

TAB 14

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

**Petition of BNE Energy Inc. for a
Declaratory Ruling for the Location,
Construction and Operation of a 3.2 MW
Wind Renewable Generating Project on
New Haven Road in Prospect, Connecticut**

Docket/Petition No. 980

February 15, 2011

Prefiled Testimony of Annie Hart Cool

1. Please state your name and address for the record.

My name is Annie Hart Cool. I reside at 250 Firetower Road, Falmouth, MA. I am 52 years old.

2. What is your occupation?

I am a self-employed Realtor. I have worked in Real Estate in Cape Cod and the Falmouth area for the past 14 years.

3. How long have you lived at your current residence?

Since April 1st 1995 (16 years).

4. Why did you move to Falmouth?

Taxes were low. We were looking for a large parcel with room to expand a house. We were looking for privacy.

5. Do you live close to a wind turbine? If so, how close is to your home?

Yes. I live 1629 ft (496 meters) from Falmouth's wind turbine #1, called "Wind1" in our community.

6. How tall is Wind1?

Wind1 is a Vestas82 standing 398 ft (121m) tall (tip height) with a rotor diameter 269 feet (82m).

7. Did you initially support Wind1?

I did not really know it was happening. I did not pay much attention to it. When I saw it go up I thought it was interesting with an artistic look to it. I thought it was a good idea for renewable energy. But once it started that perception changed.

8. What was your property like before Wind1?

It was quiet with privacy. Difficult to find. No lights or sounds from neighbors. A few vehicles a day use the road (maybe 6). Night birds and animals all you hear During the day some noise from distant highway. Serene. Our property was serene.

9. Please state all of the adverse health effects that you have experienced and continue to experience.

Sleep deprivation mostly. I have been unable to sleep some nights because of the noise from the turbine. I have become an avid late night tv watcher. I have been given sleep medicine which I do not take because I find that I wake up feeling hung over. I have been prescribed ear plugs which are awkward and uncomfortable. I have moved where I sleep in the house but that does not help. I have taken to grinding my teeth which I didn't even know I was doing but woke up with sore gums and have been prescribed a night guard to use when sleeping.

Lack of sleep has a few side effects for me. Lethargy makes my day less successful. I am more cranky and quick to be sharp with family and friends. I am more likely to not work out, eat properly and get things done. Over time these effects led to a "depression" of sorts. As a result, I am easily angered and frustrated. I also suffer from headaches and anxiety.

10. Do you take any medication to treat these health problems? If so, did it help?

No. I resent that, because of an imposed wind turbine, I am expected to take medication the rest of my life and shut up about the issues associated with the turbine. I think it is

completely irresponsible to consider taking a pill as a reasonable request for a neighborhood to “get over” the effects of an imposed structure.

11. How long have you been a Realtor?

Approximately 14 years.

12. Have you considered selling your home because of Wind1?

Absolutely. We originally planned to stay here for another 5 to 8 years so that I could continue my business. It has been such a nightmare that we now plan to try to sell our home within 18 months.

13. Is your job as a Real Estate Agent stressful? If so, how do you deal with that stress?

Yes. I think any commission driven employment is stressful in this economy. I would walk the dogs, read on the deck and garden.

14. How has that changed since Wind1?

Since Wind1, there is no reading on the deck without being annoyed. I pack the dogs in the car and take them away from the turbine to walk and because of the need to pack them up and drive we can be short on time so it is not a great walk. The garden is lost to me now.

15. Please describe the pressure emanating from Wind1.

The best way to describe it from my vantage point is ... think of yourself on Main street America and some cocky teenager with his window up in his new car has his radio on so loud that you as a pedestrian on the street can feel the bass of his radio as his car passes you on the street ... you feel the vibration as he passes... and you make a silent prayer that he is not ruining his ears for life. This is the sound that never drives away... this is the vibration that even our kids can feel thru the granite counter tops on windy days. This is vibration that made our chandelier fall from the ceiling... this annoying, loud, consistent, rotating vibration never drives away.

16. Have the vibrations impacted your life?

Yes. A contractor friend who witnessed the chandelier told me to watch for water leaks in the basement because the turbine has such a deep foundation that the water table could have been effected and the vibration from the turbine could ultimately shake our foundation ... We have just started to get water in the basement. Could be gutter issues... but after 16 years we never had water until now.

17. Do you have any concerns about the value of your property as a result of its location next to Wind1? If so, please explain.

There is no doubt that an industrial turbine will be considered a detriment to the sale of a property. Studies show that the market adjusts 20 – 40% when a neighborhood is impacted by a turbine. Turbines in residential neighborhoods is relatively new. The wind industry smartly put turbines in areas where the coyotes and desert creatures were impacted up to a few years ago. Now this stigma on neighborhoods is just coming about. As an industry, Realtors have to be on guard to disclose that a turbine is within 2 miles of the property.

My own experience is that it gets in the way of focusing on the real estate. People want to talk about it more than they want to talk about houses. I know it will impact real estate when some of the neighbors inevitably decide to sell their homes but can't.

20. Have you done any independent research regarding turbines? If so, what have you reviewed?

Yes. I have spoken to many Realtors throughout this country as well as in Canada. In addition, I have reviewed the following videos on the internet:

- <http://mountainridgeprotectionact.com/life-under-an-industrial-wind-plant-video/>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNxvkrGoPLo>
- [http://www.windaction.org/videos/11817Welcome to Mars Hill](http://www.windaction.org/videos/11817Welcome%20to%20Mars%20Hill)

- <http://www.wind-watch.org/video-tughill.php>
- <http://www.wind-watch.org/video-meyersdale.php>
- <http://www.wind-watch.org/video-fenner-wethersfield.php>

21. Please identify any interactions that you have had with local and state authorities concerning Wind1.

I have gone to the State house on several occasions and acted with a larger group to protest the siting of turbines any closer to properties than 1.24 miles. I have written letters to the editor and attended many town meetings on the subject.

22. Based on your experience living near Wind1 and the research that you have done, do you have any conclusions about siting of wind turbines near residential communities that you would like to share with the members of the Connecticut Siting Council?

The prevailing view in Europe, where they have had a lot of experience with wind turbines is that 1.24 miles to 2 miles is acceptable for proximity to human beings. They have been using wind power longer than us and have a tried and true formula because they have experienced these issues and worked around them.

Why aren't we learning from this experience? The idea that a wind turbine inappropriately placed can impact not only our health and well being, but also steal our property investment from us, feels like rape. We thought investing in this house made so much sense and now we will be lucky to sell for the value of our debt? That just is unfair. Happy go lucky people turned into angry resentful and bitter sleepless people. Tragedy in my book.

You still have the chance to learn from our experience. I am testifying in this matter to deliver this message: Please don't repeat the mistakes made in Falmouth and subject the residents of Prospect to the fate that we have suffered.

