

Email received 3/23/15 as Public Comment for the 3/24/15 Public Hearing on Renewable Energy Siting

From: Gail Osherenko [mailto:gail.osherenko@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 1:07 AM

To: Katie Pickens

Cc: Linda Martin

Subject: Renewable energy siting

Dear Natural Resources and Energy Committees,

I am writing in regard to your public hearing on energy siting this Tuesday. I cannot be there, but I want to weigh in.

I am perturbed that Vermont has taken a renewables-at-any-cost stance that is resulting in truncated review of legitimate and serious environmental and human safety concerns.

Our Vermont home and property is in Wolcott where we have a clear view of the ridgetop wind farms of Lowell and Sheffield.

Last summer, my husband and I decided to hike as many of the peaks and trails of the NE Kingdom as we could. Wonderful hikes but many gave us views of how the giant wind machines now dominate the landscape. This wouldn't be so bad if they delivered reliable and efficient energy to Vermont, but often the windmills were not running. The efficiency of industrial wind farms on NE ridgetops is nowhere near the efficiency of a windfarm on a midwest open field. And the fact that they are told to shut down even when we have a real shortage of energy during summer heatwaves because the grid can't handle them raises more questions.

The whole process of reviewing these industrial facilities that mar our mountain ridges is truncated, unfair to citizens who suffer from health consequences of being located nearby, and unfair to the towns that get no benefits from them and don't have a voice but do have environmental, visual and other negative effects.

The process of reviewing these needs to be revamped.

At the same time, we cannot get the benefits of putting solar photovoltaic panels on our property because Hardwick Electric says they have met their immediate goal (4% solar?) and won't hook in more systems to the grid. How senseless is that in a town that has extremely high utility rates and longer term goals to meet.

We pay very high taxes but live with these non-sensical decisions about choices for renewable energy siting. Please Listen to the concerns of VCE and others as you consider renewable energy siting. Vermont can certainly do better.

Thank you.

Gail

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