

Testimony of Robbin Clark, Lowell

January 13, 2016

To: Vermont Senate Health and Welfare Committee

I am here on behalf of the Lowell Mountains Group and as a neighbor to Green Mountain Power's Kingdom Community Wind Project. Many of the neighbors have experienced health issues including and not limited to headaches, sleep deprivation, inner ear problems such as tinnitus, dizziness, irritability and the list goes on. Many do not want to speak out or go on record for fear that they will not be able to sell their homes. Several are elderly and just don't want to participate. Many are at the point as why bother; as nothing has come from any of the complaints that have been filed so far. We hit road block after road block and have to continue to jump through hoops to get a complaints filed. For example LMG had complaint cards distributed to the neighbors so that they could mail them into Department of Public Service to document problems with noise. From my understanding these complaints were just forwarded to GMP and never made it to the Vermont Health Department. Later on while participating in Docket #8167 we were told that Vermont Department of Health would only take complaints from our physicians. I most recently participated in a sleep study and asked the physician if some of my problems could be related to living close the wind project and shrugged his shoulders and kind of laughed at my question. It is very difficult to get physicians involved and to put ourselves in a position to be victimized again.

KCW did have documented violations back in Jan. and Feb. 2013, a show cause hearing was held 6 months after the violations and it was determined that they did occur. The PSB ordered that there be a Continuous Noise Monitoring in place for one year. It has taken more than a year to get this plan in place. DPS hired a company that has worked for the wind industry. The equipment was put in place on the former Nelson property in April 2015. The monitoring was supposed to begin in June 2015 and to this day no results have been filed; it has been almost three years since the violation took place. I continue to contact DPS and seem to get the same reply; they are working on it; and now we are six months through our ordered year of the Continuous Noise Monitoring with no results.

GMP knows that there are problems with noise; that is one reason they purchased two neighboring homes; one pre-construction and the Nelson farm post construction. I had spent a lot of time on the Nelson farm with Don and Shirley and the noise on their property was horrific; a very strong pulsating wave like pressure. I don't know how they managed to survive as long as they did. I know that selling their property to GMP and living within the constraints of a gag order was an excruciatingly painful decision for the both of them. So I encourage you to read [Shirley's noise diary](#)¹ to learn more about what they had to endure.

During the technical hearing while I was on the stand I asked chairman Volz what will happen if we find that we can't live in our homes after the project is built. His answer was simplified; you can come back to the PSB with your problem. But what he did not explain is that you have to have proof backed by technical experts (which costs thousands) in order for the PSB to take action. Why is the burden of proof put onto the neighbors? One would think that the burden of proof should be the developer's responsibility.

Everything that LMG asked for has been denied. Our experts testified during the Technical hearing that the 45dBA was too high; we asked for a lower dBA; denied. We wanted Continuous Noise Monitoring in place with real time data with an action plan in place to resolve noise violations at the time of the violation; denied. We also requested that there be a two mile set back; denied.

We ask you to please support Senator Rogers ban on industrial wind at least until mistakes made on the current projects are rectified. We ask that Continuous Noise Monitoring be in place on all projects which includes real time data with an action plan in place to correct and respond to complaints at the time of the violation. We also ask that there be a buy out fund for those neighbors that need to relocate to protect their health and the health of their children.

¹ <http://vce.org/ShirleyNelsonNoiseDiaries2013-2014.pdf>

Thank you for giving us this forum as it was very much needed. Please do not send us back to the PSB, DPS or VDH. They have all been tossing us around like a hot potato. We need to be able to sleep at night. We need you to take action. We are asking you for help; we need a hero.

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