

**From:** Bonnie Waninger [mailto:[Bonnie@lpcvt.org](mailto:Bonnie@lpcvt.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2012 5:22 PM  
**Subject:** Process comments from Lamoille County Planning Commission

The Lamoille County Planning Commission is pleased to offer the attached comments to the Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission about best practices for siting approval of electric generation projects, and particularly for public participation and representation in the siting process.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback for the Commission's consideration. We look forward to reading the Commission's findings. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Waninger  
Executive Director

-----  
Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director  
Lamoille County Planning Commission  
PO Box 1637  
52 Portland Street, Second Floor  
Morrisville, VT 05661

Phone: (802) 888-4548  
Fax: (802) 888-6938  
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## Lamoille County Planning Commission

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November 28, 2012

Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission  
Elizabeth Miller, Commissioner, Public Service Department  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Re: Comments on Energy Generation Siting Policies

Dear Ms. Miller,

The Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) is pleased to offer comments to the Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission about best practices for siting approval of electric generation projects, and particularly for public participation and representation in the siting process, as authorized through Executive Order No. 10-12.

Energy generation siting is an issue important to residents of Lamoille County. Community decisions concerning electric generation are not entered upon lightly. Lamoille County is the third least populous county in Vermont. Ten of the county's fifteen municipalities have no zoning regulations. Recent energy projects in neighboring counties have impacted our communities. LCPC provides technical services and assistance to local, state, and federal levels of government, as well as to various organizations and businesses throughout the region. Our office has worked closely with towns and villages to ensure local and regional interests are met when considering regulations, policies, and plans regarding energy projects.

The Commission has asked for RPC comments in the following areas: Siting Approval Practices, Public Participation/ Representation Mechanism, Adequate Protection of Lands, Environmental and Cultural Resources, and Monitoring Compliance. The LCPC Board of Directors submits the following comments.

### **Siting Approval Practices**

- Information about proposed projects should be shared with the public early in the process; ideally, this conversation would begin before an application is officially filed. Host communities and impacted non-host communities, as well as Regional Planning Commissions, should be invited to participate in a "sketch plan" like process to provide input on a project while it is still in the initial planning phase.

Page 2 of 35

- Continued outreach to communities about the Public Service Board review process is critical. Communities must understand how the siting process works (from siting to approval or denial of a project) to better understand their role in the process, the length of time the process will take, and the importance of having town plans reflect their community vision.
- When considering a project, the role of the following interests should be more clearly defined: zoning regulations, town bylaws, town plans, regional plans, and citizen comments. When these resources are consulted, if they are consulted, why they are consulted, and how much bearing they have on a project is ambiguous in current practice. Currently, there is confusion as to the efficacy of these resources.

### **Public Participation/Representation Mechanism**

- Data gathered by the Agency of Natural Resources related to natural resources and wildlife impacts may be valuable for other planning purposes, even if not used by ANR for the project in question. This data should be shared with the Regional Planning Commissions and municipalities. RPCs and municipalities sometimes re-create data that has already been developed by ANR but not made publicly available, leading to an inefficient use of resources.
- Field data related to renewable energy resources (such as MET tower data) should also be shared with municipalities and RPCs. This data will provide a better understanding of the types of future facilities that may occur in a region and will also assist in long term planning. Data should be shared in layman's terms.

### **Adequate Protection of Lands, Environmental, and Cultural Resources**

- Municipal legislative bodies, local residents, and RPCs should be consulted and involved in the development of plans for mitigation of environmental impacts.
- Conservation easements purchased to mitigate environmental impacts should be targeted toward priority areas for conservation identified in local and regional plans.
- Mitigation measures that benefit municipal operations should be considered in addition to conservation easements. Examples of other measures include bridge and culvert upgrades to improve wildlife passage/ connectivity or correct geomorphic deficiencies.
- Existing regional and municipal plans, including open space plans, hazard mitigation plans, and river corridor plans should be reviewed to determine appropriate mitigation actions.

### **Monitoring Compliance**

- For small communities with limited resources or lack of zoning and building regulations, monitoring compliance with the approval order can be very difficult.

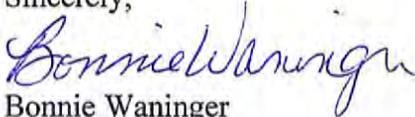
### **Transportation Networks**

- The process should include mechanisms to mitigate impacts to the transportation network in non-host communities. Mitigation of transportation impacts should occur regardless of whether there is a specific request from a municipality. Mitigation for both temporary construction impacts and ongoing impacts should be provided.
- Non-host municipalities should be notified if their transportation network will be utilized by the project. If local roads will be utilized for the construction or operations of the project, the municipality should be compensated for any impacts, such as increased maintenance costs. If state routes will be utilized for the construction or operations of the project, the route should receive prioritized status in the state repaving/ maintenance schedule.

- When transportation upgrades are needed to accommodate the project, efforts should be made to coordinate these upgrades with long term transportation needs and priorities identified in local or regional plans. Municipal Capital Improvement Plans and the recommendations of existing corridor management plans, access management plans, road safety audits, bike/ pedestrian plans, and other transportation plans should be considered.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback for the Commission's consideration. We look forward to reading the Commission's findings. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Waninger  
Executive Director  
[bonnie@lpcvt.org](mailto:bonnie@lpcvt.org)

From: [vt-cms-support@egov.com](mailto:vt-cms-support@egov.com) [mailto:[vt-cms-support@egov.com](mailto:vt-cms-support@egov.com)]  
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2012 2:37 PM  
Subject: Comment from Siting Policy Commission site

**Name:** Jill Mathers  
**Town:** Newark

- 2) Energy Sources and/or Facilities:  
Wind
- 3) Comment :

I believe Wind energy- industrial size and small size, in an important resource in the global effort to reduce use of fossil fuels and to increase the use of renewable energy. I believe siting wind towers in Vermont, and in the Northeast Kingdom Region of Vermont is beneficial, if done in an environmentally conscientious way such as the Sheffield project. I believe towers can be sited in such a way as to minimize environmental impacts and that the far reaching global benefit of wind energy would outweigh any local adverse impacts. It is time that we all start doing our part to reduce our impact and enable the use of renewable energy sources.

Finally- I believe that the popular vote is not always the correct vote. For instance, it was not the popular vote to end slavery, or in VT to grant equal rights to same sex couples...the pro-wind energy voice in the Northeast Kingdom does not have legislative representation, and may not be as loudly heard as those voices against wind energy- however, we are present, and do support the siting of wind turbines in Newark and the northeast kingdom region.

Submitted on Monday, December 10, 2012 - 15:36 Submitted by anonymous user:  
[71.169.189.181]

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From: [vt-cms-support@egov.com](mailto:vt-cms-support@egov.com) [mailto:[vt-cms-support@egov.com](mailto:vt-cms-support@egov.com)]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2012 6:23 PM  
Subject: Comment from Siting Policy Commission site

**Name:** alexander and mary blair  
**Town:** Brighton

2) Energy Sources and/or Facilities:  
Wind

3) Comment :

Our camp is in Warren Gore, which is not on the list. How can one not see how much the environment is being destroyed by building these wind towers. The ones in Lowell destroyed the view for miles around and probably will erode the mountains eventually. Apparently the noise is horrible if you live near and the hunting is effected.

Coming over the mountain to Lake Willoughby there are wind towers on the left and the right, from Sheffield and Lowell. It used to be a treat to drive that way. Could we take a deep breath and see if the ones we have are going to work before tearing up the rest of Vt.

And who is making the profit here. I saw a list that looks like there are many companies in different countries. I'm sure that they don't care what Vt. looks like after it is massacred.

Submitted on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 - 19:22 Submitted by anonymous user:  
[174.62.140.46] Submitted values are:

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From: [vt-cms-support@egov.com](mailto:vt-cms-support@egov.com) [mailto:[vt-cms-support@egov.com](mailto:vt-cms-support@egov.com)]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2012 9:28 PM  
Subject: Comment from Siting Policy Commission site

**Name:** Cathy Kinney  
**Town:** Brighton  
**Organization:** Brighton Ridge Protectors

2) Energy Sources and/or Facilities:  
Wind

3) Comment : As far as the Seneca Mountain Wind project goes the means definitely do not justify the end- we can not grow back mountain tops, replace ecosystems, compensate an already economically struggling community, re-route tourism, displace sportsmen, and make excuses for not so green wind energy for the benefit of cooperate greed!

Submitted on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 - 22:27 Submitted by anonymous user:  
[70.109.190.180]

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Sent: Sunday, December 09, 2012 8:59 PM  
Subject: Comment from Siting Policy Commission site

**Name:** Jim Newell  
**Town:** Newark  
**Title:** Town Moderator

2) Energy Sources and/or Facilities:  
Wind

3) Comment :

The site review process for industrial wind farm energy production has been flawed because it does not address efficacy.

Well-intentioned politicians in Montpelier and Washington have enthusiastically jumped on the "green glamorous" bandwagon without adequate forethought or research as the environmental, economic and social impact, efficacy or even need of industrial wind farms in Vermont, responding with Pavlovian vigor to the very real threats of global warming. The Public Service Board has rubber-stamped several unnecessary or fundamentally unsound wind projects in the Northeast Kingdom. Yes, they produce electricity for Montpelier/Burlington consumers, but do they do so efficiently. Or are they even needed?

Only 4% of Vermont's energy consumption consists of electricity. To seriously reduce Vermont's carbon footprint, heating and transportation need to be the major focus. New England has the least wind energy production potential --- other than off-shore sites --- than anywhere else in the United States. In Vermont the most efficient siting for wind energy production is on Grand Isle and along Lake Champlain. These sites are near Vermont's largest consumer base as well so would reduce the environmental and energy-adverse impact of longer transmission lines.

If the goals are the reduction of Vermont's carbon footprint and the increase of energy independence, Then the PSB's review process must be based on the most efficient siting of industrial wind farms vis-a-vis energy production and consumer use. Research clearly indicates that Vermont has no good sites compared to off-shore or even neighboring New York State. Even so, if wind farms are to be built in Vermont, the review process should not be based on what is the most convenient (and profitable) site location for the corporate sponsors of wind farms but rather on what is the most efficient energy-producing siting for the citizens of our state.

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Submitted on Sunday, December 9, 2012 - 21:58 Submitted by anonymous user: [72.237.55.2]

**From:** Rob Pforzheimer  
**Sent:** Friday, November 30, 2012 8:27 PM  
**Subject:** The Big Green Lie

<http://thebiggreenlie.wordpress.com/2012/11/29/number-of-horror-stories-about-wind-turbines-around-the-world-in-two-days-why-would-anyone-say-they-are-good/>

**Number of horror stories about Wind Turbines around the world in two days: “Why would anyone say they are GOOD”?**

By [thebiggreenlie](#)

5 years ago it took a day or two to find one single story about the negative affects of having a Wind Turbine Development placed near people and wildlife.

Fast forward to today and here’s just a 2 day compilation of stories published from around the world that explain only too well why these monstrosities are probably the worst thing to ever happen to modern man/womankind!!!!

Next time you read or hear anything positive about Industrial Wind Turbines from anyone, and that goes double from any politician, you can assume immediately that they have out and out LIED!!!

Here is just a random 2 day selection from **one website out of thousands** dedicated to informing people of this terrible Green Energy Scam!

[Illinois:](#)

**[Blade breaks on wind turbine near Armstrong](#)**

[Illinois:](#)

**[Appraiser: Property values hurt by turbines](#)**

[New Hampshire:](#)

**[Bridgewater officials state opposition to wind project](#)**

[Illinois:](#)

**[Firm probing damage to wind turbine in Vermilion County](#)**

[Vermont:](#)

**[Lowell wind project nears completion amid noise complaints](#)**

[Australia:](#)

**[Senator takes up wind-farm noise](#)**

[New York:](#)

**[Orangeville residents fighting expansion of wind farm](#)**

Illinois:

**Wind turbine gets tangled**

Wisconsin:

**Turbines wind up neighbors along Highway 12**

Scotland:

**Anti-turbine campaign claims Clatto victory**

Michigan:

**Wind farming in Calhoun County? It could happen**

England:

**Berkeley Vale wind turbine appeal fails**

Scotland:

**Firm wins approval to extend Tullo windfarm near Laurencekirk**

Nova Scotia:

**New wind turbine setback approved in Argyle municipality**

England:

**Turbine refusal 'should warn developers off heritage coast'**

Massachusetts:

**Turbine survey shows most prefer town purchase their home**

Vermont:

**Grafton residents weigh in on proposed wind farm**

Massachusetts:

**Back to the drawing board to write turbine bylaw**

Wales:

**Bid to build first wind farm in Monmouthshire**

Hawaii, Press releases:

**Who is behind anonymous phone survey asking about Molokai Ranch, wind turbines and the undersea cable?**

India:

**India fails to bring back key incentive**

India:

**Suzlon agrees to \$1.97 billion debt plan**

Denmark:

[Vestas agrees to new debt deal](#)

U.K.:

[New permitting rules target UK onshore wind](#)

Maine:

[Industrial wind turbines could cause sleep loss, study claims](#)

Washington:

[Whistling Ridge wind farm proposal process moves to Washington Supreme Court](#)

Vermont:

[Last Lowell turbine commissioned](#)

Illinois:

[Company pulls wind farm plans; Mainstream likely to submit new proposal](#)

Nova Scotia:

[Information session planned on adverse effects of wind turbines](#)

Maine:

[Local organization files lawsuit to halt Sisk Mountain wind power project](#)

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**From:** Rob Pforzheimer

**Sent:** Saturday, December 08, 2012 9:51 AM

**Subject:** MA Gov. Patrick's embrace of wind power is ill-advised

**Gov. Patrick's embrace of wind power is ill-advised**

To the Editor: Friday Dec 6, 2012

[http://www.thetranscript.com/letters/ci\\_22143341/gov-patrick-rsquo-s-embrace-wind-power-is?source=rss](http://www.thetranscript.com/letters/ci_22143341/gov-patrick-rsquo-s-embrace-wind-power-is?source=rss)

It is unfortunate for the citizens of Massachusetts generally, and likely devastating to many residents of Florida and Monroe specifically, to witness the ill-conceived commitment of Gov. Deval Patrick and his administration to industrial wind turbines.

Perhaps he and his administration have not done their homework. Perhaps they are naive enough to believe the public relations materials of Big Wind -- the little girl chasing the butterfly with the large wind turbines in the background and the promise of large amounts of money flowing into the town.

Perhaps the lobbyists are just that convincing and generous with their donations to the Patrick administration.

What the science and the more extensive experience of other countries have demonstrated is the following: Industrial wind turbines (IWTs) make no engineering or economic sense in inland New England.

Based upon available prevailing winds, as estimated by the U.S. Department of Energy, IWTs will produce little sustainable energy. Moreover, the energy they produce will be intermittent and available when the grid does not need it.

The U.S. DOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory classifies wind assets in inland New England as "not good." As a result, for every MW of capacity of IWT put in place, an equal amount of traditional fossil-fuel-based back-up generation capacity will need to be constructed and operated, so that that backup capacity can be quickly brought on line when the wind suddenly stops blowing.

Therefore, in inland New England, IWTs will not reduce our carbon footprint. They will not contribute in any way toward limiting global warming. They will however significantly increase the cost of every person's and business's electricity, precisely at a time when we cannot afford it. The reason is that the subsidies paid to keep this economically unsustainable technology operating will be spread over everyone's monthly electric bill, in addition to the cost of the normal fossil-fuel-based capacity required to back up those IWTs.

Based upon many epidemiological studies, IWTs will have serious adverse health impacts upon residents within at least a 2-mile radius of the IWTs. Based upon reliable statistical and property appraisal studies, the values of properties of these residents will decrease by 25-40 percent. It is precisely these impacts that have led European countries (e.g., Holland, Germany and the UK, among others) to halt construction of IWTs.

It is precisely these impacts that have led Massachusetts towns to want to sell their IWTs (e.g., Princeton) or shut down the IWTs that are operating (e.g., Falmouth). The experience of Princeton is instructive.

Any payments estimated as flowing to the towns of Monroe and Florida from the operation of the IWTs which have not taken account of the poor wind resources and their poor operational performance will have been vastly overstated. If you do not believe this, ask the town government of Princeton about the profitability of local IWTs. The town has publicly stated that their IWTs were falsely promoted and are losing money.

Wake up, Massachusetts. The Patrick administration is telling the "Big Lie" to promote a pipedream energy technology (Big Wind) that will be revealed as the "Big Boondoggle" a decade from now. I wish Big Wind was the answer -- it would be such a wonderful way to power our region. The inconvenient truth is that it fails upon almost all criteria.

I have a Ph.D. from MIT in mathematical economics and have served on the faculties of MIT, Boston University and the University of California, Berkeley. I am president and director of Greylock McKinnon Associates, an economic consulting firm specializing in analysis in support of litigation.

I critically reviewed "The Wind Turbine Health Impact Study" of Massachusetts and found it to be "junk science."

Raymond S. Hartman

Shelburne Falls  
Dec. 6

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**From:** Rob Pforzheimer [mailto:[rpforz@hotmail.com](mailto:rpforz@hotmail.com)]

**Sent:** Saturday, December 08, 2012 9:40 AM

**Subject:** First Wind's former Italian mafia partners arrested for money laundering and corruption.

First Wind's former Italian mafia partners arrested for money laundering and corruption. **Italy raids target mafia moves on wind, solar farms**

December 7, 2012

<http://phys.org/news/2012-12-italy-raids-mafia-solar-farms.html#jCp>

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Italian police on Friday arrested six people in an operation to combat the penetration of mafia families in the renewable energy sector in Sicily. Police said mafia bosses had obtained contracts to build photovoltaic and wind energy systems in Palermo, Agrigento and Trapani. Some of the money they made went to fugitive mafia chief Matteo Messina Danaro, currently one of the world's top wanted criminals. The six people arrested are suspected of mafia association and corruption. The mafia has been heavily involved in renewable energy in Italy for years. In July, the police seized a giant wind farm allegedly built by the 'Ndrangheta organised crime group in Calabria in southern Italy. In 2010, police seized a record 1.5 billion euros from a Sicilian businessman known as the "Lord of the Wind" in an investigation that first threw the spotlight on mafia money-laundering through renewable energy. The haul included no fewer than 43 wind and solar energy companies and around 100 properties, including swank villas with swimming pools in Sicily's western Trapani region. Several cars and a catamaran were also seized and bank accounts frozen. (c) 2012 AFP

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The Sicilian businessman known as the "Lord of the Wind" is the former business partner of Brian Caffyn of IVPC/UPC/First Wind. First Wind began in the wind business in Italy as Italian Vento Power Corp (IVPC). In testimony to the VT Public Service Board (PSB) in Feb of 2006, UPC, now First Wind, proudly states their experience in building these now seized Italian Wind farms. Here is UPC's prefiled testimony

Prefiled Direct Testimony February 21, 2006

[http://www.sheffieldwind.com/UserFiles/File/regulatory\\_sheffield/Cowan-Rowland-Vavrik%20-%20Direct%20Testimony.pdf](http://www.sheffieldwind.com/UserFiles/File/regulatory_sheffield/Cowan-Rowland-Vavrik%20-%20Direct%20Testimony.pdf) p.8/70

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Quoting UPC's own testimony:

"UPC Group is a group of related companies that have developed large scale wind farms in Europe. To date, UPC Group has developed, financed, constructed, owned and operated over 635 MW of large-scale wind turbine generators in southern Italy and the islands of Sicily and Sardinia through a company called Italian Vento Power Company ("IVPC") ([www.ivpc.com](http://www.ivpc.com)). Certain principals of the UPC Group recently sold their ownership interests in holding companies that own the IVPC companies. In conjunction with this sale, a new European subsidiary of UPC Group has been established and is pursuing several hundred megawatts of wind energy projects in Europe and North Africa, including additional projects in Italy".

"The IVPC subsidiaries of the UPC Group achieved an exceptional operating record, with its wind turbines available 98.5% of the time on a fleet-wide basis. An extensive operations and maintenance organization was established for the Italian projects, consisting of over 120 personnel dedicated exclusively to the day-to-day management, operation and maintenance of the IVPC projects."

<http://www.bostonherald.com/business/general/view.bg?articleid=1212055&format=comments&sort=newest&cnum=2>

### **Ex-partner of Boston wind exec charged**

Italians nab soccer club president in energy fraud

By Christine McConville | Sunday, November 15, 2009 <http://www.bostonherald.com> | Business & Markets

The Massachusetts native who helped found controversial wind-energy developers Cape Wind and First Wind expressed surprise late last week at news that his one-time partner in a separate wind-energy company in Italy has been arrested and charged with fraud.

"I read about it in the papers, and I was very surprised," Brian Caffyn said from Hong Kong, where he is now building wind-energy farms in China and the Philipines.

"I know of no fraud with (former partners) Oreste (Vigorito) and IVPC," said Caffyn, a Cape Cod native and Babson College graduate.

IVPC is Italian Vento Power Corp., a company that Caffyn, 50, once owned with Vigorito, a well-known Italian soccer club president. The pair worked together for seven years in Italy and even lived next door to each other for a time. Last week, the Italian finance police arrested Vigorito, his Sicilian business associate Vito Nicastri and two others, according to the Financial Times. Eleven others were charged in a probe dubbed "Gone with the Wind" that began in 2007, the Financial Times said.

The group is accused of committing fraud by obtaining millions in public subsidies to build wind farms that either never worked properly or did not supply the promised amounts of energy, the Financial Times reported. Vigorito has no connection to Cape Wind or First Wind. Caffyn, who has amassed a fortune starting wind-energy companies, sold his interest in Cape Wind in 2002. He sold his interest in IVPC in 2005, according to First Wind spokesman John Lamontagne. Caffyn remains

a shareholder and director with First Wind, Lamontagne wrote in an e-mail statement.

Last February, as part of a parallel probe, Italy's anti-Mafia police arrested eight others, including an alleged Mafia boss, and accused them of corruption in a wind farm project, the Financial Times reported. According to corporate filings, Caffyn was a founding partner in Cape Wind, the wind-energy turbine project slated for Nantucket Sound. He went on to establish UPC Wind Management LLC, now known as First Wind.

In the United States, where the Department of Energy has recently set aside \$100 billion in cash grants for the clean-energy sector, both Cape Wind and First Wind have been accused by critics of taking advantage of pro-alternative energy programs for financial gain.

In 2006, the Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University undertook the most comprehensive review yet of Cape Wind's public subsidies.

"What we found was quite remarkable," David Tuerck, the institute's executive director, said at the time. "Cape Wind stands to receive subsidies worth \$731 million, or 77 percent of the cost of installing the project and 48 percent of the revenues it would generate. The policy question that this amount of subsidy raises is whether the project's benefit is worth the huge public subsidies that the developer gets."

Cape Wind spokesman Mark Rogers said the wind farm would only receive government monies after it is up and working, and meeting certain production criteria. "It's all performance-based," he said. In September, after First Wind affiliates received \$115 million in federal stimulus money, U.S. Rep. Eric J. Massa (D-N.Y.) wrote to President Barack Obama, calling the grants "very alarming" and saying the company "abused the public trust. "No electricity has been produced for sale out of the projects," but the company "has already collected production rewards for non-existent energy," Massa told Obama. First Wind CEO Paul Gaynor responded in a letter to Obama, saying that First Wind's New York wind farms have produced 133,370 megawatt hours of clean, renewable energy. "We are proud of our work in New York and appreciate the grants we received," he wrote.

Caffyn, whose 2007 divorce records show he amassed an \$82 million fortune building wind farms around the world, said late last week that all the completed projects he has been involved with were properly constructed and met the promised performance standards.

Article URL: <http://www.bostonherald.com/business/general/view.bg?articleid=1212055>

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**From:** Rob Pforzheimer  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 09, 2012 11:26 AM  
**Subject:** Giant Windmill Tower Falls Off Truck

Giant Windmill Tower Falls Off Truck: Raw video

By Jenn Rourke & Ty Milburn



**MENOMONEE FALLS** - Just about everything in downtown Menomonee Falls came to a screeching halt Thursday. Corey Williams was shocked at what he was seeing. "I couldn't believe it. I just wanted to get down and take a look at it," he said. A giant 55-foot-long section of windmill tower fell off the back of a truck into the middle of a busy intersection just before 10 a.m. Thursday at the intersection of Main St. and Appleton. A truck from Anderson Trucking service out of St. Cloud, Minn., was turning right when its load shifted and became unsecured, falling off the truck. The cargo, a lower-mid section of a windmill tower, weighs about 125,000 lbs. It was headed from Manitowoc, Wis., to Joyce, Iowa.

Nancy Dillingham described the scene as "wild." She said, "This is not something you see every day." Tina Sapp works at Nino's Bakery right on Main St. and said she watched it all happen. She said she immediately feared for her own safety. "As soon as it fell, we were like, 'What if it rolls this way?' That's all we kept thinking," she said. Work crews were able to secure the windmill tower section so it wouldn't move. They spent most of the day trying to figure out how to get it back on a trailer and on its way to Iowa. Menomonee Falls police originally said the intersection would be closed until 6 p.m. and asked motorists and pedestrians to avoid the area for the rest of the day. However, it took until after 9 p.m. to remove the windmill tower section from the street. The village is now considering an ordinance to ban loads of a certain size from coming through small village streets. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation had begun issuing permits for shipments of windmill parts for a wind farm being developed in northern Iowa. But Menomonee Falls Village Administrator Mark Fitzgerald said he would insist that the state find a different route. "It absolutely has created an impact," he said, noting the disruption caused Thursday to motorists and downtown businesses. Michael Peck, a spokesman for Gamesa Wind USA, a manufacturer and operator of wind energy systems, said it appeared that the steel cylinder broke loose from the truck because of what he termed a defect in the mechanism intended to hold the cargo in place. He said he was grateful that no one was hurt, and was unsure how his company would respond to Wisconsin's action temporarily halting shipment of its products.

Kathleen Nichols, permit unit supervisor for the state transportation department, said the company was ordered to halt all its windmill shipments. "I think we'll be able to work it out," she said. "And if we can't, we'll say back to the company, 'You've got to find some other way to Iowa.'"

[Watch Chopper 4 video of the intersection](#) *The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

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**From:** Rob Pforzheimer  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 09, 2012 11:38 AM

**Subject:** Editorial: Warning on cost of energy goal

"We hope the governor reads the part of the report that urges him to assess the real cost of California's various energy initiatives and then determine whether these also truly reduce the state's reliance on fossil fuels. In the interim, the governor should heed the commission's recommendation he declare a moratorium on further renewable energy policies."

Editorial: Warning on cost of energy goal

By Sentinel Editorial Board

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Posted: 12/06/2012 05:41:54 PM PST

[http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/opinion/ci\\_22141789/editorial-warning-cost-energy-goals](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/opinion/ci_22141789/editorial-warning-cost-energy-goals)

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If you thought your monthly utility bills were high now, just wait.

At least that's what a new report coming from a government watchdog group is saying about California's drive to reduce the state's dependence on fossil fuels.

But according to the nonpartisan Little Hoover Commission's report, "Rewiring California," ratepayers face soaring electrical bills because of the move toward adding more solar and wind energy to the power grid.

While many ratepayers would say they've already seen a spike in their electric bills, the report says that a "balkanized" and "dysfunctional" grab bag of state agencies are on the way to creating a "profoundly expensive policy failure." That is, unless someone or some agency in state government steps in to develop a "comprehensive energy strategy" to ensure policies, goals and regulations don't pile up, overlap and send costs along to ratepayers.

California currently has 11 programs on the books for developing renewable energy sources - all with their own goals and timelines. A maze of regulations and regulatory agencies seems certain to follow, all of which could further drive up costs.

While the state Public Utilities Commission has quickly responded by saying that electricity rates are expected to increase by only 2-3 percent a year over the next five years, tracking inflation, the report suggests the current situation could lead to a crisis much like what happened a decade ago under former Gov. Gray Davis, when a statewide energy crisis sent electricity rates into the stratosphere.

The biggest unknown arcing across California is the impact of the state's 2010 declaration that by 2020, a third of all power derived by state utility companies will come from wind, solar and other renewable sources. But to incorporate these renewable sources, the state approved 20-year power agreements that lock in "unnecessarily high prices," according to the commission, that will lead to considerable pain for ratepayers and could spark significant protests. This would happen while the rest of the nation hopes to see lower prices because of the boom in domestic natural gas production.

The report also finds the energy initiatives will have an environmental cost, noting the rush to use desert areas for building large-scale solar power plants. One possible solution, according to the report, is to create a single state energy agency that would coordinate the web of policies and initiatives in the state.

It's also somewhat heartening that Gov. Jerry Brown has agreed to review the report, rather than burying it in the dust bin where most reformist efforts go to die. We hope the governor reads the part of the report that urges him to assess the real cost of California's various energy initiatives and then determine whether these also truly reduce the state's reliance on fossil fuels. In the interim, the governor should heed the commission's recommendation he declare a moratorium on further renewable energy policies.

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**From:** Rob Pforzheimer

**Sent:** Monday, December 10, 2012 11:00 PM

**Subject:** <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/argyll-grandmother-takes-uk-and-eu-to-the-united-nations-over-plans-to-turn-scotland-into-windfarm-hedgehog-8399574.html#>

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Argyll grandmother takes UK and EU to the United Nations over plans to turn Scotland into windfarm 'hedgehog'

Christine Metcalfe claims UK Government and the EU have breached a fundamental tenet of citizens' rights under the UN's Åarhus Conventio

MARGARETA PAGANO

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2012

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/argyll-grandmother-takes-uk-and-eu-to-the-united-nations-over-plans-to-turn-scotland-into-windfarm-hedgehog-8399574.html#>

A community councillor from Argyll is mounting a landmark legal challenge against the UK and the EU at the United Nations in Geneva this week over their renewables policies, on the grounds that <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/argyll-grandmother-takes-uk-and-eu-to-the-united-nations-over-plans-to-turn-scotland-into-windfarm-hedgehog-8399574.html#>

Christine Metcalfe, who represents Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council, claims that the UK Government and the EU have breached a fundamental tenet of citizens' rights under the UN's Åarhus Convention, and she will appear before the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to explain why.

Mrs Metcalfe will present her council's case at a hearing before UNECE's Compliance Committee next Wednesday alleging that the UK and the EU are pursuing renewables policies which have been designed in such a way that they have denied the public the right to be informed about, or to ascertain, the alleged benefits in reducing CO 2 and harmful pollution emissions from wind power, or the negative effects of wind power on health, the environment and the economy.

In an interview with *The Independent*, Mrs Metcalfe said: "Our challenge is a democratic one: the UK and EU are by-passing the proper environmental and economic assessments and legally-binding

procedures related to democratic accountability. Scotland, she said, is being turned into a 'hedgehog' as a result, being covered with more than 3,500 wind turbines without due regard for the growing scientific evidence which shows they have a profoundly damaging effect on the local ecology and on people's health. "Such devastating changes might be merited if we had the information to enable us to understand the benefits. Many of the supposed claims by government are now proving to be the opposite of what they say."

"Instead, the onus should be on the developers to prove the positive. No wind farm developer has ever had to explain the benefits of wind. Evidence tells us that wind power performance shows not only no reduction in CO 2 and other harmful emissions, but the very reverse. But Alex Salmond (*Shumlin*) is driving an aggressive green agenda like an express train across Scotland (*Vermont*), bludgeoning anyone who gets in the way as being a Luddite (*Nimby*) and anti-green (*Cave*)."

Indeed, she claims that Scotland's renewables strategy – its Routemap 2020, now in its second edition – is a disingenuous and deeply flawed document that was published without public consultation.

Yet Mrs Metcalfe, who is 69, is not a political animal: "I'm not a crusader, I'm not a campaigner but an ordinary person who is fighting for grass-roots democracy. I just want the information to help me understand there this is taking us." Taking the UK and the EU to the United Nations is not what she expected when she retired to Argyll, with her husband, Peter, from England 22 years ago. Their home is on the edge of Loch Avich, close to Kilmelford, and they were drawn to the area because of their love for the wild scenery. They have access to hundreds of acres of wetlands that are home to otters, Osprey, Sea Eagles and Golden Eagles.

The catalyst for Mrs Metcalfe and her community council's decision to launch the UN challenge was their experience of the Carraig Gheal wind farm and problems surrounding the access route – known as the West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route – in the AKCC's locality; an area of great beauty and a nesting area for Golden Eagles among other rare species.

When the council discovered the wind farm's access route was being built through an area close to where the eagles nest, it contacted the Forestry Commission, owner of the land and co-developer, for more information about an alternative route. But the FC was unwilling to provide more and the AKCC was forced to send out Freedom of Information notices, claiming the commission had destroyed important documents. "That's when we decide to hold the authorities to account," she said.

If the committee upholds the complaint, the UN has the power to require the UK and EU to adhere to its ruling, as they are signatories to the international treaty known as the Århus Convention. Legal experts predict that if the tribunal finds in her favour, the decision could have a big impact on all wind farm projects throughout the country, as developers will be forced to make far more comprehensive "benefit statements" with their planning applications, and governments will have to back up claims about the alleged benefits.

More pertinently, Mrs Metcalfe claims that some communities in Scotland are being driven to a state of civil war: "Wind farms are splitting communities and dividing friends. Some land-owners are

being so generously rewarded for selling or leasing their land to developers that they are turning a blind-eye to what's really happening." Others, she said, who have the temerity to question the alleged benefits, are being subjected to death threats, insults, and burglaries, right across the country

With her at the tribunal at the UN's offices at Avenue de la Paix in Geneva will be her counsel, John Campbell QC, one of Scotland's leading advocates and a planning expert, and Pat Swords, an Irish chemical engineer and environmentalist, whose own challenge to Ireland's energy policy was upheld by the UNECE compliance committee earlier this year. He has now called for a judicial review of Ireland's Renewable Energy Action Plan. Representatives of the UK's DEFRA and the EU are also expected to attend the hearing.

While Mrs Metcalfe admits to a few nerves about the 1800 km journey to Geneva, she is resolute: "I'm doing this for those who don't have a voice. The lack of debate, and information about the negative effects of wind power, means that people and the environment in my country are being treated by the government as collateral damage. Whatever the outcome of Geneva, there will be repercussions because the short-comings of the current energy policy, based on the rush for wind, will be exposed."

**Sent:** Sunday, December 09, 2012 1:21 PM  
**Subject:** Comment from Siting Policy Commission site  
**Name:** James N. Rademacher  
**Town:** Pittsford

2) Energy Sources and/or Facilities:  
- **Wind**  
- **Other Energy Sources, Facilities or General Comment**

**Comment :**  
December 9, 2012

VT Energy Siting Policy Commission

Dear Siting Commission Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my concerns relative to the PSB/PSD process. I appreciate the large commitment your participation on the Siting Commission means. By way of introduction, I am a 29 year resident of Pittsford, VT being a radiologist at RRMC for the past 31 years. There is a potential plan by Reunion Power, LLC to site 20 industrial wind turbines on the Grandpas Knob/Pittsford Ridge location. This caused me to learn much about industrial wind and the PSB/PSD process. The possibility that area residents and myself may need to get involved with a PSB process is a very scary one. The guidelines that the VT Legislature set up for the PSB/PSD to operate under need to be reviewed and amended.

The current PSB process seems an extremely daunting one for folks to go through and the current process does not provide sufficient avenues for this to occur. Much frustration will likely be involved. The legalistic process basically requires citizens or towns to hire an attorney at great expense.

Many projects get proposed for small towns that have very limited financial resources. They cannot afford to get involved. The small local population is left with bake sales in order to get involved. The Siting Commission needs to create some type of fund that might be available to Intervenors to draw from in order to function within this legalistic process. The current PSB guidelines allow no weight to the will of the local people.

Sure the information that all four of the potential Pittsford Ridge host towns voted not in favor of being a host town can be submitted but it has no "official" weight. The local towns get the feeling that the good of a project is spread over the state and the region but the harm is experienced locally but the PSB does not care as the "local" is not part of the PSB directive.

The Siting Commission needs to make the opinion, feelings, recommendation of the local people an official part of the information that the PSB must consider in its deliberation.

The PSB process does allow for some weight to be applied to the effect of a project on a view shed. However, as used in the Lowell CPG, it only applies to public places of view. A thousand people standing at a road side pull over per year for 5-10 minutes receives consideration but a thousand people experiencing a significant modification of their home view every day for years to come is not given consideration. The Siting Commission needs to make view sheds important from both public and private locations.

These same potential host towns are going through a laborious process to amend their town plans to make the towns' positions clear on industrial wind. Town plans from the Lowell and Sheffield region had general wording about being in favor of renewable energy like solar, wind and hydro but also had wording about no industrial development in conservation areas or on ridgelines. Somehow the PSB determined that favorable to wind meant anywhere as opposed to not in conservation areas or on ridgelines. Many feel the efforts toward amending the town plans will end in frustration as the town plans do not have any "official" weight in the PSB process. The towns will have removed any traces of ambiguity but the feeling is the PSB will now just set them aside as not relevant. The VT Legislature did not require such consideration. The Siting Commission needs to make a town plan part of the information that the PSB must consider in its deliberations.

The PSD (department) also needs to have its procedures modified. The department assists applicants in the process and this is appropriate. The department is also there to represent the people of Vermont. The department seems to take the "people" as strictly the whole of Vermont and that the "few" in the immediate vicinity do not need nor deserve representation.

From concerned citizens that I have spoken with who participated in the PSB/PSD process came a great sense of frustration that the PSD just blew them off. The Siting Commission needs to make it clear that the PSD needs to represent the majority as well as the minority. It is not OK for the minority to be ignored. Residents in the Sheffield and Lowell area that are having problems with the results of the wind turbine projects are being told to discuss their problems with the project owner. This method has lead to more frustration.

Individual citizens with no power should not feel they have to approach a large company which has attorneys on payroll to present their concerns to. A legalistic process is started with a ton of legalistic foot dragging on the part of the owner that the citizen does not have the time, money or expertise to deal with. They just give up. The Siting Commission needs to provide authority and responsibility to the PSD to follow up and enforce conditions of a CPG.

The PSB places great importance on testimony or written statements provided by experts under oath. Yet some of that testimony has been proven to be wrong and there is no consequence to the expert providing such testimony or statement. On page 33 of the Lowell Mtn CPG is stated that GMP projected 700 FTE jobs in VT during the construction phase and 30 in state thereafter.

Fifteen of those would be in Orleans County. According to a VPR program this past summer there were 200 construction type jobs and 10 jobs were expect long term. It seems rather farfetched that 500 non-construction support type jobs were created by this project and what happened to 20 of the 30 long term jobs. It was these job estimates that were the basis of much

of the financial good that GMP claimed for this project. GMP also provided in sworn testimony and written statement a projected construction cost of \$160M. Once the project was underway GMP realized they “forgot” to include an \$11M “converter” as part of the project. For a major electrical company with a cadre of electrical engineers how could they forget a converter? That would be gross incompetence and that is scary. Or, was it an intentional misrepresentation to minimize the project expense? That might actually be a little less scary. There should be a consequence for incompetence or misrepresentation of this level.

The Siting Commission needs to empower and require the PSD to perform retrospective reviews on the accuracy of project projections and compliance with CPG conditions. On page 35 paragraph #99 of the Lowell Mtn CPG comes the statement:

“The net present value of the benefits from the education property tax payments, annual payments to Lowell, and the Good Neighbor Fund payments is approximately \$10.8M. If it is assumed that all of the properties within 3 miles of the proposed project are devalued by 10%, this would result in an approximately \$5.6M reduction in property values. Using this conservative assumption as to devaluation, the proposed project still provides approximately \$5.2M in benefits. Becker pf. at 9-10.” It is interesting that this statement is in the CPG as many other places the PSB states it finds it agrees with GMP that there is no effect on property values with industrial wind turbines.

I made the effort to review the grand lists of the potential four host towns to the potential Reunion Power project. The scope of the project is about the same as Lowell. The financial good might reasonably be assumed to be about the same \$10.8M. The total grand list values for properties within 3 miles of the potential site for each of the four towns subtracting out all government owned and large corporation (OMYA), properties is as follows:

West Rutland	\$ 54.4M
Castleton	28.5M
Pittsford	38.1M
Hubbardton	27.2M
Total	\$148.2M

10% of the assessed value is \$14.8M which is \$4.0M greater than the potential financial good. The Siting Commission needs to make the effect on property values a part of what the PSB must consider during its deliberations.

The PSB/PSD currently uses the “host town” concept where a host town is a town with some part of a project within its borders. For the potential Grandpas Knob/Pittsford Ridge project Proctor has more valuable property within 3 miles of this potential project (\$58.5M) than any of the potential four host towns. The \$58.5M figures needs to be added to the \$148.2M figure above.

The Siting Commission needs to amend the criteria of what constitutes a host town. As a physician I am familiar with the Certificate of Need (CON) process for health care. As part of this there is also a requirement to prove that the project is “good” and the need justifies the

cost. It seems that the CPG process should have more of an emphasis on “Need”. I am sure you all recognize that there is no supply need for any kind of new generation capacity at this time or for quite some time in the future. From the ISO-NE website one can determine that all plants providing electricity to ISO-NE that are over 40 years old could be shut down without a negative effect on the grid. The only “Need” we have is the artificial need created by the VT Legislature of a goal of 20 % renewable by 2017 going to 90% by 2050. This is a false goal. The real goal is to reduce the amount of CO2 we produce. Therefore if a project claims to have a benefit of reducing CO2 then the PSB/PSD needs to make a comparison with other potential projects that can reduce CO2 and what the cost of such an alternative project might be. There needs to be a cost per ton of CO2 reduced analysis. The Siting Commission needs to have the PSB consider a CO2 reduction cost analysis if that is part of the “good” the applicant is claiming.

I am displeased with the potential that someday I may be referred to as an “Intervenor”. It carries a negative connotation of an “obstructionist” and therefore a nuisance that needs to be pushed aside or brushed off. If the developer can be referred to by a non-judgmental word like applicant or petitioner (as is done in the Lowell CPG) than an “Intervenor” should be granted similar consideration. I would suggest that only the word “applicant” refer to the developer and that the word “petitioner” be used as a substitute for intervenor. Another possibility would be “concerned citizen(s)”. That however may carry too positive a connotation. The Siting Commission needs to determine a non-judgmental word for an “Intervenor”.

Sincerely yours and thank you,

James N. Rademacher, MD  
Pittsford, VT 05763

Submitted on Sunday, December 9, 2012 - 14:20 Submitted by anonymous user:  
[\[71.233.103.205\]](#)

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**From:** tom shea

**Sent:** Friday, December 07, 2012 9:14 AM

**Subject:** Comments on November 30th Siting Commission public session.

To the commission:

Please see the attached comments on Mr. Habig's presentation to you at the November 30th conference.

Tom Shea

Searsburg

To the Vermont State Energy Siting Commission:

Neil Habig, in his presentation to the Siting Commission on November 30, said that the PSB process was accessible to the public.

This statement is willfully misleading. Iberdrola, Mr. Habig's employer, through their large legal team attempted to thwart every attempt by local citizens to participate in the Section 248 process for the Deerfield project (PSB Docket # 7250). They challenged every basis for intervention. They neglected to notify me as an adjoining land owner (or my mother, who also owned adjoining property), even though I represented my mother as the **only** pro se intervener in the mid 1990's Section 248 proceeding for the existing Searsburg facility – **and** one of only *six* parties to that case!

I note also that Iberdrola's lead counsel was the attorney for the DPS for the prior proceedings and that I was personally known to him. If the developers are willing to mislead you in their characterization of the Deerfield proceedings, this calls into question their veracity in every aspect of their comments.

Mr. Habig also commented that the process was "robust" and "accommodated" interveners throughout the process, but neglected to state that the developers attempted to nullify **any** participation by common citizens. His comment that "the Board" was very good at accommodating interveners to participate should have included "despite our best efforts to prevent it".

After attempting to deny my participation, developer's counsel requested my c.v. or resume, apparently to determine my credentials to be a pro se party. This is directly in contradiction to the Section 248 process. This can only be interpreted as an attempt to thwart the participation of common citizens.

I am a degreed Engineer by trade, yet the developers attempted to nullify my participation apparently on the grounds that I was not in the electrical distribution business. What possible connection does my professional career have to the fact that I am a citizen adversely affected by the project? I would note that two of the three presenters at the PSB for the developer did not have engineering degrees nor any engineering experience, yet were presented as "experts" in their field.

Please make this process more open to the common citizens who are directly affected by these projects. The way it works now merely discourages input from those who are not paid participants. This does not serve the public good.

Tom Shea

Searsburg

**Sent:** Sunday, December 09, 2012 9:54 PM

**Subject:** Comment from Siting Policy Commission site

**Name:** Paul Stuart

**Town:** Derby

**Organization:** Town of Stanstead, Quebec, Canada

**Title:** City Councillor Seat 1

2) Energy Sources and/or Facilities:

Wind

3) Comment :

Hello.

Before we go too far I would like to point out that I had to choose the Town of Derby in the drop down list to be able to reply, but I am from the Canadian Town of Stanstead Quebec which is just over the Border from Derby Line.

After hearing of the creation of this Commission and it`s goal, I think it would be imperative for you to get information from the Canadian people affected by projected wind projects close to the border, and hear what we have to say about how these projects will affect our lifestyles and other issues that we have discovered.

Thank you.

Paul Stuart

Town of Stanstead, QC

Submitted on Sunday, December 9, 2012 - 22:54 Submitted by anonymous user:  
[76.71.177.179] Submitted values are:

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**From:** [Barbara Durkin, Northboro, MA](#)

**Sent:** Saturday, December 08, 2012 10:19 AM

**Subject:** '[Deval-ued Wind Power](#)' Green-energy delusions inflict a heavy cost on a Mass...

## **National Review**

December 3, 2012 4:00 A.M.

### **'Deval-ued Wind Power'**

Green-energy delusions inflict a heavy cost on a Massachusetts town.

By [Kevin D. Williamson](#)

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/334599/deval-ued-wind-power-kevin-d-williamson#>

Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick is as green-power mad as any up-and-coming Democrat, and he has set an ambitious goal for the commonwealth's utilities: begin producing 2,000 megawatts of power from environmentally preferred sources by 2020. Patrick's green dreams are way up in the air; on the ground, things look starkly different. Last September in the tiny town of Princeton, Mass., the general manager of the local utility authority sent out an extraordinary little memo that is one part standard bureaucratic posterior-covering and one part cry for help, noting that a modest wind-energy project already has lost nearly \$2 million — a whopping number for a community of only 3,413. For perspective, consider that those losses occurred despite all of the subsidies the utility received for its wind-energy work; when the cost of those credits is accounted for, the real losses are even higher, but of course subsidy expenses are not borne in full directly by Princeton residents.

Nevertheless, customers of the Princeton Municipal Light Department now pay more than a third more for their electricity than does the average Massachusetts residential customer, adding some \$774,000 to their power bills in 2011. The financial position of the PMLD has been weakened, and there is little hope for significant improvements under current conditions.

“As best I can look into the future,” general manager Brian Allen wrote, “I would expect the wind turbine losses to continue at the rate of around \$600,000 a year. This assumes current wholesale electricity rates, no need for extraordinary repairs, and that both turbines continue operating. If any major repairs are required, this will be an additional expense for the PMLD. The original warranties on the turbines have expired, and extended warranty options are not available.”

Those warranties are an acute concern: After becoming operational in 2010, one of Princeton's two wind turbines broke down in August 2011 and was not back online until nearly a year later. Princeton had a warranty from the turbine's manufacturer, the German

firm Fuhrländer, but the usual political cluster of agents and subcontractors meant that the whole mess still is in litigation. If Princeton does not prevail in its lawsuit, it will suffer hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional expenses. The cost of replacing a gearbox on one of the Fuhrländer turbines is estimated at \$600,000.

Those breakdowns are real concerns. According to the trade publication, *Wind Energy Update*, the typical wind turbine is out of commission more than 20 percent of the time — and regularly scheduled maintenance accounts for only 0.5 percent of that downtime. The group also estimates that some \$40 billion worth of wind turbines will go out of warranty by the end of 2012, leaving the Princetons of the world looking at a heap of expensive repair bills. In Europe, the largest wind-energy market, operations-and-maintenance expenses already are running into billions of dollars a year.

So where does that leave our friends in Massachusetts?

Mr. Allen did not return messages seeking comment, but he has offered his ratepayers a possible solution: Get the hell out of the wind-energy business. Or, to be more precise, stay in the wind-energy business, but get somebody else to pay for it: “One possibility is to maintain the wind turbines in Princeton but to offload all or a portion of the electricity output, the associated costs and of course future risk and benefits. I personally like this option. Princeton will continue to be a leader in green energy production without having to burden its residents.” And that’s the green-energy ethic in miniature: It’s a wonderful thing, so long as somebody else is paying for it.

Not far away, the town of Portsmouth, R.I., went through a similar drama: After issuing some \$3 million in bonds to build a wind turbine, Portsmouth saw the new unit quickly go dark because of mechanical problems. [Reports](#) the *Westerly Sun*: “The wind turbine, erected at Portsmouth High School in 2009, has been idle since June because of a faulty gear box. The town is evaluating whether to replace the gear box, with costs ranging from \$611,000 to \$703,000.” Local critics have taken to calling the turbine the “\$2 million mistake,” although it is in fact a mistake worth at least \$3 million plus interest on the bonds.

For small towns, wind power is a big idea with big costs — too big for their budgets. To understand the scale of Princeton’s multimillion-dollar wind-power losses, consider that its public-library budget amounts to just over \$129,000, and that the municipality’s entire budget runs only about \$8 million.

Needless to say, when the wind-power project was pitched, Princeton was told that it would be a profit-making enterprise, not a loss-making one — one more example that the word “investment” means the opposite of “investment” when it comes out of the mouth of a politician or a rent-seeking supplicant.

Wind energy is not always a boondoggle. As I have [reported](#), Valero has installed at its refinery in the Texas panhandle a massive wind farm that, when operating at capacity, generates enough electricity to power the entire complex. The Texas panhandle has lots

of wind, lots of real estate, and not very many people. Wind makes sense for some large industrial users. Similarly, a great deal of the equipment used to run Marcellus Shale gas wells runs off of solar power, again for very good economic reasons. Purpose-specific commercial uses are in fact one of the most productive applications for wind and solar power. A good indicator that a project makes sense is that a firm is willing to invest its own money in the project; conversely, an excellent indicator that a project makes no economic sense is that the local utility is scrambling desperately for a way to stay in the wind-energy racket without having to assume the associated costs and risks.

The real cost of these projects is not only the utility losses and the price of the subsidies. The unseen and unaccounted-for cost is that politically driven green-energy incentives cause utilities and other producers to make investments that are not in reality economically viable and to forgo more productive investments — including more productive clean-energy investments. Once the incentives end and market forces reassert themselves — which they always do in the end — the whole house of cards comes tumbling down. Capital that could have been invested in developing fruitful wind and solar applications for industrial or agricultural users instead has been diverted into municipal utilities, users for whom such products have not shown themselves to be very efficient.

Governor Patrick has called wind power the “centerpiece of the clean-energy economy we are creating for Massachusetts.” With Princeton residents eating millions of dollars in losses and paying substantially inflated power bills, the clean-energy economy appears to be anything but economical.

— *Kevin D. Williamson is roving correspondent for National Review.*

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**From:** [Barbara Durkin, Northboro, MA](#)

**Sent:** Saturday, December 08, 2012 11:38 AM

**Subject:** Re: [First Wind's former Italian mafia partners arrested for money laundering ...](#)

In addition to UPC First Wind testimony below, this evidence demonstrates that UPC First Wind founder and inaugural chairman, Brian Caffyn, personally oversaw the establishment of Italian Vento Power Corporation IVPC.

**March 15, 2000**

**Southern California Edison:**

Resolution E-3539 specified that the following information be provided upon the creation of a new affiliate:

New Affiliate Name: **Italian Vento Power Corporation 4 S.r.l.**

Date this affiliate was created: March 15, 2000

Headquarters: via Circumcallazione

83100 Avellino, Italy Primary Officers (Directors): Marco Ferrando, Clive Warden (EME representatives)

James Houston, (partners representative)

Brain Caffyn, (partners representative)

Oreste Vigorito (partners representative)

Contact for CPUC: James A. Kelly, [\(626\) 302-2284](tel:6263022284)

Intended Function: To build, own and operate wind power plants in Italy for the purpose of selling electricity at a profit...”

<http://www.sce.com/nr/sc3/tm2/pdf/1452-e.pdf>

**UPC’s earliest wind farm developments were built in 1995 in Italy. At the time UPC sold IVPC, its Italian wind business, in 2005**, it had built approximately 650MW of capacity representing over 50% of the total installed Italian wind capacity. UPC developed, financed, constructed, owned and operated all aspects of this business, selling 50% of the equity of its first two project companies to Tomen and Edison Mission Energy respectively, and was instrumental in Vestas setting up a new turbine manufacturing facility in Taranto, Italy. **UPC entered the North American market in 2002 as UPC Wind which has now changed its name to First Wind.** Since then the Company has built a backlog of approximately 3,600 MW of high return wind projects.

In early 2006, UPC closed on a large equity financing with D.E. Shaw & Co and Madison Dearborn Partners and began aggressively building out its high-return backlog. Currently, the Company focus on developing wind farms in the northeastern and western regions of the U.S and in Hawaii, and are already producing 274 MW of energy through three operating wind farms. **UPC Renewables** has established a global business network and currently has offices in seven countries, including the **Netherlands, UK, Poland, USA, China, Hong Kong and the Philippines.**

<http://www.upcrenewables.com/about.php>

### **Brian Caffyn, Chairman**

Mr. Caffyn has a strong personal interest in developing environmentally friendly renewable energy, which has resulted in a dedication to uncovering new technologies, business models and financing that rapidly expand the deployment of renewable energy.

To that end, **Mr. Caffyn is the Chairman of UPC Solar, Solar Integrated Technologies, Wind City Oil and Gas and was the founder and inaugural Chairman of UPC Wind (now firstwind<sup>SM</sup>).** In addition, **Mr. Caffyn is also Managing Partner of UPC Capital Partners and UPC Energy Partners.** He spent the first part of his career in project financing for wind, cogeneration, hydro, solar, geothermal, waste-to-energy and biomass energy projects with GE Capital, Heller Financial, Inc., and several private companies.

**Mr. Caffyn personally oversaw the establishment and construction of the largest wind energy company in Italy — Italian Vento Power Corporation.** Mr. Caffyn received a BA in Finance and Quantitative Methods from Babson College in 1981.

<http://www.upcsolar.com/about-management.asp>

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<http://www.upcrenewables.com/about.php>

### **President of Italian Wind Energy Association arrested for fraud**

*By Guy Dinmore in Financial Times, November 12, 2009*

Italian finance police, mounting an operation code named "Gone with the wind", yesterday said they had arrested two of the country's most prominent businessmen in the wind energy sector. Police said the charges related to fraud involved in obtaining public subsidies to construct wind farms. They are also investigating the sale of wind farms to foreign companies.

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**Oreste Vigorito, head of the IVPC energy company and president of Italy's National Association of Wind Energy, was arrested on Tuesday in Naples. Vito Nicastrì, a Sicilian business associate, was arrested in Alcamo, Sicily.**

Two other men were arrested in Sicily and the Naples area, while 11 others were charged but not arrested. IVPC, a leading constructor and operator of wind farms in Italy, did not return calls asking for comment. Mr Vigorito is also well known as president of the Benevento football club.

“Gone with the wind”, mounted by the finance ministry’s anti-fraud police, started in 2007 and began by blocking public subsidies worth €9.4m (\$14m, £8.4m) granted by the ministry for economic development.

**Last year police confiscated seven wind farms with 185 turbines in Sicily linked to IVPC.**

Anti-Mafia prosecutors in Sicily have launched a parallel investigation. The Financial Times was told in April that a large number of wind farms had been built with public subsidies but had never functioned. Police said yesterday they had sent requests for documentation to five foreign companies – two in the Netherlands and three in Spain – that were linked to IVPC. Other companies in Ireland and the UK, said to be Italian affiliates of IVPC, have been asked by Italian authorities to provide information. Police also said they were carrying out checks on 12 companies in Italy, including nine with company names that are variations of IP Maestrale and which share the same street name and number as IVPC in Avellino, near Naples.

International Power of the UK, the largest operator of wind farms in Italy last year with a market share of about 15 per cent, said it owned the IP Maestrale companies. International Power acquired its Maestrale portfolio of wind farms in 2007 for €1.8bn from Trinergy, an Irish company that had bought them from IVPC two years earlier. Some of the projects had been developed by Mr Nicastrì, although IP told the FT in April it had no direct relationship with him.

International Power, which has not been charged with any wrongdoing, said in London yesterday: “We are aware of the arrests made in Italy yesterday. Criminal proceedings in Italy are conducted on a confidential basis and we will not make any comment on either the arrests or the individuals involved at this time.”

**Mr Nicastrì told the FT in April he had developed the “majority” of Sicily’s wind farms. He had then sold some of the projects to IVPC for further sale to foreign companies.**

All were functioning, he said at the time. His office declined to comment yesterday.

<http://redneckusa.wordpress.com/2009/11/12/president-of-italian-wind-energy-association-arrested-for-fraud/>

Boston Herald  
November 15, 2009:

**'Italians nab soccer club president in energy fraud'**

"...Italian finance police have arrested two prominent businessmen — including one with ties to a former investor in the Cape Wind project in Nantucket — in the wind energy sector on charges of fraud, reports the Financial Times [1]. Arrested were Oreste Vigorito, head of the IVPC energy company and president of Italy's National Association of Wind Energy, and Vito Nicastrì, a Sicilian business associate,..."

[http://bostonherald.com/business/general/view/20091115ex-partner\\_of\\_boston\\_wind\\_exec\\_charged\\_italians\\_nab\\_soccer\\_club\\_president\\_in\\_energy\\_fraud/srvc=home&position=4](http://bostonherald.com/business/general/view/20091115ex-partner_of_boston_wind_exec_charged_italians_nab_soccer_club_president_in_energy_fraud/srvc=home&position=4)