

Godsoe, Benjamin

From: Shores, Kelly
Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Godsoe, Benjamin; Carr, Tim
Subject: FW: Apex Dlean Energy Wind Project Concerns (January 9, 2020 informational meeting)
Attachments: Downeast Wind Project January 9, 2020 meeting.docx

I think this is a public comment you may be interested in.

Thanks!
Kelly

Kelly M. Shores
Environmental Specialist II
Land Use Planning Commission
Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

106 Hogan Road; Suite 8
Bangor, ME 04401
(207)592-4448

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

From: ssmills@myfairpoint.net <ssmills@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 3:24 PM
To: commissionergardner@washingtoncountymaine.com; commissionercassidy@washingtoncountymaine.com; commissionercrowley@washingtoncountymaine.com
Cc: n.stabbins@maine.gov; Shores, Kelly <Kelly.Shores@maine.gov>; Moore, Marianne <marianne.moore@legislature.maine.gov>; ssmills@myfairpoint.net
Subject: Apex Dlean Energy Wind Project Concerns (January 9, 2020 informational meeting)

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Dear Washington County Board of Commissioners:

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Mills
PO Box 26
Jonesport ME 04649

Schoodic Lake Camp Owner
Washington County and TS 18 Taxpayer

January 6, 2020

Chris Gardner, Chairman, Washington County Commissioners
Vinton Cassidy, Commissioner
John Crowley, Commissioner

Re Concerns: Apex Clean Energy Wind Project

My name is Susan Mills and I am 67 years old. I have been going to Schoodic Lake since birth. In the early 50s, my father, Robert Smith and his cousin, Lewis Kirby approached then owner Homer Worcester. Mr. Worcester owned land on the northern side of the lake and was asked if he would be willing to lease lots for the purpose of private camps. He agreed and thus began the process of the population of Schoodic Lake. An annual lease was paid until the opportunity arose for campers to buy their land. Because of the nature of this population, most of the campers in these approximately 77 camps were and still are related or friends. I currently own the camp that belonged to my grandparents as well as share ownership with my three siblings for my deceased parent's camp. My oldest son owns the camp that belonged to my aunt and uncle. I tell you this to hopefully give you some idea as to how embedded in this property we all are. It is our childhood, our memories and today, still our paradise. The lake is occupied beginning in April and ending in October, but November through March visited often by campers for fishing, hunting and day trips. Although we pay our taxes to the State of Maine because that part of the lake is in Township 18, a majority of the camp owners are residents of Washington County. We elected you to represent us and ask that you do your due diligence before Downeast Wind is allowed to proceed, for us and for the many owners around the lake in the towns of Cherryfield and Columbia Falls.

In 2018, then Governor Paul LePage issued a moratorium halting permits for new wind-turbine projects. Now Governor Janet Mills overturned the moratorium stating, "It is time for Maine to send a positive signal to renewable energy investors and innovators: We welcome you", there still remain many unanswered questions as to the impact these turbines have on the environment, wildlife and humans. At that time a DEP spokesman said her order would allow the state to "conduct a transparent vetting of all wind projects, onshore and offshore, to ensure they respect Maine communities and our environment while helping to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels." Apex states they have worked with local camp owners. They have contacted only those whose land might be of value to them. Each camp owners should have been notified in writing with full disclosure up front. I fear that our hasty efforts to embrace renewable energy has the potential to ruin an area near and dear to me and I am extremely upset that we were not informed of our options. I am requesting as a tax payer to Washington County and the State of Maine clear

instructions of steps available to camp/land owners who wish to delay this project for more unbiased information and stop the project if these concerns are not addressed sufficiently.

This is a lot for a layperson to wrap their head around. I have read studies and reports, listened to lectures, turbine pros and cons and testimonials and have the following concerns as they relate to me and my family.

We work hard and look forward to spending as much time at Schoodic as possible during our down time. Now we lay on the beach and look at a pristine landscape with lake and the hills beyond. You would ask us to think it is okay to accept that backdrop will now consist of 15 wind turbines over 600 feet tall with another 15 behind us when we look in the other direction.

I would question if Maine's nuisance law comes into play. A nuisance is defined as, "a condition that substantially interferes with the use and enjoyment of land by causing unreasonable discomfort or annoyance to persons of ordinary sensibilities." Generally, nuisance lawsuits involve invasion of a plaintiff's property by light, sound, odor, something that distracts from the natural scenery, can be injurious to the comfort and happiness of individuals and the public, injurious to property rights and value or other foreign substance.

We travel eight miles of dirt road to get to our camps. Those road conditions vary throughout the year from impassable to washed out to rutted to well graded. The necessary road widening, additional roads, heavy equipment, parts transport, blasting, secondary path to carry power to existing lines to the grid, etc. will cause more than inconvenience to camp owners. It will also cause safety problems and potentially add wear and tear to our vehicles.

The turbine infrasound is an air born pressure wave that varies in frequency and time. It may not be audible to most but doesn't enter the body through the ears. It travels through ground and penetrates buildings. It enters the body through skin. Although not heard, the body reacts to this air born pressure wave in a defensive manner. It can result in respiratory issues (I already have Sarcoidosis), digestive problems, thickening blood vessel walls when the body fights back by building up collagen to combat against the barrage that we can't even hear, fatigue, pericardium thickening which can lead to heart disease, anxiety and a host of other problems.

The audible sounds of the gear box and the swooshing of the blades can cause anxiety, mood swings, lack of sleep and other associated problems. The shadows and the sun glare from the blades effects some people as well. It can go from a nuisance to actual health impact on people with inner ear problems, autism or epilepsy. Without realizing it, you are getting a strobe light variation of light and shade.

What about a fire hazard? Schoodic Pond sits in a bowl and thunder and lightning storms have always been intense. You can see numerous trees split as you walk around the lake from storms in the past. In addition to numerous lightning rods in the form of turbines now being erected, they have gear boxes that build up and cause their own fires. Although there have been 11 fires this year, there have only been two in Maine. The camps at Schoodic are such that if one camp catches, most of the properties will burn. So I guess those two for the State of Maine would be sufficient to completely wipe out our camps. People are concerned about our property values going down. I have no intention of selling my camp. It will go to my youngest son when I am done with it. I am concerned of the value now...of my camp, my view and my quality of life! There is no question that it will plummet substantially!

How deep will the concrete footings have to be to support these massive turbines? What will that do to the stability of the area and the ground water quality from drainage? As mentioned before, Schoodic is in a bowl and as such, any activity on the grounds above, eventually find their way to the watershed that supports Schoodic. Schoodic feeds into the Narraguagus River which is a breeding ground for Atlantic salmon.

We currently have eagles at our lake and several nests. What happens to them? What happens to our loon population? They nest at Schoodic and spend their days there, but at night they travel to area Horseshoe Pond and Pike Brook. What impact with turbines have on that path?

Turbines have changed the migratory corridor of birds and ducks. How will these impact the Canada Geese that use our lake in the spring and fall? Some birds will change their path to avoid the turbines, altering their natural habitat. Small birds and bats don't even need to hit the blades. Because of the speed, they are killed simply by being too close to the downwash of the blades.

The Downeast Wind turbines will be located a short distance from bodies of water classified by the Maine DEP as Class AA for their quality of water, remote scenic beauty and a habitat of relict strains of wild Atlantic salmon; the Pleasant River and Schoodic Brook, a tributary of the Narraguagus River.

This project has the potential to impact the 7,000 acre peatland in the Town of Columbia and TS18 known as The Great Heath, home to rare animals such as the Upland Sandpiper. Rare plants include the Bog Bedstraw, Canada Mountain-rice grass and Jacobs Ladder.

It is my understanding that no wind farm analysis exists to date that can show a wind farm has gone beyond an immediate benefit and has become a net or self-sustaining benefit for a host community. The immediate benefit would be the payout to a few land owners and a small number of local people hired. Usually, and Apex is no exception, local jobs are

promised but they use their own people in the end. Sales of food and gas increase in the area during construction but rarely more than that. Energy generated goes into the grid, not to the house beside the turbine!

What happens when the turbines are no longer viable and need to be decommissioned? They are abandoned and become more dangerous, more of an eye sore or they are dismantled and disposed of. Because of the sheer size, the blades need to be cut to transport and to place in a landfill. Turbine blades contain glass and toxic gas. Who has the expense of this...taxpayers? Although a percentage of the capital cost should be set aside for decommissioning, it is often insufficient. Let's not pass over the fact that the blades contain toxic gas and glass. What happens to these hazards if there is a breach in the integrity of the blade structure?

I am for change and I am for improvement. I am also against staggering blindly into the unknown. The agenda-driven "facts" being supplied by Apex are designed to make everyone all warm and fuzzy about this project. This is a great opportunity for the Washington County Commissioners to indeed represent their taxpayers. There are too many unanswered questions as to the health concerns of this project. For every study they cite, I can cite another with opposing view and historical data for proof. It is time to do the responsible thing. I have to have faith that you will do what we elected you to do. Sometimes the decisions are hard. Come to Schoodic and visit with some of us. Walk our property, sit on our docks and look and our view, breath our fresh air and listen to loons, whippoorwills and kids swimming. You will see how precious this is to so many of us and how quickly it would be destroyed by Downeast Wind. They are not "Downeast"; they are a Virginia-based company that needs to spend more time looking for an alternative area where many concerns would be eliminated. Maine, and indeed Washington County has so much unpopulated land. If this is truly a good idea, you can still bring this to Washington County but not at the expense of our quality of life.

I thank you for your time and your consideration and I hope your continued due diligence in thoroughly vetting this process and the potential fallout.

I will see you at the meeting on January 9th.

Susan S Mills
PO Box 26
Jonesport ME 04649

cc: Mark Stebbins, DEP Bureau of Land
Kelly Cyr, LUPC Environmental Specialist II
Marianne Moore, Senator/Washington County

Godsoe, Benjamin

From: Bolstridge, Karen
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Godsoe, Benjamin; Carr, Tim
Cc: East, Judith C
Subject: FW: Apex Downeast Wind project

Tim and Ben: I believe these comments go to your Apex Project.

Thanks

Karen E. Bolstridge

Karen E. Bolstridge, Environmental Specialist III
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Land Use Planning Commission
106 Hogan Road; Suite 8
Bangor, Maine 04401
Phone: (207) 215-4685
Fax: (207) 287-7439
Email: karen.bolstridge@maine.gov

From: Charles Robbins <68delta88@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Bolstridge, Karen <Karen.Bolstridge@maine.gov>; East, Judith C <Judith.C.East@maine.gov>
Subject: Apex Downeast Wind project

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Washington County Commissioner
85 Court Street
Machias, Maine 04654

Dear Washington County Commissioners,

My name is Charles Robbins; I am a resident of Columbia Falls and have been affiliated with local groups such as the Pleasant River Fish & Game Conservation Association (PRFGCA) and the Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF) for over the past 30 years.

I write in opposition to the placement of Apex Downeast Wind project in this section of Washington County which includes the Town of Columbia and the Unorganized Townships 18 and 24...and now TWP25MD.

I attended the December 19th 2019 meeting held by Apex in the Town of Columbia with no opinion one way or the other. My impression from what I had heard previously was that the windmills would be placed along Pea Ridge. When I saw the tower locations encroaching on the Great Heath and my home river, the Pleasant, I became very alarmed.

Here are my "Reasons for fully opposing the Apex Downeast Wind project:

1. The Pineo Ridge Delta and "the Maine Ice Age Trail"

A section of the Apex Downeast Wind complex will be located within an area recognized for its unique glacial features such as the Pineo Ridge Delta,

<http://www.colby.edu/geology/PineoRidge.html>

a large glacial marine delta with a meltwater stream channel.

This local tourist attraction, which is noted for the many varied glacial features and recognized by the State of Maine as the Ice Age Trail, would be visually and perhaps physically destroyed by the placement of towering windmills.

<https://iceagetrail.umaine.edu/>

This Ice Age Trail extends from Cadillac Mt. north to Aurora and easterly along the coast to Eastport extending to Calais. The geographic glacial trail is of State of Maine significance and possibly national significance. This area is of National and State of Maine significance.

2. The Epping East-West Baseline

<http://www.cherryfieldhistorical.com/.../150th-anniversary-o.../>

is a part of the historical geographic feature known as the Eastern Oblique Arc authorized by the US Congress in 1805 and finally chosen in 1853.

It was instrumental in mapping the east coast of the United States.

The Epping Baseline was used to triangulate from hill to hill using the latest survey equipment for that period.

Modern satellite survey technology proved the Epping baseline distance to be correct within a fraction of an inch.

Still remaining is a square granite base marking the east end of the 5.5 mile-long Surveying Baseline as well as the Epping Baseline Road.

The baseline road is a historical landmark and would possibly be infringed or destroyed by wind power construction. This roadway is of State of Maine and National Significance.

3. Pleasant River and Schoodic Brook

<https://www.mainelegislature.org/.../st.../38/title38sec467.html>

<https://www.epa.gov/.../.../2014-12/documents/mewqs-mrsa-467.pdf>

The Apex Downeast Wind towers will be located a short distance from bodies of water classified by the State of Maine Class AA for their quality of water, remote scenic beauty and as habitat of relict stains of wild Atlantic salmon which are listed as endangered species by the USFWS...and of national significance.

Schoodic Brook is a tributary to the class AA Narraguagus River which is also an Atlantic salmon river.

The 1983 "Pleasant River Management Plan" map of 1983 identifies areas of critical habitat for the endangered Atlantic salmon.

Pleasant River and Schoodic Brook (cont.) P3/5

The "Pleasant River Management Plan-Draft" of 1983 identifies the critical fauna and flora as well as the abundant wildlife in the Pleasant River corridor.

If built runoff from new roadways and tower pads could possibly contaminate the quality of these Class AA waterways.

The watersheds of Pleasant River and Schoodic Brook are of State of Maine and National significance.

4. The Great Heath

https://www.maine.gov/.../focusarea/great_heath_focus_area.pdf

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/reservesys/greatheath.htm>

<https://www.topozone.com/.../washington-.../swamp/great-heath-4/>

The Apex Wind Towers have the potential to impact the 7000 acres of significant peatland in the Town of Columbia.

Rare birds such as the Upland Sandpiper and the endangered anadromous Atlantic salmon can be found here.

Rare and extremely rare plants in this protected area include the Bog Bedstraw, Canada Mountain rice-grass and Jacobs Ladder which is found in two Maine town...both within the Great Heath!

Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities include: the Domed Bog, Dwarf Shrub Bog, Leatherleaf Bog, Maritime Huckleberry Bog, Northern White Cedar Swamp, Sedge-Heath Fern and Tall Grass Meadow.

The Great Heath is of State of Maine significance.

5. Schoodic Lake

<https://www.facebook.com/.../Schoodic-Lake-Washington-County.../>

The Apex Downeast Windfarm will impair the natural scenic beauty of many camp and property owners on and around Schoodic Lake.

These camp owners have concerns over sound, vibration, creep and flicker...no camp owner who is there on the lake for their rest and relaxation should have to contend with the rays of the sun being continuously chopped into moving shadows. This is hypnotic and nauseous possibility is not acceptable.

6. Birds and Bees

Also to be considered and competently studies by unbiased experts should be:

the honey bees both local and agricultural. The importance of honeybees cannot be overrated to the success of agriculture in Maine. Wind turbines may have an adverse effect and cause reduction in their populations.

<https://stopthesethings.com/tag/bees-wind-turbines/>

The Apex Downeast Wind project (no project/application number as of 1/15/20016) may also have adverse effects on the migration of the Woodcock a well respected game bird. Wind turbines may cause death or disruption to their migration routes

<https://www.woodcockmigration.org/migration.html>

7. The Unorganized Townships: TWP18MD, TWP24MD and TWP25MD Washington County

Windpower development will forever change the remote unspoiled beauty of this presently unspoiled land. New roads, huge windmills and disrupted landscapes will change the characteristics of this land us locals have lived for many years and wish to share with as many future generations as we can. To have huge companies move into this part of Maine and disrupt the lifestyle we have chosen is totally unacceptable. I urge you commissioners to consider well what you will be giving up for the money you receive.

Summary:

I would suggest that this entire Apex Downeast Wind project be rejected for the following reasons:

1. Disruption of The way of life for Schoodic Lake camp owners whose only desire is to relax and enjoy the experience their families have for many generations.
2. Disruption of Critical habitat
3. Disruption of Rare and extremely rare fauna and flora
4. Disruption of Maine's unspoiled scenic beauty
5. Disruption of Historic Landmarks and unspoiled remote regions of Maine.
6. Disruption of Historic Glacial formations
7. Disruption of the nationally protect endangered species of relict strains of wild Atlantic salmon...found only in Downeast Maine and of national significance.
8. Disruption of Remaining populations of honeybees
9. Disruption of Populations of local as well as migration birds

Washington County does not need the electricity, we do not need Apex's money and we do not need 22,000 acres this remote, historic and scenic part of Maine destroyed for the sake of sending electricity to Boston and New York City.

P5/5

Respectfully submitted by,
Charles W. Robbins MDOT, ret.
Columbia Falls, Maine 04623
207-483-4111 hm. ph:
207-598-0546 cell
68delta88@gmail.com

COLBY.EDU

Pineo Ridge Glacial Advance & Delta, Eastern Maine

RECEIVED

MAR 02 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

84 Eastern Promenade, #2
Portland, Maine 04101

27 February 2020

The Office of Governor Janet T. Mills
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

First, I would like to extend a belated congratulations to you on your election as Governor of the State of Maine. I am sure your job is very difficult and at times pulls you in a variety of directions. But I trust you are enjoying the challenge and are handling it well.

As background, I first came to Maine as a college freshman in 1966. I attended UMP at that time and later transferred to Orono where I graduated in 1970. Maine had a tremendous impact on me in those years. I married a true Mainer from Jonesport (I can never be a true Mainer as I was born in Massachusetts 😊) and proceeded to build a family and career in the state. If you are ever in Westbrook and want to see my little business creation, please visit LANCO Integrated, Inc. I can set that up for you if you wish (even though I have been retired for some years now).

But the real reason I am writing is to share some of my thoughts about windmills coming into the state. I know you campaigned on the development of renewable energy resources. As a graduate engineer I am all in favor of your focus. I believe it is critical that we reduce our dependency on fossil fuels for a variety of reasons. So, I applaud your effort here.

Like you, I have spent enough years in Maine to gain a deep appreciation of its beauty and what that provides to its citizens and tourists who visit. I have also traveled a great deal in my career throughout Europe and Asia and have even driven across country through the farmlands of Nebraska. It was there that I saw my first grouping of windmills upfront and personal, stretching throughout the farms along my route. I am sure they are creating electricity and providing some well-needed rent to the farmers. Where I am troubled, is picturing that sight along the mountains and lakes and streams of Maine.

I was saddened to learn that multiple windmills are being proposed to be built near pristine Schoodic lake in Washington County. That area represents Maine at its finest. It is truly unspoiled with beautiful ponds and streams, and rivers winding through the wild blueberry barrons. The Narraguagus river has its roots there – a place where Arthur Godfrey (remember him? 😊) used to find peace and solitude fly fishing along its banks. Many Downeaster families have built camps around the lake enjoying its natural beauty and quiet draw.

I am sure you are also aware that windmills provide only a marginal contribution, sometimes at great cost to the environment. Maine is already among the cleanest energy producing states in the nation (#3) with over 90% of its electricity generated from clean sources. Experts estimate that windmills will

at best generate a quarter of their nameplate capacities due to the intermittent and unpredictable nature of wind. It just seems to be too much cost for too little gain. In fact, I read that the entire Maine goal of generating 2,700 MW's of electricity could be attained by a single moderately sized generator at 85% less cost. These economic facts combined with the various health issues already being seen in Maine where windmills are located near populated areas (noise and shadow flicker being the primary causes) increase the risk of this technology to the state and to its people.

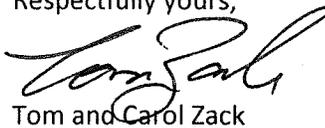
Governor, I am sure you have heard all of this. It is up to you and your staff to decide if it is worth the risk to Maine's land and to its people. That will be your legacy.

I know this is a very difficult balance for you because of the energy promise that you made during your campaign. But you know there are other ways to fight this battle with less environmental impact and perhaps with better returns. A good example is what New Jersey is doing with electric cars.

I therefore respectfully ask you to consider moving more slowly here, making sure that we do not create a view that Mainers will regret for generations to come. Like the decision years ago to place a waste treatment plant in downtown Biddeford, once this is done there is no turning back for a long time.

As such, I kindly ask you to reconsider the project for Washington County and to at least look for a more suitable location to use of this technology.

Respectfully yours,

 
Tom and Carol Zack

Cc: Gerald Reid, Commissioner of The Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Judy East, Commissioner of The Land Use Planning Commission

March 4, 2020

Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

RECEIVED
MAR 09 2020
LUPC - AUGUSTA

To Whom It May Concern,

As a camp owner on Schoodic Lake in Maine Township 18, I am extremely concerned with the plans of Apex Downeast Wind to install thirty (30) wind turbines on the blueberry barrens surrounding the Lake. My family has owned a camp on this lake for the past sixty years. The area is beautiful, serene, and full of wildlife. I have seen simulated pictures of the wind turbines once they are installed (see attached). I am appalled that these wind turbines will destroy the natural beauty of this area, impact the property values of camp owners, and most importantly, negatively impact the natural habitat that is abundant in the area. There are two eagle's nests on this lake, one very close to my camp. Current plans have one turbine very close to Horseshoe Pond which is a stone's throw from the lake. This turbine will definitely impact the eagle's flight paths and breeding grounds. Loons nest on the lake but travel to Horseshoe Pond and Pike Pond at night. As a child growing up on this lake, there were an abundance of bats. Over the years, we saw a great decline in bats. Fortunately, they are just starting to return to the area. Mayflies are just starting to return after a 6- year decline. They are protected by the State of Maine. I have included a letter written by Fred Hartman that was posted in the Machias Valley News Observer this week. His concerns reiterate the concerns voiced by camp owners on the lake and those dedicated to the preservation of The Great Heath and Epping Baseline on the Columbia side of the lake. Our concerns have fallen on deaf ears from the governing body of the town of Columbia and the Washington County Commissioners. People in the Columbia area have been given false information and told their taxes will increase if they don't agree to the project and the tax abatement requested by Apex. The Washington County Commissioners did not listen to camp owners and approved the TIF very quickly. They were asked to postpone the vote to gather more information but refused.

Although Apex has pushed information that downplays any noise related issues or health related risks as a result of wind turbines, everything I have read says otherwise. These wind turbines are expected to be 656' tall. The blueberry barrens have little vegetation to block the ugliness that will be seen from the lake on all sides. Health studies show strobe light effect can cause medical concerns such as headaches and seizures. The noise can cause sleeplessness and mood swings. The base of these wind turbines are significantly below ground level which produces infrasound that isn't heard but penetrates buildings and enters the body causing the body to go into defense mode. Wind turbines, like most structures, can catch fire. There is no fire station within 6 miles and the outcome would result in most of the camps on the lake burning to the ground. 7000 acres of peatland known as The Great Heath is home to the rare Upland Sandpiper, Bog Bedstraw, Canada Mountain Rice Grass and Jacobs Ladder. What will happen to all of this natural beauty?

This fall, we went through the LURC application process to move our camp further back from the water's edge. We were somewhat taken aback by the stringency of the LURC regulations governing this process. It was very costly for us and had multiple layers of approval. We understood the focus on protecting the

area and needed to complete this project so we began to work through the layers of approval. We are hoping to complete the process in the spring. We are also hoping that any application submitted for approval by Apex results in a thorough review of all aspects of the negative environmental impact that will result as well as impact on property owners. We hope the end result will be to move the wind turbines further from the lake and it's natural habitat as well as further from the Bog and Epping Baseline. Although there will be a negative impact wherever wind turbines are placed, there are hundreds of miles of blueberry barrens that have less impact than the current plan.

Please consider Jim and Linda Price as "interested parties" and we would like to receive material related to any application submitted by Apex (dba Downeast Wind) pertaining to plans to construct thirty (30) Wind Turbines located in Columbia and Township 18.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Price - James Price". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Linda and Jim Price
274 Hinckley Road
Canaan, Maine 04924



Sent from my iPhone

Schoodic Pond
simulation - facing the beach side
of the lake.

Price, Linda S

Subject:

FW:



Sent from my iPhone

Schoodic Pond
Simulation - opposite side of lake
from the beach.

Letters to the Editor

Wind turbines threaten Downeast wildlife

I scrutinized the Downeast Wind (DEW) website, especially the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of their proposed project in Columbia and adjacent unorganized townships. During more than 60 years in my natural resource/wildlife profession, I have participated (prepared and/or reviewed) many EIS's and Environmental Assessments (EA).

This EIS or EA (or whatever it is) appears to have been done by somebody who knew little about wildlife, their habitats, or this area. It is biologically insufficient, contains false statements, inadequate data, and was done in an extremely short time frame. This EIS was cute but missed its required purpose by a country mile.

A false statement that sticks out like a sore thumb is, "As of 2018, 55 bald eagle carcasses via 57,000 windmills in the USA." The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has documented (actual carcasses) of 2,200 bald eagles, 2,000 golden eagles and 34,000 carcasses of other birds. ABC notes that 300-500 eagles are killed each year. To my knowledge, no windmill company has been prosecuted for these killings. Then there is unknown the number of birds who are struck by windmills, fly away, and die off-site.

The Great Heath is part of a Maine

Ecological System. Windmills will compromise views from a scenic resource of state significance (a reserve). This development will have an unreasonable adverse effect on the scenic character of the Great Heath, surrounding areas, and people. This area is an important migration route for passerines and other birds; many of which have experienced major population declines. Whimbrels, upland sandpipers, bob-o-links, meadowlarks, kingbirds, nighthawks and others are significant birds using this area. Windmills must pose NO threat to bird movements and nesting.

The wildlife/bird surveys conducted by DEW were totally inadequate to properly assess the wildlife situation. The surveys should be done year-round for three years. They were done in a two to three month period- totally unscientific.

DEW speaks of mitigation of wildlife habitat for the birds. That is a cop-out. Mitigation is a false assumption. The mitigation areas are already there. Will DEW do habitat enhancement to make the site(s) more useful to wildlife? Also, they falsely speak of "... conservation easement will create net benefit for wildlife..." and that "... sites will benefit birds." How?? Please describe in detail. What damage will be done to Great

Heath and local bogs? Any rare plants? DEW probably did not look.

Perusing the 115 internet pages of the DEW project material for Columbia and adjacent unorganized townships plus newspaper items, it is quite apparent that they are on a propaganda campaign. There's an old saying - if you say the propaganda often enough people will think it's the truth. Plus, they wave big bucks (bribes) in front of everyone to make people think DEW is a 'good' guy.

Let us be honest. What does the average citizen in Washington County get from this boondoggle? Nothing! Generated electricity is sent out of state. Electric rates do not decrease. And our taxes go up. Let us hope that the powers to be and regulators see the foolishness in this fiasco. Where are the private and public conservation groups on this windmill thing? Or do they speak with forked tongues? Why in the world would Maine's Department Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) support this fiasco? Did they get money for habitat management on IF&W lands? IF&W is there to work for our wildlife.

Fred Hartman
Whiting

Machias Valley News Observer
Week of 2/24/2020

5 things to know about the Buffalo Diocese bankruptcy: What happens to CVA lawsuits, how it will affect parishes and more

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Another Voice: Lighthouse Wind Project is not clean, not wanted

By Another Voice

Published November 20, 2018 | Updated November 20, 2018

By James C. Hoffman

The Apex “forum” on the proposed Lighthouse Wind Project held last month at Lyndonville High School was a staged propaganda event. It was an effort to indoctrinate the public and suppress comment and reaction. It was the culmination of a monthlong barrage of mailings intended to convince a community overwhelmingly opposed to the project of the benefits of an industrial wind turbine complex.

The project is illegal per town laws in Somerset and Yates. These laws were carefully crafted to protect our citizens and the surrounding environment. Lighthouse Wind therefore cannot be approved for construction in the proposed form without the Article 10 siting board nullifying town law.

The 47 wind turbines, 591 feet tall, will dominate the landscape of Somerset and Yates. They will be visible for miles in the flat topography of the area.

It was apparent that Apex is in denial and completely tone-deaf over the numerous negative aspects surrounding Lighthouse Wind. Noise, shadow flicker, bird/bat kill, infrasound, degradation of property values and health issues were totally ignored. We were told how silent the proposed wind turbines will be. The countless complaints of excessive noise from those who live among the turbines in other active industrial wind turbine complexes were ignored.

It is noteworthy that the turbine model selected, the Vestas V150 4.2, produces a sound power level of 104.9dB(A). per manufacturers' specifications. This is equivalent to the noise generated by a chainsaw and is damaging to the human ear.

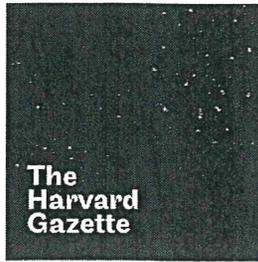
Apex's vice president of environmental compliance and permitting spoke and continued to ignore the existence of a letter addressed to him in May 2015 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife. This letter was a recap of a meeting he attended, warning of the severe effects Lighthouse Wind will have on bird and bat migration. Also recommended was a 3-mile setback of the industrial turbines from the Lake Ontario shore.

Our town laws contain these recommendations. Apex is ignoring them. With respect to bird kill, using the figures quoted of a national average three to five fatalities per megawatt per year, it can be expected that between 16,000 and 30,000 bird kills will occur over 30 years.

It is past time that Apex cease all activity related to Lighthouse Wind. The power is not needed, the power is not clean, and the project as proposed violates local law.

Residents realizing all the negatives associated with industrial wind turbines have overwhelmingly voted to keep them out of our community numerous times. We do not want to leave an unhealthy, polluted, distorted, noisy, bird carcass-littered landscape to future generations.

James C. Hoffman, who spent eight years as chairman of the Somerset Town Planning Board, is a member of Save Ontario Shores, an advocacy group.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The down side to wind power

Wind farms will cause more environmental impact than previously thought

Leah Burrows
SEAS Communications
October 4, 2018

When it comes to energy production, there's no such thing as a free lunch, unfortunately.

As the world begins its large-scale transition toward low-carbon energy sources, it is vital that the pros and cons of each type are well understood and the environmental impacts of renewable energy, small as they may be in comparison to coal and gas, are considered.

In two papers — published today in the journals Environmental Research Letters and Joule — Harvard University researchers find that the transition to wind or solar power in the U.S. would require five to 20 times more land than previously thought, and, if such large-scale wind farms were built, would warm average surface temperatures over the continental U.S. by 0.24 degrees Celsius.

“Wind beats coal by any environmental measure, but that doesn’t mean that its impacts are negligible,” said David Keith, the Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics at the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and senior author of the papers. “We must quickly transition away from fossil fuels to stop carbon emissions. In doing so, we must make choices between various low-carbon technologies, all of which have some social and environmental impacts.”

Keith is also professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

One of the first steps to understanding the environmental impact of renewable technologies is to understand how much land would be required to meet future U.S. energy demands. Even starting with today’s energy demands, the land area and associated power densities required have long been debated by energy experts.

In previous research, Keith and co-authors modeled the generating capacity of large-scale wind farms and concluded that real-world wind power generation had been overestimated because they neglected to accurately account for the interactions between turbines and the atmosphere.

"The direct climate impacts of wind power are instant, while the benefits of reduced emissions accumulate slowly."

– David Keith

In 2013 research, Keith described how each wind turbine creates a "wind shadow" behind it where air has been slowed down by the turbine's blades. Today's commercial-scale wind farms carefully space turbines to reduce the impact of these wind shadows, but given the expectation that wind farms will continue to expand as demand for wind-derived electricity increases, interactions and associated climatic impacts cannot be avoided.

What was missing from this previous research, however, were observations to support the modeling. Then, a few months ago, the U.S. Geological Survey released the locations of 57,636 wind turbines around the U.S. Using this data set, in combination with several other U.S. government databases, Keith and postdoctoral fellow Lee Miller were able to quantify the power density of 411 wind farms and 1,150 solar photovoltaic plants operating in the U.S. during 2016.

"For wind, we found that the average power density — meaning the rate of energy generation divided by the encompassing area of the wind plant — was up to 100 times lower than estimates by some leading energy experts," said Miller, who is the first author of both papers. "Most of these estimates failed to consider the turbine-atmosphere interaction. For an isolated wind turbine, interactions are not important at all, but once the wind farms are

more than five to 10 kilometers deep, these interactions have a major impact on the power density.”

The observation-based wind power densities are also much lower than important estimates from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

For solar energy, the average power density (measured in watts per meter squared) is 10 times higher than wind power, but also much lower than estimates by leading energy experts.

This research suggests that not only will wind farms require more land to hit the proposed renewable energy targets but also, at such a large scale, would become an active player in the climate system.

The next question, as explored in the journal *Joule*, was how such large-scale wind farms would impact the climate system.

“If your perspective is the next 10 years, wind power actually has – in some respects – more climate impact than coal or gas. If your perspective is the next thousand years, then wind power has enormously less climatic impact than coal or gas.”

– David Keith

To estimate the impacts of wind power, Keith and Miller established a baseline for the 2012–2014 U.S. climate using a standard weather-forecasting model. Then, they covered one-third of the continental U.S. with enough wind turbines to meet present-day U.S. electricity demand. The researchers found this scenario would warm the surface temperature of the continental U.S. by 0.24 degrees Celsius, with the largest changes occurring at night when surface temperatures increased by up to 1.5 degrees. This warming is the result of wind turbines actively mixing the atmosphere near the ground and aloft while simultaneously extracting from the atmosphere's motion.

This research supports more than 10 other studies that observed warming near operational U.S. wind farms. Miller and Keith compared their simulations to satellite-based observational studies in North Texas and found roughly consistent temperature increases.

Miller and Keith are quick to point out the unlikeliness of the U.S. generating as much wind power as they simulate in their scenario, but localized warming occurs in even smaller projections. The follow-on question is then to understand when the growing benefits of reducing emissions are roughly equal to the near-instantaneous impacts of wind power.

The Harvard researchers found that the warming effect of wind turbines in the continental U.S. was actually larger than the effect of reduced emissions for the first century of its operation. This is because the warming effect is predominantly local to the wind farm, while greenhouse gas concentrations must be reduced globally before the benefits are realized.

Miller and Keith repeated the calculation for solar power and found that its climate impacts were about 10 times smaller than wind's.

“The direct climate impacts of wind power are instant, while the benefits of reduced emissions accumulate slowly,” said Keith. “If your perspective is the next 10 years, wind power actually has — in some respects — more climate impact than coal or gas. If your perspective is the next thousand years, then wind power has enormously less climatic impact than coal or gas.

“The work should not be seen as a fundamental critique of wind power,” he said. “Some of wind's climate impacts will be beneficial — several global studies show that wind power cools polar regions. Rather, the work should be seen as a first step in getting more serious about assessing these impacts for all renewables. Our hope is that our study, combined with the recent direct observations, marks a turning point where wind power's climatic impacts begin to receive serious consideration in strategic decisions about decarbonizing the energy system.”

This research was funded by the Fund for Innovative Climate and Energy Research.

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

March 4, 2020

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

Maine Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Ln
Augusta ME 03333

Re: Permit Request Submitted by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be Located in and around Columbia and TS 18

As property owners and interested persons, we respectfully request material related to this application(s). Additionally we request to be notified by direct notice of public informational, pre-application and pre-submission meetings, and public hearings. It is our intent to submit information to be considered. We also request to receive the Commissioner's draft licensing decision at least five (5) working days prior to the final action and recognize that written comments may be submitted on that draft decision as well.

Thank you. This request is being made on behalf of the following impacted persons and separate notification is expected:

✓ Howard & Susan Mills
PO Box 26
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Jason & Monique Mills
1565 Indian River Rd
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Clark & Erin Mills
POB 85
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Christopher & Pam Smith
PO Box 356
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Tom & Carol Zack
84 Eastern Prom
Portland ME 04101

✓ Mark & Joanne Smith
474 Queen Anne Rd
Harwich MA 02645

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

March 4, 2020

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

Maine Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Ln
Augusta ME 03333

Re: Permit Request by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be Located in Columbia (DEP Permitting Jurisdiction) and TS 18, 19 and 24 (LUPC Permitting Jurisdiction)

I am a camp/land owner at Schoodic Lake. I am 67 years old and have been going to Schoodic my entire life. I am now retired and spend as much time at the lake as possible. I am shocked that a company can come in and negatively impact my quality of life to this extent and I don't even get a vote. This is an emotional subject but I would like to logically address the concerns that many of us have.

Moratorium & Resulting Study:

On January 24, 2018, then Governor Paul LePage signed executive order #2018-002 stating that no permits related to wind turbines be approved until a report was issued from the newly formed Maine Wind Energy Advisory Commission. This committee concluded that "fully researching various issues was beyond the capability of the commission given the available time and resources". They recommended additional research and investigation of many issues in order to fully evaluate the concerns. They made several recommendations at that time. The following are of particular interest:

Recommendation 3: Maine should consider whether caps on the total quantity, maximum density, or cumulative visual impact assessment standards for wind projects should be implemented. This review should consider whether such limits should apply uniformly, or be tailored to certain areas based on the specific characteristics or use of the area.

The Commission agreed that, while it could not define the level, there would likely be a level of wind development, or density level, that could be unacceptable for Maine. Therefore, it would be advisable to consider whether wind generation

development caps, density caps, or cumulative visual impact assessment standards should be adopted.

Recommendation 12: Maine should consider creating an expert scientific and medical panel to review the extensive literature on wind farm noise and health issues and issue a finding for publication.

All members of the Commission support Recommendation #12. However, there were some Commission members who felt this recommendation does not go far enough to address potential health effects of wind projects, while others felt such concerns have been adequately studied in other jurisdictions.

In addition to audible noise, issues were raised by the public and Commission members regarding other reported health concerns associated with wind projects. This is a controversial subject and significant differences of opinions exist between studies and among the Commission members as to the validity of health concerns from wind projects and the weight that should be placed on various studies related to such concerns. The Commission was in agreement that this is an area that should have further study in Maine, and that this Commission did not have the expertise to undertake this analysis.

Of particular concern to those who feel Recommendation #12 does not go far enough, is that the DEP's noise rules do not specifically address the risks associated with infrasound which is viewed by some as potentially the most damaging health and environmental sound, both on land and underwater. The DEP rules currently require only "A" weighted tests. In order to measure infrasound, "C" and "G" weighted tests would be required. These members believe that the DEP's rules should be amended to establish acceptable infrasound levels and to require "C" and "G" weighted tests. Those who felt the health issues have been adequately studied felt the report should contain additional information on such studies.

The majority of the Commission did not feel adequately informed on the details of the health effects of wind projects to offer an opinion beyond recommending further study of the matter. The Commission agreed, however, that the report should include both views.

Infrasound:

Please refer to the attached letter written to Maine Bureau of Health.

Every concern expressed in this letter has a common thread. There are still too many unanswered questions. APEX comes in and wants to spend a large sum of money, subsidized by tax payers, and that is paired with Governor Mills invitation to wind farm developers and goal for clean energy is a devastating combination for those of us negatively impacted by the turbines.

Maine Statute:

Title 17: Crimes; Chapter 91: Nuisances; Subchapter 3: Particular Nuisances states in part:

"The erection, continuance or use of any building or place for the exercise of a trade, employment or manufacture that, by noxious exhalations, offensive smells or other annoyances, becomes injurious and dangerous to the health, comfort or property of individuals or of the public..."

Title 17: Crimes; Chapter 91: Nuisances; Subchapter 1: General Provisions states in part:

"Any person injured in his comfort, property or the enjoyment of his estate by a common and public or a private nuisance may maintain against the offender a civil action for his damages, unless otherwise specially provided."

National Register of Historic Places:

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts worthy of preservation for their significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture. The National Register was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Part of the protection of these sites is view obstruction within eight miles. (<http://www.nps.gov>)

There are numerous properties and a large portion of downtown Cherryfield listed on the National Register of Historic Places that are within the 8-mile limit of the proposed turbine locations. They are listed below:

<u>Name on the Register</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>City or town</u>
Archibald-Adams House	State Route 193	Cherryfield
Bucknam House	Main St.	Columbia Falls
Samuel Bucknam House	Main St.	Columbia Falls
Gen. Alexander Campbell House	Campbell Hill	Cherryfield
David W. Campbell House	Main St.	Cherryfield
Frank Campbell House	U.S. Route 1	Cherryfield
Col. Samuel Campbell House	U.S. Route 1	Cherryfield
Cherryfield Academy	Main St.	Cherryfield
Cherryfield Historic District	roughly bounded by Church, Main, Park, New and High Sts., as well as River Rd. properties from U.S. Route 1 to Driscoll Island	Cherryfield
Columbia House	Main St. junction with Church Hill Circle	Columbia Falls
Columbia Union Church	Northern side of State	

	Route 29-608 (Epping Road), 0.05 miles east of its junction with State Route 29-610 (Cemetery Road) Epping	Columbia, Maine
Gallison Memorial Library	U.S. Route 1, 0.5 miles west of its junction with U.S. Route 1A	Harrington
Narraguagus Light Station	Eastern side of Pond Island	Milbridge
William M. Nash House	River Rd.	Cherryfield
Patten Building	Main St.	Cherryfield
Ruggles House	Main Street	Columbia Falls
Union Church, (former)	Main St., 0.1 miles northeast of its junction with Addison Rd.	Columbia Falls
Union Evangelical Church	Northern side of Addison Ridge Rd., 2 miles south of U.S. Route 1	Addison

The only property acknowledge by APEX is the Union Church. They explain there is no impact by taking a picture from one view point from the church behind a tree stating you won't be able to see the turbines from the church. The other locations are ignored.

The Epping East-West Baseline

This property is a part of the historical geographic feature known as the Eastern Oblique Arc authorized by the US Congress in 1805 and finally chosen in 1853. It was instrumental in mapping the east coast of the United States. The Epping Baseline was used to triangulate from hill to hill using the latest survey equipment for that period. Modern satellite survey technology proved the Epping baseline distance to be correct within a fraction of an inch. There is still a granite base marking the east end of the 5.5 mile long Surveying Baseline as well as the Epping Baseline Road. All other sites used in this mapping do not exist. They have either been destroyed or washed into the ocean. When asked about this area, APEX said they would have to dig it up but they would put it back. The baseline road is a historical landmark and a significant part of Maine and National history. (<https://iceagetrail.umaine.edu> and <http://www.cherryfieldhistorical.com/2007/07/150th-anniversary-of-the-epping-baseline/>)

Maine Ice Age Trail

A section of the APEX Downeast Wind complex will be located within an area recognized for its unique glacial features such as the Pineo Ridge Delta, a large glacial marine delta with meltwater stream channel. This local tourist attraction, which is noted for the many varied glacial features and recognized by the State of

Maine as The Ice Age Trail, would be visually and perhaps physically destroyed by the placement of towering windmills.

(<http://www.colby.edu/geology/PineoRidge.html>)

The Ice Age Trail extends from Cadillac Mountain north to Aurora and easterly along the coast to Eastport extending to Calais. The geographic glacial trail is of State of Maine significance and possible national significance.

(<http://iceagetrail.umaine.edu/>)

Eagles/Osprey:

Osprey have been seen in and around the Pleasant River Area. There are currently two eagles nests on Schoodic Lake. The proposed turbine location will be the required one mile from the closest. However, multiple turbines will still exist in their flight area. Eagles only fly as far as they need to in order to get food. Adults will stay in their area. Unfortunately, that is 1-6 square miles. (fws.gov) A 2013 study in The Wildlife Society Bulletin found that wind turbines killed an estimated 573,000 birds annually in the United States. That was seven years ago with fewer turbines. At the Altamont Wind Resource Area alone, more than 2,000 eagles have been killed. Eagles will be seriously impacted by wind turbines around water because fish is their main source of food. In the Great Lakes area Fish & Wildlife Services recommended no turbines be placed closer than three miles from the shoreline; the American Bird Conservancy recommended five miles, however, recent Fish and Wildlife Service studies indicated that the minimum should be extended to 10 miles from any Great Lakes shoreline. (eagles.org)

Canada Geese:

It's not just the turbine blades that pose a risk to birds; research indicates that wind developments can disrupt migration routes. What's more, foraging and nesting habitat can also be lost when turbines are erected.

Loons:

I have been an Audubon Loon counter for several decades. Schoodic Lake is home to several pairs of loons. They nest on Schoodic and they spend days there but at night they fly to neighboring Pike Brook Pond and Horseshoe Pond. There will be numerous wind turbines in their path if this project is allowed to proceed.

Bats:

Several years ago, a large percentage of the bat population at Schoodic died because of White Nose Syndrome. We have noticed an increase in the number of bats for the last two years. Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife lists three different species of bats as protected. The Little Brown Bat and the Northern Long Eared Bat are endangered and the Eastern Small Footed Bat is threatened.

APEX has indicated the turbines will be inactive during the bats more active time. Who will monitor that? They say they have studied the bats at Schoodic but they gave us no specifics about their patterns or their numbers. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of bats die at the blades of turbines in the United States each year. Bats and small birds do not need to hit or be hit by the turbines. Many more are killed by the drop in air pressure around turbines which can cause their lungs to rupture. It is also possible that bats misperceive turbines to be trees or even bodies of water. (earthier.gizmodo.com)

Upland Sandpiper:

The Upland Sandpiper is listed as threatened by Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This project has the potential to impact the 7,000 acre peatland in the Town of Columbia and TS 18 known as The Great Heath, home to the Upland Sandpiper. (<http://www.topozone.com/maine/washing-me/swamp/great-heath-4/>)

Bird Detecting Radar:

In 2010, David Newstead, a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service field biologist visited a wind farm in Texas. While he was there, a flock of 15 American White Pelicans caught his eye as they approached the nearby wind farm. As he watched, a pelican was swiped by a massive turbine blade and "literally" erased from the air. That wasn't surprising until he discovered that the farm was equipped with radar that could detect approaching birds and halt the blades. The radar had failed to do its job. (Audubon.org)

Mayflies:

Most mayflies can be seen at Schoodic Lake from mid-May to very early July. Mayflies are also listed by Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as threatened.

Atlantic Salmon:

How deep will the footings have to be to support these massive 656' tall turbines? What will that do to the stability of the area and the ground water quality from drainage? Schoodic sits in a bowl and as such any activity above will impact both the integrity of the hills around the lake and the watershed. Any contaminants used above will go into the ground water and eventually find their way to Schoodic Lake. Schoodic feeds into the Narraguagus River which is a breeding ground to the endangered Atlantic Salmon.

AA Water Classification:

The Pleasant River and Schoodic Brook are both classified by the State of Maine as AA for their quality of water, remote scenic beauty and as habitat of relict stains of wild Atlantic Salmon which are listed as endangered species by the USFWS. (<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/38/title38sec467.html>)

Great Heath:

The Great Heath mentioned before as home to the Upland Sandpiper is also home to endangered Atlantic Salmon. Rare and extremely rare plants in this protected area include the Bog Bedstraw, Canada Mountain rice-grass and Jacobs Ladder which is found in only two Maine towns, both within the Great Heath! (<http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/reservesys/greatheath.htm>)

Geological Dig Sites:

Although the sites are not publicized, I do know there are several around Schoodic and over the years many artifacts have been found in the area.

People Impact-View:

This is the simulation behind our camps and across the lake at Schoodic. Remember these are 656' high and as close as .8 of a mile from us. Why would anyone have a right to force this on us? At least let us vote on it!



behind camps-23 turbines (sample) across the lake-7 turbines (just a sample)

In addition to looking at them both in front and behind our camps, we will get glare and flicker including every corner of our camp. Shadows and light going across our furniture, our walls and our ceiling in a strobe light effect. How would you like that in a place where you have gone to relax?

Sound:

The sound you can hear will be the swoosh, swoosh, swoosh of the blades, the constant humming of the gear box and the screeching of the mechanics when the turbine reacts to the wind direction. That is sound that you can hear. The impacts of that have been addressed thoroughly in the attached letter to the Maine Bureau of Health. Please read carefully the concerns with infrasound, the sound you cannot hear. It is the most dangerous to our health and it has not been addressed at all by APEX. Again, too many unanswered questions. Here's one for you...would you want to expose your grandkids to potential health risks because those not impacted had the voting power and couldn't take just a couple more years to make sure we weren't making a mistake?

Health (covered in the attached letter) and Miscellaneous Risks:

What if a turbine catches fire? They are sometimes hit by lightning and there is also a gear box on each one that will build up grease and catch fire. Because of the layout of the camps around the northern shore at Schoodic, if one camp catches fire, they will all go.

What about falling ice and snow from the blades in the winter or early spring? Many campers go in for ice fishing or a day trip. Stay away from them may be a solution except there are 30 of them and they stretch for miles and miles and the blades spin 250 miles an hour. How close do you think I need to be to get hit by a chunk of ice that comes free and is given a 250 mile an hour push?

We have been told that the top of the turbines will be equipped with motion sensing lights. How well will those work when covered with ice and snow?

Turbine blades are made of fiberglass and contain toxic gas. What happens if they are damaged and that is released into the air? What happens when they are decommissioned and have to be cut up because of their size?

Animal Health:

Some animal/bird health has already been addressed but more and more is being discovered. There have been numerous whales wash up dead on the shore in the United Kingdom. They were all deaf and are now being studied to confirm a link between their deafness and the offshore wind farm in the area.

Construction:

There are multiple roads to get to Schoodic Lake but they are all dirt and anywhere from 6-8 miles long. APEX will need to widen the existing roads and also add new roads. We will be sharing the road with oversized equipment, driving near turbine assembly and subject to whatever blasting they decide to do. Vern Schaefer, Professor CCEE states that vibrations can cause damage or settlement of nearby structures. That may be a normal part of the construction of a wind farm, but it should not be allowed where there is such a negative impact.

Sustainability:

No wind farm analysis exists to date that can show a wind farm has gone beyond an immediate benefit and has become a net or self-sustaining benefit for a host community. The immediate benefit would be the payout to a few land owners and a small number of local people hired. Usually, and APEX has proven to be no exception, local jobs are promised but they use their own people in the end. Sales of food and gas increase in the area during construction but rarely more than that. Energy that is generated goes into the grid, not to the house beside the turbine or in this case, Maine.

Decommission:

That is another area where the state falls short on its requirements. Although it is mandated that monies be set aside at the beginning of a project for decommissioning, they are rarely enough. Additionally, APEX is only required to remove down to 2' underground. Unacceptable considering the footings of concrete and rebar go down in excess of 30'. There are currently abandoned wind turbines all over the world because they are huge and it is difficult to dispose of them. That means APEX can walk away, although they will have sold the farm by then because that is the history of their company. They do not spend the money set aside and abandon the project. No one will be able to afford to take any legal action at against them.

Please take the time needed to understand the ramifications of approving the Downeast Wind Farm. Visit us at Schoodic and see what we have and visualize the impact. You may not have agreed with Governor Lepage's decision to place a moratorium on permitting for wind farms, but you should recognize the smart, responsible action to take if you don't have all the answers is to take no action. Once this is done, there will be no turning back and people like me, my children and my grandchildren will be guinea pigs and suffer the consequences.

I thank you for your attention to this and your efforts to do the right thing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Mills
PO Box 26
Jonesport ME 04649

and

71 Sunrise Blvd
Schoodic Lake ME 04622

March 5, 2020

Maine Bureau of Health
Maine Center for Disease Control and Protection
286 Water St
State House Station 11
Augusta ME 04333-0011

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

RE: Permit Request by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be Located in Columbia (DEP Permitting Jurisdiction), TS 18, TS 19 and TS 24 (LUPC Permitting Jurisdiction)

I believe it is time we take a look at the push for wind turbine farms from a medical point of view. Following an invitation to all developers from Governor Janet Mills, it appears our zest for clean energy and our greed for the promised monies as a result, is driving something that at its best has many unanswered questions and at it worse is negatively impacting the health and wellbeing of Maine residents and will for generations to come.

Once these turbines are erected it is too late. Please step in now to make sure we have these questions answered before it is too late.

I am a third generation camp owner at Schoodic Lake in Township 18. APEX Clean Energy from Virginia proposes to erect 30 656' tall turbines in what they are calling the Downeast Wind Project.

Legislation currently measures the sound that is caused by the turbines using decibels/audible or dBAs. This is a decibel measurement system developed for the measurement of sounds that a person can hear. Any data being released by wind companies is based on dBA measurement. The acoustic spectrum consists of only three categories: infrasound, audible and ultrasound. DBA measures audible. That is the nuisance sound; the swoosh, swoosh, swoosh of the blades, the mechanical noise from the gear box and the screech when the blades adjust for the wind. That noise causes anxiety, mood swings, stress, lack of sleep and all problems associated with stress and lack of sleep such as: becoming increasingly distressed and irritable, unable to relax or concentrate, have difficulty thinking logically and make decisions, depression, disorders of the digestive system, increases in blood pressure, headaches, musculoskeletal disorders, poor performance, fatigue, memory difficulties, concentration problems, motor vehicle accidents, mood disorders, alcohol and other substance abuse, cardiovascular problems, respiratory problems, renal, gastrointestinal issues, obesity, impaired immune system function, and a high reported risk of mortality. The noise can go from a nuisance to actual health problems on people with inner ear problems, autism or epilepsy.

The fact that legislation only requires turbine noise to be measured by dBA is a clear indicator that there is much unknown. Numerous studies have been done regarding the impact of the sound waves not loud enough to be heard, but sadly enough they are not driving legislation. Money comes to town, towers go up and people impacted get sick, move out of their homes but don't have the money to take on the legal battle to change things. It needs to start at the permitting level.

Dr. Mariana Alves-Pereira has degrees in physics, biomedical engineering and a PhD in environmental science. She has studied infrasound since 1980 and is involved in some of my cited studies. She has published substantial information on the negative impact on the health of humans and animals from infrasound. Her studies have proven that the dBA measurement system is scientifically invalid for measuring sound that cannot be heard. Any sound below 20 hertz falls into the infrasound category on the acoustic spectrum. When dBA is used to measure infrasound, it falls 70 decibels short. That means a dBA reading on infrasound needs to have an additional 70 decibels added to every equation. For infrasound to be measured accurately, it needs to be measured using dBLinear. Information being used by wind energy companies is giving out wrong information. In the case of Downeast Wind, they barely touched on infrasound at only one of the four meetings I attended. When I questioned them about dBA vs dBLinear, they reverted back to the state requirement of dBA only.

DBA was developed to measure impact on worker's hearing. The early goal was to determine what audible sound was doing to worker's health. An early study determined that the use of ear protectors would protect hearing. Scientists were focusing on auditory only. At that time they developed the dBA matrix. Although worker's hearing was protected, they continued to complain about other symptoms. After several more studies, it was determined that infrasound (not heard) was causing health problems. DBA measured what was heard but dBLinear measured what you are actually exposed to. Scientist Stephen Cooper of Australia did extensive studies in this field.

When a Danish Mink Farm closed after the stillborn birth of minks and then the subsequent death of the remaining minks, a team of experts were able to study the actual inside of the building where the minks were housed. The wind farm had opened in 2013, the home was abandoned in 2015 and the mink farm itself closed in January of 2018. A study of the infrasound inside the barn with the turbines turning vs not turning using dBA showed no change in the infrasound present. The same study of the turbines using dBLinear showed a substantial difference in omission when the turbines were turning vs not turning, showing again that dBA is ineffective in measuring infrasound.

Infrasound was studied by the 1960 Space Program with subjects exposed suffering from respiratory problems almost immediately. Also in the 60s the Soviet Union did a study using dogs. The exposure was high and prolonged and after the dogs died, they discovered each dog had lung hemorrhages.

In the 1970s a study was done by Scientist Alexander Cohen. He gave protective ear equipment to a group of workers complaining from health issues. As the study progressed, their complaints did not get better, they increased. Further study determined infrasound to be the problem.

Infrasound is not unique to wind turbines. It has been around for years but because wind turbines have not, studies have not been applied to the infrasound emitted by a wind farm and legislation has not been updated so wind energy companies continue to tell the same stories of safety using the wrong measurement system.

In the late 70s, the French conducted a study on infrasound on hearing and non-hearing mice measuring their swimming performance. When both were exposed to audible sound, the

performance of only the hearing mice declined. When both were exposed to infrasound, the performance of both hearing and deaf mice declined.

In 1980 Dr. Castelo Branco studied a Portuguese Air Force Base. He studied the process of inspectors walking around aircraft and watched as one began to walk aimlessly. He was informed that behavior was very common on the base. He discovered that 10% of the workforce had been diagnosed with epilepsy in an area where 0.2% was the average. He also found other health issues and when a man died at a young age, requested to do an autopsy. Permission was denied but another worker agreed that an autopsy would be performed upon his death. He did some time later and the autopsy revealed the cause was a thickening of the pericardium or the heart wall. That began the study of the pericardium in living patients as they would undergo heart surgery and the findings were the same. That appearance of the pericardium would later be seen in patients that lived near wind turbines. Today an echocardiogram can reveal the condition prior to an incident.

In addition, a thickening of the blood vessel wall has been discovered in people living near turbines. Infrasound travels through ground, penetrates buildings and enters the body not through the ears but through yourself. It sends the body into defense mode. A very common documented reaction is for the body to build up collagen in the blood vessel walls causing a cardiac event. This reaction to infrasound appears different because there is no accompanying inflammation.

In 2000, the Russian Federation did legislative changes regarding the dBA vs the dBLinear measurement of sound.

Another study done by Scientist Robert Hooke showed the effects of infrasound on rats. Their tracheas are lined with cilia which consist of brush cells made of actin. The effect on the actin was to make it fuse to itself. This meant that a cross section of the trachea revealed no cilia present. Human hair cells in ears are also made up of actin. They are meant to wave back and forth as sound enters the ears. When they are exposed to infrasound, they fuse not only to themselves but also to the top of the ear canal. When they try to move as is their job, it can be quite painful. This has led scientists to believe there is a real reason why some people appear to have a hypersensitivity to noise. It is actually causing them pain because of the fusing of the actin.

A 10-year study was done on 140 men with no prior medical history. After limited exposure to infrasound the following was revealed. It is important to note that nothing was recorded unless at least 50% or more of the subjects suffered from the issue; 70 or more subjects: mood swings, indigestion and heartburn, repeated mouth and throat infections, bronchitis, chest pain, back pain, fatigue, fungal and viral skin infections, allergies, blood in urine, inflammation of stomach lining, psychiatric disturbances, headaches, hemorrhages of nasal and digestive mucosa, duodenal ulcers, spastic colitis, varicose veins and hemorrhoids, decreased vision, severe joint pain, severe muscular pain and neurological disturbances.

Portugal received a National Public Health Award for its study showing the connection between limb deformities and reproductive problems in animals and infrasound.

In 2004 a husband, pregnant wife and their child all were diagnosed with numerous health problems because of infrasound being emitted from a silo miles away from them designed to

accept grain from ships. That was another sign that people are impacted by infrasound not just from the workplace but from the environment.

In Australia a family beside a coal power plant built a wall to keep out the impact from infrasound. Infrasound is measured by the distance between the peaks of their frequency. For example, 20 hertz infrasound has a distance of almost 56 feet. A barrier would have to be 56' thick and because infrasound travels also through ground, would still not be effective. The family left their home.

In Portugal, a wind farm started in 2007 and put up several turbines. The residents sued the company. By 2013 when the Supreme Court made the company take down the turbines, they had already put up many more even closer to the residences. Those were not involved in the lawsuit and allowed to stand.

In Germany, 20 turbines were put close to a home but the family could not afford to move. They had two children which they sent to live elsewhere and they build a bedroom in the basement of their home; a bunker. Everyone in the home tested positive for health issues.

In Huron County Canada, there are turbines scattered all over the countryside and multiple homes. The homes are surrounded on all sides with wind turbines which means all homes are infrasound contaminated. There is sickness in each and every home.

In 2020, 500' tall wind turbines in Plymouth were declared a public health nuisance by the Plymouth Board of Health.

Maine Medical Association calls for regulatory changes for the wind energy industry in order to protect human health by avoiding among other things "unreasonable noise and shadow flicker effects". September 2009 www.windvigilance.com

Preliminary findings of a controlled study (Mars Hill, Maine) being conducted by Dr. Nissenbaum to investigate potential negative health effects concludes that adults living within 1100 meters on industrial wind turbines suffer high incidences of chronic sleep disturbances and headaches, among other somatic complaints, and high incidences of dysphoric psychiatric symptomatology, compared to a control group living 5000-6000 meters away. http://windvigilance.com/mars_hill.aspx

The Japanese government performed a 4-year health study with attention given to low frequency sound. www.asahi.com <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY201002280410.html>

In France, Court of Appeal of Rennes, December 2009 ordered wind turbines be stopped from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. due to the disturbance caused. <http://www.ouest-france.fr/actu/actu.ocale>

United Kingdom: "civil servants...suppressed warnings that wind turbines can generate noise damaging people's health for several square miles around." <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6954565.ece>

Additional reading:

Infrasound - National Toxicology Program

https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/htdocs/chem_background/exsumpdf/infrasound_508.pdf

REPORT LINKS WIND TURBINES TO HUMAN HEALTH PROBLEMS

<https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/report-links-wind-turbines-to-human-health-problems> •Infrasound

I could go on with many more examples of the ill health effects of wind turbines but this gives you a small sample. There is much research to be done. There are many studies and results. The wind energy companies choose to give the general public lip service on every aspect, downplaying any negative issue, any unknown. On Downeast Wind's website they state there is no negative medical impact from turbines. They cite no study, they quote no expert. Sadly, people swallow it hook, line and sinker because of the money involved. No wind turbine involved in any of these examples comes close to the 656' monsters that are requested for our area. This is just the beginning and the impacts are far-reaching and unknown. There are already too many turbines in the State of Maine given the lack of understanding of the ramifications to the health of Maine citizens.

Please, put yourself in my shoes. I am retired and just want to enjoy my camp. I have children and grandchildren who are at camp an extensive amount of time and they will be more severely impacted by this than I will be simply because of my age.

The blades of these turbines contain toxic gas and fiberglass. We don't know what that will do to air quality should there be a fire or a breach in the structure. We do know the blades will have to be cut into pieces when the turbines are decommissioned. What will that do to the air quality and the watershed feeding into our lake? Large wind farms need more land than originally thought and warm average surface temperatures by 0.24 degrees Celsius.

I am asking that you recognize there is too much at stake and too many unanswered questions because infrasound has been ignored by wind companies. Please make a recommendation to both LUPC and DEP that they deny the permits until further studies are done regarding the impacts of infrasound. We already have too many wind turbines in the State of Maine given the lack of knowledge on the impact. Too many Maine residents have already moved and/or been diagnosed with health issues. These proposed turbines are larger than any before erected in the United States. Think about it~30 of them 656' tall! Please HELP!

Thank you for your time and attention to this very serious threat.

Respectfully,

Susan Mills

11 M & M Aly

Jonesport ME 04649

& 71 Sunrise Blvd

Schoodic Lake ME 04622

(207) 598-5759

cc: Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Maine Land Use Planning Commission

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

March 10, 2020

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

Re: Permit Request by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be Located in Columbia (DEP Permitting Jurisdiction) and TS 18, 19 and 24 (LUPC Permitting Jurisdiction)

I am a camp owner at Schoodic Lake. I am very concerned about the negative impact on Schoodic and the surrounding area if this project is permitted to proceed. I write this letter because I have questions regarding Chapter 315, Assessing and Mitigating Impacts to Existing Scenic and Aesthetic Uses from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection permitting process.

This chapter describes the process for evaluating impacts to existing scenic and aesthetic uses resulting from activities in, on, over or adjacent to protected natural resources subject to the National Resources Protection Act, pursuant to 38 M.S.R.A. 480-D (1) and reads in part:

1. **Introduction:** In the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), 38 M.R.S.A. 480-A through Z, the Legislature has found and declared that Maine's rivers and streams, great ponds, fragile mountain areas, freshwater wetlands, significant wildlife habitat, coastal wetlands, and sand dune system are resources of state significance. Section 480-A states that these resources have great scenic beauty and unique characteristics, unsurpassed recreational, cultural, historical, and environmental value of present and future benefit to the citizens of the State and that uses are causing the rapid degradation and, in some cases, the destruction of these critical resources. The Legislature's recognition of the scenic beauty of these protected natural resources through statute distinguishes the visual quality of those resources and its value to the general population.

Applicants for permits under the NRPA are required to demonstrate that a proposed activity meets the standards of the NRPA that have been established by the Legislature. Standard 1 in Section 480-D of the NRPA requires an applicant to demonstrate that a proposed activity will not unreasonably interfere with existing scenic and aesthetic uses.

2. **Purpose:** This rule specifies State regulatory concerns, defines visual impacts, establishes a procedure for evaluating visual impacts generated from proposed activities, establishes when a visual assessment may be necessary, explains the components of a visual assessment when required, and describes avoidance, mitigation, and offset measures that may eliminate or reduce unreasonable adverse impacts to existing scenic and aesthetic uses.

3. **Applicability:** Permit by Rule unless the Department exercises its discretionary authority to require an individual permit as described in Chapter 305, Section 1 (D). In the review of an application for a permit, the Department must evaluate the potential for unreasonable adverse visual impacts resulting from a proposed activity located in, on, over, or adjacent to a protected natural resource.

4. **Scope of Review:** The potential impacts of a proposed activity will be determined by the Department considering the presence of a scenic resource listed in Section 10, the significance of the scenic resource, the existing character of the surrounding area, the expectations of the typical viewer, the extent and intransience of the activity, the project purpose, and the context of the proposed activity. Unreasonable adverse visual impacts are those that are expected to unreasonably interfere with the general public's visual enjoyment and appreciation of a scenic resource, or those that otherwise unreasonably impair the character or quality of such a place.

10. **Scenic Resources:** The following public natural resources and public lands are usually visited by the general public, in part with the purpose of enjoying their visual quality. Under this rule, the Department considers a scenic resource as the typical point from which an activity in, on, over, or adjacent to a protected natural resource is viewed. This list of scenic resources includes, but is not limited to, locations of national, State, or local scenic significance. A scenic resource visited by large numbers who come from across the county or state is generally considered to have national or statewide significance. A scenic resource visited primarily by people of local origin is generally of local significance. Unvisited places either have no designated significance or are "no trespass" places.

- A. National Natural Landmarks and other outstanding and cultural features (e.g., Orono Bog, Meddybemps Heath);
- B. State or National Wildlife Refuges, Sanctuaries, or Preserves and State Game Refuges (e.g., Rachel Carson Salt Pond Preserve in Bristol, Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve);
- C. A State or Federally designated trail (e.g., the Appalachian Trail);
- D. A property on or eligible for the inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (e.g., Fort Knox);
- E. National or State Parks (e.g., Acadia National Park);
- F. Public natural resources or public lands visited by the general public, in part for the use, observation, enjoyment and appreciation of natural or cultural visual qualities. (e.g., great ponds, the Atlantic Ocean).

In the 22,000 acre footprint of this project you will find the following:

- A. The 7,000 peatland known as the Great Heath, home to rare animals such as the Upland Sandpiper and rare plants that include Bog Bedstraw, Canada Mountain-rice grass and Jacobs Ladder.

C. Maine Ice Age Trail, the historical survey marker-East Base. It is the outer seaward edge of the ice-contact delta. The delta displays one of the best examples of an elevated shoreline in the United States.

D. The Epping Baseline. This 5.5 mile line, measured within a fraction of an inch between two precisely located horizontal markers, was established in 1853 by the U. S. Coast Survey. It served as the basis for establishing benchmarks for the mapping of the eastern seaboard. All other baselines used for this process have either been destroyed or washed into the sea. People from all over have toured this area.

In addition, the following properties are within the 8-mile limit of the proposed wind farm and currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

<u>Name on the Register</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>City or town</u>
Archibald-Adams House	State Route 193	Cherryfield
Bucknam House	Main St.	Columbia Falls
Samuel Bucknam House	Main St.	Columbia Falls
Gen. Alexander Campbell House	Campbell Hill	Cherryfield
David W. Campbell House	Main St.	Cherryfield
Frank Campbell House	U.S. Route 1	Cherryfield
Col. Samuel Campbell House	U.S. Route 1	Cherryfield
Cherryfield Academy	Main St.	Cherryfield
Cherryfield Historic District	roughly bounded by Church, Main, Park, New and High Sts., as well as River Rd.	
	properties from U.S. Route 1 to Driscoll Island	Cherryfield
Columbia House	Main St. junction with Church Hill Circle	Columbia Falls
Columbia Union Church	Northern side of State Route 29-608 (Epping Road), 0.05 miles east of its junction with State Route 29-610 (Cemetery Road)	
	Epping	Columbia, Maine
Gallison Memorial Library	U.S. Route 1, 0.5 miles west of its junction with U.S. Route 1A	Harrington
Narraguagus Light Station	Eastern side of Pond Island	Milbridge
William M. Nash House	River Rd.	Cherryfield
Patten Building	Main St.	Cherryfield
Ruggles House	Main Street	Columbia Falls
Union Church, (former)	Main St., 0.1 miles northeast of its junction with Addison Rd.	Columbia Falls
Union Evangelical Church	Northern side of Addison Ridge Rd., 2 miles south	

F. In addition to tours of the Base Line, Pleasant River is an attraction for those interested in kayaking, canoeing and fishing; Schoodic Lake attracts visitors who put their boat in for the day to enjoy fishing, birdwatching and floating on the lake enjoying the natural beauty; the surrounding barrens attract day trips of leaf peepers, people riding their ATVs for enjoyment and those hoping to spot a moose or a bear.

Finally, Chapter 315 uses the word "unreasonable" a lot. Does this seem reasonable to you?



This is a simulation of just three of the proposed 30 wind turbines, 7 across the lake, 23 behind us like these, with the closest one being .8 of a mile. These monsters are 656' tall and if erected will be the tallest wind turbines in existence in the United States. Even APEX admits they don't know much about them.

Please deny this permit until we know the ramifications of such a project. Please deny this permit based on your own standards for impacting existing scenic and aesthetic views.

Sincerely,

Howard B Mills, Jr.
PO Box 26
Jonesport ME 04649

and

71 Sunrise Blvd
Schoodic Lake ME 04622

cc: LUPC

RECEIVED
MAR 16 2020
LUPC - AUGUSTA

Jeffrey Fernald
47 Moore Farm Circle East
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in opposition to the Apex Downeast Wind Project that will place 30-40 wind turbines in Washington County in the town of Columbia, Township 18 and Township 24. My wife and I have been enjoying the pristine beauty of Schoodic Lake since 1963, first through my parents' camp and then by becoming camp owners at Schoodic Lake in the town of Columbia for the last 35 years. This has always been a place where families could go during the summer months and well into the fall to swim, boat, hunt and fish. However, the real drawing card of Schoodic Lake for us and many camp owners has been the serene surroundings and natural beauty that offered the peace and quiet we all desired at the end of a busy work week ... a place where we could take our children and participate in family recreational activities.

If the wind turbines are allowed to be put in or near the Schoodic Lake area, the physical landscape will be greatly altered, taking away from the beauty and natural environment that we all enjoy so much as camp owners.

Other issues and concerns we have are as follows:

- Upon decommissioning the turbines, blades are not biodegradable but must be hauled off to a land fill. How is this environmentally clean?
- The wind turbines are only good for about 25 years and, according to our understanding, only generate about 10 percent of this country's electrical power compared to other current sources of energy. That's a low return compared to the devaluing of the environmental landscape.
- The World Health Organization recognizes that wind turbines affect physical health of both humans and animals. Is there an absolute guarantee that there will not be noise or infrasonic related issues?
- People have invested a lot to upgrade their property sites and camps. The unsightly turbines will most assuredly take away from any future resale value of the camps and sites.
- If the wind turbines are put in place, it will create a lot of tension between Apex and many camp owners. Not the best environment for being "good" neighbors.

I am asking you to please consider the camp owners concerns and deny the permit for these unwanted wind turbines in the areas stated above. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Fernald

MAR 16 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

Cheryl Fernald
47 Moore Farm Circle East
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

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I am writing this letter in opposition to the Apex Downeast Wind Project that will place 30-40 wind turbines in Washington County in the town of Columbia, Township 18 and Township 24. My husband and I have been enjoying the pristine beauty of Schoodic Lake since 1963, first through my husband's parents' camp and then by becoming camp owners at Schoodic Lake in the town of Columbia for the last 35 years. This has always been a place where families could go during the summer months and well into the fall to swim, boat, hunt and fish. However, the real drawing card of Schoodic Lake for us and many camp owners has been the serene surroundings and natural beauty that offered the peace and quiet we all desired at the end of a busy work week ... a place where we could take our children and participate in family recreational activities.

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- People have invested a lot to upgrade their property sites and camps. The unsightly turbines will most assuredly take away from any future resale value of the camps and sites.
- If the wind turbines are put in place, it will create a lot of tension between Apex and many camp owners. Not the best environment for being "good" neighbors.

I am asking you to please consider the camp owners concerns and deny the permit for these unwanted wind turbines in the areas stated above. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Fernald

March 13th, 2020

Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

To whom it may concern,

I am a camp owner on Schoodic Lake in Maine - Township 18. I have major concerns with the plans Apex Downeast Wind has for installation of wind turbines here. I have seen the simulated pictures of the installed turbines and I am Deeply Saddened! I'm going to get right to the point. I am NOT against wind energy by any means. The placement of them is Horrific. We have a little lake - probably a mile across at the longest point. We are a huge family of Schoodic campers that have been going there for generations. My grandfather built my camp and now my grandchildren are enjoying it. I don't understand - Why on Earth - with all the miles of berrons - Why do we have to see the turbines from the lake ??? !!! miles and miles and miles of berrons - Can't we keep our one mile piece of heaven OURS ?? Where is the common sense of the planners? Common sense and common courtesy go a long way with Down Easters. I know you've heard all the environmental concerns because I've seen the letters. Please show us some respect and show us that you can use your intelligence to keep the turbines out of site - away from our lake.

Respectfully - Jane Keen

RECEIVED
MAR 16 2020
LUPC - AUGUSTA

March 10, 2020

Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Dear Members of LUPC:

I am writing this letter due to grave concern regarding the proposed erection of wind turbines in downeast Maine, specifically in township 18 near Schoodic Lake. The proposed turbines, if approved, will be the largest in the United States at 656 feet tall, the size of a small skyscraper! This area is a piece of heaven and exemplifies the natural beauty of the state of Maine and its finest recreational opportunities. The lake water is clear, loons are present along with turtles, fish and eagles, and the night sky is dark enough to see the Milky Way. The quality of lake life as experienced by hundreds of camp owners as well as the wildlife in the area would be adversely affected were these wind turbines to be constructed. Bird populations have already been found to be declining and these turbines would impact their migration route. Smaller creatures such as bats and bees who pollinate the blueberry plants in the area would be adversely affected. Additional ill effects would occur on the land and ecosystems. Specific areas of concern would be the effect on the Pleasant River nearby which has a viable self-sustaining Atlantic salmon population as well as an established brook trout fishery, and 7000 acres of peatland in this area known as the Great Heath. The alterations to the topography that lead to runoff effecting water quality and salmon habitat is alarming. Years ago the runoff was polluted by pesticides being used by the blueberry companies as well as lake water being taken for irrigation of the blueberry crop and these issues had to be addressed.

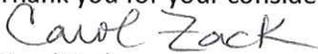
This project does not make economic or environmental sense because the costs and impacts of building wind turbines far outweigh the tiny benefits. The net result will not leave our state in a better place. Our landscape will be forever visibly changed and polluted, if you will, and our scenic beauty will be lost. There is no shortage of electricity in the state of Maine. Maine is already the third cleanest state for CO2 emissions from electricity production. Wind power is intermittent and unpredictable. Electricity produced from wind cannot replace the base load generators from nuclear, biomass, natural gas, or hydropower. This project is too costly with too little to gain. The wind turbine construction project would ruin the vistas of and from Maine mountains and would be environmentally devastating. Maine's 2709 MW goal could be achieved by the construction and operation of a SINGLE, moderately sized, high quality conventional generator, at 85% less cost! Wind-generated electricity will not guarantee lower electricity rates because it cannot compete with low natural gas prices. Demand for wind-generated electricity is created by government policy, not by demand. Without favoritism from government policies that force ratepayers to pay the bill, the wind industry could not survive. Wind plants create very few permanent jobs. The facts in this paragraph come from the article "Friends of Maine's Mountains: The Secret's Out" published 2/27/2020.

The negative ill effects of this proposed project in the town of Columbia and the adjacent unorganized townships far outweigh the benefits. Alarming headlines and news stories abound such as "14,000 Abandoned Wind Turbines Litter the US" (source: The Elephant's Child 7/7/2013) and "Wind Turbines in Plymouth, MA Declared a Public Health Nuisance" (source: CBSN Boston 2/14/2020). Let's learn from experience here, people! The noise and sound from the gearbox, the swoosh from the blades, and the strobe light effect caused by the shadow flicker all contribute to major sleep disturbance. As I stated

earlier one can only imagine the effect these factors would have on wildlife and their habitats. In California the Alameda County Community Development Agency points to 10,000 bird deaths from the Altamont wind turbines there; the Audubon Society refers to the turbines as "bird cuisinarts"!! The above mentioned 14,000 wind turbines are abandoned, rusting, and slowly decaying. When it is time to clean up after a failed idea, no green environmentalists are to be found. An alarming hazard associated with wind turbines is fire caused by lightning strikes or grease buildup in the gear box. There were eleven turbine fires last year in the U.S. with two occurring in the state of Maine. With the ill effects of global warming upon us, it is also alarming to note that if large scale wind farms were built, the average surface temperatures would warm over the continental US by 0.24 degrees C. (source: The Harvard Gazette 10/4/2018 Science and Technology). This is another downside to wind power! Lastly, the wear and tear on the eight-mile dirt road around Schoodic Lake from the construction work necessary to build these turbines will be substantial.

In summary, I am adamantly opposed to the proposed Apex wind farm in Columbia and adjacent townships especially the area of Schoodic Lake where my father built our family camp in 1960. This area has been enjoyed and treasured for decades and by generations of families. We are compromising the very definition of our state: Maine, the way life should be. The cost to our state does not outweigh the benefits. The wind generated energy will be sent out of state and our taxes and/or electric bills will increase to subsidize the cost of the wind turbines. Our property values in the region will decrease and what we will get is an eyesore that will alter the landscape and quality of life in Downeast Maine forever. Those who will benefit financially from this project are raping the local economy and environment, and do not live in this area. I urge you to consider your legacy to our state and consider other ways to bring in clean energy with less environmental and health impacts! The time to rein in this project and examine its ill effects is not after the wind turbines are built, but before!

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.



Carol Zack

84 Eastern Promenade, #2
Portland, ME 04101

And camp owner at
Schoodic Lake, ME 04622

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

P.O. Box 356
Jonesport, Maine
March 11, 2020

Maine Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, Maine 03333

Re: Permit Request by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be located in Columbia (DEP Permitting Jurisdiction) and TS 18,19 and 24 (LUPC Permitting Jurisdiction)

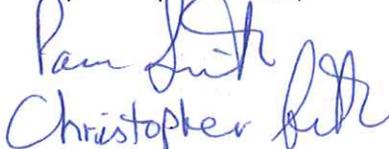
To Whom It May Concern:

We are camp owners at Schoodic Lake and we oppose the Downeast Wind Farm Project. We are requesting that this permit request be rejected for the following reasons:

- destruction of 22,000 acres of historic and scenic Maine
- impact on critical habitat
- impact rare and extremely rare fauna and flora
- historic landmarks protections
- 7,000 acres of peatland known as Great Heath
- nationally protected Atlantic salmon found only in Downeast Maine
- visual impact
- noise (both audible and infrasound)
- associated health problems
- eagles, loons, endangered bats, threatened Upland Sandpiper, threatened mayflies
- AA certified Pleasant River and Schoodic Brook
- geological dig sites
- migratory routes
- roads (widened and added), land (30 feet footings)
- watershed

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,


Christopher and Pam Smith

RECEIVED
MAR 16 2020
LUPC - AUGUSTA

March 11th , 2020

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

Maine Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Ln
Augusta ME 04333

Re: Permit Request Submitted by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be Located in and around Columbia and TS 18

To Whom It May Concern:

As property owners and interested persons, we respectfully request material related to this application(s). Additionally we request to be notified by direct notice of public informational, pre-application and pre-submission meetings, and public hearings. It is our intent to submit information to be considered. We also request to receive the Commissioner's draft licensing decision at least five (5) working days prior to the final action and recognize that written comments may be submitted on that draft decision as well.

Thank you. This request is being made on behalf of the following impacted persons and separate notification is expected:

↓ Tina & Louisa Beal
PO BOX 170
Beals, ME 04611

↓ Ashley & Jonathan Alley
333 Point Street
Addison, ME 04606

↓ Glenn & Diane Beal
PO BOX 170
Beals, ME 04611

↓ Thurman & Melanie Alley
PO BOX 139
Beals, ME 04611

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MAR 16 2020
LUPC - AUGUSTA

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

Maine Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Ln
Augusta ME 03333

Re: Permit Request by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be Located in Columbia (DEP Permitting Jurisdiction) and TS 18, 19 and 24 (LUPC Permitting Jurisdiction)

I am a camp owner at Schoodic Lake and I oppose the Downeast Wind Farm Project. I am requesting that this permit request be rejected for the following reasons:

- destruction of 22,000 acres of historic and scenic Maine
- impact on critical habitat
- impact rare and extremely rare fauna and flora
- historic landmarks protections
- 7,000 acres of peatland known as the Great Heath
- nationally protected Atlantic salmon found only in Downeast Maine
- visual impact
- noise (both audible and infrasound)
- associated health problems
- eagles, loons, endangered bats, threatened Upland Sandpiper, threatened mayflies,
- AA certified Pleasant River and Schoodic Brook
- geological dig sites
- migratory routes
- roads (widened and added), land (30 feet footings)
- watershed

Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Lock ✓ 3/11/20

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

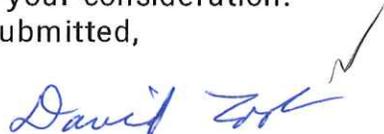
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Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully Submitted,

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Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully Submitted,

Jori J. Rolfe ✓

Stephanie Rolfe ✓

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Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully Submitted,

June A. Rolfe ✓
Harry C. Rolfe ✓

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

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LUPC - AUGUSTA

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,



Warren M. Orcutt Sr.
1163 Unionville Road ✓
Steuben ME 04680

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

RECEIVED
MAR 16 2020
LUPC - AUGUSTA

Maine Land Use Planning Commission ✓
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Ln
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Respectfully Submitted,



Warren M. Orcutt Jr.
1185 Unionville Road ✓
Steuben ME 04680

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

3/9/2020

RECEIVED
MAR 16 2020
LUPC - AUGUSTA

✓ Maine Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Ln
Augusta ME 04333

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Respectfully Submitted,



Warren M. Orcutt Jr.
1185 Unionville Road
Steuben ME 04680

March 10, 2020

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

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MAR 16 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

Re: Permit Request by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be Located in Columbia (DEP Permitting Jurisdiction) and TS 18, 19 and 24 (LUPC Permitting Jurisdiction)

I am a camp owner at Schoodic Lake. I am very concerned about the negative impact on Schoodic and the surrounding area if this project is permitted to proceed. I write this letter because I have questions regarding Chapter 315, Assessing and Mitigating Impacts to Existing Scenic and Aesthetic Uses from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection permitting process.

This chapter describes the process for evaluating impacts to existing scenic and aesthetic uses resulting from activities in, on, over or adjacent to protected natural resources subject to the National Resources Protection Act, pursuant to 38 M.S.R.A. 480-D (1) and reads in part:

1. Introduction: In the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), 38 M.R.S.A. 480-A through Z, the Legislature has found and declared that Maine's rivers and streams, great ponds, fragile mountain areas, freshwater wetlands, significant wildlife habitat, coastal wetlands, and sand dune system are resources of state significance. Section 480-A states that these resources have great scenic beauty and unique characteristics, unsurpassed recreational, cultural, historical, and environmental value of present and future benefit to the citizens of the State and that uses are causing the rapid degradation and, in some cases, the destruction of these critical resources. The Legislature's recognition of the scenic beauty of these protected natural resources through statute distinguishes the visual quality of those resources and its value to the general population.

Applicants for permits under the NRPA are required to demonstrate that a proposed activity meets the standards of the NRPA that have been established by the Legislature. Standard 1 in Section 480-D of the NRPA requires an applicant to demonstrate that a proposed activity will not unreasonably interfere with existing scenic and aesthetic uses.

2. Purpose: This rule specifies State regulatory concerns, defines visual impacts, establishes a procedure for evaluating visual impacts generated from proposed activities, establishes when a visual assessment may be necessary, explains the components of a visual assessment when required, and describes avoidance, mitigation, and offset measures that may eliminate or reduce unreasonable adverse impacts to existing scenic and aesthetic uses.

3. Applicability: Permit by Rule unless the Department exercises its discretionary authority to require an individual permit as described in Chapter 305, Section 1 (D). In the review of an application for a permit, the Department must evaluate the potential for unreasonable adverse visual impacts resulting from a proposed activity located in, on, over, or adjacent to a protected natural resource.

4. **Scope of Review:** The potential impacts of a proposed activity will be determined by the Department considering the presence of a scenic resource listed in Section 10, the significance of the scenic resource, the existing character of the surrounding area, the expectations of the typical viewer, the extent and intransience of the activity, the project purpose, and the context of the proposed activity. Unreasonable adverse visual impacts are those that are expected to unreasonably interfere with the general public's visual enjoyment and appreciation of a scenic resource, or those that otherwise unreasonably impair the character or quality of such a place.

10. **Scenic Resources:** The following public natural resources and public lands are usually visited by the general public, in part with the purpose of enjoying their visual quality. Under this rule, the Department considers a scenic resource as the typical point from which an activity in, on, over, or adjacent to a protected natural resource is viewed. This list of scenic resources includes, but is not limited to, locations of national, State, or local scenic significance. A scenic resource visited by large numbers who come from across the county or state is generally considered to have national or statewide significance. A scenic resource visited primarily by people of local origin is generally of local significance. Unvisited places either have no designated significance or are "no trespass" places.

- A. National Natural Landmarks and other outstanding and cultural features (e.g., Orono Bog, Meddybemps Heath);
- B. State or National Wildlife Refuges, Sanctuaries, or Preserves and State Game Refuges (e.g., Rachel Carson Salt Pond Preserve in Bristol, Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve);
- C. A State or Federally designated trail (e.g., the Appalachian Trail);
- D. A property on or eligible for the inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (e.g., Fort Knox);
- E. National or State Parks (e.g., Acadia National Park);
- F. Public natural resources or public lands visited by the general public, in part for the use, observation, enjoyment and appreciation of natural or cultural visual qualities. (e.g., great ponds, the Atlantic Ocean).

In the 22,000 acre footprint of this project you will find the following:

- A. The 7,000 acre peatland known as the Great Heath, home to rare animals such as the Upland Sandpiper and rare plants that include Bog Bedstraw, Canada Mountain-rice grass and Jacobs Ladder.
- C. Maine Ice Age Trail, the historical survey marker-East Base. It is the outer seaward edge of the ice-contact delta. The delta displays one of the best examples of an elevated shoreline in the United States.

D. The Epping Baseline. This 5.5 mile line, measured within a fraction of an inch between two precisely located horizontal markers, was established in 1853 by the U. S. Coast Survey. It served as the basis for establishing benchmarks for the mapping of the eastern seaboard. All other baselines used for this process have either been destroyed or washed into the sea. People from all over have toured this area.

In addition, the following properties are within the 8-mile limit of the proposed wind farm and currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

<u>Name on the Register</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>City or town</u>
Archibald-Adams House	State Route 193	Cherryfield
Bucknam House	Main St.	Columbia Falls
Samuel Bucknam House	Main St.	Columbia Falls
Gen. Alexander Campbell House	Campbell Hill	Cherryfield
David W. Campbell House	Main St.	Cherryfield
Frank Campbell House	U.S. Route 1	Cherryfield
Col. Samuel Campbell House	U.S. Route 1	Cherryfield
Cherryfield Academy	Main St.	Cherryfield
Cherryfield Historic District	roughly bounded by Church, Main, Park, New and High Sts., as well as River Rd. properties from US Rte 1 to Driscoll Island	Cherryfield
Columbia House	Main St. junction with Church Hill Circle	Columbia Falls
Columbia Union Church	Northern side of State Route 29-608 (Epping Road), 0.05 miles east of its junction with State Route 29-610 (Cemetery Road) Epping	Columbia
Garrison Memorial Library	U.S. Route 1, 0.5 miles west of its junction with U.S. Route 1A	Harrington
Narraguagus Light Station	Eastern side of Pond Island	Milbridge
William M. Nash House	River Rd.	Cherryfield
Patten Building	Main St.	Cherryfield
Ruggles House	Main Street	Columbia Falls
Union Church, (former)	Main St., 0.1 miles northeast of its junction with Addison Rd.	Columbia Falls
Union Evangelical Church	Northern side of Addison Ridge Rd., 2 miles south of U.S. Route 1	Addison

F. In addition to tours of the Base Line, Pleasant River is an attraction for those interested in kayaking, canoeing and fishing; Schoodic Lake attracts visitors who put their boat in for the day to enjoy fishing, birdwatching and floating on the lake enjoying

its natural beauty and peacefulness; the surrounding barrens attract day trips of leaf peepers, people riding their ATVs for enjoyment and those hoping to spot a moose, a deer, or a bear.

Finally, Chapter 315 uses the word "unreasonable" a lot. Does this seem reasonable to you?



This is a simulation of just three of the proposed 30 wind turbines, 7 across the lake, 23 behind us like these, with the closest one being .8 of a mile. These monsters are 656' tall and if erected will be the tallest wind turbines in existence in the United States. Even APEX admits they don't know much about them.

Please deny this permit until we know the ramifications of such a project. Please deny this permit based on your own standards for impacting existing scenic and aesthetic views.

Sincerely,

Velma L. Orcutt
PO Box 284
Cherryfield ME 04622

✓ and

133 Hardwood Ridge Road
T18 MD, ME
(Schoodic Lake)

cc: LUPC ✓

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MAR 16 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

Maine Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Ln
Augusta ME 03333

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

✓ Judith Smith
2156 Hemlock Rd
Eden NY 14059

✓ Diane Holubek-Beal
PO Box 170
Beals ME 04611

✓ Joan Door Carter
PO Box 242
Machias ME 04654

✓ Robert & Angela Alley
162 Ridge Rd
Addison ME 04606

✓ Thurman & Melanie Alley
PO Box 139
Beals ME 04611

✓ Todd Davis
40 Garden Terrace Rd
Columbia Falls ME 04623

✓ Abby Gibbs
101 Main St
Baileyville ME 04694

✓ Darlene & Danny Stubbs
427 Point St
Addison ME 04606

✓ Nancy & Walter Merritt
307 Indian River Rd
Addison ME 04606

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ✓ Russell Gilden
628 Methodist Rd
Westbrook ME 04092 | ✓ Katie & Russell Gillen
248 Main Rd S
Hampden ME 04444 | ✓ Michael & Lynn Drisko
189 Tibbetts Town Rd
Columbia Falls ME 04623 |
| ✓ Judy Farnsworth
Melinda Soule
1256 US Highway 1
Columbia Falls ME 04623 | ✓ Robert & Hazel Alley
PO Box 263
Beals ME 04611 | ✓ Tim & Sue Smith
69 Birch Circle
Sidney ME 04330 |
| ✓ Erick Blackwood
25 View St
Jonesport ME 04649 | ✓ Hannah Alley
162 Ridge Rd
Addison ME 04606 | ✓ Tiffany Pinkham Strout
12 Anderson Lane
Harrington ME 04643 |
| ✓ Judy Hanscom
7 Kilton Ln
Machias ME 04654 | ✓ Oscar & Patricia Beal
2064 Indian River Rd
Jonesport ME 04649 | ✓ Daniel & Nancy Sawyer
PO Box 334
Jonesport ME 04649 |
| ✓ Joni Alley
17 Andrea St
Lisbon ME 04250 | ✓ Shannyn Waldron-Hussey
132 Blue Spruce Farm Rd
Westbrook ME 04092 | ✓ Jeanna & Byron Carver
336 Main St
Jonesport ME 04649 |
| ✓ Juan Cajandig
PO Box 94
Jonesport ME 04649 | ✓ Justin Alley
PO Box 139
Beals ME 04611 | ✓ Stanley Beal
PO Box 97
Beals ME 04611 |
| ✓ Jason & Jenn Soule
170 Sandy Acres Lane
Sullivan ME 04664 | ✓ Andrew McLaughlin &
Kayla Pinkham
1221 US Hwy 1A
Harrington ME 04643 | ✓ Jonathan Alley
333 Point St
Addison ME 04606 |
| ✓ Cory Rolfe
222 N Main St
Milbridge ME 04658 | ✓ Amy Wallace Houck
838 US Rt 1
Steuben ME 04680 | ✓ Bert D & Mary Look
PO Box 465
Jonesport ME 04649 |
| ✓ Derrick & Starr Beal
PO Box 387
Jonesport ME 04649 | ✓ Ronie Strout
267 Ridge Rd
Addison ME 04606 | ✓ Joyce Jamison
59 Bellevier Ave
Bangor ME 04401 |
| ✓ Sidney & Brittany Look
PO Box 351
Jonesport ME 04649 | ✓ Melinda Woodward
PO Box 160
Beals ME 04611 | ✓ Ron & Lisa Carver
PO Box 171
Jonesport ME 04649 |
| ✓ Andrea Joyce
5 Look Lane
Columbia Falls ME 04623 | ✓ Vondell & Calvin Beal
Thomas Beal
PO Box 336
Jonesport ME 04649 | ✓ Jane Johnson
PO Box 103
Jonesport ME 04649 |

Clifford & Nina Johnson
PO Box 576
√ Jonesport ME 04649

√ Sonya Grant
67 Station Rd
Columbia ME 04623

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I am a visitor to the Schoodic Lake region and I oppose the Downeast Wind Farm Project. My family and I have been visiting Schoodic Lake for many years to enjoy the pristine waters, scenic view and peace and quite. We also use the surrounding area for fishing, trail riding and animal watching. I am requesting that this permit request be rejected for the following reasons:

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Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully Submitted,

✓ Jeff & Lindsey Alley
PO Box 46
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Kristin Alley
40 Masons Bay Rd
Addison ME 04606

✓ Karma Alley
1190 Indian River Rd
Addison ME 04606

✓ Nikki Carver
40 Garden Terrace Rd
Columbia Falls ME 04623

✓ David & Michelle McLaughlin
10 Cater Rd
Harrington ME 04643

✓ April Wallace Schultz
310 Paradise Point Way
Forked River NJ 08731

✓ Marie Johnson
Po Box 342
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Jean Groder
64 Peaslee Rd
Hancock ME 04640

✓ Andrew Davis
54 Forrest Hills Rd
Harrington ME 04643

✓ Bruce Ristow
20 Benson Ln
Trenton NJ 08610

✓ Amber Morse
56 Tennan Ln
Cherryfield ME 04622

✓ Jim & Jennie Davis
54 Forrest Hills Rd
Harrington ME 04643

✓ Kevin Beal & Donna Mitchell
104 Hardwood Point
Harrington ME 04643

✓ Dean Faulkingham
69 W Main St
Jonesport ME 04649

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MAR 16 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

✓ P.O. Box 356
Jonesport, Maine
March 11, 2020

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22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, Maine 03333

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,



Zachary R. Smith
Sara D. Smith

March 4, 2020

MAR 16 2020

LUPC - AUGUSTA

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

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2156 Hemlock Rd
Eden NY 14059

✓ Diane Holubek-Beal
PO Box 170
Beals ME 04611

✓ Joan Door Carter
PO Box 242
Machias ME 04654

✓ Robert & Angela Alley
162 Ridge Rd
Addison ME 04606

✓ Thurman & Melanie Alley
PO Box 139
Beals ME 04611

✓ Todd Davis
40 Garden Terrace Rd
Columbia Falls ME 04623

✓ Abby Gibbs
101 Main St
Baileyville ME 04694

✓ Darlene & Danny Stubbs
427 Point St
Addison ME 04606

✓ Nancy & Walter Merritt
307 Indian River Rd
Addison ME 04606

✓ Russell Gilden
628 Methodist Rd
Westbrook ME 04092

✓ Katie & Russell Gillen
248 Main Rd S
Hampden ME 04444

✓ Michael & Lynn Drisko
189 Tibbetts Town Rd
Columbia Falls ME 04623

✓ Judy Farnsworth
Melinda Soule
1256 US Highway 1
Columbia Falls ME 04623

Robert & Hazel Alley
PO Box 263
Beals ME 04611

Tim & Sue Smith
69 Birch Circle
Sidney ME 04330

✓ Erick Blackwood
25 View St
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Hannah Alley
162 Ridge Rd
Addison ME 04606

✓ Tiffany Pinkham Strout
12 Anderson Lane
Harrington ME 04643

✓ Judy Hanscom
7 Kilton Ln
Machias ME 04654

✓ Oscar & Patricia Beal
2064 Indian River Rd
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Daniel & Nancy Sawyer
PO Box 334
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Joni Alley
17 Andrea St
Lisbon ME 04250

✓ Shannyn Waldron-Hussey
132 Blue Spruce Farm Rd
Westbrook ME 04092

✓ Jeanna & Byron Carver
336 Main St
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Juan Cajandig
PO Box 94
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Justin Alley
PO Box 139
Beals ME 04611

✓ Stanley Beal
PO Box 97
Beals ME 04611

✓ Jason & Jenn Soule
170 Sandy Acres Lane
Sullivan ME 04664

✓ Andrew McLaughlin &
Kayla Pinkham
1221 US Hwy 1A
Harrington ME 04643

✓ Jonathan Alley
333 Point St
Addison ME 04606

✓ Cory Rolfe
222 N Main St
Milbridge ME 04658

✓ Amy Wallace Houck
838 US Rt 1
Steuben ME 04680

✓ Bert D & Mary Look
PO Box 465
Jonesport ME 04649

Derrick & Starr Beal
PO Box 387
Jonesport ME 04649

Ronie Strout
267 Ridge Rd
Addison ME 04606

✓ Joyce Jamison
59 Bellevier Ave
Bangor ME 04401

✓ Sidney & Brittany Look
PO Box 351
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Melinda Woodward
PO Box 160
Beals ME 04611

✓ Ron & Lisa Carver
PO Box 171
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Andrea Joyce
5 Look Lane
Columbia Falls ME 04623

✓ Vondell & Calvin Beal
Thomas Beal
PO Box 336
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Jane Johnson
PO Box 103
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Clifford & Nina Johnson
PO Box 576
Jonesport ME 04649

✓ Sonya Grant
67 Station Rd
Columbia ME 04623

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March 12, 2020

Land Use Regulation Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, Maine 04333

To Whom It May Concern,

As a camp owner on Schoodic Lake in Maine Township 18, I am extremely concerned with the plans of Apex Downeast Wind to install thirty (30) wind turbines on the blueberry barrens surrounding the Lake. My family has owned a camp on this lake for the past sixty years. The area is beautiful, serene, and full of wildlife. I have seen simulated pictures of the wind turbines once they are installed. I am appalled that these wind turbines will destroy the natural beauty of this area, impact the property values of camp owners, and most importantly, negatively impact the natural habitat that is abundant in the area. There are two eagle's nests on this lake, one very close to my camp. Current plans have one turbine very close to Horseshoe Pond which is a stone's throw from the lake. This turbine will definitely impact the eagle's flight paths and breeding grounds. Loons nest on the lake but travel to Horseshoe Pond and Pike Pond at night. As a child growing up on this lake, there were an abundance of bats. Over the years, we saw a great decline in bats. Fortunately, they are just starting to return to the area. Mayflies are just starting to return after a 6- year decline. They are protected by the State of Maine. I read a letter written by Fred Hartman that was posted in the Machias Valley News Observer this week. His concerns reiterate the concerns voiced by camp owners on the lake and those dedicated to the preservation of The Great Health and Epping Baseline on the Columbia side of the lake. Our concerns have fallen on deaf ears from the governing body of the town of Columbia and the Washington County Commissioners. People in the Columbia area have been given false information and told their taxes will increase if they don't agree to the project and the tax abatement requested by Apex. The Washington County Commissioners did not listen to camp owners and approved the TIF very quickly. They were asked to postpone the vote to gather more information but refused. Since I come to Maine only in the summer, I was not privy to local news and APEX did not send me correspondence of any kind to make me aware of their plans.

Although Apex has pushed information that downplays any noise related issues or health related risks as a result of wind turbines, everything we have read says otherwise. These wind turbines are expected to be 656' tall. The blueberry barrens have little vegetation to block the ugliness that will be seen from the lake on all sides. Health studies show strobe light effect can cause medical concerns such as headaches and seizures. The noise can cause sleeplessness and mood swings. The base of these wind turbines are significantly below ground level which produces infrasound that isn't heard but penetrates buildings and enters the body causing the body to go into defense mode. Wind turbines, like most structures, can catch fire. There is no fire station within 6 miles and the outcome would result in most of the camps on the lake burning to the ground. 7000 acres of peatland known as The Great Heath is home to the rare Upland Sandpiper, Bog Bedstraw, Canada Mountain Rice Grass and Jacobs Ladder. What will happen to all of this natural beauty?

There were eleven (11) wind turbine fires last year, two in Maine. The camp owners have always been extremely cautious about fires because we understand that if one camp catches fire, most camps will follow suit.

We are hoping that any application submitted for approval by Apex to DEP and LURC results in a thorough review of all aspects of the negative environmental impact that will result as well as impact on property owners. If this project moves forward, we sincerely hope the end result will be to move the wind turbines further from the lake and it's natural habitat in Township 18 as well as further from the Bog and Epping Baseline on the Columbia side of the lake. Although there will be a negative impact wherever wind turbines are placed, there are hundreds of miles of blueberry barrens that have less impact than the current plan.

Respectfully,



Carol and Robert Craft ✓
3018 Peterborough St.
Holiday, Fl. 34690

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cc
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

Maine Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Ln
Augusta ME 03333

Re: Permit Request by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be Located in Columbia (DEP Permitting Jurisdiction) and TS 18, 19 and 24 (LUPC Permitting Jurisdiction)

To the Members of the Commission,

We have an interest in a cottage on Schoodic Lake and have spent MANY MANY years there – as children, young parents, and now as senior citizens. We are lifelong residents of this area, downeast Maine.

Please STOP, take some time to research areas where states and countries were pushed into projects like this and see what the results were. Please try to make sure the research is complete and accurately completed by scientific experts who do not have a stake in a financial gain. Please make sure to assess the real effect these huge structures have on the carbon footprint. The homework has not been done.

We are against the Downeast Wind Power Project for many reasons. There will be a huge effect upon the Barrens when something is changed that cannot be reversed. Consider the land – fields, brooks, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Consider the inhabitants - the plants, fish, animals, insects, birds and people who will be affected by the construction of 630? Or is it 800+ foot wind turbines? Do we know IF and how the ecology of the area can adapt to this change? Do we know IF the project will wipe things out? Will there be bees willing to pollinate berries? Or will they leave the area? Will there be insects for fish and birds to eat? Or will they leave? Will there be vegetation for deer, bear and occasional moose? Or will they leave the area? Will small trout run in the brooks? Or Will they die out for lack of insects to eat? DO WE KNOW?

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT THE EFFECTS WILL BE? WILL THEY BE TOO COSTLY? WILL WE FIND OUT TOO LATE THAT WE HAVE MADE A MISTAKE?

Consider the effects on The Baseline Road which in our opinion could almost be considered a national monument in the sense that it was historically used as a bench mark to set boundaries for many properties in the downeast area by the US Geodetic survey for triangulation and mapping of the North Atlantic. We are not looking at a "dirt road", we are looking at a 5.4 mile straight road that is one of seven that was used in 1857 to map the entire region. It has also been a huge attraction to visitors in the summer and fall seasons, where people have come to view the extraordinary nature and surrounding area connected to this historical asset. This project would eliminate the pristine nature of

the Baseline Road and our Barrens.

The "Barrens" is a phenomenon, in and of itself, yes, now mostly owned by the large blueberry owners, but appreciated by those of us who traverse them and enjoy them, and work hard to purchase a camp on a lot for the opportunity to have a "get away" in Maine. Consider the people. Many families have owned their "camps" for 3 generations now with no anticipation of the changes that could occur with a wind project of this magnitude.

Who would be negatively affected the most by this project?:

- Is it the young child who has camped, swam and fished on the lake and in the upper ponds and brooks?
- Is it the preteen who had a first job raking berries in the heat of August?
- Is it the young adult who worked on the Barrens each spring on the burn, in the summer during bee time, moving pipes during irrigation time, and reaping the harvest?
- Is it the elderly couple that is not satisfied unless they get a chance to ride on their beloved Barrens one more time?
- Is it those who hike to Pike Brook, or swim in Horseshoe Pond, or take a canoe trip down the Pleasant River, or tent under the stars, or watch the Northern Lights in all their glory

ALL OF THE ABOVE AND MORE WILL BE AFFECTED – IN WAYS WE MIGHT NOT EVEN KNOW ABOUT YET. THE DOWNEAST WIND PROJECT WILL CHANGE IT ALL FOREVER.

Once the decision has been made. Life as we know it in this area will never be the same. We feel that this project tampers with a way of life that is too special to lose. We feel that this project should not be approved for our downeast community.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME,



Jim and Colleen Haskell, Addison, Maine

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Dr
Augusta ME 04333-0017

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Maine Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Ln
Augusta ME 03333

Re: Permit Request by APEX (dba Downeast Wind) for 30 Wind Turbines to be Located in Columbia (DEP Permitting Jurisdiction) and TS 18, 19 and 24 (LUPC Permitting Jurisdiction)

Good afternoon,

My name is Sharon McKay and my husband Rob and I own two camps on Schoodic Lake in Township 18, Washington County, Maine. I am writing to request that you deny the above permit for a number of reasons:

- 1) The destruction of tens of thousands of historic and scenic Maine that will take place during the construction of the project,
- 2) The harmful effect on the watershed in the area, not just our beautiful pristine lake, but of Schoodic Brook and the nearby rivers, streams and other ponds and lakes.
- 3) The above area is home to rare and unique flora and fauna, including the historic Great Heath. The historic baseline would certainly be impacted by the widening of roads – these windmills would be the largest in the United States. The only other place in the world that has these structures is in another country.
- 4) We have loons and eagles that routinely fly in migratory routes, not to mention the endangered bat population which has just recently made a bit of a comeback. It's an absolutely critical habitat for these species.
- 5) There is a plethora of information about the negative impact from the noise these giant windmills make on human beings as well as animals.

6) And perhaps most importantly, this big company with a very questionable past has been somewhat surreptitious in the way they've handled the public side of this. We literally had no idea this was going on until recently. Schoodic Lake in Washington County and the adjoining region has been a place of solitude and enjoyment for generations of families and their friends. We are a very close-knit community. In my opinion, I think this company just came in and thought they would erect these monstrosities without any pushback from what they deemed to be an unsophisticated and uneducated group of people from Downeast Maine.

In closing, I would very much implore you to reject this permit for the reasons stated above and for so many more. This is our way of life here and for this company to come in and do this at Maine people's expense is just deplorable.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you so much in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon and Rob McKay
21 Fairways
Bangor, Maine 04401
944-6052

Sharon McKay 3/24/2020
Rob McKay 3/24/2020

Larry Balchen
PO Box 211, Jonesboro, ME 04648
lbalchen@mgemaine.com

Ben Godsoe
Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

To the Chairman and members of the commission,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed wind tower array planned for Columbia and adjoining townships by Apex Clean Energy (dba; Downeast Wind) of Charlottesville, Virginia.

First, let me state that I'm not anti-wind power or anti-green energy. In fact, I care deeply about the environment and fully realize the importance of changing our energy habits. But I also care about downeast Maine, both as a place and a community. My objection to this project isn't to the technology that is involved, but rather its location in this area.

Washington and Eastern Hancock Counties, or as we call it "downeast", comprises the last 100 miles or so of relatively undeveloped land and shoreline, and is the only dark sky area on the entire eastern seaboard of the United States. After this, there is no more.

REGIONAL IMPACT

The proposed Apex project with its centralized location will completely change the face of this entire region. Combined with their site elevations, the wind towers will rival the thousand foot tall US Navy Cutler radio towers in height, outnumber them, be significantly more visible, occupy a much larger area, and be in constant motion as opposed to the static radio towers. The relatively flat topography of the downeast region means that a feature on the land does not have to be very tall to be seen from a great distance. As an example, the lights of the wind tower arrays in the Aurora/Osborne area are already visible at night from Rt 1 in Jonesboro. Among many other places distant from the proposed tower sites, the array will be visible from numerous points along the recently established "Bold Coast Scenic Byway". They will be sited along the Ice Age Trail, and the historic "Baseline" in the blueberry barrens of Columbia. They will surround and tower over the Great Heath, a recognized Natural Feature and Public Reserved land, also in Columbia. The entire array will be plainly visible from Rt. 1 in Jonesboro, as well as many prominent high elevations in neighboring Hancock County.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

We live in a totally unique area, and we have a one time only opportunity to preserve the natural beauty of the area while revitalizing our economy and turning around decades of population loss and economic decline. As information infrastructure

improves, it becomes increasingly possible to work from remote locations. In fact, people are already starting to arrive here using that model, all the more so in light of the recent pandemic. Real estate sales and construction are booming. These people are drawn here by one thing and one thing only, the quality of rural life. To this demographic, that quality is defined by two things, community and the natural environment. Remove either of these components, and they will look elsewhere. We cannot afford that. We must attract younger people to the region if it is to survive. The downeast region has recently been proposed as a "National Heritage Area", which isn't likely to happen if we turn it into a rural version of northern New Jersey. Once in place, there's no going back, the effect is permanent and irrevocable.

Further, we must keep in mind that tourism is the largest segment by far of the Maine economy. Mt. Desert Island is full to capacity every summer, the loop road at Schoodic Head has had to be closed due to traffic the past two 4th of Julys, reservations are needed for Baxter State Park, etc. It only stands to reason that with our many natural attractions we're next in line to benefit from this sector of the economy, but we never will if the very reason people come here no longer exists.

Clearly, the proposed project will generate some tax revenue for the town of Columbia and the county, while providing a handful of long term jobs. Unfortunately, the benefits of this revenue will likely be greatly offset by the damage it will do as a whole in the long term to an already fragile

local economy. Already the blueberry industry is in decline, and the rapid warming of the Gulf of Maine is putting the lobster fishery in peril. What is left to us after that other than our scenery? Ours has always been a natural resource based economy, now our most marketable resource is the beauty of the area. We must protect that resource, or our very existence here is in peril.

THE FUTURE

Downeast needs a vision and a plan for the future, one based on people, community, and business. The preservation of our environment and way of life are linchpins in that equation. The presence of large scale industrial power generation facilities and attendant infrastructure is not well suited to this vision, in fact, quite the opposite.

Let's make sure the "downeast" we hand down to future generations is not only as nice a place as we've had the privilege of living in, but a better one.

Respectfully yours,

Larry Balchen

DATE: April 23, 2021

TO:

Ben Godsoe
Land Use Planning Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

FROM:

Fred Hartman
P O Box 105
Whiting, Maine 04691
207-733-0988

SUBJECT:

Downeast Wind Project in Columbia, T18 MDBPP, and T24MDBPP Washington County

I am unalterably opposed to this windmill project. Local residents are quite unhappy with this proposed windmill fiasco and will gain nothing from it. Windmill generated electricity will be sent out of state. Electric rates will not be reduced (an economic forecast suggest that rates may increase). Daily, citizens will have to look at these monstrosities. Windmill companies bribe governments, agencies, groups, and individuals to let this stupidity happen. Downeast Wind people do not live here, but, they want to tell us what to do and destroy what we have. The beauty and pristine values of our land, the concerns of citizens, and the safety of wildlife, especially birds, is more important. If this dumb project happens, then Downeast Wind should be prosecuted for ALL birds killed by the wind mills. Noise pollution will be constant. Local folks will have a constant buzzing from windmills in their heads.

Because of these wind mills, bird deaths will increase and alteration of their flight patterns can make them more vulnerable to death. Some birds at peril in this are (and already with decreasing populations) include upland sandpipers, bob-o-links, meadowlarks, kingbirds, whip-poor-wills.

I scrutinized the Downeast Wind (DEW) website, especially the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of their proposed project in Columbia and adjacent

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unorganized townships. During my 65 years in natural resource/wildlife profession, I have participated (prepared or reviewed) many EIS's and Environmental Assessments (EA). Upon reading this one, I chuckled and wondered who they were trying to bamboozle. This EIS is biologically insufficient, has false statements, inadequate data, and was done in an extremely short time frame. This EIS missed its mark by a country mile and appears to have been done by somebody who knows little about wildlife, their habitats, or this area.

A false statement from this EIS: "As of 2018, 55 bald eagle carcasses via 57,000 windmills in U. S." The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has documented – actual carcasses – 2200 bald eagles, 2000 golden eagles, and 340,000 carcasses of other birds. ABC notes that 300 – 500 eagles are killed every year. The numbers of birds struck by wind mills and die off-site is unknown.

The Great Heath is part of a Maine Ecological System. Windmills will compromise views from a scenic resource of state significance (a reserve). This development will have an unreasonable adverse effect on the scenic character of the Great Heath, surrounding areas, and people. This area is an important migration route for passerines and other birds; many of which have experienced major population declines. Whimbrels, upland sandpipers, bob-o-links, meadowlarks, kingbirds, nighthawks and others are significant birds using this area. Windmills must pose NO threat to bird movements and nesting. The DEW EIS has not demonstrated a zero threat to these bird situations. The wildlife/bird surveys conducted by DEW were totally inadequate to properly assess the wildlife/bird situation. The surveys must be done year round for 3 years. They were done in a 2 – 3 month period – totally unscientific.

DEW speaks of mitigation of wildlife habitat for the birds. That is a cop-out. Mitigation is a false assumption. The mitigation areas are already there. Will DEW do habitat enhancement to make the sites more useful to wildlife? Also, they falsely speak of "...conservation easement will create net benefit for wildlife..." and that "...sites will benefit birds." How? They did not describe in detail. What damage will be done to the Great Heath and local bogs? Any rare plants? DEW probably did not look.

Perusing the internet pages of this DEW project for Columbia and adjacent unorganized townships plus newspaper items, it is quite apparent that they are on a propaganda campaign with no substance. There's an old saying – if you say the same lie often enough, people will think it's the truth. Plus, they wave big bucks (bribes) in front of everyone to make people think DEW is a 'good' guy.

Let us be honest. What does the average citizen in Washington County get from this boondoggle? Nothing! Generated electricity is sent out of state. Electric rates do not decrease, but may increase. And our taxes go up. Recent material in newspapers indicate that counties may not get the amounts of money promised by wind mill companies, but less. Where are the public and private conservation groups on this windmill thing? Or do they speak with forked tongues?

If you have questions or comments about what I have written, please contact me.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Hartman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Fred Hartman