

We understand that this hearing is primarily to address the process of solar-installation siting, and we ask committee members also to consider siting of wind turbines. We believe that there must be substantive community engagement *before* a developer is allowed to approach the Public Service Board for an initial Certificate of Public Good for the installation of wind-measuring towers.

Our experience:

**The Town of Windham is remarkably inappropriate for a large-scale wind development**, as shown by a comparative analysis of Windham ( <http://tinyurl.com/ov8xz4y> ) and the Vermont wind-installation sites at Lowell and Sheffield. Of particular note are the enormous differences in density of neighboring population, size of the adjacent road/culvert network, and number of nearby riparian areas, just to name three variables.

**The developer received an initial CPG for wind measurement in Windham without being required to engage the community regarding siting specifics.** To put the matter simply: *the developer wants to know if there is an adequate wind resource; the community wants to know what a wind installation would mean for our community.* That the developer was not required to answer the community's question *first* has generated opposition and divisiveness, the negative effects of which will be felt for years, regardless of whether turbines are installed here.

Our recommendation:

**At the outset of a wind developer's interest in a site, the community must be engaged and informed.** Factors to include are: proximity to population centers, roads/culverts, and streams and riparian areas; soil type, slope and aspect; and consequences to surrounding towns, especially those downstream.

**Community engagement on siting specifics can be done quickly and cheaply.** The study available at the above link was performed by community members with relative speed and for no money. The developer should be required to consider variables important to the community and to discuss these variables at the very outset of any proposed wind or solar project, *before the PSB process is begun.* To facilitate informed and calm discussion, there must be small discussion groups of people from adjacent and surrounding towns.

We would like to make ourselves available for service, should an advisory committee be formed.