

TAB 19

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 14, 2011

Prefiled Testimony of Sue Hobart

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

My name is Sue Hobart. I reside at 476 Blacksmith Shop Road, East Falmouth, Massachusetts 02536.

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

I have lived here for approximately 8 years.

3. Why did you move to East Falmouth?

My husband and I invested in a 6 acre parcel about 8 years ago. We built a one floor energy efficient house that we could stay in and enjoy throughout the years. We intended to subdivide the land and sell a few acres as needed.

4. What is your occupation?

I am self-employed as a florist. The name of my business is Hobart's Fine Florals.

5. Where do you work?

I work from my home. I am in my studio and yard most of the time.

6. How many wind turbines are located in the Blacksmith Shop area of Falmouth, Mass?

Three.

7. Are any of the turbines close to your home?

I can see all three turbines from my home, but one turbine, called the Webb turbine, is particularly close.

8. How close is the Webb turbine to your home?

The Webb turbine, is 1420 feet from my property line and 1620 feet from my house. It was constructed and began operating last spring. It was shocking to see the actual size of the thing, and as you can see from the attached photograph has an enormous visual impact to my home, which I am sure also will translate to reduced property value. (Attachment A)

9. Please describe what it has been like living with the wind turbines that are near your home.

Seeing a big propeller as you come up your driveway is a bitter pill. I work from my home as a florist and am in my studio or yard most of the time. Spring and summer are very busy and I work hard. I tried to believe I could eventually get used to it. They move with the wind and the resulting sound and vibrations do too. Calm, windy, cold and hot ... the sound and vibrations vary.

The best description I can give is that these are big noisy moveable beasts and they keep you off balance. There is a reverberating quality that is really stressful, especially when the direction changes. And it is always there to some extent. The noise intensifies during the fall, winter and early spring when nearby trees lose their foliage.

10. Have you noticed any adverse health effects since the turbines began operating? If so, please state all adverse health effects that you have experienced and continue to experience.

Yes. After the turbines began operating, I began getting headaches and tinnitus on a daily basis during the summer, which is the busy season for my business. Medication had no effect on the headaches. I did see my doctor and no reason was discovered. I am no hypochondriac and tend to suck it up and persevere on the most part, so that is what I did.

By late October the headaches were constant and the tinnitus really bad. The leaves on the trees between my home and the Webb turbine were also falling and the reverberation was more and more predominant. My stress level was also still high even though my business had slowed to nearly nothing by then (I am a wedding florist so the season was by then over).

As we moved into the winter season, my headaches, tinnitus and stress level never got any better. Then in January I noticed something that woke me up.

I went to visit a friend up in New Hampshire for 3 days . . . No headache. I came home for 2 days and they came back. I flew out to California on January 12th and 6 out of the 7 days I was there I had no headaches. That was really something after 9 months of daily headaches. The tinnitus stayed the same, but no headaches.

When I came home the headaches started again. A few weeks ago, when it was very cold, the Webb turbine was shut down for a few days and guess what? No headaches. But now the turbine is back on and the headaches are back!

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

I took medication to treat my headaches without any success.

19. Do you know other people in your community with similar health problems?

Yes. In particular, I am aware of residents located in between two turbines whose health problems appear to be worse than mine.

20. What do you plan to do to address the problems you are having?

We will move just as soon as we can financially afford to. If by some amazing miracle the beast is shut down we can stay. We intended to stay here when we built this one floor energy efficient little “forever “house. We invested in a 6 acre parcel as a retirement type investment intending to subdivide and sell a couple acres when we needed it. We are still working toward retirement . . . but now it looks more like a cheap double wide trailer will be all we get.

21. Do you have any advice for the people of Prospect based on your experience in Falmouth?

Yes. Don't be fooled by the wind developers' false promises. Learn from our mistake.

To the responsible government officials, I would respectfully say, please protect the health and well-being of the people of Connecticut by refusing to allow these monstrous machines to be built in residential areas.