

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

**Petition of BNE Energy Inc. for a
Declaratory Ruling for the Location,
Construction and Operation of a 4.8 MW
Wind Renewable Generating Project on
Flagg Hill Road in Colebrook,
Connecticut (“Wind Colebrook South”)**

Petition No. 983

and

**Petition of BNE Energy Inc. for a
Declaratory Ruling for the Location,
Construction and Operation of a 4.8 MW
Wind Renewable Generating Project on
Winsted-Norfolk Road (Route 44) in Colebrook,
Connecticut**

Petition No. 984

March 14, 2011

KRISTIN M. MOW PRE-FILED TESTIMONY

1. Please state your name and address.

My name is Kristin Mow and I live at 12-A Greenwoods Turnpike, in Colebrook with my husband, Ben and our 3 children: Alyssa, age 12; Benjamin, 10; and Daniel, age 8.

2. Why have you requested Party status in this petition?

We have requested Party status because we are opposed to this project going forward in this location and wanted to be heard on the matter. This project is proposed for two parcels of land on either side of our home, which would make all 6 wind turbines proposed for it directly within vision of our home. The nearest of the proposed turbines would be 600 feet from our property line and 800 feet from our home.

It is inconceivable to me that the Siting Council would allow an industrial project such as this in a residential neighborhood. We are in favor of renewable energy, which we need to find, but I don't understand how it could be supported in a residential neighborhood such as ours.

It is totally inappropriate for an industrial wind turbine project such as this proposal to be built in the middle of a residential neighborhood. If it is approved my family's health and safety are in danger, our quality of life will be adversely affected, and the value of our property, which is my primary life investment, will be severely reduced.

3. Why are you concerned about your house?

With our property line 600 feet from the nearest proposed turbine and our home 800 feet from it, we would be subject to constant noise and vibration from the turbines, plus the “flicker effect,” which will have a particular negative effect on our son Daniel plus the flashing lights at night. I have researched wind turbines since this BNE filed their petition, and the information I have found on the impacts of wind turbines especially on people with Benign Paroxysmal Vertigo, as my son Daniel has, has worried me greatly.

We purchased our home in 2006, our first home purchase for our family. It took months to find exactly what we were looking for. We can't remember how many houses we looked at. We looked at houses in Norfolk, Colebrook, Barkhamsted, New Hartford. We wanted to stay in this area because our parents and siblings all live in the Winchester area and we have lived in this area since birth.

We needed a quiet location, with a good school system, enough land to have a little hobby farm, a lot of room for our children to play and most important a close and supportive community for our family.

4. Do you have some specific concerns?

We have a particular, personal issue with these petitions: Our 8-year old son Daniel was diagnosed with Benign Paroxysmal Vertigo in October 2006 as a 4-year-old. Our family was on vacation in Cape Cod in June 2006 when Daniel had his first episode. We were at the ocean, Daniel was digging in the sand with a shovel; suddenly he fell and started to convulse, could barely speak, his eyes were jolting back into his head. We rushed him to the emergency room for testing. Daniel had his blood tested and was monitored for several hours. The second incident with Daniel occurred when we were repairing the bathroom floor and the air compressor was turned on: Daniel immediately fell to the floor and started convulsing again. We rushed him to the emergency room for examination. There was no immediate diagnosis. Daniel had three such episodes. We spent several months at the Connecticut Children Hospital for tests. The doctors finally gave a diagnosis of Benign Paroxysmal Vertigo — a disorder caused by problems in the inner ear, with symptoms that include (but are not limited to) dizziness, a spinning sensation and the perception that surrounding objects are moving or spinning.

Vertigo indicates a peripheral vestibular disorder (inner ear disturbance); this is also one of the symptoms that many researchers have stated will affect a person or child living in proximity to one of these turbines. All of Daniel's episodes included horizontal nystagmus — rapid rhythmic repetitious involuntary (unwilled) eye movements. Daniel is sensitive to lighting and sounds; we have to be very careful not to expose him to either. Daniel cannot be around strobe lighting of any kind.

These projects, with their rotating blades, low-frequency sound vibrations, blinking lights and flicker, would have a negative impact on our life every day, especially Daniel's life, which means our entire family's life. We are particularly concerned with the flicker of the wind turbines due to the proximity of our home to the nearest proposed turbine. We would no longer be able to go outside and enjoy the outdoor view or piece and quiet, and Daniel in particular would be adversely affected and prevented from enjoying his environment.

5. Do you have any other specific concerns?

I have concerns not just for our 8 year old son. I have health concerns for our entire family, and for our neighbors. I started researching the effects of these turbines on nearby residences in early December 2010, when we first learned about these projects. I wanted to find out whether any risks have been previously reported on similar projects in the past. At that time we had not been familiar with windmill-energy projects.

I immediately started to find articles in the U.S. and in other countries reporting health issues with adults and especially children. I noticed people who lived near these turbines had symptoms such as sleep deprivation, stress, nausea, disorientation, chronic headaches, migraines,

ringing in the ears, visceral vibratory vestibular disturbance and the most alarming, possible seizure for patients who are predisposed to seizures. I am aware of one expert, Dr. Michael Nissenbaum, a radiologist in Maine who has been studying this issue for years. I understand there will be a forthcoming article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* with information on the medical impacts of such wind turbines on nearby residents; the control group includes people living 15,000 to 16,000 feet away from the turbines. The study indicates residents living within 3,500 feet of an industrial wind facility in Maine have a significantly higher incidence of medical problems of many types.

Please keep in mind that our home is only 800 feet away from the nearest proposed turbine. And the turbines in the project Dr. Nissenbaum studied are smaller than the turbines proposed by BNE. All of the people in the study living in the proximity to the turbines felt their quality of life decreased and most considered moving from their homes.

6. Do you believe your concerns are being addressed through the process for this petition?

No, it seems to us that the Siting Council does not have a mechanism for taking into account the specific needs of our son Daniel, his benign paroxysmal vertigo and the impact this proposed project will have on him. It seems to us that the Siting Council is concerned with a reading of the environmental data as it applies to the population generally, without taking into account (1) impact on local residents; and (2) impacts on a person with a particular health problem, such as our son.

7. Are there any other concerns you have?

Yes; I am concerned about the wetlands that runs right through both properties. I have researched the State of Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection "Natural Diversity Database" which shows considerable wetlands running north-south through the Town of Colebrook. To my knowledge, and reviewing their petition, BNE has not taken into account the wetlands on both of their properties and mine. BNE has not sought an inland wetlands permit from the Town of Colebrook Inland Wetlands Commission and since their petition only superficially addresses wetlands issues, I am concerned the natural wetlands habitat in the area are about to be adversely impacted by this proposed project.

8. Are there some other specific concerns you have?

I have been researching the safety of these turbines, and have discovered an online report from G.E. Energy which recommends any turbine be located at least one-and-a-half-times the turbine height plus rotor diameter.

The turbines proposed by BNE are up to 492 feet (using the bigger 50-metre blades) which means the setback should be up to 984 feet under G.E.'s recommendations. Of course, BNE is proposing much less safety distance. We have also found reports online that indicate ice can be thrown 1,600 feet.

We have concerns with the possibility of turbine component damage or failure that can occur when extreme weather conditions are present; and in northwest Connecticut, winters can be treacherous, as can be seen by this past winter. In addition, natural disasters, summer thunderstorms, lighting and other uncontrollable factors can have their impact on the turbines creating possible blade failure or buckling of the tower. Another publicly-available G.E. online

document recommends that when winds are above “cut-out” speed, the turbine should have its blades idling in a position creating minimal torque on the rotor.

If an electrical grid failure were to occur in conjunction with an extreme wind event — a likely scenario — the yaw control for the blades will become inactive. The loss of yaw control then increases the likelihood of failure and damage. In such a case, the turbine components or structures could become potential windborne debris.

9. Are you opposed to wind power in Connecticut or generally?

No, I and my family are in favor of wind power and other forms of renewable energy generally, but do not believe they should be located in residential neighborhoods. We have seen wind turbines in isolated areas where they seem to work well enough. But locating and siting wind turbine projects in the middle of a residential neighborhood does not meet the energy needs of the state without having an unreasonable impact on its residents.

We are not opposed to clean energy, but in favor of it. We have to find clean, renewable sources of energy. But it's not just our house that is affected; this will affect all of us in the entire Colebrook/Northwest Connecticut area. I believe the Siting Council should work with developers to site these facilities, but somewhere where it's not in anyone's back yard — not in a residential area where people's daily lives are harmed.

10. If this petition is granted, what will be its impact upon your home?

In addition to the health, safety and quality of life concerns, if this project proceeds, I am fearful of the economic impact it will have on my family, especially the value of our home.

We knew it would be a lot of work when we purchased our run-down farm. We had bigger dreams for this property. The property has very few neighbors. We are basically in the middle of no-where. There is plenty of room for expansion. The private location is what attracted us to this property. In discussing options for our future at the time we decided on fixing up this property, hopefully adding an upper level in time. We hoped our property would appreciate in value and give us years of pleasure if we did the hard work that was required. Our plan was to fix up this property and borrow against the equity we would then have in it to provide us with resources we would need. This plan is obviously going to come to a screeching halt if the windmills are put up. Our future investments are riding on our property value.

Our home is the largest investment our family will make in our lifetime. Our property line is only 600 feet from one of the proposed turbines and our house is located 800 feet from one of the proposed turbines. We will have a clear view of all six turbines, if constructed, from our property. Our property is placed in the middle of these two projects.

I have researched this issue, and have discovered Mr. Mike McCann of Chicago, Illinois, whose resume includes real estate evaluations, property value impact studies, analysis of wind turbine generating facilities and evaluation of eminent domain real estate acquisitions. He has advised residents bluntly that no permits should be issued on any wind generation project without a property value guarantee for home owners in the turbine area of influence.

Mr. McCann's assessment is the impact zone of a wind farm is two to five miles. Within that area homeowners can expect a 20% to 40% loss in value of their homes. In addition, he has found residents have increased costs of health care, costs to retrofit homes to block noise or

strobe light effects of the turbine shadows, and a complete loss if people who are forced to walk away from their homes.

11. Is there something the Siting Council might do regarding your home value?

Yes, the Siting Council, if it does approve these petitions, should condition approval on BNE providing a home value guaranty, with adequate bond to ensure continued viability of the guaranty, based on the pre-notice-of-petition assessed valuation of our home, and the value of any others within a certain distance (perhaps one-quarter mile, one-half mile, of each project?) None of us wants to have to walk away from our property, nor to be placed in a position to have to bail ourselves out if our home values plummet. We have worked so hard over so many years, this sort of guaranty would at least provide us some relief against the fear of financial ruin, even if it does not address the health/safety/quality of life concerns.

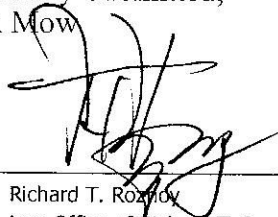
12. If this petition is granted, what do you see as its impact on northwest Connecticut?

BNE has claimed this project will produce jobs and improve the economic climate in northwest Connecticut, but I see it the opposite: Many people with their life savings tied up in their family homes will lose more than the project will provide, and more than the state has invested in this project. Each home which loses its value will have lost almost as much individually as the state legislators were worried about losing at the hearing on the bill requesting a moratorium. The state legislators were concerned about a half-million dollar grant from the Clean Energy Fund; the cumulative losses of all the homeowners will be considerably greater than that.

The ripple-down effect of this on area businesses, the housing market, banking industry and employment in the area will be devastating.

A home value guaranty can alleviate some of that loss, but even with such a guaranty, the cost of it and the safety/quality of life impact will still be great. The minor number of jobs created will not in any way offset the economic loss to the region. This is just my non-expert layperson appraisal of the situation. This project belongs in a more suitable industrial-commercial area, where it can thrive.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristin Mow



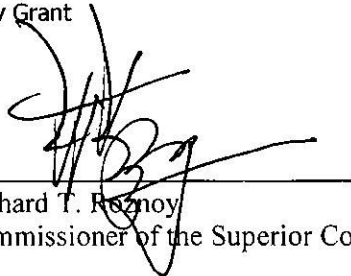
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was sent by U.S. mail to the following Connecticut Siting Council service list on this the 14th day of the month of March 2011 :

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