

**TAB 17**

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 Patricia Geary**

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

My name is Patricia Geary. I reside at 31 Lee Road in Prospect, Connecticut.

**2. What is your occupation?**

I am a teacher at Long River Middle School and have been employed by Region 16 for the past 24 years. In addition, I have been elected to serve on the Prospect Town Council for 13 consecutive terms (26 years).

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

For the past 40 years I have lived at this address, have raised my children here, and now have seven grandchildren, five of whom live here in Prospect.

**4. When did you first become aware of the details of BNE's proposed wind project in Prospect?**

I consider myself to be well-educated and well-read, and I keep up with what's happening, particularly in the Town of Prospect, by being involved in the local government, attending meetings in town, and by reading local newspapers. I have to say that I was blindsided by BNE's Wind Prospect project. Even as a town council member, it wasn't until October of 2010 that I became aware of the details of the proposal. I did not know that two 492 foot wind turbines were proposed for construction and operation in Prospect, or that they would be within

2,500 feet (less than half a mile) of my home. I did not know that we, the elected officials of Prospect, or the general citizenry, had no say in the approval of this project. I did not know that there were no standards or regulations for specifically siting wind turbines in our town, or that the state had no standards for turbines of this size.

**8. What have you done since October 2010 to learn more about wind turbines?**

Since October I have made it my priority to educate myself concerning wind turbines. In addition to research, I experienced firsthand the sounds of a turbine in Falmouth, Massachusetts, which is smaller by 100 feet than the turbines proposed for Prospect. I found the constant whirring and whooshing noise of the turbines to be very annoying. I spoke with Falmouth residents at length about the impact of the turbine's close proximity to their homes. Even though the Town of Falmouth is the recipient of the revenues from the electricity generated by the project, none of the residents present that day felt positively about this turbine being in their neighborhood.

**9. As a member of the town council, were you required to review BNE's proposal?**

No. But in December 2010, I was named a member of a subcommittee of the Prospect Town Council charged with formulating an official opinion and response to the BNE project and wind projects in general. All nine members of the town council signed a resolution that stated as a result of our concern for the health, safety, and quality of life for our citizens, the town council called for our legislators to initiate a moratorium on wind projects of this magnitude until there were at least some minimum standards established. A copy of the Prospect town council's resolution is attached hereto.

**10. Do you have any concerns with the proposal in Prospect. If so, please state your concerns.**

Having spent most of my adult life in Prospect, I have come to expect a certain quality of life here. I am now very concerned that this quality of life will be changed forever if the turbines go up. I have always been able to spend peaceful hours outdoors in my yard or on my porch with family and friends. I am fearful these times are over. As it is for most people, my home is my largest investment. After living here for forty years, I am also worried that the value of my home will be negatively affected by this project. A commercial project of this type and size should not be built in anyone's back yard. As an elected official, and as a citizen of Prospect, I am against this commercial project being built in any residential zone.