%
LS-A14	17%	15%	25%
LS-A15	17%	15%	33%
LS-A16	25%	21%	29%
LS-A17	33%	29%	50%
LS-A18	33%	24%	50%
LS-A19	50%	27%	50%
LS-A20	33%	19%	25%
LS-A21	17%	23%	50%
LS-A22	33%	22%	50%
LS-A23	50%	25%	33%
LS-A24	33%	19%	50%
LS-A25	33%	15%	50%
LS-C1	33%	12%	20%
LS-C3	33%	21%	50%
LS-C4	Pond	23%	33%
LS-C5	25%	18%	25%
LS-C7	14%	13%	50%
LS-C16	25%	32%	50%
LS-C19	Pond	19%	33%
LS-C20	33%	21%	25%
LS-C21	Pond	14%	17%

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Annette Smith
Executive Director
Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.



From: Annette Smith

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 4:37 PM

Subject: ANR's water quality permits/summary

I have provided you with evidence that ANR's water quality permits are not maintaining and protecting water quality, and were issued without accepting any input from anyone other than the developer's experts. ANR's failure to engage in a more transparent and scientific process has cost the public hundreds of thousands of dollars to litigate these permits for both the Sheffield and Lowell wind sites. Developers claim that everything is fine, and that the litigation needlessly slowed down the process. As the information I have provided you shows, there are serious issues that are not yet resolved and must be addressed before any more permits are issued by ANR for destruction of our top quality waters.

1. ANR issued permits that require no baseline water quality monitoring of the streams at the headwaters or on the mountains, and no water quality monitoring of streams on the developed mountains is taking place. All monitoring locations for both mountains are a mile or more downstream.
2. ANR allowed the filling of hundreds of feet of headwater streams, some above 2500 feet, and Class A1.
3. ANR issued permits that underestimate the volume of stormwater flowing off the mountains by 20 to 30%.
4. ANR issued permits that allow the use of level spreaders on steep slopes, which are absolutely not recommended or allowed in other states.

Other issues with the permits:

1. Water flows have been rearranged, such that some waters that used to flow into one watershed now flow into a different watershed. (see Towns public comment on the Lowell draft stormwater permits, and Princeton Hydro's presentation on the draft stormwater permits, provided in other emails)
2. ANR did not require any evaluation of groundwater impacts on the wind sites. On the Lowell site, during construction, public records from EPA show that groundwater was being surfaced, and was not predicted or factored into the permits. One piece of machinery was dedicated to redirecting the groundwater to surface water, further increasing the volume of water coming off the mountain and decreasing the amount of water available to infiltrate and recharge groundwater. Vermont has declared groundwater to be a public trust resource subject to a public trust analysis, which was never done at the Lowell wind site.

Bringing these issues to your attention is not sour grapes. These are serious issues where ANR has ignored good science brought to it, and refused to accept any input to improve their permits. The situation regarding water quality protection in Vermont is indefensible if we are supposed to be basing these permits on science rather than politics. The public has followed the process outlined for it, which is a joke. The permits for the Lowell project were appealed in a timely manner, GMP went ahead and developed the site while the appeals were before the PSB, the PSB held technical hearings in July 2012, and 8 months later there is no decision. The site is built, and the degradation of the water quality is occurring. But only GMP's experts have access to the site, and everything they do is blessed by ANR's experts. We have repeatedly asked ANR for our experts to have access to the site. If everything is so great, why have they not allowed independent experts to conduct their evaluations?

Annette Smith
Executive Director
Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.

From: Dostis, Robert

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 9:52 AM

Subject: Article to share

this is a good article to share with the siting commission. It underscores the thoughtful process Vermont has had in the siting of wind. It is also in line with testimony we gave that emphasized the rigorous process that exists, and the significant opportunity for public engagement.

Thanks

Robert

Sent from my iPad

Green Mountain Daily: <http://www.greenmountaindaily.com/diary/9771/vermonts-long-careful-path-to-renewable-energy-pt-2-the-regulatory-record>

This speaks directly to the point that additional regulation is not needed.

From: Rob Pforzheimer

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 11:09 AM

Subject: Vt. ANR Says Pipeline Needs Act 250 Permit

"The conversion of the pipeline has the potential for significant impacts on wildlife habitat and endangered species, public investments in land and parks, and air and water pollution."

So do wind turbines, but the hypocritical ANR is facilitating destructive wind projects and opposed to S.30 that would make wind projects require 250 permitting.

<http://caledonianrecord.com/main.asp?SectionID=180&SubSectionID=778&ArticleID=91999>

3/20/2013 8:34:00 AM

Vt. ANR Says Pipeline Needs Act 250 Permit

James Jardine

Staff Writer

Efforts to block the shipment of Canadian "Tar sands" oil through the Portland-Montreal Pipeline that cuts across the Northeast Kingdom have turned to the local Act 250 Environmental Commission.

Opponents of the possible use of the pipeline want the owners of the PMPL to obtain an Act 250 permit in order to change the direction of flow or the type of oil pumped. A land use attorney for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resource has filed a jurisdictional opinion that says any changes to the pipeline should require Act 250 approval.

In a March 15 letter to Kirsten Sultan, District Coordinator for the District #7 Environmental Commission, Elizabeth Lord, with the Office of Planning and Legal Affairs at ANR, wrote,

"...the Agency supports the Petitioners'

contention that jurisdiction attaches to the conversion of the Portland-Montreal Pipeline ("PMPL") from a conventional crude oil pipeline to a tar sands oil pipeline ... The conversion of the pipeline has the potential for significant impacts on wildlife habitat and endangered species, public investments in land and parks, and air and water pollution."

According to Sultan, the ANR opinion is one piece of information among many to be considered by Sultan as she considers the applicability of Act 250 to possible plans by PMPL to reverse the flow of oil through the pipeline, which currently moves oil from Portland, Maine, to Montreal, Canada. Pipeline opponents argue that tar sand oil is more hazardous than regular crude oil because it is more corrosive to piping and must be pumped at higher pressures, increasing the temperature of the pipeline.

On Jan, 29, the Vermont Law School and other organizations and individuals petitioned the ANR for a jurisdictional determination. Since the Vermont portion of the PMPL passes through 40 miles of the Northeast Kingdom that are within the jurisdictional boundaries of District 7, Sultan was given the responsibility to issue



[+ click to enlarge](#)

AP PHOTO

In this Monday, March 11, 2013 photo, a sign indicates a section of a buried crude oil pipeline in Burke, Vt.

the final jurisdictional opinion. Sultan said that while she makes an effort to turn most requests for opinions around in 30 days after they are filed, the amount of information to be considered and documents to be reviewed in the current request will take longer. She could not provide a date certain, but will make her decision public as soon as it is finished.

The PMPL was established long before Act 250 became law and, as a result, the pipeline is grandfathered. However, an exception is when there has been a cognizable physical change to the preexisting development and, if so, whether the change has the potential for significant impact under Act 250 criteria.

Land use attorney Elizabeth Lord argues that switching from crude oil to tar sand oil is a "cognizable physical change." She explains that the "impacts" of a change "do not have to be actual or established with certainty." She concludes the conversion of the pipeline ".....may have significant adverse impacts."

The owners of the PMPL have testified in the Vermont legislature that there are no present plans either to reverse the flow of the pipeline or ship tar sands oil through the pipeline.