

**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 Joseph Lukeski

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

My name is Joseph Lukeski. I live at 213 New Haven Road, Prospect, Connecticut.

2. How far is your home from the proposed BNE industrial wind turbine site?

My home is approximately 1,100 feet from the proposed site of the south turbine tower.

My home is at the corner of New Haven Road and Lee Road. We are on the opposite side of New Haven Road, across from the Brownfield site of the former U.S. Cap and Jacket factory and the proposed industrial wind turbine site. The front of my home would face the south industrial wind turbine tower directly to the west.

3. How long have you lived at that location?

My wife and I have lived at 213 New Haven Road in Prospect since 1964.

4. Why did you move to Prospect?

My wife and I, being both raised in rural communities, chose the South end of Prospect to settle in because of the relative solitude of the area. In 1972 we adopted a daughter from Korea and raised her in our home in Prospect and have enjoyed our life here.

5. What are your concerns regarding the plan to construct industrial wind turbines across the street from your home?

We want desperately not to lose the quiet enjoyment of our place to live and enjoy life as

retirees. It is a little late in life for us to uproot and move. With the looming possibility of a huge loss in property value, it would be financially impossible to do so. To stay would be a miserable option if gigantic wind turbines are installed in such close proximity to our house; eleven hundred feet in our case; even closer for some of our neighbors; only eight hundred fifty feet for one of them.

6. How did you first learn of BNE Energy's plans to construct these industrial wind turbines across from your home?

We first learned of these plans at the October 18th meeting at the Prospect Firehouse. I attended the meeting and asked Mr. Zupkis or Mr. Corey about the loss of property value. Their response was there would be none and studies have shown that property values actually increase in areas around the wind turbines. So I asked whether they would be willing to buy my house, hold on to it for a few years and he would make a nice profit. They said no.

7. What other concerns do you have regarding the proposed industrial wind turbine project?

Another issue is the EPA Brownfield site abutting our property and the proposed wind turbine site. We have well water that's been contaminated by the Brownfield site at 214 New Haven Road (Route 69). In 1986, the EPA and DEP began testing our wells. Initially, there was not a finding of an actionable level of contamination. However, in approximately 2004, I was notified by letter that our well water was contaminated and that we should immediately cease using it for drinking. We were provided 90 gallons of bottled water per month and later an activated charcoal filtration system was installed by a contractor hired by the DEP. The system is serviced to this date by a DEP contractor. We are concerned that any blasting for foundation, construction work and operation of the project may further disturb the aquifer that feeds our well, leading to a more severe amount of contamination. I believe this issue should be thoroughly

investigated before any consideration of approval of this project.

There is also a high probability that shadow flicker will greatly affect our home.

About every three seconds or so a huge shadow would be sweeping across our house and yard in late afternoon and evening hours. I observed this phenomenon when I visited the wind turbines at Falmouth, MA. I have also learned about this issue from those who suffer from this phenomenon and through videos of other wind turbines. There is no question in my mind that this is a very serious and annoying condition to have to live with. It is also my understanding, that it can cause health issues, both physically and mentally.

I am also concerned about the noise created by these turbines and how close they will be to my home. Based upon my observation of the turbines at Falmouth, I believe that this unrelenting noise will unreasonably disturb the peace and enjoyment of my home. Our rights as homeowners since 1964 should be given at least as much weight as those of an energy company that would like to site an industrial project in a residential area.

8. What do you request that the Siting Council do in this case?

In closing, I strongly urge the siting council to consider these issues when making your decision and deny approval of BNE's Petition for lack of adequate set back distance from a residential area and because of the unanswered questions relating to the Brownfield site adjacent to my home and the proposed turbine site.