



Mr. Thomas Graybeal
548 Brown Rd.
Carroll Plt, ME 04487-5524

July 1, 2011

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LURC-AUGUSTA

Dear Sir,

We have lived in Carroll Plt. on the Brown Road more than 25 years. My wife and I are very much in favor of the wind mill project for Bowers Mtn.

After living in Pennsylvania most of our lives, living in sight of Three Mile Island towers, we feel the wind mills are a much safer option.

I could not make the meeting on Monday, June 27th, in Lincoln because my work day starts at 4 A.M.

We sincerely hope LURC will APPROVE this project.

Sincerely,

Tom Angled
Carol F. Graybeal

P.S. If I could afford it, I would put a windmill in my back yard



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1 July 2011

Fred Todd
Land Use Regulation Commission
State House Station 22
Augusta, Maine 04330-0022

Dear Fred,

I write today in support of the Bowers Mountain Project. My experience with the Downeast lakes and rivers began in the mid-1960s. I lead groups on multi-day and multi-week trips in the region. As a Registered Maine Guide and leader, Head Naturalist, and later President of Chewonki, I came to know these lakes and rivers well. I have a clear sense of their human history and the roles that they have played in defining the greater Maine Woods experience.

Over many decades of work in the broad field of environmental education, I also take pride in watching a new generation of leaders emerge to embrace the tough issues of our times. Former Chewonki counselors, campers and students – many who accompanied me on trips down the St. Croix and Machias Rivers or through the Grand Lakes from Grand Lake to Sysladopsis and beyond, have emerged in leadership roles in Maine and throughout the country in natural resource agencies and non-profit organizations. Others have pursued academic careers and are now on the faculties of colleges and universities across the land, often in the life sciences and related fields.

Chewonki, in the meantime, has become a leader in Maine and the region for demonstrating alternative approaches to the management of natural resources, and most importantly in the adoption of renewable energy – both onsite and off. This transformation began in 1970 with the adoption of a water-saving technology for handling human waste. What is not well known is that the young people at Chewonki have been in the forefront of this transformation. It was a group of students who most recently challenged the Board of Trustees to adopt their plan for reducing carbon emissions to the atmosphere from all sources by 80% by 2050.

My experience of working with young people for the past 45 years has shown me that they understand that human societies are at a tipping point with respect to the overall health of human society and the planet. They understand that the energy sources of the future cannot be the energy sources of the past. They see a connection between the quality of the air that engulfs Maine in the dog days of summer and our dependence on fossil fuel, for example. They have helped me to see that wind farms, though they represent a new and different influence and

human element on the landscape, are – ultimately – more beneficial and helpful than the smog and haze that dims our view of the horizon and is a harbinger of a rapidly warming climate.

I don't believe that it is fair to say that the sight of wind machines on the distant horizon will have any more impact on a young person's appreciation of the wild and wide-open spaces of the Downeast lakes and rivers than does the burning of coal in major power plants in the northeastern and north central United States. The use of motors on the lakes and the noise and sights associated with managing timber in the region already sends the message that people are present, working in the woods and enjoying the waters. In my experience, a far greater proportion of young people understand the need for new and less impactful sources of energy to support society than do their parents. As we older generations muddle along, Rome is burning.

My young friends are not naïve! They recognize that there are trade-offs with any form of human development on a landscape. Like me, they tend to think that wind farms are best suited in Maine to industrial forestlands, where our management has already altered otherwise untouched and wild landscapes for the greater good of society. The wilderness of the Maine Woods is a highly managed forest, which has been shaped by the hand of society for nearly 400 years, and there is no getting around it. The view of a wind farm from a distance is just as much a symbol of hope for a sustainable future as it is a symbol of development. In my experience, young people share this view of renewable sources of energy and, as an emerging and important segment of the population, they are far more ready to make the shift than are their parents.

Warm regards,



W. Donald Hudson, Jr., Ph.D.
President Emeritus
Chewonki Foundation

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26 Mosquito Run, Arrowsic, Maine 04530



June 30, 2011

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To: Land Use Regulation Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

From: Weston Lord
Greenland Cove Cabins
23 Kneser Lane
East Grand Lake
Danforth, Maine 04424

Dear Commissioners,

I attended the public hearing on the proposed Bowers Mountain wind farm project held in Lincoln on June 28th. I came, with the intent of not speaking at this meeting, rather to listen to the comments for and against. On my drive back to Danforth, I regretted that I did not speak. It is my hope that this letter will be read by, and considered in the commissions deliberations.

Firstly, I want to commend all of the commissioners for their interest, in all the comments made by the speakers. It was my first public hearing that LURC has conducted, and to say the least, I was impressed.

My lodging facility is located in Greenland Cove, on East Grand Lake, which I believe is one of the larger lakes at the head of this magnificent Down East watershed. It is home to the "Million Dollar View" located in the nearby town of Weston. The State of Maine has just recently placed informational plaques at the byway to depict the history of this watershed. In the past year, Malcolm French, the land owner, which is married to Herb Haines's daughter, in partnership with the Chinbro Corp has requested the Town of Danforth to create a wind farm ordinance that would allow them to go forward with plans to place wind turbines on Greenland Ridge overlooking East Grand Lake. I have been very active in the opposition of placing wind turbines so near to such a valuable resource. The Planning board of Danforth developed an ordinance that stipulated that any project must be 3/4 mile setback from the "shore of the lake". After a public hearing the proposed ordinance went to the townspeople for a vote. It was voted down, and now is back to the planning board for revision. It is my belief that the people of Danforth realized how important the lake is to the local economy, and voted to protect the lake and surrounding area. A yes vote, by your commission on the Bowers project would be a "green light" for any future projects. It would jeopardize the significance and beauty of this region.

In addition, I would like to add that I am not anti alternative energy, in fact I am in favor of it. However, the wind resources in down east Maine is rated a 2 on a scale of

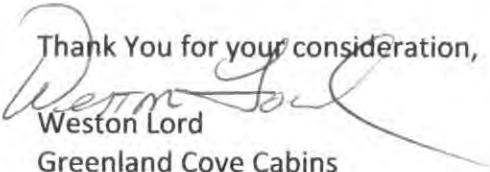
7. Why then, is this a expedited area for wind farm development? The Longfellow range in western Maine is rated 6. Why are not these companies going there with their plans? The cost verses benefit does not seem to add up. I suspect, it may be the lack of population and resistance. Also, Federal government incentives, may be a consideration.

I moved here from Southern Maine 8 years ago with a dream of running a traditional "sporting camp" The camps were in dire condition, and since, have brought them back to life and business is good , if not better than ever before. I tell my customers that this area of "down east" will someday (if it isn't already) be the gem of the state of Maine. Not because of development, but the lack of.

The local "Down east land trust", the "Woodie Wheaton land Trust are testiments to this effort.

In closing I would encourage the commission to deny this project and protect this beautiful area of the State of Maine.

Thank You for your consideration,



Weston Lord
Greenland Cove Cabins
East Grand Lake

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NEIL H (PETE) BORDEN

Mr. Fred Todd
Land Use Regulation Commission

June 27, 2011

Re: Champlain Wind LLC
Bowers Mountain Wind project
DP 4889

Dear Sir,

I am writing to provide some insight into the implications the Bowers Mountain Wind project will have on the Downeast Lakes Region and Washington County.

At retirement I was the Reynolds Professor of Business Administration at the Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia, and visiting Professor at IMD Management Institute in Lausanne Switzerland, on the Board of several national firms, and a consultant on sales management and marketing strategy, particularly for international pharmaceutical firms.

In these comments I will draw on my experience as a past Board member of Downeast Lakes Land Trust, as a third generation summer resident of Grand Lake Stream, and as the Director of the 93 page research report, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DOWNEAST LAKES FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP CONSERVATION PROJECT published in 2005. I have drawn on this report in the comments below.

Washington County is in bad shape although this is not news to most of us. However, recently released parts of the U.S. Census of 2010 give us the opportunity to examine its plight through quite a recent 20-year (1990 – 2010) window. The primary finding is that over the twenty years the population of the County has dropped from 35,308 to 32,856; a loss of nearly 7%.

This is a very significant number of people who are no longer contributing as workers, taxpayers, and consumers. We see related problems in running schools, maintaining roads, and continuing retail operations at a profitable level. In a related finding, the census estimated that in 2009 almost 21% of County households were living at or below the poverty level.

What is causing the depopulation of the County? Why are many of our young and brightest leaving the County? Let's look at the three productive industries – marine fisheries, forest products, and tourism.

The marine fisheries are plain "fished out" – business in this area is largely an effort to keep the resource from running out.

Forest Products – timber and forest products (pulp and paper, fiber). The basic problem in these areas is that historic over-harvesting has reduced standing inventories and that harvests need to be reduced to restore the resource. It will be a good many years before a satisfactory balance is achieved. In the meantime the cadre of skilled workers is probably declining, the only big mill in the County discontinued paper production, and the only large volume product is fiber.

Tourism, our third area, can be divided into two parts – roadside accommodations and recreational tourism, the latter being the most important component for Washington County. The heart of this component is the “full service lodge and guide” segment. It is the specialty of the Downeast Lakes Region and of considerable notoriety within the national sporting (hunting and fishing) public. This segment is comprised of people who are discriminating, affluent, and knowledgeable. They can afford the approximately \$375 per day price for their lodging and guide. Only about 20% of lodge guests are families. Most guests are quite familiar with competitive lodges which fit their requirements. Many lodge customers are quite loyal to their favorite accommodation.

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The lodge segment has lost some patronage in recent years to the high end of housekeeping cabins. (Some lodges also have housekeeping cabins.) Housekeeping cabins have gained share. Still, total capacity of the two segments has stayed relatively stable for the last several years except for the loss of one quite large lodge in Grand Lake Stream Village, which was sold and converted to an elegant private residence.

The lodge’s market segment is certainly the most susceptible to what would be perceived as a breakdown in the natural, pristine lake and forest environment by having an industrial wind energy project in the area. These consumers, more demanding and discriminating, would probably be the first to desert the area. The sportsman “grapevine”, fed by various journals, would exacerbate the issue.

While changing the tourism environment by introducing a large wind turbine project is certainly going to negatively impact the several segments that frequent the area, the question is how severe will it be and how quickly will it occur? The economic situation in the segments as well as the County is fragile at best, and even slight erosion in high value markets will cause great pain. Such drops in tourism would add to the County’s loss in population and economic viability. The highly skilled guide population, a wonderful asset and the largest in Maine, would surely dwindle.

A large forest clear cutting operation could do similar damage to an area, but thankfully over time natural growth will bring it back. However a large wind turbine project, capable of catastrophic damage, will be with us forever. This reality must be faced in the decision process.

Obviously Bowers Mountain Wind is an extremely important issue for our lakes and forest area. LURC should act in the citizens’ long term best interests and not seek short

term mitigation. LURC should share our concerns and oppose this project, thereby protecting the region from further depopulation.

Respectfully,



Neil H. Borden

N. H. Borden
PO Box 118
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04637

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June 26 2011

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LURC-AUGUSTA

Frederick W. Todd, Project Planner
LURC
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Re: Bowers Mountain Project DP #4889

Dear Mr. Todd:

I am writing to express my *opposition* to the Bowers Mountain (DP # 4889) project proposed by First Wind Energy. The project is a losing proposition for Maine residents, tourists, taxpayers, and is not a sustainable or efficient form of energy production.

I request that LURC consider the inherently negative aspects surrounding a wind farm in the Bowers location. The turbines will negatively impact the scenery and tourism surrounding the Downeast Lakes watershed. I ask that each LURC commissioner consider where in Maine wind turbine development is *not* acceptable. Would Mount Katahdin make the list? Acadia? The Portland waterfront? And if you would deem these places off limits to wind turbine development, why not the Downeast Lakes watershed? As you know, the Downeast Lakes watershed hosts the highest concentration of Class 1A and 1B lakes in Maine; it is simply not worth risking the scenic beauty of this watershed, along with tourism-driven outdoor opportunities, for the inefficient production of wind energy by this proposed development. LURC commissioners are charged with the important task of protecting such state and national treasures as the Downeast Lakes watershed. I ask each LURC commissioner to carefully consider not the short term financial windfall for a few Maine residents of the proposed development, but rather the long-term destructive impacts such development would have on a priceless natural treasure.

I also ask that each LURC commissioner consider the tax breaks and subsidies that keep wind energy financially afloat. How much longer can our indebted country afford to throw lavish sums of money at a terribly inefficient form of energy production? Wind energy unreliable and unpredictable. The earth and forest clearing, road building, and smelting operations to construct turbine towers are all sources of environmental destruction that increase the carbon footprint of wind turbine development. Contrary to First Wind's claims, wind turbine development will not lead to long term job creation in downeast Maine. Further, wind energy does not replace fossil fuels (the claim that 'wind turbine development will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels' is bogus). And perhaps most importantly, the Bowers project would cause real estate values to plummet and township revenues to fall as taxpayers look to relocate themselves away from the needless intrusion of ugly subsidized development in their backyards.

In summary, I urge the LURC commissioners to decline the First Wind application for the Bowers project. It is an inefficient and wasteful invasion into one of the most scenic areas of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul J. Rudershausen".

Paul Rudershausen, taxpayer, Carroll Township, Maine
303 College Circle
Morehead City, NC 28557

The Great Green Wind Scam

by

Jonathan Carter

Director, Forest Ecology Network

Mountaintop Industrial Wind development in Maine is both an ecological disaster and economic boondoggle. The mountaintop wind developers or as I like to call them, “**the mountain slayers and profiteers**”, are foisting upon the state an Enron like scam. This house of cards will collapse. The only questions are, when, how much damage will have occurred, and how many billions of dollars of stranded cost will the ratepayers and tax payers have to pick up?

From an ecological perspective there is absolutely no way one can defend mountaintop industrial wind. Blasting and mountaintop leveling causes irreversible damage to soils, hydrological flows, and the unique assemblages of plants and animal. Thousands of bats and birds will be killed and many species of wildlife, including bear, moose, and deer, will be forced to flee from the massive ground vibrations and the pulsating of high and low frequency noise. If as envisioned by the state 360 miles of mountaintop industrial wind is built(resulting in 50,000 acres of clearcut), the visual pollution of 400 foot towers with flashing lights and the noise pollution will penetrate thousands of square miles of the Maine wild lands and completely alter the bucolic nature of the quiet Maine countryside.

The biggest fraud being perpetrated by the mountain slayers and profiteers is that mountaintop industrial wind will somehow reduce our dependence on foreign oil and somehow result in lower greenhouse gas emissions. Three years ago, before I started to examine the science around mountaintop industrial wind, I would have whole heartily agreed – but the facts are the facts. Mountaintop Industrial Wind will not reduce our consumption of oil and will not reduce green house gas emissions. Only one percent of the electricity in the United States is produced by oil. In Maine we have two oil-fires electric plants which because of the expense are only used when peak demand outstrips supply. Three separate studies have now documented that industrial wind does not reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is a simple concept to understand. Since wind energy is intermittent and unreliable. It cannot be counted on and thus requires back-up fossil fuel power availability. When the wind blows a fossil fuel plant has to be turned down or off. When the wind stops blowing (which can vary on a minute to minute basis) the power source has to be ramped back up. It is analogous to driving in stop and go traffic – more fuel is consumed and greater amounts of carbon are emitted.

Yet the American Wind Energy Association (a lobbyist group paid for by the wind developers) still is trying to paint industrial wind as a “green” renewable energy. This is analogous to the tobacco companies for years telling us that cigarette smoking is not hazardous to our health – and like the tobacco companies, the wind industry has its paid for scientists and environmental groups promoting their mantra.

If the ecological disaster of mountaintop industrial wind is not enough to convince one to say no, then just consider the economic impacts. **Mountaintop industrial wind would not even be a dream if it were not for the massive federal subsidies – your tax dollar!** If Maine constructs 360 miles of mountaintop industrial wind, five billion dollars of your money will be placed in the bank accounts of the wind developers. Currently, a wind developer can get 30% of a project’s cost upfront from the U.S. Treasury. This does not include the loan guarantees, accelerated depreciation, and potential production tax credits. While wind developers like to point out that when compared to other federal energy subsidies they get significantly smaller piece of the total energy subsidy pie, the fact remains that on a per megawatt produced basis wind subsidies are 12 to 20 times greater.(Wind is subsidized at \$23 per MW – next nearest subsidy is nuclear at \$1.59 per MW). The bottom-line is that mountaintop industrial wind energy is 2 to 3 times more expensive than conventional sources. If you add the cost of the necessary new transmission lines and associated facilities, the price differential gets even bigger. Why would it be in Maine’s interest to destroy our mountaintops to create energy which is

three times more expensive and will undoubtedly raise our electric rates? This becomes even more absurd when one considers the fact that Maine already has a surplus of energy – yes, we are a net exporter.

The Maine wind developers like to talk about the contribution of about the 800 million dollars spent to date on industrial wind in Maine. What they fail to mention is that most of this money was provided by the federal government subsidies – our tax dollar. In addition, the bulk of the 800 million paid for turbines that were manufactured in foreign countries. In truth, the economic benefit to Maine thus far has been small – only a few hundred temporary construction jobs. The irony is that once these projects are completed, they create very few permanent jobs. The increased cost to ratepayers and taxpayers for a small number of temporary construction jobs is many times more than the wages paid by the developers for these jobs. So how do these mountain slayers and profiteers get away with bilking billions of our tax dollars to generate wind energy by destroying our mountaintops with industrial turbines, which in the long run is going to significantly raise our energy costs? **This is a con job and a scam.**

By any measure mountaintop industrial wind is uneconomical. It will not only raise electric rates (which is terrible for the business), **it will also have the unintended consequences of undermining Maine's most reliable and profitable industry – tourism and recreation.** It is our "quality of place" which brings 34 million visitors each year. It is our "quality of place" which generates 10 billion dollars of sales each year. Our quality of place is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. If we destroy the "golden egg", our competitive advantage will disappear and folks will no longer want to come to vacationland where every mountain has monstrous 400 foot towers with flashing lights. Might as well stay home in New Jersey!

Another unintended consequence of mountaintop industrial wind is its impact on property values. Recent nationwide studies have documented that property values plummet 20 to 40% within a 2 mile radius of industrial wind turbines. There are already scores of folks in Maine who because of the noise and visual pollution of industrial wind would like to sell and move – however, most of these folks are stuck because nobody want to buy their property. How can we let these profiteers do this to Maine families?

In the final analysis this house of cards the wind developers have built is going to come crashing down- not because these folks have seen the light, become less greedy, and have developed an ecological conscience. Yes like Enron, mountaintop industrial wind is based on a pyramid scheme which is unsustainable. Industrial wind not only is unreliable, but the cost, even with the huge subsidies, cannot compete with the cost of natural gas. At \$4 per million BTUs, natural gas costs would have to more than double to become more expensive than mountaintop industrial wind with its \$6.65 per million BTU subsidy. Switching to natural gas on a national scale – replacing coal – would have the added advantage of reducing electricity generation greenhouse gases by as much as 75%.

In conclusion, I want to make it clear that I believe strongly that we need to move away from fossil fuels. We need to pursue renewables – residential/community wind and solar, geothermal, micro-hydro etc. **Energy conservation and efficiency should be our top priority.** Unfortunately, intermittent and non-storable mountaintop industrial wind is not the answer. It is not the benign "green" industry some would like to have you believe. The environmental damage to this place we love and call Maine will be catastrophic. It will significantly raise our electric rates which will stifle business development and drain dollars out of the pockets of Mainers. It will reduce tourism and recreation revenue as well as strip Mainers of wealth through reduced property values. **The gold rush of wind developers, feeding at the trough of federal and state subsidies, must be stopped before Maine is transformed from a wild and bucolic paradise to an industrial wind wasteland.**

Big Wind in the Face of Katahdin



Industrial Wind Mudslide on Kibby Mountain



Stetson Mountain Destruction



The Facts about Wind Energy Development in Maine.

- 1. Wind generated electricity will not "get us off of oil."** Less than 2 % of the electricity in Maine and in the U.S. comes from oil-fired generators. We use oil for transportation and heating.
- 2. Maine has 4300 megawatts of electricity generation capacity, though we only use 1500 megawatts on average. There is no shortage of electricity.**
- 3. Even without wind turbines, Maine is already one of the cleanest states in the nation with the highest renewable portfolio standard in the U.S..**
- 4. Maine's 2700 megawatt goal for land-based wind generating capacity will necessitate the construction of 1200-1700 wind turbines, on over 300 miles of rural Maine's mountains and hills.**
- 5. Wind generated electricity is high impact and low benefit.** Maine's 2700 megawatt goal could be supplanted by the construction a SINGLE conventionally gas fueled generator, at 10-15% of the cost.
- 6. Placing wind turbines on Maine's mountains will not enhance our energy security.** Virtually all of the fuels used to produce electricity in New England are sourced from North America.
- 7. Placing wind turbines on Maine's mountains will not reduce coal consumption or stop mountaintop removal mining.** Maine does not use coal to produce electricity.
- 8. Placing wind turbines on Maine's mountains will not improve Maine's air quality.** EPA figures indicate that the burning of fossil fuels in Maine is a minor source of the state's particulate pollution. Most fossil fuel pollutants blow into Maine from population centers many miles away.
- 9. CO2 is a problem, but wind power is not the solution.** Several studies indicate industrial wind increase carbon emissions due the ramping up and down of fossil fuel plants to back up the intermittency of the wind.
- 10. Wind turbines require sources of NEW conventional generating capacity as back-up for when the wind isn't blowing.**
- 11. New wind power integration will require an unprecedented expansion of transmission capacity costing taxpayers an estimated 19 to 25 billion dollars.**
- 12. Wind generated electricity will not guarantee lower electricity rates..**
- 13. Wind projects are heavily subsidized by taxpayers at an exorbitant rate.**
- 14. Wind developments create notoriously few permanent jobs.**
- 15. Most of a wind project's expenditures occur outside of Maine – primarily, overseas where turbines are manufactured.**
- 16. EVERY operating, multi-turbine, wind facility in Maine, that has been sited around people, now has significant unresolved disputes over noise and shadow flicker.**
- 17. Properties located within 2 miles of turbines lose 20 to 40% of their value.**

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3 July 2011

Frederick W. Todd, Project Planner
Land Use Regulation Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Mr. Todd:

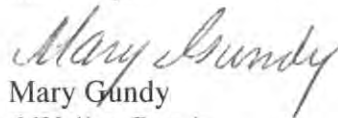
I have decided to write to you concerning the Bowers Wind Project/DP 4889 that is being proposed in what is currently one of the most pristine habitats in the state of Maine or for that matter, in the United States.

I have many connections to this area historically – my great-grandparents down through the generation younger than I, have vacationed in this area and owned property in the area. We have enjoyed it because it is life at its simplest and the closest one can come in this day and age in New England to what life might have been like 100+ years ago. To see the night sky is nothing short of spectacular. To enjoy the lakes and mountains with nothing visibly marring their beauty is why we continue to go.

The Bowers Wind Project will be ending the pristine beauty and the unbelievable night sky forever – and for the people who make their living on the outside visitors, it will most likely put them out of business. It just doesn't make any sense – not from an environmental perspective nor from a financial perspective for the people of this remote region of Maine.

Please deny this application. It is a huge mistake.

Sincerely,



Mary Gundy
6 Walker Road
Manchester, MA 01944

Mr. Fred Todd
Land Use Regulation Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

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LURC-AUGUSTA June 28, 2011

Re: DP 4889 Champlain Wind aka Bowers Mountain

I thank the Commissioners and the Staff of LURC for the opportunity to be a part of this process, for the chance to express our views. Thank you for your hard work in shepherding this complicated process.

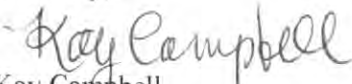
My husband and I own a simple camp in Lakeville, with no views that will be affected by the proposed wind project. We came here because of the area's chain of lakes, and the many recreational options the lakes offer to get out and enjoy Maine's glorious north woods.

This permitting issue comes down to whether or not the proposed project will cause an unreasonably adverse impact on the traditional uses of eight or nine scenic lakes. But how can we tell if the impact is unreasonably adverse? Or is it just adverse or very adverse? I don't believe that a visual impact assessment can create a mathematical formula or chart to reach the conclusion as to whether the impact is very adverse or 'unreasonably' adverse. In the end, it's your judgment call. To me, the combination of the following factors leads to the conclusion that the project's impact is clearly unreasonably adverse. All these things, put together, push the impact over the line to unreasonably adverse.

1. The sheer number of affected lakes of scenic character. Eight or nine scenic lakes are affected, within eight miles. And its not just each lake on it's own, they are almost all interconnected.
2. We have heard ample testimony that the project's damage to the pristine vistas will drive away visitors, and highly-prized tourists, who have been coming to the area for decades, even generations. Reactions to the Rollins Mountain project expressed at the hearings demonstrate that the scenic impact will damage both the traditional uses and user expectations.
3. Most of the scenic impact of the project lies outside the expedited wind territory, so keep in mind the other connected lakes that extend for so many miles with views of the turbines and their strobe lights at night.
4. The sporting camps and Maine guides whose businesses will be damaged by the negative scenic impact of the project. These businesses – the heart of the region's traditional recreational economy – are a special concern of LURC and the State of Maine. Any potential damage to their businesses should be considered unreasonably adverse.
5. Finally, approving this project would reverse the efforts of hundreds of people, several organizations (including the Federal government) and millions of dollars that have been spent to protect and conserve the scenic character of the Downeast Lakes watershed, through the Downeast Lakes Land Trust.

It's clear that the scenic impact on these lakes would be unreasonably adverse, and therefore I urge you to deny the Champlain Wind permit application.

Sincerely,



Kay Campbell
30 Hancock Road
Hingham, MA 02043

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JUL 12 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

Rev. Helmut H. Kaffine

524 East Locust Street

Bethlehem, PA 18018

Tel. 610-867-7931

July 8, 2011

Frederick Todd
Land Use Regulation Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333

Dear Sir,

I write to object to the continued construction of wind turbines in Washington and Penobscot counties-- particularly the project on Bowers Mountain.

For the last dozen years my wife and I have spent a month each summer in a cabin (without electricity) on a ~~lake~~ lake in the area. We pay taxes and spend money in business establishments between Lincoln and Princeton: groceries, gasoline, licenses, laundry, hardware, etc.

We have seen the wind turbines on Stetson Mountain and are appalled by the amount of land required to produce a relatively small amount of sporadically available electricity. Electricity which will cause necessary back-up generating plants to run at much less than optimal efficiency.

The turbines are also a monstrous blight on the "viewshed." Historically L.U.R.C. has been quite concerned with viewshed and has strictly monitored how construction will affect viewshed. Ironically, viewshed in the case of turbines has been completely ignored. It makes one cynical.

I am also concerned about the livelihood of those in the outdoor recreation business because a viewshed with turbines is going to adversely affect business. It will also cause the erosion of property values in the area.

My opinion is that this whole wind turbine thing is simply "using" the people of Maine and will impact the state negatively in the end.

Please do the right thing and deny First Wind's application for Bowers Mountain and other proposed future projects.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



HHK/mtf*

* my two fingers

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LURC-AUGUSTA



5604 12th Ave South,
Birmingham, AL 35222
98 Windy Shores Road
Lakeville, Maine 04487

To: Frederick Todd, Land Use Regulation Commission, LURC
From: Ellen W. McLaughlin
Topic: Credentials of STANTEC Wildlife Evaluators for First Wind/Bowers Mountain Industrial Wind Turbine project **DP4889**.
Date: July 5, 2011

Matt Arsenault did the Bowers Mountain botany assessment for STANTEC, a group hired by First Wind /Champlain to do the wildlife survey. He signed his document "Certified Ecologist and Botanist." I am always a little uneasy about the objectivity of reports from people whose salary comes, even indirectly, from the very company filing the application for industrial wind turbines. Inherent in this type of arrangement is always the conflict of interest question.

I have emailed Mr. Arsenault several times for his academic history with as yet no reply.

If Mr. Arsenault is certified through the Ecological Society of America and if he is at a high certification level (there are 3 levels), then I have no problem with the report because the ESA has extremely high ethical standards.

I also think it is important to know his academic history in Botany, Universities attended, degrees, courses taken, papers published, previous field work experience, etc.

Also, how many hours were actually spent in the field doing the survey and what were the exact dates when observations were made.

This might be important in your deliberations in the area of wildlife impacts since you want an unbiased assessment – or even better, perhaps you could have a neutral party do a wildlife assessment for you over a period of several years as recommended by the US Fish and wildlife Service.

Academic credentials should also be sought for those persons doing the bird study, bats, ichtys and herps, mammals, wetlands, vernal pools, etc.

Actually, I thought Mr. Arsenault's report was pretty good given the limited time in the field. I have used some of his data in opposition to the Bower's Mountain project. I trust that he is a Certified Ecologist through the Ecological Society of America and has a strong background in botany and ecology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen W. McLaughlin". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Ellen W. McLaughlin, PhD. Professor Emeritus, Biology Dept. Samford University.

- Contributor, Bottle Lake, Maine Newsletter
- Author, compiler, photographer of "Wildflowers of Lakeville, Maine."
- VLMP Lakes Monitor.
- Member Alabama Wildflower Society, Cahaba River Society, Friends of Shades Creek
- Member Audubon Society, Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, etc.
- Seasonal resident Maine for 60+ years, Lakeville, Maine. Visitor to home place in Wytopitlock, Maine for my whole life.

PO Box 38
13 Old Kelley Ave
Orono, ME 04473

RECEIVED
JUL 12 2011
LURC-AUGUSTA

July 11, 2011

Land Use Regulation Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Dear LURC Commissioners,

This is regarding Development Permit DP 4889 for the Bowers Wind Project. We believe the project does not meet the statutory criteria for approval under the *applicable provisions*:

- 1) Many lakes designated by Maine as significant scenic resources will be visually impacted.
- 2) The historic contiguous canoe route through these lakes will cause a user to view wind turbines on almost all lakes and for most of the time on the water.
- 3) Champlain Wind incorrectly identified the lakes in view of Bowers Mountain as “developed,” a designation that only the legislature can make.
- 4) The potential impact of turbine speed on Maine’s bat population has not been determined. Doing the study proposed by Steve Timpano to assess the effect of wind speed on bats *after* the turbines have been erected is akin to “closing the barn door after the horse gets out.”
- 5) There is evidence that Champlain Wind’s proposal was too hasty and not well thought out. For example, they: did not know about Pug Lake, did not provide for deconstruction of turbines, did not address the issue of turbine fires, arbitrarily declared that lakes were “developed.”
- 6) LURC’s job is to guide land use in the unorganized territory, balancing conservation with economic benefits. Without an industrial base, tourism remains the Downeast Lakes area’s major economic driver. If you do not protect Maine’s reputation as a quasi wilderness, tourists will not be drawn to “Maine...the way life should be.” In addition, there is abundant evidence that the economic benefit of wind power is dubious. Wind turbines produce output only 11%-20% of the time in Maine, while the potential harm from a wind farm to the traditional industry in Grand Lake Stream is credible. Further, it is ironic that our electric bills in Maine may go up as we tax payers pay for transmission upgrades to get the wind energy to southern New England.
- 7) The regulations LURC follows in decision-making appear to be out of date. Regulations were developed before anyone envisioned towers 40 stories high would loom over the landscape. While current LURC regulations on building height and set-back ensure new construction preserves the natural views on lakes, towers 40 stories high can be seen for miles on both land and lakes.

6) Finally, LURC is working with decision-making criteria and regulations that were designed before wind power was on the horizon in Maine. While current LURC regulations on building height and setback ensure new construction preserves the natural views on lakes, towers 40 stories high loom over the landscape and lakes for miles. This does not fit with what we believe was the original intent of LURC regulations.

We urge you to work with the legislature to slow down this expedited wind farm permitting until the full regulatory, economic, environmental, and cultural impacts can be explored. We may be using Maine taxpayers' money to subsidize the private gain of wind farm developers, and we may not know how much of Maine we have lost before it is gone.

Sincerely,

Donald and Paula Moore
Donald and Paula Moore

cc: LURC Commissioners & Fred Todd, LURC Project Planner

Enclosures

Route 6

Windmill Area

Conserved
Land
ALL Green Areas



Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership

Project Area Farm Cove Purchase



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Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership

Pingree

North Quabbin Woods

Hull Peck

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Home » Projects : Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership

DOWNEAST LAKES FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP



Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership Closes on Fee and Easement Purchases and We Still Need Your HELP!

On May 25, 2005, the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) and the Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) completed three purchases allowing the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership to meet all deadlines. Today, DLLT owns 27,080 acres of community forest and NEFF holds a conservation easement over 312,000 acres of adjacent forestland for a total of 342,000 acres of contiguous woodlands and waterways, permanently protected from development and available forever for public recreation.

DLFP in the news	
New England Cable News	
Portland Press Herald	
1/6/05	
Fly Rod & Reel Article	
Bangor Daily News	
Editorial 9/2/04	
Bangor Daily News oped	
9/2/04	
Bangor Daily News	
8/27/04	

See Map
Green Area Completed Conservation

Much of this was made possible because of tremendous support the Acres for America program, a partnership of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Wal-Mart, and from: the Open Space Conservancy at the Open Space Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Mrs. Elmina Sewall, the Land For Maine's Future Program, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, the Sweet Water Trust, the Conservation Fund, the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township, National Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Forever, and many other individuals, corporations, and foundations. While NEFF did have to secure bridge financing, NEFF and DLLT are confident that continued fundraising will fill this gap.

NECN has teamed up with NEFF and the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership. NECN's Scot Yount highlighted this beautiful part of our region, and offered viewers the opportunity to be a part of this historic conservation project to keep this land unspoiled.

The Partnership Began This Effort In 2001 And Completed The First Purchase On March, 20, 2003



St. Croix Corridor

A 50-mile, 3,019-acre conservation corridor along Spednic Lake and the Upper St. Croix River was acquired by the State of Maine, a purchase facilitated by NEFF and the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust. The purchase was made on March 20, 2003. [Click for map](#)

A Second Purchase Was Completed On December 16, 2004

Why we contribute money

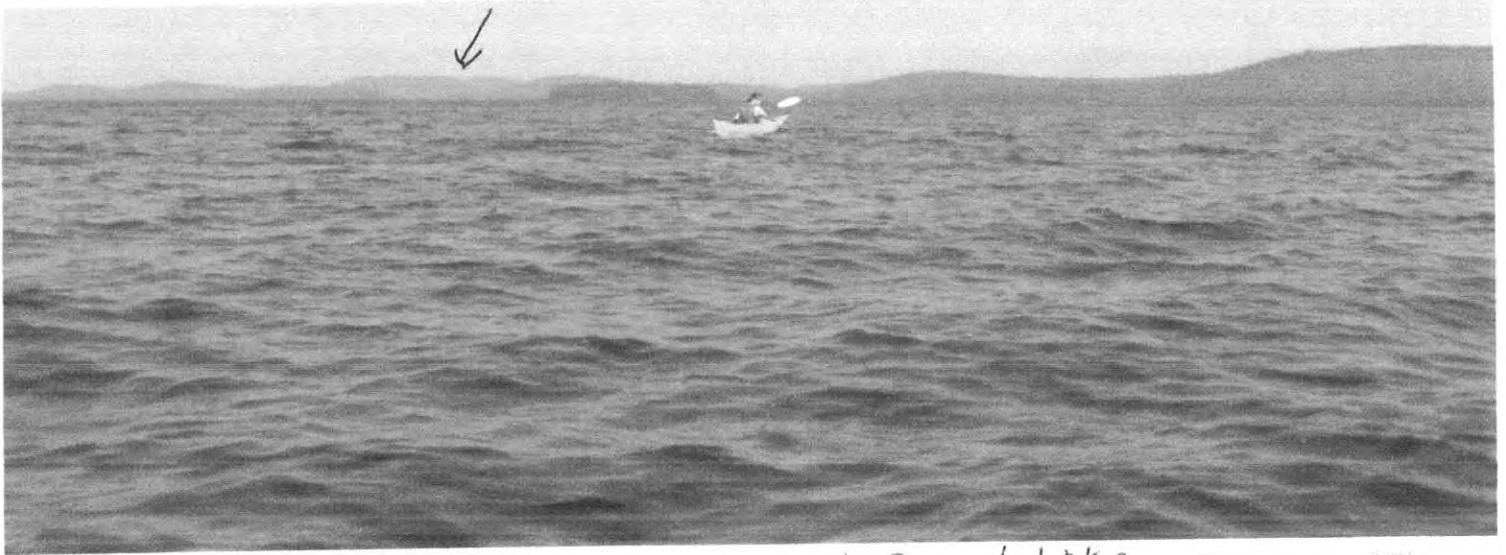
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Forests and Lakes - For People - Forever

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Bowers Mountain Range



West Grand Lake

What We Do:

Downeast Lakes Land Trust is based in Grand Lake Stream, Maine. We protect lakeshores, improve fish and wildlife habitats, provide public recreation opportunities, offer educational programs, and support jobs in the forest and on the water. We are dedicated to the Downeast economy and environment.

Current Campaign

West Grand Lake Community Forest Project

\$24 million to complete a 370,000 Acre vision

Imagine the thriving village of Grand Lake Stream surrounded by protected lakes and 55,000 acres of community forest supporting public recreation, fish and wildlife, and sustainable forestry. Citizens of Grand Lake Stream unanimously supported this vision with ...

Read More

Latest News

Downeast Lakes Land Trust

July 4, 2011

New Records set in 3 mile Race for Grand Lake Stream [Read More](#)

June 21, 2011

Monitoring Loons Downeast [Read More](#)

June 8, 2011

Downeast Lakes Traditions Newsletter, Summer 2011, Available [Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

Downeast Lakes Land Trust

Tue Jul 12, 2011 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Explorations & Adventures: Photography

Thu Jul 14, 2011 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

History & Heritage: Early Wildlife of Maine

Tue Jul 19, 2011 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Explorations & Adventures: Numbers In Nature



PO Box 38
13 Old Kelley Ave.
Orono, Maine 04473

July 11, 2011

Governor Paul LePage
Office of the Governor
#1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

SUBJECT: Wind Farms in Maine

Dear Governor LePage,

We recently attended several days and evenings of LURC hearings to witness testimony from the public, consultants, and the applicant (Champlain Wind LLC) on the Bowers Mountain Wind Project. There has been much discussion by our neighbors and in the newspapers about the problems with wind power, and specifically, about the poor business practice it represents. After listening to the testimony, we are appalled that Maine appears to benefit little, either energy-wise or economically, from wind power, yet the legislature has ordered that the permits for development of wind farms be expedited. Here's what we learned:

- 1) Current wind farms in Maine only produce between 11%-20% of the output promised. Wind on land in Maine is notoriously unpredictable.
- 2) Habib Dagher, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UM, has stated that the most cost effective wind power is ocean related, not land-based.
- 3) Maine has not done a cost benefit analysis for the state before jumping on the popular wind power bandwagon. Neither has Maine required applicants to provide credible cost benefit analyses before or after installation of turbines.
- 4) We were outraged to learn that our electric rates are likely to go up as we Maine taxpayers foot the bill to upgrade transmission lines to move the wind power from Maine to Southern New England. The areas most impacted by the Bowers Mountain Wind Project (e.g., Carroll, Kossuth, parts of Washington County) already have the cheapest electric rates in Maine as a company in New Brunswick serves them. *They* will see no benefit from this particular wind project on their electric bills.
- 5) We heard testimony from numerous Maine Guides and lodge owners in the Bowers Mountain impact area suggesting that industrial wind power will have a negative economic impact on tourism in the area. Tourism is the major economic engine for this area now. It is one of the few areas in Maine that continues a traditional outdoor culture, one that draws many birders, campers, fishermen, and hunters to the state. Many of the wind projects proposed for the future are in rural areas like this, and the traditional character of Maine will be changed forever.

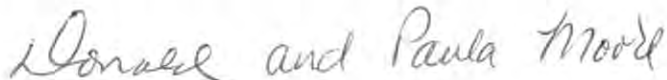
Further, the project significantly conflicts with and reverses the work that numerous organizations and individuals have undertaken to preserve the natural character of the area immediately abutting Bowers Mountain. (See enclosed map and documentation.)

8) The Down East Lakes Land Trust, in collaboration with numerous organizations and individuals, has made great effort to preserve from development large sections of land that will be impacted by this project, and it is currently half way through a 23 million dollar money raising venture to secure another tract of land on West Grand Lake. Development on Bowers Mt. flies in the face of this significant effort to conserve not only the forests but also the historic and scenic character of the area.

9) Enclosed is a map with notations showing the large tracts of conservation land within the immediate area of Bowers Mountain. It defies logic that the State of Maine would allow industrial wind production in an area where so many organizations and individuals, including Land for Maine's Future Program as well as national organizations, have come together to preserve the *natural resources forever*. Also enclosed is a statement from the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership to demonstrate all the organizations that have worked to preserve the land within Bowers Mountain area.

We appreciate the hard work LURC members do, and we strongly support continuation of the commission. LURC is the only body that can view the role of land development from a statewide perspective with the needs of *future generations* at the center.

Sincerely,



Donald and Paula Moore

cc: Fred Todd, LURC Project Planner & Governor LePage

Enclosures

RECEIVED

JUL 12 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

66 Ford Rd.

Wayne, ME 04284

July 10, 2011

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission

22 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Dear Commissioners:

This is to oppose DP 4889, First Wind's Bowers Mountain Industrial Wind Proposal.

The first sentence of the legislative findings in the Maine Expedited Wind Energy Act states that wind development should be sited "where appropriate". The Bowers Mountain Project/DP 4889 proposes to be built in the heart of the Downeast Lakes region, which is NOT appropriate.

It will cause the usual irreversible damage ecologically, will devastate property values, and undermine the economic benefits of Maine's #1 industry - tourism and recreation.

Say NO to Bowers Mt. Industrial Wind.

Sincerely,
Audrey S. Marra



Mr. Frank Leavitt
1 Running Tide Rd.
Cape Eliz, ME 04107

RECEIVED

JUL 12 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

11 JULY 11

Dear Sirs / Madam .

Once again requesting saving wild
areas of our loved State of Maine. This

time request nol to approve DP 4009

FIRST WINDS BOWERS MTN INDUSTRIAL WIND

PROPOSAL.

Reasons for above are clear; modifications
of our horizon outline with turbines as
well as affects to wildlife. Maine is one of
the special areas of this great land that
still has totally natural environment and
such change would be just that - change
forever.

In my 3/4 centuries of life, I truly
hope that my Maine of today will be what
I had for my grandchildren & theirs.

Sincerely
Frank Leavitt

July 11, 2011


RECEIVED
JUL 12 2011
LURC-AUGUSTA

Land Use Regulatory Commissioners
c/o Fred Todd
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to urge that you reject the Bowers Mountain wind proposal (DP4889) hatched by an outfit calling itself First Wind. After reading a description of its scheme to make money by making an assault on a Maine recreation mecca, it seems urgent that you protect the Downeast Lakes Watershed. Please refuse to ruin what is beautiful and valuable in Maine to help a gang of windbags reap a windfall.

Yours truly,



Marjorie Gallace
11 Chestnut Hill
Camden, ME 04843

7/12/11

Mr Fred Todd, Project Planner

I agree with the hundreds of people that live & vacation in the Springfield, Grand Lake Region, that the wind turbines do not belong in this pristine wilderness area, an area of which there is nothing like it on the eastern United States seaboard. Again I am opposed to any wind turbine mountain projects in this beautiful part of America.

RECEIVED
JUL 13 2011
LURC-AUGUSTA

Thank You for
your attention

William L Daniels
861 Main St
P.O. Box 125
Springfield
Me 04487

RECEIVED

JUL 13 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

456 Old County Road
Brooklin, ME 04616

July 12, 2011

To LURC:

I am not opposed to wind power generally. On the contrary, I'm convinced it is one of the best alternatives to fossil fuel use which must be ended soon for the survival of life. And my grandson has just completed a master's degree in electrical engineering with an emphasis on wind power.

However, I do not believe in sacrificing Maine's wilderness areas which, as you know, bring thousands of tourists to enjoy them, for large industrial wind projects which profit a few corporations like First Wind, & blight the landscape.

There is a flurry of research going on all over the world into small, community-based wind energy and also off-shore where the University of Maine is one of the leaders. Before we spread more blight and cut down more trees, it seems wise to consider more appropriate development of alternative energy for Maine's landscape and people.

Sincerely,

Olenka Folda

RECEIVED

JUL 13 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

Mr. Fred Todd, Project Planner
LURC

22 State House Sta.,
Augusta, ME 04333

July 12 2011
A. Daniel's
P.O. Box 125
Springfield
ME 04487
207-738-2175

RECEIVED

JUL 13 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

Dear Mr. Todd:

First, let me apologize for the handwriting as I do not have a typewriter.

Second, and more important, I do not want to see more windmills on the horizon (Bowers Mountain, etc.) Almost forty years ago we built our house in Springfield so we could be near the wonderful lakes. We've taken our small boat with our children down the lakes and thought we were in a wilderness paradise. We've climbed Vinegar Hill (near Bowers) to show off to others the landscape. We, and countless others, have gone up Almanac Mt., where on a clear day one can see nine lakes among the hills. Now, our grandchildren are always excited to be on the lakes.

A few nights ago we came from the lakes, turned from Bottle Lake Rd onto Rt. 6 & could see all the ^{twinkling} red lights in Lincoln (25 miles away) The whole row blinked off, then on. We were glad our house windows don't face that direction.

Over the years we have seen the northern lights, meteor showers, Orion going across the summer sky & the Milky Way. We don't want to see "blinking" red lights all over.

We may only be "country folk" up here, but we are important, too. Let them put turbines down state where there are other lights, noises, etc.

The saddest part is we had a governor who wanted to leave a "green" legacy & bought into these windmills. From the beginning the majority of power was to go out of state (still is). People sold or leased land to the developer & were told to keep quiet. Some of these were people connected to our legislature, town planning offices, etc. Organizations like snowmobile clubs, fairground bldgs, were given money to help them out. Carroll has been promised a good amount for the next 20 years to have these in their backyard, which we feel is a case of a few speaking for all. We see the turbines in Lincoln turning when there is not a leaf moving on the trees. We only get big winds when a storm moves through. They must be using ^{other} power.

If you've ever heard the loons calling at night on one of these north country lakes, you'll be forever enchanted.

Thank you for reading this - Anna M. Daniels

RECEIVED

JUL 13 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

July 11, 2011

Land Use Regulation Commission
C/O Fred Todd
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

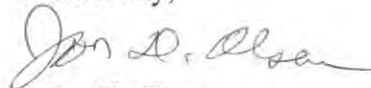
Dear Commissioners,

It has come to my attention that an important matter is before you concerning First Wind's application for Bowers Mt/DP 4889. Based on information I have received, many questions arise.

1. Who benefits? If not the people and visitors who come to Maine for near pristine conditions, then who?
2. How will such a massive development impact the wildlife who are full time residents or like so many people, "visitors."? Do migratory birds use this area? How will the combined effects of mountain top removal, road grading, loud sounds, and intrusive lights affect them AND the many paying human tourists?
3. What will happen to property values which are vested in the quality of life for sporting and scenic events? What will happen to livelihoods dependant upon boating, canoeing, back-packing, camping, hunting, fishing, and photography? We all know the answer, don't we!

As I understand it, there will be, if approved, numerous wind turbines over 400 feet tall—1 1/3 times the length of a football field! It is one thing to site them in the badlands of the western states or in ocean platforms off the coast of Maine, but quite another to cause enormous disruption to Maine's unique AND profitable natural treasures. Wind power is an important resource to be developed, and is infinitely better than coal or nuclear, but let's put the turbines in the right places!

Sincerely,



Jon D. Olsen

Jefferson, Maine 04348

RECEIVED

JUL 13 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

July 12, 2011

Dear LURC:

I am writing to strongly urge you not to approve DP4889, First Wind's Bowers Mt. industrial wind proposal. Construction of the turbines would destroy the wild and pristine nature of an irreplaceable natural environment, the Downeast Lakes wild lakes watershed. Wild populations of brook trout, nesting areas for eagles and ospreys, and countless other wildlife would be adversely affected by the project. As an amateur astronomer, I would deeply regret the loss of one of the few remaining truly dark sky places at night because of the flashing red lights from the turbines.

Bowers Mountain is not an appropriate place for this wind project. I am an advocate of wind power, but I do not want to see all the pristine mountaintops of Maine bulldozed and destroyed for wind power, and I would urge the State of Maine to develop instead deepwater offshore wind power, where there is far more energy available and much less environmental impact.

Sincerely,

Wayne B. Persons

Wayne Persons
1045 Main Road
Bradford, Maine 04410

9 July, 2011

Frederick Todd, Project Manager
Land Use Regulation Commission
22 State House Rd.
Augusta, ME 04333

RECEIVED
JUL 13 2011
LURC-AUGUSTA

Dear Mr. Todd,

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to deny the Bowers Mtn. wind turbine project DP 4889. We have been going to the Bottle Lake area since 1961 and the trip each summer (and a few winter trips) takes us to a place to recuperate from the woes of winter; and to allow our children to experience a life far removed from the norm - this has been valuable to them. There are now members of the fourth generation on the scene and we look forward to sharing this with them without this intrusion. Thinking about being surrounded with the flashing red lights from the large towers is depressing to say the least. We also believe the presence of the wind turbines will negatively affect the numbers of people: instate and "from away" who use the area. Wind turbines in themselves are not the issue but this is certainly not an appropriate site for such a project.

William T. Walton
Mary Ann Walton
316 South 4th St. (PO Box 7)
Gratz, PA 17030

Wm T. Walton
Mary Ann Walton



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Accredited Investment Fiduciary®

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JUL 13 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

July 12, 2011

State of Maine Department of Conservation
Mr. Fred Todd and LURC Commissioners
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

Re: Bowers Wind Project

Dear Mr. Bowers and LURC Panel Members,

My name is Peter Coopersmith. I reside in Waldoboro and am self-employed as a financial advisor in Bangor. I do not own land in the area surrounding the Bowers Wind Project but as a frequent visitor to the general area and as a citizen of Maine I have a vested interest in this part of our state and the proposed project. With a degree in forestry from the University of Maine, three years of experience on a forestry crew for Georgia Pacific in Washington County, and over 40 years of recreational activities in that area, I have come to know the region and its people well.

I attended the LURC hearing on July 6th, 2011 in Bangor and have serious concerns regarding the Bowers Wind Project.

Based upon testimony provided by Champlain Wind, LLC the total monetary payments provided to various professional organizations, townships and plantations over the life of the project will be \$2,800,000. There may be minimal tax revenue that will also add to township/plantation coffers. The potential monetary rewards are miniscule compared to the potential for revenues in tourism over the next twenty years and beyond. Maine has only begun to tap into the tourism industry beyond its coastal lands and these areas of Penobscot and Washington County are poised to blossom as tourist destinations with the right promotions and protections. Also, how will real estate values be affected? Will property owners loose value and in turn will townships loose tax revenue if this project moves forward?

88 Hammond Street, Suite 401, Bangor, ME 04401

Toll-Free (800) 572-2404 • Tel (207) 945-0155 • Fax (207) 945-3909 • peter@pscoopersmith.com

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New jobs will accompany this project, most temporary employment with only a handful of permanent positions after a year's time. The question is: How many jobs will be lost? How will physical changes in the environment, due to this project, impact registered Maine guides, small business owners, and rental service providers amongst others? How will these changes affect future job growth in the tourism industry as it moves forward? I am concerned that more jobs will be lost than gained now and in the future when all is said and done.

Green energy is definitely a benefit of this project. Any citizen who is truly concerned about the environment wants to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. But will this project actually help meet this goal? None of the power that is generated will stay in the state; instead it will allow states like Massachusetts to trade carbon credits. Maybe Champlain Wind, LLC might consider pursuing placement of these windmills closer to those it will actually help.

Scenic vistas, unspoiled topography, clean waterways, and abundant wildlife are all a part of the draw of this area to many tourists who flock there including myself. I am troubled by the proposed 9.8 miles of new roadways, blasting of mountaintops, clearing of forest for additional connector lines and the visual impact of 27 wind turbines and 4 meteorological towers. These endeavors threaten all that we treasure in this region: wildlife habitats (Creatures such as the endangered lynx are sensitive to environmental changes.), water quality in watersheds, springs and lakes (Blasting can have dramatic negative consequences that show up later.), and pristine landscapes (Once we blast the top off a mountain it is scared forever.)

Personally, I am most anxious about the negative impact the project will have on scenic vistas from up to 12 different lakes in the area, plus many connecting waterways. I cherish these views, as I have since I first took them in as a youngster at summer camp. It is actually more than just the aesthetic pleasures that I value when I am hiking, fishing or paddling. It is my connection to the environment that I so easily achieve in an undeveloped place. My children look forward to their time in the region each summer as a source of escape from the built up cities in which they now live. We all appreciate the opportunity to connect to nature and the natural world around us. Someday too, I hope my grandchildren will be afforded this opportunity. A string of windmills on the horizon will strip the area of its wildness and tear away at its very soul.

Still, as a responsible citizen, I value listening and considering all sides of an argument. After attending the LURC meeting I pondered the information shared and weighed it in my mind. In the end, potential benefits of this wind project are outweighed by the potential negative impacts. I keep asking myself, what will the residents of these communities and the people of the State of Maine get out of this deal? My conclusion: Very little!

Please reject the proposed Bowers Wind Project. Do right by the people who love this part of the state and all those who yet have to discover it. You have a beautiful state and national treasure in the palm of your hand; be its protector. Think about the long term impact of your decision and the consequences that it will have on many generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Coopsmith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Coopsmith



RECEIVED

JUL 07 2011

Milton Dysart

LURC-AUGUSTA

Dearest J. U. R. C. Panel,
Ladies & Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter in support of the Bowers Intr. Project. I am a Maine resident, born in Bangor, I am 72 years old, my dad built the third camp on Bottle Lake in 1934. I've been around this area most of my life.

I was at the meeting at Ella Bown school. Most of the people there were opposing this project.



RECEIVED
JUL 07 2011
LURC-AUGUSTA

Milton Dysart

I also noticed these
people came from out of
State. Granted they buy
land here because they have
found the 'Eden' or Paradise.
I realize they pay taxes and
have the right to vote on
this project. Some stated
they have been here 20-30
years or more.

These people are vacationers
in my eyes, they are here
2-3 weeks to 4-5 months,
and we trying to tell
Prime people how to run
our State.



RECEIVED

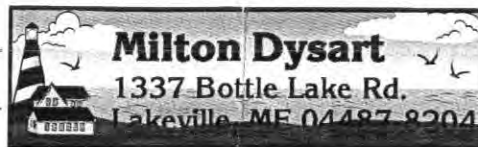
JUL 07 2011

Milton Dysart LURC-AUGUSTA

Most Maine people I
have read about or talked
to would like to see this
project approved.

I'm hoping someone will
read this to the panel & will
realize why Maine needs
renewable energy. Let
the Wind Blow.

Sincerely
Milton Dysart



RECEIVED

JUL 14 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

5 Hawthorne Street
Brunswick, Maine 04011
7-13-11

Maine Land Use Regulatory Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-022

Gentlemen and Ladies:

Construction of giant industrial wind mills in the northern lake region of Maine will mar an environmental gem that has managed to make it into the 21st century essentially unspoiled, the potential of which as a tourist or other resource is unstudied.

The electrical power produced by the project is intended for transmission beyond Maine borders, not to contribute to Maine's energy resources or to reduce Maine's dependence on imported energy.

The huge wind mills will cause persis-

ting destruction of large numbers of migratory
flying creatures.

Therefore, I urge to oppose First Wind-
mills DT 4889, Bowers Mountain Industrial
Wind Project.

Sincerely,

Victor Scrupa, Jr.
VICTOR SCRUPA, JR., MD

RE: DP4889 - Bowers Mts.

7/12/11

LURC

40 Fred Todd

22 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0022

RECEIVED

JUL 14 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

Dear LURC Commissioners:

I am writing this letter to express my anger and my dismay at what is happening in the state of Maine. Mainers are being mugged by wind developers who are out to grab our resources at the expense of our precious environment, our outdoor recreation industry, and our Maine way of life.

I want to express my opinion, in particular, about the wind development proposed for Bowers Mtn. by First Wind (DP4889). This proposed project will destroy one of the most pristine wilderness areas in our state - not only visually - but the impact on the sensitive ecosystem of the area may be devastating.

More Maine Guides make their living in the Bownest watershed than any other area of Maine. Many of these jobs will be lost as folks from away will no longer visit to fish and hunt and provide to the local economy.

If this project is approved, an area that has the highest concentration of Class 1A and 1B lakes will be lost to those lakes forever.

No emergency exists that could possibly allow the building of this project which will send the energy produced out of Maine. Please do not approve DP4889.

Yours truly

Greg Perkins
Holden, Maine

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JUL 14 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

July 10, 2011

Governor Paul LePage
Office of the Governor
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME. 04333-0001

LURC, c/o Fred Todd
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Dear LURC Commissioners and Gov. LePage,

We are writing to inform you of my deep opposition to further developing wind power projects, specifically the **Bowers Mt./DP 4889**. We have kept well informed of Maine's Wind Power initiatives in various areas as each project has evolved and we have tried to do this with an open mind taking into account our nations urgent energy needs, numerous perspectives and scientific research. We have come to the conclusion that this particular site should not occur and the long term effects would be permanently devastating for the quality of such a pristine area and future generations will face damages that are irreparable. Maine must adhere to preserving the truly wild areas left in the state.

Sincerely,



Nicholas J. Rehagen and Cindy Rehagen Langewisch
49 Androscoggin Bluff
Livermore Falls, ME. 04254

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JUL 14 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-002

RE Bowers Mt. DP 4889
Att. Fred Todd
Dear LURC Commissioners,

I strongly believe that Bowers Mountain is not an appropriate site for an industrial wind farm, and I am asking you to please reject the proposal by First Wind to erect 27, forty-three story turbines on this ridgeline. In fact, no turbines— not even one— would be appropriate for Bowers Mountain.

The undeveloped Downeast Lakes Watershed is a jewel in Maine's vanishing wilderness. Moreover, it is one of only a few unspoiled large watersheds remaining in the lower 48 states. Fishermen, canoeists, and kayak paddlers visiting this area observe Nature hardly changed in the last century. All that stands to be lost if this project by First Wind is allowed to go forward.

For most of the 45 years I've lived in Maine, I believed that our wilderness is valued and protected. Please don't disappoint me or countless other sportsmen, campers and outdoors persons depending on you to protect this unique Maine resource. In sum, please vote no on DP 4889.

Thank you in advance for considering my thoughts and opinion.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Ferriss



507 Lincoln St.
Richmond, ME 04357

RECEIVED

JUL 15 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA


July 14/11

LURC c/o Fred Todd
22 State House Station
Augusta, Me.

Dear Mr Todd,

I am writing to you
to inform you of my opposition to
the Bowe Mountain Wind Project.

According to research I've done it
will do very little for the
people of Maine and will have
a very significant impact on the
region's environment and natural beauty.

Sincerely,

Algis Vydas

RECEIVED
JUL 15 2011
LURC-AUGUSTA

Richard A. Hesslein
68 Peary Mtn. Rd.
Brownfield , ME 04010

Commissioners, LURC,

Ref.: Bowers Mtn / DP 4889

This letter is submitted as testimony pertaining to Champlain Wind's proposed Bowers Mtn. Industrial Wind Power Project. I very recently attended the public hearing in Lincoln, Maine and witnessed the expressed concerns of local people and businesses. I also took a three day and two night kayak tour of Junior, Scraggly, West Grand, Pocumcus, and Sysaladobsis Lakes from which the Bowers Mountain ridgeline is a prominent feature on the skyline from several aspects of these lakes. I am deeply concerned about the effect this intrusive development would have on the experience I had and the quality of place I got to observe first hand as I traveled these lakes in a most intimate way! I was able to experience miles of undeveloped and gorgeous shore line with wooded ridgelines in each direction. We found a fabulous array of wild life and around these waters from rising fish, nesting eagles, osprey, multiple species of ducks, shorebirds, terns, kingfishers; songbirds of huge variety including at least four different thrushes, frogs, turtles and beaver managed wetland complexes! In the dark of night quiet was broken only by various frog sounds, occasional bird calls and incredibly haunting echoes of multiple answering loon wails. The darkness was complete except when clear skies revealed a universe of vivid stars. This is an exceptional precious resource that must not be squandered for the profit of opportunists who have

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JUL 15 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

endeavored to stack the deck to ensure their financial gain due to huge misguided (not unusual) government subsidies.

Even if there is a substantial benefit available from the employment of industrial wind turbines this would not be the proper place, but my understanding is that the real benefits are highly questionable when one considers up to 30% efficiency and intermittent possibly untimely power production. The money and jobs promised for the local community is questionable, if the result is a boondoggle that only raises costs of production of power and relies on continued tax payer rate payer inputs. Hopefully wind power can help reduce our energy impacts in time but it must be carefully integrated into our collective, critical, already badly degraded environment!

I appreciate your careful deliberation on these matters and hope you will not be unduly swayed by bribes of promised payments to community projects and programs. One must ask-where will this money come from!!

Thank you

Sincerely,

Rick Hesslein

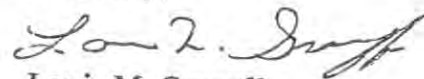
July 15, 2011

Dear Fred Todd,

I am appalled to hear that wind towers are proposed for Washington County's lake country (Bowers Mountain). This region of the state holds some of the last pristine lake country in New England, and it hosts a thriving (and growing) recreational economy. I, along with friends, have been lodging in the Washington County lake country (spring and fall) for years. We live on the Blue Hill Peninsula, beautiful in itself, but lacking expansive lakes and forests.

If wind turbines (industrial monsters producing what energy advantage?) are erected in Washington County's lake country, my friends and I will mourn as will many others. We will most likely seek a vacation spot in other unspoiled lake country, but this will be a difficult undertaking. I don't believe wind turbines can legally be erected in the lake region of Adirondack State Park in New York. We might begin our search there.

Sincerely,



Louis M. Graceffa
218 Bay Road
Brooklin, Maine 04616

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JUL 18 2011

JUL 18 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

LURC-AUGUSTA

State of Maine Land Use Regulation Commission

Regarding: Development Permit / Bowers Mountain, DP 4889
submitted by First Wind (Champlain Wind, LLC.)

Dear LURC Commissioners:

My name is Shari LaTulippe and I live in Franklin, Maine.

With all due respect, I implore you to deny First Wind's permit application to develop a Wind Energy Facility in yet another amazingly beautiful part of Maine, Bowers Mountain in Kossuth Township.

The Downeast Lakes Region is legendary for its remote, unspoiled (largely undeveloped) character, which provides amazing recreational opportunities for so many people in Maine and others from around the world. The vast areas of remote landscapes are the lifeblood of Maine's economy. Protecting the high quality of water in this watershed or any other watershed includes protecting the surrounding land and forests from unreasonable, industrial-scale development, such as wind energy projects. Who in their right mind would allow such inappropriate and destructive activities to proceed? To continue to allow First Wind or any other Wind Energy Developer to undermine the integrity and health of Maine's forested landscapes and maintain, comprising of highly diverse habitats critical for the health and wellbeing of wildlife and people. These are awe-inspiring places that need to be protected. Healthy, intact landscapes are invaluable assets.

It is an unfortunate state of affairs we are in because of the Expedited Wind Energy Law and the re-zoning of land use in LURC's jurisdiction. What is the urgency for large-scale Wind Development in Maine? The Expedited Wind Energy Law needs to be repealed. It is time for reflection of what has been permitted so far. Assess the impacts Wind Farms has on wildlife and people health, which we already know are detrimental.

If anyone feels obligated to expedite these Wind Energy Development permits because of the looming Tax Subsidy deadlines or any other unreasonable pressures, please stop to contemplate the long-term consequences of such decisions. This is very serious.

The prices of natural-resource based commodities such as gas, oil and the generation of electricity should reflect the adverse impacts on the environment. Where are the tax subsidies for the average person, who does not have deep pockets, who would like to install a photo-voltaic system on their house?

More tax incentives for energy conservation is a key component in this electricity-generating conundrum we are facing. Consumption rates are too high. How does society deal with such vexing issues?

Maine generates more electricity than is consumed and the rest is exported to southern New England and elsewhere. It makes no sense to me to despoil Maine landscapes to produce electricity only to be exported out of state. This is an unsustainable way of conducting business.

LURE Commissioners have an opportunity, I hope, to become role models for other states and communities by not allowing anymore Wind Energy Projects to be permitted. The North Carolina Senate imposed a moratorium on commercial Wind Energy Development on the mountain ridges in that state. And in Maine, the towns of Avon, Dixfield and Rumford passed moratoriums on Wind Development, for all the right reasons.

I am concerned about the fast pace of the application and permitting process occurring at this time. I hope our letters of concern and testimonies at the hearings are not in vain.

Thank you for reading my concerns. There is a sense of urgency in these matters.

Sincerely, Shari LaTulippe

July 13, 2011

warming—and find ways to reduce it. The forecast for climate studies, it seems, remains cloudy. 🌩️

Burkhardt, U. and B. Kärcher. 2011. Global radiative forcing from contrail cirrus. **Nature Climate Change** doi:10.1038/nclimate1068.



©Ambar Espinoza

ECONOMICS

Billion-dollar Bats

Flying mammals are a boon to U.S. economy

Those bats in the belfry are worth billions. By keeping insect pests in check, bats save U.S. farmers as much as \$53 billion each year, according to a new tally in *Science*. But all could be lost if policymakers don't move quickly to address threats that are killing millions of the flying mammals, the authors argue.

Bats are remarkable insect-killing machines. In Indiana, for instance, biologists estimated that just a single colony of 150 big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*) ate nearly 1.3 million insects in a year. In Texas, that kind of bat pest control was worth \$12 to \$173 per acre to cotton farmers, concluded another study.

Those benefits are eroding, however, as white-nose syndrome (a fungal disease) and wind-power turbines threaten bat populations. By 2020, research suggests, turbines in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands alone could be killing 33,000 to 111,000 bats annually, and white-nose syndrome has already killed more than 1 million. Those

million bats would have consumed up to 1,320 metric tons of insects, the authors note.

Such numbers highlight the “urgent” need to take action, they conclude. And because it can take years for colonies to recover from losses, “a wait-and-see approach to the issue of widespread declines of bat populations is not an option.” 🌩️

Boyles, J.G. et al. 2011. Economic importance of bats in agriculture. **Science** doi:10.1126/science.1201366.



WILDLIFE

Hue and Die

Wind-turbine color is a life-or-death matter

The evidence isn't black and white, but paint color could be contributing to wildlife kills at the world's growing number of wind turbines. Field experiments in the U.K. suggest that common turbine hues attract insects, and the buzzing food supply might in turn lure hungry birds and bats too close to the whirling blades.

A few studies have suggested that insects could be attracted to turbines

by their color or by the amount of ultraviolet (UV) light they reflect (many insects see in the UV spectrum). But the idea hadn't been rigorously tested until researchers at Loughborough University in Leicestershire decided to take paint chips in hand.

On 59 occasions over three years, they displayed ten differently colored cards at a wind turbine located in a meadow near the university, both at mid-day and after sunset. The colors ranged from two common shades used to make wind turbines less obtrusive—“pure white” and “light gray”—to racier shades that might be more attractive to insects: “red lilac,” “traffic yellow,” and “opal green.” Each time, they counted how many insects landed on each card during a ten-minute window. By the end of the experiment, they had counted 2,012 insect visits to the cards.

And discriminating insects they were. The pollen-like yellow card proved to be “the most attractive overall,” while purple was the least popular, the researchers report in the *European Journal of Wildlife Research*. Also high on the list, however, were the common turbine shades of white and gray, although “it is not entirely clear why.” One possibility is that the paint's UV signature resembles that of light reflected by leaves and flowers, and the insects “are drawn to it for foraging, mating, or resting opportunities.”

The findings suggest wind-farm builders might want to “consider alternative turbine colors for future installations, particularly in areas known to be high in insectivore activity,” they conclude. But “a logical next step would be to paint turbines at known sites of wildlife interaction” to investigate the effect of “moving” colors. Ultimately, the researchers hope, such

FOREST ECOLOGY NETWORK

CARBON SEQUESTRATION FACTS

Forestland in the Northern Forest has an average carbon content of 106 metric tons per acre. This includes all carbon in the forest, including live biomass, dead and down trees,

Trees are roughly 50% carbon (dry weight), increases in standing timber are directly correlated with increases in bound carbon.

Following a harvest, an estimated 32.5% of forest carbon is released to the atmosphere within five years. Another 32.5% is stored in long-lived forest products, with an average annual loss of 2% to decay or disposal and an estimated 35% of forest carbon remains stored on-site, either in unharvested material, forest soil, or coarse woody debris.

About 67% of the forest carbon is not stored in forest products following a clearcut

From a carbon standpoint, wood as a construction material has a smaller footprint than aluminum, steel, plastic, and concrete. This is true because production of wood products is often less energy-intensive.

To grow a pound of wood, a tree uses 1.47 pounds of carbon dioxide and gives off 1.07 pounds of oxygen. An acre of trees might grow 4,000 pounds of wood in a year, using 5,880 pounds of carbon dioxide and giving off 4,280 pounds of oxygen in the process.

Most people think cars, trucks, and industry are the major sources of CO₂ emissions, but the clearing and degradation of forests actually accounts for approximately 25 percent of annual CO₂ emissions worldwide. This is more than the annual CO₂ emissions generated in the United States by burning fossil fuels for transportation.

Carbon sequestration by forests and other lands decreased by approximately 20 percent from 1990 to 2001, a decline stemming primarily from poor timber management and the clearing of forests for development.

The U.S. carbon sink absorbs 1.1 to 2.6 million metric tons of CO₂ each year, which is equivalent to 20 to 46 percent of total U.S. global warming emissions.

Estimated costs for sequestering up to 500 million tons of carbon per year—an amount that would offset up to one-third of current annual U.S. carbon emissions—range from \$30 to \$90 per ton. On a per-ton basis, these costs are comparable to those estimated for other climate change mitigation options such as fuel switching or energy efficiency.

The total amount of carbon in the atmosphere is about 750 billion metric tons. Current levels are at 387ppm and are increasing annually at 2.1ppm. Levels have not been this high for 125,000 years and at the current rate of increase within 25 years levels will reach 450ppm – a level at which there will be not ice or glaciers on the planet! This occurred 35 million years ago.

Human activities—particularly the extraction and burning of fossil fuels and the depletion of forests are primary sources of carbon—totaling about 6.6 billion metric tons per year.

The oceans absorb about 2 billion metric and the terrestrial ecosystems about 1.2 billion metric tons more than they release.

The atmosphere is annually absorbing approximately 3.4 billion metric tons of carbon more than it is releasing.

If the current rate of carbon accumulation were to remain constant, there would be a net gain in atmospheric carbon of 25 percent over the next fifty years.

MAINE FACTS

Maine forests uptake about 5.3 million metric each year (.3 metric tons per acre).

A fifty-year-old forest on average absorbs .8 metric tons per acre per year. A 65 year old forest 1.6 metric tons per acre per year.

Doubling the age of the forest in the North Maine Woods could increase carbon storage by more than 1000 million metric tons. Currently, the age is declining.

Between 1982 and 2003 land changes resulted in the loss of 806,957 acres of forest. . This represents a total loss to the carbon sink of about 242,000 metric tons per year and the removal of about 42 million metric tons of carbon.

Maine forests currently store about 2000 million metric tons of carbon

Maple/Beech/Birch stands have the highest carbon density per acre. Tree plantations have the lowest.

Maple/Beech/Birch stands store about 550 million metric tons.

Doubling the stocking on the 550,000 acres of poorly stocked stands could increase carbon storage by as much as 500 million metric tons.

Maine emits about 5.1 million metric tons of carbon per year. This is about 4.1 metric tons per capita – 14th amongst all states.



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Bat-Killing White Nose Syndrome Confirmed in Maine

05/24/2011 Reported By: [Keith Shortall](#)

State Wildlife officials today confirmed that a fatal disease found in bats known as "white-nose syndrome" has been found here in Maine. The disease, which is caused by a fungus, has killed more than a million bats in the eastern and southern United States. Scientists are urging the public to help protect bat populations in Maine.

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Bat-Killing White Nose Syndrome Confirmed in Maine

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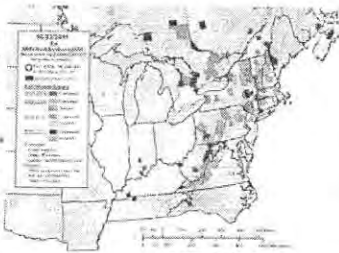
Duration: 5:22



State Wildlife officials today confirmed that a fatal disease found in bats known as "white-nose syndrome" has been found here in Maine. The disease, (shown left) which is caused by a fungus, has killed more than a million bats in the eastern and southern United States. Scientists are urging the public to help protect bat populations in Maine.

The disease was first identified in upstate New York five years ago, and has since been confirmed in 17 states, from New England, down to Tennessee, and in four Canadian Provinces (see map, below right). Until recently, there has been no sign of white nose syndrome here in Maine.

"Unfortunately this year when we surveyed, in one of the sites we surveyed, we found clear evidence of white nose syndrome," says John Depue, a wildlife biologist with the State Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.



Depue joined a panel of other officials in a telephone press conference to announce the discovery of the disease after a survey of three known hibernating sites known as "hibernacula" in Maine, two in Oxford County and one in northern Maine.

Depue says in addition to the evidence found in the first Oxford County site, scientists also found several dead bats in the second site, and sent the carcasses to a lab, which confirmed the fungus that causes white nose syndrome.

Depue and other officials won't give the exact location of the hibernacula, which are usually caves or old mines, for fear that curious humans may inadvertently spread the fungal spores. In fact, Ann Froschauer, National White-Nose Syndrome Communications Leader for U.S. Fish and Wildlife, says that's possibly how the fungus first arrived here in the U.S.

"The working hypothesis right now is that this fungus is likely of European origin," Froschauer says. "It was possibly brought over by humans, by either researchers or cavers with spores clinging to their caving gear or footwear, and sediment on their footwear, and deposited in the cave in New York."

But the disease is most commonly transmitted now from bat-to-bat among hibernating species, such as the small brown bat, northern long-eared bats, tri-colored bats and eastern small-footed bats that cluster closely together in hibernacula during the winter months.

"It's not being seen in the summer--this is a cold-loving fungus and so where the fungus is being found is on the bat, in their hibernacula," says Alison Whitlock, Northeast Region White-Nose Syndrome Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Whitlock says that if bats do survive the winter and move into warm attics during the summer, they are no longer affected by the disease, since the fungus cannot live in temperatures above 70 degrees. But Whitlock says the bats continue to spread the highly robust spores.

"When the bats are found in their summer colonies in people's homes, there is some evidence that they may have had the disease in the winter by having some scarring and things on

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their wings, but at that point, once the bats leave their hibernacula, they warm up, they clean the fungus off of them so there's no evidence of the fungus," Whitlock says. "They may be still carrying some of the spores in their fur, which is how they're continuing to spread it, but that actually hasn't been documented yet in people's houses."

And, says Ann Froschauer of U.S. Fish and Wildlife, it's also not clear how the fungus kills the hibernating bats. "There are several working hypotheses out there, one being that the fungus does cause the bats to arouse more often, they burn through their winter fat reserves," she says. "There's been some recent research that has looked at how the fungus actually affects the tissues in bats, disrupting some of the physiological functions of the wing tissue, in particular."

Nor is it exactly clear how much population loss is occurring in affected bat species. Mortality rates in some hibernacula have been found to be as high as 90 to 100 percent.

And the loss of bats will have an impact on the larger ecosystem. It's estimated that the one million little brown bats that have died of white nose syndrome so far would have eaten more than 660 metric tons of insects in a single year. And a recent study in the journal Science estimates that insect-eating bats save the U.S. agriculture industry at least \$3 billion dollars a year in pest control costs.

Froschauer says bats also help the forest products industry. "Insect-eating bats are the major predator of night-flying insects, and that includes a large diversity of insect species that are forest product pests," she says. "So especially here in the Northeast and in Maine there are a lot of forest lands that could potentially be impacted over time by this increase in forest pests."

While the white nose syndrome fungus is not harmful to humans, wildlife officials say that bats should not be handled, dead or alive. The public is also being asked not to enter caves or mines in Maine during the winter hibernation months.

And if you have bats roosting in your house or barn, officials advise letting them rear their pups and leave the structure at the end of the summer before closing off any entrance holes. For more information on white nose syndrome, [click here](#).

[Return](#)

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Ernest H. Weaver
57 main st.
ashland, me 04732-0196

RECEIVED

JUL 18 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

July 15, 2011

Dear Commissioners of LURC,

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to letting First Wind erect industrial wind generators, as part of the Bowers Mountain project. I implore you not to approve DP4889 as presented.

This is a very pristine and majestic area. I am familiar with Route six between Topsfield and Lincoln, having taught school in Topsfield.

We don't need this destruction of the environment at this present time. Please put it on hold by voting no to DP4889.

Furthermore, the Federal Government is trying to cut expenses that are now essential. I deem this project as such. It is not needed at the present time.

Sincerely,
Ernest H. Weaver

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JUL 19 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

July 18, 2011 8, 2011
310 Main Road North
Hampden, ME 04444

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission,
22 State House Station,
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Sir/Madam,

On Friday, I sent you my additional testimony on the Bowers Mountain Project, but, regrettably, in my haste I sent you the unedited draft instead of my final copy/ I would appreciate it if you would discard that version and replace it with the enclosed correct version.

Thanks for all of your kind considerations pertaining to controversial wind power issues.


Clyde MacDonald

Enclosure.

**.ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY OF CLYDE MACDONALD, HAMPDEN,
MAINE CONCERNING THE BOWERS MOUNTAIN WIND FARM
PROJECT. JULY 15,2011.**

The Land Use Regulation Commission and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection have failed in their missions to protect Maine's organized and unorganized territory from hazards to humans, wildlife, property, and forests. It appears Bowers Mountain may be the next victim.

This neglect is not theirs alone because it appears that no governmental body in any country or state has sought answers to key questions concerning wind power facilities and operations. However, one body of private citizens in the United Kingdom has gathered and published data that must be considered by regulatory agencies. The Caithness Windfarm Information Forum has printed a 92 page informational sheet that provides mostly media accounts of turbine accidents ranging from deaths to property damage to turbine caused forest fires and the killing and maiming of wildlife. We need agencies like DEP and LURC but we also need for their decision makers to seek out "the best that is thought and known" about wind power realities.

I have enclosed 4 sample pages plus the 5 page summary of accidents reported since the 1980's when there were few industrial turbines in the world. This report is authoritative because the compilers have listed the sources in almost every case.

Much, but not all, of what follows, is based on that report. To begin with, the taller the wind tower, the greater the production. If things continue, Maine soon will have hundreds of wind towers 300 to 450 feet tall, perhaps even taller. While taller towers may be more profitable for the wind companies, there has been little recognition that the taller the towers, the greater the threats to the environment. Among other things, height affects rates of metal fatigue, which, in turn, affects tower bending, tube collapses, and blade failures. In Scotland, Italy, and elsewhere, tourists have enjoyed taking pictures of turbines bent at right angles. But the point is that turbines affect the environment in ways that have not been well publicized, if at all.

The 92 page document contains media notices of severe turbine problems world-wide. It notes that at least 22 turbine fires were caused by lightning strikes, but there have been many more. However, lightning strikes are not the only causes of turbine fires and of turbine fires that have spread to fields and forests.

The very nature of a wind turbine's nacelle invites fires, oil spills, and other difficulties. A GE 1.5 MW tower's nacelle weighs more than 56 TONS,

the blades 36 tons more, and there they are, 92 tons perched on a tube as tall, or taller, than a football field. The tube, bolts, and foundations holding these massive structures must be able to withstand 60 mph winds and stronger that frequently attend Maine (100 mph winds and up elsewhere). These pressurized actions produce metal fatigue. The 92 page report claims there have been 116 “structural failures,” but regrettably, with few details. No wonder wind turbine companies offer guarantees of two years only. Many towers not even 300 feet tall have collapsed and at least one crashed to the ground is recorded as having caused a forest fire in Germany. The American Wind Power Association recommends ‘overhauling’ the turbines every 5 years, while in the UK, insurance companies *require* that all working parts be replaced every 5 years. Our turbine companies base their production on turbines that last 20 years. Who monitors the actual life-spans?

In the year 2000, in the United Kingdom alone, 22 turbines were closed down from metal fatigue. In 2009, near Syracuse, New York, a 1.5 MW GE turbine weighing 187 tons collapsed from metal fatigue, while a similar GE tower in 2005, in Oklahoma, broke in half. But notices of all turbine-related problems show up on the Caithness report on a hit or miss basis, so we do not know, officially, how many incidents of this type, or any type, have occurred. And no official agency seems to be trying to find out.

It is important to imagine what is under consideration here. A 56 ton (and more) assembly with 36 tons of blades is perched on top of a tube that is under stress and which is as tall as a football field is long. Then picture 30 to 40 of them almost side by side on a mountain ridge. In winter, ice build-up adds even more weight. In winter, when the blades start up, they often produce flying ice particles, some weighing more than a hundred pounds.

The Caithness document also reveals there have been 138 turbine fires in the past 11 years, through 2010, but in the notices that provide comments, only 26 have reported that turbines have caused forest fires. Doubtless there were more, but many of the reports of the fires state there are “no details.”

In addition to lightning and tower collapses, the mechanical parts inside the nacelles cause fires. They are lubricated by up to 200 gallons of oil (more weight). The International Association of Engineers reported “Damage by fire...is usually caused by overheated bearings, a strike of lightning, or sparks thrown out when the turbine is slowing down.” Sparks from generators cause fires. Then there is also heat and friction caused by braking when wind speeds exceed 56 miles per hour. Yet, very few foresters, paper mill operators, timber suppliers, and others have been seen opposing wind turbines.

Despite the now documented evidence that wind turbines cause forest fires, the Maine Forest service has testified to your agency that there is no

concern for worrying about forest fires, as the Maine agency has all that it needs to cope with forest fires . Really? Has LURC requested details of the numbers and locations of equipment that is available to fight fires on or near mountain tops in the State's windiest areas? In my earlier testimony in Lincoln, I submitted lists of fire fighting equipment that have been used in several states and abroad to limit the number of acres that are consumed by fire. I simply do not believe that the Maine Forest Service has tanker planes, helicopters and numerous tanker trucks in proximity to the hundreds of miles of remote mountain sides on which wind towers are built. The editor of Wind Watch wrote a piece entitled *Not If...but When*. And his information was based on information supplied by a wind tower suppression equipment manager, rather than on the Caithness report!

Forest product groups should be concerned also because of the external oil leaks that trickle down forested mountain sides, leaks that go undetected for hours or days. No wonder turbine fires often spread to fields and forests as oil-soaked vegetation easily catches fire.

Little has been said about oil spillage that affects wildlife dependent on clean streams and vegetation. The 92 page document lists only 16 incidents of oil spills, but there must be more. According to a survey of 75 wind farms in the US, conducted by an entity named Frontier Pro Services, wind farm operators claimed they had failed to replace worn out oil as recommended. They claimed they could not find personnel to perform the replacements. In Palm Springs, California, several of its 100 abandoned turbines there are continuing to leak oil into the environment. I presume that using hot, worn out oil over extended periods of time increases the likelihood of the friction that causes turbine fires from within.

One needs to know the details of processes designed to replace two hundred gallons of oil hundreds of feet above the ground and why the companies cannot find trained personnel to perform that vital chore. I doubt that Maine's permitting agencies have ever considered the question because I doubt they have ever been asked. Oil spillage and replacement processes seem to me to be sufficient reasons to place a hold on projects until authoritative information is developed and becomes available.

It is not known which is most problematical for surrounding grass and plant life, oil, or herbicides that are used to poison vegetation around the towers and roads leading into them. In Taiwan, when a wind farm was installed in a traditional grazing area, 400 goats suddenly died. In Ireland, a trout species and other wildlife disappeared after wind farms were introduced near mountain streams. Off shore, near the English coast, 50 seals were found dead. It is well known that eagles, bats, and all sorts of other birds in the thousands have been killed either by blade action or from food affected by wind operations.

The Caithness report summary states that a single wind farm in the Altamont Pass in California has killed 2,400 protected golden eagles in 20 years as well as 10,000 protected raptors. Eagles also have been killed elsewhere, but that fact and reports of thousands of bat deaths and deaths of other birds has not been of concern the Maine Audubon Society as it regularly testifies in favor of wind farms throughout Maine.

It appears that ocean creatures also are affected by off-shore turbines. Caithness reports that 50 seals have been found dead next to an English coast site, further evidence suggesting that oil and other chemicals must represent threats to deer, moose, and all wildlife.

I urge all members of this Commission to obtain for themselves a copy of the Caithness report from the internet. And I urge that other sources be consulted concerning the other questions that I and others have presented. Responsible agencies cannot continue to approve hundreds of more wind turbines until they have gathered and heeded the knowledge which is available but which will never be supplied authoritatively by self aggrandizing wind farm developers.

**Clyde MacDonald
310 Main Road North
Hampden, ME 04444
Tel. (207) 862-6757
portavi@tds.net**

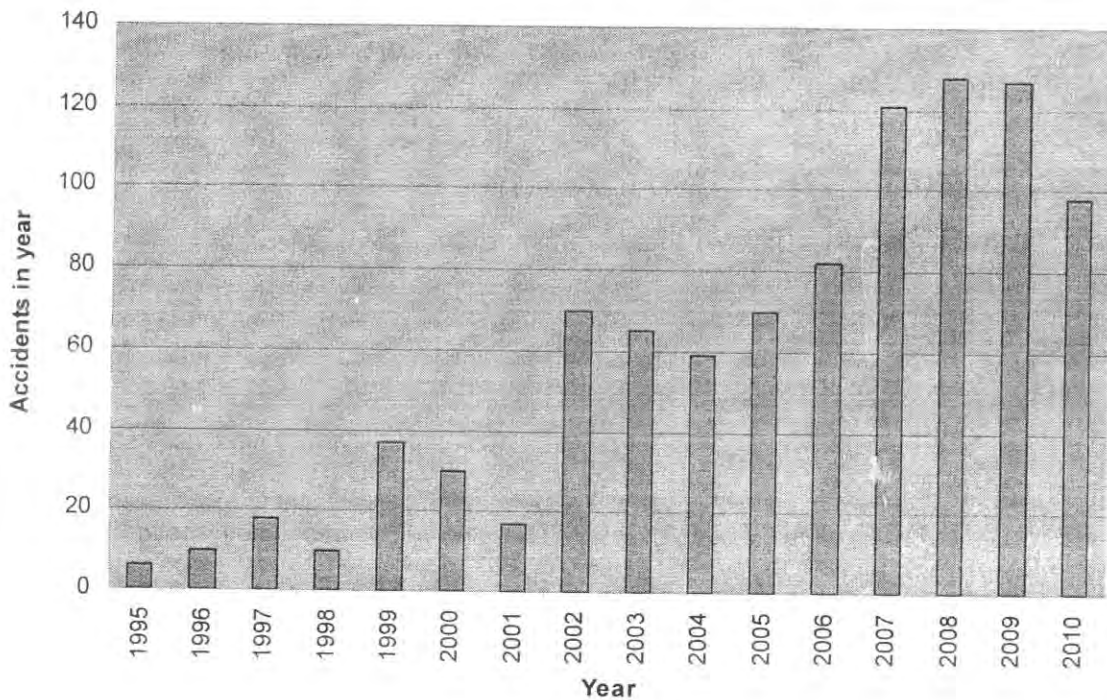
Summary of Wind Turbine Accident data to 30 June 2011

These accident statistics are copyright Caithness Windfarm Information Forum 2011. The data may be used or referred to by groups or individuals, provided that the source (Caithness Windfarm Information Forum) is acknowledged and our URL www.caithnesswindfarms.co.uk quoted at the same time. Caithness Windfarm Information Forum is not responsible for the accuracy of Third Party material or references.

The accompanying detailed table includes all documented cases of wind turbine related accidents which could be found and confirmed through press reports or official information releases up to 30 June 2011. CWIF believe that this compendium of accident information may be the most comprehensive available anywhere.

Data in the detailed table is by no means fully comprehensive – CWIF believe that it may only be the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of numbers of accidents and their frequency. However, the data gives an excellent cross-section of the types of accidents which can and do occur, and their consequences. With few exceptions, before about 1997¹ only data on fatal accidents has been found.

The trend is as expected – as more turbines are built, more accidents occur. Numbers of recorded accidents reflect this, with an average of 16 accidents per year from 1995-99 inclusive, 48 accidents per year from 2000-04 inclusive, and 104 accidents per year from 2005-10 inclusive.



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This general trend upward in accident numbers is predicted to continue to escalate unless HSE make some significant changes – in particular to protect the public by declaring a minimum safe distance between new turbine developments and occupied housing and buildings (around 2km in Europe), and declaring "no-go" areas to the public, following the 500m exclusion zone around operational turbines imposed in France.

Detailed data is presented chronologically. It can be broken down as follows:

Number of accidents

Total number of accidents: 1026

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.	1	9	17	81	30	17	70	65	59	70	82	121	128	127	98	51

* To 30 June 2011 only

Fatal accidents

Number of fatal accidents: 75

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.	1	8	8	7	3		1	4	4	3	5	4	9	7	6	5

* To 30 June 2011 only

Please note: **There are more fatalities than accidents as some accidents have caused multiple fatalities.**

Of the 83 fatalities:

- 58 were wind industry and direct support workers (maintenance/engineers, etc), or small turbine owner /operators.
- 25 were public fatalities, including workers not directly dependent on the wind industry (e.g. transport workers).

Human injury

83 accidents regarding human injury are documented.

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.			2	3	4	1	2	2	2	6	10	14	15	8	9	5

* To 30 June 2011 only

69 accidents involved wind industry or construction/maintenance workers, and a further 14 involved members of the public or workers not directly dependent on the wind industry (e.g. fire fighters, transport workers). Five of these injuries to members of the public were in the UK.

Blade failure

By far the biggest number of incidents found was due to blade failure. "Blade failure" can arise from a number of possible sources, and results in either whole blades or pieces of blade being thrown from the turbine. A total of 208 separate incidences were found:

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.			3	32	4	6	15	13	15	12	16	22	20	25	18	7

* To 30 June 2011 only

Pieces of blade are documented as travelling up to 1300 meters. In Germany, blade pieces have gone through the roofs and walls of nearby buildings. This is why CWIF believe that there should be a minimum distance of at least 2km between turbines and occupied housing, in order to adequately address public safety and other issues including noise and shadow flicker.

Fire

Fire is the second most common accident cause in incidents found. Fire can arise from a number of sources – and some turbine types seem more prone to fire than others. A total of 159 fire incidents were found:

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.			1	5	3	2	24	17	15	14	12	21	17	16	9	3

* To 30 June 2011 only

The biggest problem with turbine fires is that, because of the turbine height, the fire brigade can do little but watch it burn itself out. While this may be acceptable in reasonably still conditions, in a storm it means burning debris being scattered over a wide area, with obvious consequences. In dry weather there is obviously a wider-area fire risk, especially for those constructed in or close to forest areas and/or close to housing. Two fire accidents have badly burned wind industry workers.

Structural failure

From the data obtained, this is the third most common accident cause, with 116 instances found. "Structural failure" is assumed to be major component failure under conditions which components should be designed to withstand. This mainly concerns storm damage to turbines and tower collapse. However, poor quality control, lack of maintenance and component failure can also be responsible.

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.		1	1	13	9	3	9	7	4	7	9	13	9	16	8	7

* To 30 June 2011 only

While structural failure is far more damaging (and more expensive) than blade failure, the accident consequences and risks to human health are most likely lower, as risks are confined to within a relatively short distance from the turbine. However, as smaller turbines are now being placed on and around buildings including schools, the accident frequency is expected to rise.

Ice throw

31 incidences of ice throw were found. Some are multiple incidents. These are listed here unless they have caused human injury, in which case they are included under "human injury" above.

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.				9			2	2	4	4	3		3	4		

* To 30 June 2011 only

Ice throw has been reported to 140m. Some Canadian turbine sites have warning signs posted asking people to stay at least 305m from turbines during icy conditions.

These are indeed only a very small fraction of actual incidences – a report* published in 2003 reported 880 icing events between 1990 and 2003 in Germany alone. 33% of these were in the lowlands and on the coastline.

* (*A Statistical Evaluation of Icing Failures in Germany's 250 MW Wind Programme – Update 2003, M Durstwitz, BOREAS VI 9-11 April 2003 Pyhäunturi, Finland.*)

Additionally one report listed for 2005 includes 94 separate incidences of ice throw and two reports from 2006 include a further 27 such incidences.

Transport

There have been 74 reported accidents – including a 45m turbine section ramming through a house while being transported, a transporter knocking a utility pole through a restaurant, and a turbine section falling off in a tunnel. Transport fatalities and human injuries are included separately. Most accidents involve turbine sections falling from transporters, though turbine sections have also been lost at sea, along with a £50M barge.

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.							4		3	6	6	19	10	11	9	6

* To 30 June 2011 only

Environmental damage (including bird deaths)

89 cases of environmental damage have been reported – the majority since 2007. This is perhaps due to a change in legislation or new reporting requirement. All involved damage to the site itself, or reported damage to or death of wildlife. 37 instances reported here include confirmed deaths of protected species of bird. Deaths, however, are known to be far higher. At the Altamont Pass windfarm alone, 2400 protected golden eagles have been killed in 20 years, and about 10,000 protected raptors (Dr Smallwood, 2004). In Germany, 32 protected white tailed eagles were found dead, killed by wind turbines (Brandenburg State records). In Australia, 22 critically endangered Tasmanian eagles were killed by a single windfarm (Woolnorth). Further detailed information can be found at: www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=3071 and at: www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=1875

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.			1			1	1	7	1	6	5	10	21	13	17	6

* To 30 June 2011 only

Other (miscellaneous)

191 miscellaneous accidents are also present in the data. Component failure has been reported here if there has been no consequential structural damage. Also included are lack of maintenance, electrical failure (not led to fire or electrocution) and planning "accidents" where towers have been installed closer than permitted to housing, etc. Construction and construction support accidents are also included, also lightning strikes when a strike has not resulted in blade damage or fire. A separate 1996 report** quotes 393 reports of lightning strikes from 1992 to 1995 in Germany alone, 124 of those direct to the turbine, the rest are to electrical distribution network.

** (Data from WMEP database: taken from report "External Conditions for Wind Turbine Operation – Results from the German '250 MW Wind' Programme", M Durstewitz, et al, European Union Wind Energy Conference, Goeteborg, May 20-24, 1996)

By year:

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11*
No.			1	12	7	4	12	13	11	12	16	18	24	27	22	12

* To 30 June 2011 only

Caithness: Windfarm Information Forum
30 June 2011

18	Fire	2004	Hort -illa de Zaira - 3018	Spain		Los parques colgados se quemaron en una gran explosión de gases acetylenicos (poroles en spanish - lanes - wind parks became another scene of serious labour accidents). The article reports the death of Pablo Reymaniez Ariza, a windfarm worker at Horequilla de Almazán. Some in 2004. He worked for Carisma. The company was later fined 30 000 euros for failing to provide appropriate supervision and advice on damaged component location likely to be of AREPA's work	Reported in: "Los parques colgados en 3 February 2005"	http://www.2004pqr.com/relatos/004410041007041014-3828		
19	Fire	2004	Horsens Dømtingsløper	Denmark		No details of incident. Provision of analysis and advice on damaged component location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
20	Fire	2004	Bystrup	Denmark		No details of incident. Provision of analysis and advice on damaged component location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
21	Miscellaneous	2004	Horsens	Germany		No details of incident. Provision of analysis, advice and restoration to abort-ruled component. Location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
22	Fire	2004	Hornum	Germany		No details of incident. Provision of analysis, advice and restoration to abort-ruled component. Location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
23	Fire	2004	Hastingskong	Germany		No details of incident. Provision of analysis, advice and restoration to fire damaged component. Location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
24	Fire	2004	Silkeborg	Denmark		No details of incident. Restoration of fire damaged component. Location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
25	Fire	2004	Holso	Denmark		No details of incident. Provision of analysis, advice and restoration to fire damaged component. Location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
26	Fire	2004	Saarbaek	Denmark		No details of incident. Provision of analysis, advice and restoration to fire damaged component. Location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
27	Fire	2004	Rosnaes	Denmark		No details of incident. Restoration of fire damaged component. Location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
28	Fire	2004	Silkeborg	Denmark		Alternative Wind Technology	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
29	Fire	2004	Silkeborg	Denmark		Bonus Energy	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
30	Miscellaneous	2004	Meerwijk	Ireland		Bonus Energy	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
31	Fire	2004	Silkeborg	Denmark		DMP Mølleaense	No details of incident. Restoration of fire damaged component. Location likely to be of AREPA's work	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html	
32	Miscellaneous	Dec-2004	Middelagermølle Copenhagen	Denmark		Transformer failure report. The most recent failure occurred in December 2004 on a turbine that someone had already identified with a new transformer in December 2001.	Case Study: European Offshore Wind Farm - A report on the experiences of the developers of Offshore Wind Farms (part of the POWER (Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Report) Danish-UK Offshore Wind GmbH, University of Copenhagen)	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html	
33	Miscellaneous	2004	Aktioer Bank	Ireland		Reported cable burn	Case Study: European Offshore Wind Farm - A report on the experiences of the developers of Offshore Wind Farms (part of the POWER (Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Report) Danish-UK Offshore Wind GmbH, University of Copenhagen)	AREPA Group reference list of tasks regarding wind turbines	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html	
34	Environmental	17/01/2005	Schleswig-Holstein in the Main König circle/Hessen	Germany		Loss of hydraulic fluid into surrounding ground. Serious concerns over environmental pollution from all three turbines - which have been in place since 1998. Local environmental regulator considering prosecution (Osborne just know)	Detailed local reports and photos from adjoining owners	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html		
35	Blade failure	20/01/2005	Judby north of Vordingborg	Denmark		100' long turbine	Turbine running out of control (braking failure) - the three 30m blades broke off and were blown over a large area. Passants are injured from houses. Luckily no injuries or property damage.	Danish TV article online report. Also second TV report online	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html	http://www.arsena.com/Products%20-%20Solutions/WinH%20turbines/index.html

Case No.	Category	Date	Location	Country	Description	Source	URL	URL	Notes
14	Miscellaneous	22/07/2008	Cumberland Nova Scotia	Canada	RCMP turbine on the fitz again? What was once fixed is now broken again. The windmill turbine on the fitz again after being repaired last fall. There was a lightning strike that fried some components last year, but we believe this time it's an electrical circuit inside the control room that blew out. Const. Paul Calder of the Cumberland RCMP said recently.	Reported in Antihurt Daily News on 22 July 2008	http://www.wind-watch.org/news/2008/07/22/rcmp-turbine-on-the-fitz-again/	http://www.antihurtdaily.com/index.cfm?d=154930&cc=58	
15	Environmental	23/07/2008	Altamont Pass, CA	USA	New data shows bird kills up in Altamont. New data released this week shows the mortality rate increased 27 percent over two years among raptors targeted in an ongoing monitoring study, according to an executive summary of the data issued by Alameda County's Scientific Review Committee. The increase in the kills of the four targeted raptors - the golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel and burrowing owl - is in comparison with a baseline study that took place between March, 1998 and May 2003. The new data estimate a total of 2,238 birds from the four targeted species were killed annually.	Reported in The Oakland Tribune on 23rd July 2008	http://www.windaction.org/news/15997	http://www.windaction.com/news/0978413	
16	Blade failure	28/07/2008	Shirefield, Yorkshire, England	UK	Damaged wind turbine blades under repair. Repairs have started to a giant wind turbine between Shirefield and Rotherham after it was knocked out by a gale. A crack was spotted in the blades of one of two turbines from the Shirefield Parkway during high winds last month. A special failure device cut in to prevent further damage and the clipped blades were allowed to fall to the ground. Since then, investigations have been going on into the damage at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, where the University of Shirefield operate the two turbines.	Reported in The Star on 28 July 2008	http://www.windaction.org/news/17061	http://www.10star.com.uk/rotherham/Damaged-wind-turbine-blades-under-4329874.jpg	
17	Fire	30/07/2008	Burenhude, Hildesheim	Germany	Fire reported - turbine completely destroyed. Early on Sunday 28th July a fire broke out on the turbine at Burenhude and within 10 minutes the turbine was reduced to a pile of scrap metal. Fire brigade could not get to the site until 05:00 on Monday 29th July. No-one was injured.	Police report	http://www.golfexpress.de/bb_sport/161719		
18	Human Injury	02/08/2008	Silver Star wind farm, Eastland and Erath Counties, Texas	USA	Worker suffered a mild stroke when he brunched against an exposed live 120v wire. Maintaining the wind turbine rotation in an informal survey of 75 wind farm operators in the United States conducted by Frontier Pro Services, many respondents indicated they had fallen behind on scheduled preventive maintenance such as oil changes and gearbox lubrication because of a shortage of qualified technicians. According to Frontier, the survey found many wind farm operators and maintenance teams are so resource-constrained that they can barely keep up with unscheduled breakdown repairs to wind turbines. "Damage caused by worn out or compromised gear oil can be irreparable," said Frontier Pro Services lead technical advisor Jack Wallace, who has been servicing wind turbines for more than 20 years. "You can really see that it makes no sense to put off needed oil changes."	High Potential Injury Lessons Learned Report, investigation summary	http://www.windaction.org/news/17312		
19	Miscellaneous	20/08/2008	Results of USA-wide survey of 75 wind farm operators	USA	Maintaining the wind turbine rotation in an informal survey of 75 wind farm operators in the United States conducted by Frontier Pro Services, many respondents indicated they had fallen behind on scheduled preventive maintenance such as oil changes and gearbox lubrication because of a shortage of qualified technicians. According to Frontier, the survey found many wind farm operators and maintenance teams are so resource-constrained that they can barely keep up with unscheduled breakdown repairs to wind turbines. "Damage caused by worn out or compromised gear oil can be irreparable," said Frontier Pro Services lead technical advisor Jack Wallace, who has been servicing wind turbines for more than 20 years. "You can really see that it makes no sense to put off needed oil changes."	Reported in Luke Report on 20 August 2008	http://www.windaction.org/news/17312	http://www.makenews.com/nyg_e_article0011509998.cfm?x=610&v=1509998	

Blade failure	04/01/2009	Conshohocken wind farm, Lincolnshire, England	UK	Emerson E48	"FO wind turbine broke due to mechanical failure not collision with flying object". The £1 million wind turbine was destroyed after mysterious ground objects were spotted in the sky was not hit by a UF-108 jet but broke due to mechanical failure. Investigators have disclosed. A 85 ft blade that flew off the turbine came loose after bolts attaching it to the hub failed, not because of a collision, examination of the components has revealed. A second blade was badly bent. Previously, damage had been attributed to collision with a UF-01	Reported on 10 February 2009 in The Telegraph. Previously reported on 5, 6 and 16 January 2009 in South East	http://www.windaction.org/news/18387	http://www.lesheraph.co.uk/news/news/18387	http://www.lesheraph.co.uk/news/news/18387
Environmental	07/01/2009		Japan		A total of 14 birds designated by the government as national treasures, including white-tailed sea eagles, reported to have died at different sites by flying into completed wind turbines. Some wind farm plants in areas where these species are found have been suspended.	Reported on 7 January 2009 in The Asahi Shinbun	http://www.windaction.org/news/18386	http://www.asahi.com/ajw/ajw18386	http://www.asahi.com/ajw/ajw18386
Fire	08/01/2009	Astoria, Cadiz province	Spain		Two electrical fires on the same day reported and extinguished on a wind farm site in Spain.	Reported on 8 January 2009 by Redaccion CADIZ	http://www.datadecoder.com/news/18385	http://www.datadecoder.com/news/18385	http://www.datadecoder.com/news/18385
Ice throw	24/01/2009	King's Dyke, Whiteley, Cambridgeshire	UK	Vestas V90	"Sensor fails to stop ice-thrower wind turbine" A sensor which should switch off a wind turbine in icy conditions has failed - for the second time. As reported in The Evening Telegraph last week, a faulty sensor on the turbine in King's Dyke, Whiteley, was blamed for huge shards of ice flying off the blades and crashing into homes and gardens in November. Chief executive of Cornwall Light and Power Neil Harris, said: "On the evening of January 22, we were alerted to the fact that our Whiteley turbine was operating despite the air temperature having dropped below 4C (sensor cut out)	Reported in The Evening Telegraph on 24 January 2009	http://www.windaction.org/news/18616	http://www.cornwalllightandpower.co.uk/news/18616	http://www.cornwalllightandpower.co.uk/news/18616
Blade failure	28/01/2009	Netherland, Colorado	USA		US Forest Services wind turbine reported damaged by 100mph winds. One blade shattered off. One of two turbines at Netherland Work Center, CO. First strong winds since the turbines were installed on 20 January.	Reported in Longmont Times-Call on 28 January 2009	http://www.windaction.org/news/18737	http://www.lincolncall.com/news_story.asp?ID=14123	http://www.lincolncall.com/news_story.asp?ID=14123
Blade failure	30/01/2009		Portugal	Suzlon S98 VZ	Business report on Suzlon Energy. Cracks detected in blades and blades replaced in USA (already reported in this database), Brazil and Portugal. Replacement in 2007 and 2008	Reported on 30 January 2009 in Business Standard	http://www.windaction.org/news/19724	http://www.business-standard.com/news/industry/energy/02012009/19724.shtml	http://www.business-standard.com/news/industry/energy/02012009/19724.shtml
Blade failure	30/01/2009		Brazil	Suzlon S98 VZ	Business report on Suzlon Energy. Cracks detected in blades and blades replaced in USA (already reported in this database), Brazil and Portugal. Replacement in 2007 and 2008	Reported on 30 January 2009 in Business Standard	http://www.windaction.org/news/19724	http://www.business-standard.com/news/industry/energy/02012009/19724.shtml	http://www.business-standard.com/news/industry/energy/02012009/19724.shtml
Miscellaneous	30/01/2009	Rabin Rigg, Irish Sea	UK		Offshore workers operating on a new UK wind farm development were forced to evacuate a construction barge in severe sea conditions after their vessel lost three anchor lines. 42 workers were rescued	Reported on 30 January 2009 in offshore24.com	http://www.offshore24.com/news/18727	http://www.offshore24.com/news/18727	http://www.offshore24.com/news/18727
Fire	02/02/2009	Cathedral Rocks Wind Farm Part 1, South Australia	Australia		"Cathedral Rocks Wind Farm turbine fire" A \$6 million wind turbine has caught fire near Port Lincoln, starting blazes on the ground and chimneys. The fire, at the Cathedral Rocks Wind Farm about 30km southwest of the town, was first noticed by a boat about 1pm. The turbine is a slight halfway up its legs structure, making it difficult for the 14 Country Fire Services firefighters to deal with it to extinguish the blaze.	Reported on 2 February 2009 in Adelaide Advertiser	http://www.windaction.org/news/19796	http://www.advertiser.com.au/news/19796	http://www.advertiser.com.au/news/19796
Ice throw	02/02/2009	Malackton wind farm, Shelburne, Ontario	Canada		Report of ice throw and turbine shut down. Comments to Ontario energy minister road signs on approach to Enbridge Ontario Wind Farm at Malackton - During Potential Long Shutdowns Stay Back 300 Meters From Turbines.	Reported in The Star.com on 2 February 2009	http://www.thestar.com/article/590757	http://www.thestar.com/article/590757	http://www.thestar.com/article/590757
Transport	02/02/2009	Barrow docks, Cumbria, England	UK		Rabin Rigg wind farm barge strikes into Barrow docks causing thousands of pounds worth of damage	Reported in North West Evening Mail February 2nd 2009	http://www.windaction.org/news/19796	http://www.nwem.co.uk/news/19796	http://www.nwem.co.uk/news/19796

87	Transport	~11/2005	Wells Fargo, ND	USA	Kcell	<p>A truck hauling a wind-turbine pylon struck a power pole here, leaving 3,7-4 residents without electricity, most of the for about two hours. The accident happened after 7 a.m. Saturday Nov 5th at the intersection of Main Avenue and Ninth Street East, knocking out traffic signals at several intersections. Electrical lines were down on Main Avenue and Ninth Street, until a repair crew for Kcell Energy arrived, he said. No injuries were reported. The truck, from DMI Industries of West Fargo, was carrying a wind-turbine tower that protruded from the trailer, striking the utility pole as the truck turned west onto Main Avenue.</p>	<p>WCCO-TV - Minnesota's Breaking News, 11 November, 2005 http://wccotv.com/local/stories/31315245_5.html</p>		
88	Field	11/11/2005	East Ridge Wind Farm, Chandler, Minnesota	USA	Station	<p>Man Dies In Wind Tower Fire - Station, Man A South Dakota man died and two people were injured Friday in a wind tower fire in southwestern Minnesota. The Murray County sheriff's office received a call just before 10 a.m. reporting the fire at a wind tower east of Chandler, Minn., and that one person had died. Benjamin Dennis Thouson, 26, of Sioux Falls, S.D., died at the scene. He fell about 210 feet. Deputy Randy Donahue said. The other two were taken to a local hospital. When help arrived, Donahue said, "The generator was engulfed in flames." The towers owned by Dean Dugdale, of Chandler, who is part of an eight-person private ownership group called East Ridge Wind Farm. The three</p>			
19	Transport	29/11/2005	A441 Elgin-Rohles road at Oxenburgh, less than a mile from Rokeby, Moray, Scotland	UK	Oxen Renewables	<p>A huge lorry carrying a section of turbine for a wind farm stalled its load in spectacular style. The metal section - around 100ft long and 19ft in diameter - fell from the lorry and rolled down an embankment and 200 yards into a field after the vehicle mounted the verge on the A441 Elgin-Rohles road at Oxenburgh, less than a mile from Rokeby. The lorry toppled on to its side on the roadway, with part of the articulated bogie coming to rest upside down 20ft down the embankment. The Danish lorry, which was accompanied by escort vehicles at the front and rear, was on its way to the site of a windfarm which is under development on Prael's Hill at Oxenburgh. The driver of the lorry, a Dane, escaped unharmed.</p>	<p>"Lorry Sheds 60-Tonne Load After Accident", Press and Journal, 30 November 2005. Photo</p>		
10	Transport	02/12/2005	Larribs, Iowa	USA		<p>Station vs Anderson Trucking - Damage for the in transit lost and damaged to a nacelle being transported from station to Larribs & Co. Houlihan to Bright in the US. News, December 2 2005 on Hwy 169 at Larribs Iowa the carrier put the nacelle back and vehicle collision. Claim for \$250,000.</p>	<p>Legal System Intelligence</p>		
1	Fire	07/12/2005	Schiller, Iowa	USA		<p>"Fireman climb 21.8 tower" in "recess". Two electronic workers who hoisted and re-erected a tower at Sturgis Vets Regional Medical Center last week after they were rescued following a fire at one of the Mid-American Energy hublines last month of Schiller.</p>	<p>Reported on December 7, 2005 in Sturgis was Pilot Tribune http://www.kvrb.com/story.asp?storyid=330543&storyid=330487&cid=461449&lid=191453&lid=16</p>		
2	Blade failure	09/12/2005	Hunthammerhølet, North of Trondheim	Norway	Emerson 40m hub	<p>Blades reported to explode</p>	<p>Reported by Kemiilisaari, 3 November 2009 http://members.401.com/forums/index/Z2LUF48D9E1801</p>		
3	Fire	16/12/2005	Simmoneberg bei Hausum im Kreis Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein	Germany	Emerson 40m hub	<p>Turbine housing fire 40m above ground. Completely burned out. 20m fall of rotor to "lean blades blowers". Nice fire crew in attendance, but could do nothing at the height. Damage estimated at 0.5M euro</p>	<p>Reported by Kemiilisaari, 3 November 2009 http://members.401.com/forums/index/Z2LUF48D9E1801</p>		
4	Structural failure	16/12/2005	Delmarshort nahe Betsjap, Niedersachsen	Germany	Small private turbine 15m high	<p>Private turbine 15m high completely destroyed in storm. The turbine fell into the center's garden. Rotor blades were torn off and "blew through the air". Parts pierced a garage roof and destroyed a car within. Another rotor blade ended in a neighbours garden. The turbine had been in place for 20 years</p>	<p>Reported by Kemiilisaari, 3 November 2009 http://members.401.com/forums/index/Z2LUF48D9E1801</p>		

RECEIVED

JUL 18 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

William E. Murdock
22 Oak Grove Street
Veazie, ME 04401

State of Maine
Land Use Regulation Commission
Mr. Frederick W. Todd
Project Manager
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Champlain Wind Bowers Mt. project
DP 4889

Dear Mr. Todd,

My name is Bill Murdock. I live in Veazie, Maine and own a camp on the west shore of Duck Lake in Lakeville, Maine. My great-grandfather built the camp at the turn of the 19th century. I am convinced he did not build it with my generation in mind, considering the repairs necessary to keep the old spruce log cabin in usable condition. Nonetheless we have kept it up and intend to continue, it is truly a labor of love.

Some of the original camps built on Duck Lake were built by Charles Hutchins - founder of Dead River Company, Bill Tupper - an early partner with the Webbers of Webber Energy and Louis Eaton - woodsman, land owner, author and State Representative. Why would these men of ample resources choose to build retreats on Duck Lake, the headwater to the West Grand Lake chain of Lakes? I believe they knew, as I know now, that this is a very special place. They were moved by the deeply rewarding feeling that nature provides in this surrounding, something that completes us as humans. I know this feeling and few places provide it today. You have heard these feelings expressed by the good folks from Grand Lake Stream, Junior Lake, Bottle Lake, Keg Lake and Upper and Lower Sysladobsis.

Prior to the recent hearings on this project I was informed that the ultimate decision either for or against this project would be very close. Having worked in the solid waste/landfill business, I know what it is like to propose a controversial project. I knew I needed to keep an open mind. So I listened and learned and kept waiting for the testimony that would show me that perhaps this is "ok". It never came. Far from it. The more I learned of the truth regarding mountain top wind power generation, the more I wondered how can this possibly be a close decision? It is wrong on so many counts.

The First Wind team is smart and seasoned in presenting its case; they dot their technical "i's" and cross their "t's" yet fail to recognize even remotely the impact to the essence of this area this project would have. Neil Kiely, First Winds project manager, along with others, said this is no longer a wilderness area, and uses this as a basis to build these turbines. The harvest of the late 1980's (see Maine Sunday Telegram, enclosed) certainly changed the landscape. The reaction to

these clear cuts by H.C. Haynes and Sysladodsis Realty Trust became the catalyst for the forest practice regulations we have today. Almost 8000 acres (much of which was Dead River Experimental Forest) was clear-cut. First Wind has the audacity to use this heinous act as the basis for clearing the top of Bowers Mountain and placing 400+ foot industrial structures, complete with flashing red lights. Twenty years later it is a far cry from the 2nd and 3rd growth forest it once was, but it is still wilderness in the sense that there is no permanent human element. There are still more moose, deer, bear, bobcats and lynx than people. In 1988 LURC could do nothing to stop the sad over-harvesting of the Downeast lakes timberlands. Today it does have the authority and hopefully the awareness to prevent the Bowers Mt. project from becoming, once again for this area, the last big mistake before proper statutes.

I sense the world is catching up with the financial and technical inadequacies of wind power today. But with development and operational subsidies still available and the thin veil of green energy, people like First Wind will go the distance to score one more project. Please do not let it be Bowers Mt. With all that you have learned in technical presentation and testimony or simply by moral compass, I truly hope the Commission will rule against this development.

Sincerely,



William E. Murdock

Murdocks circa 1909



Maine Sunday Telegram

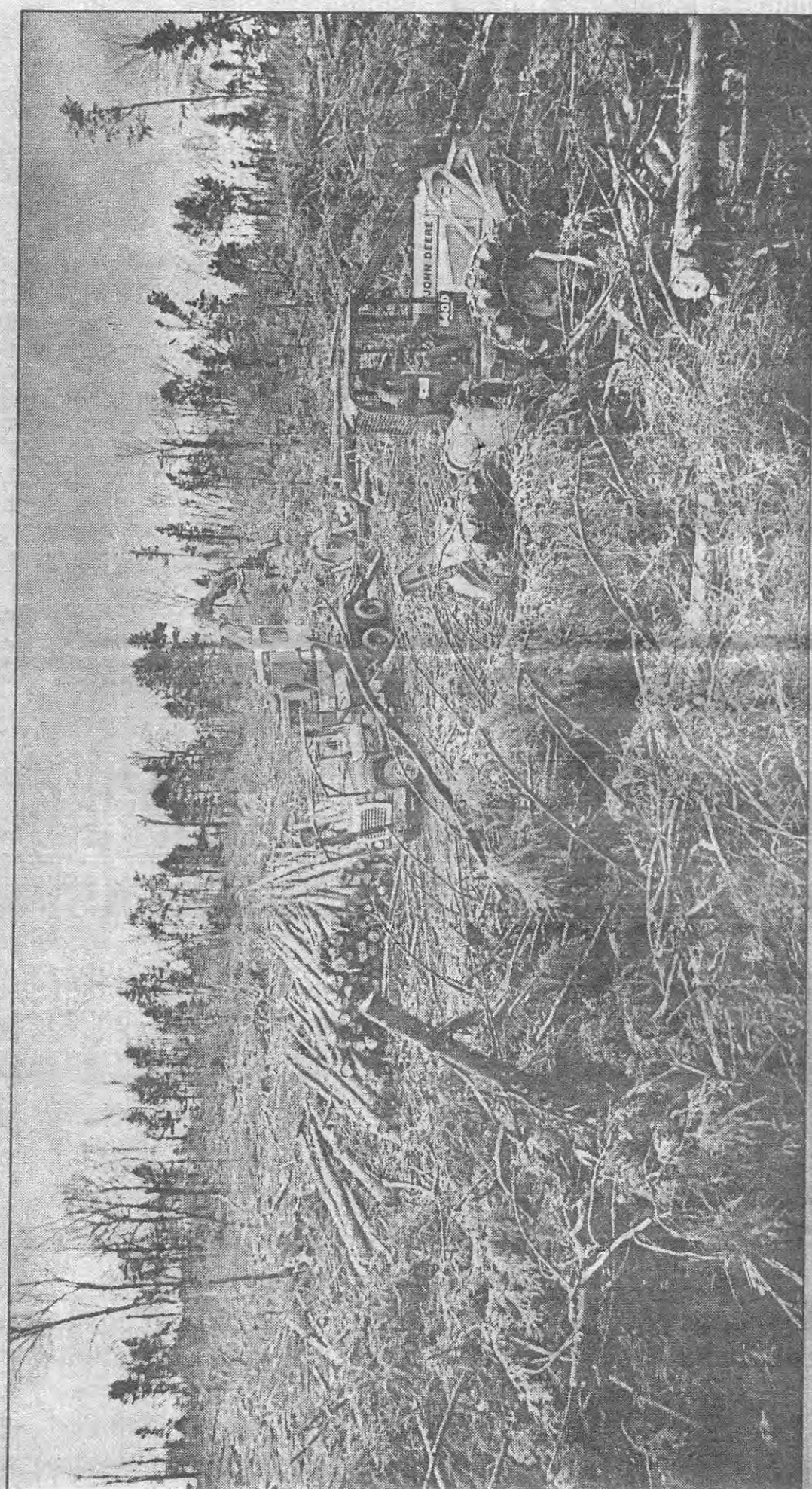
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November 27, 1988

Second Class Postage

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ear-cutting operation near Lombard Lake in Lakeville: Thousands of acres of the town have been divided into angles, 41 acres and larger, for sale as camp lots.

Staff photos by Doug Jones

Carving up Maine's woodlands

Critics fear liquidation of forest

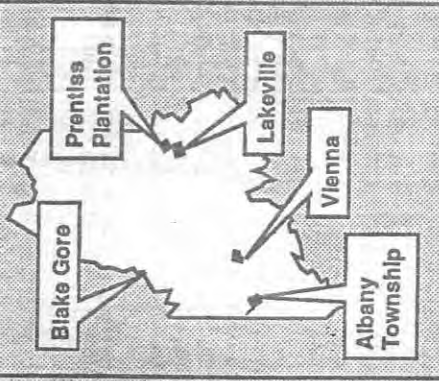
By Tux Turkel
Staff Writer

At a time when the state is concerned about a pending timber shortage, tens of thousands of acres of Maine woodland are being stripped of trees and subdivided into camp lots, removing the land from commercial forest production.

In a practice known to critics as land liquidation, owners remove most marketable trees, cashing in on the land's maximum timber value before breaking it up and selling lots for recreational use.

No one knows how much acreage is involved, because

Large lot subdivisions



Maine law requires no review, in most cases, when land more than 250 feet from water is subdivided into lots of 40 acres or more. A

tally by environmentalists shows at least 70,000 acres have been split into large recreational lots within the past three years.

While demand for some types of real estate has slowed in New England, brokers say the market for these hunting and camp lots remains strong, driven by the lure of owning a big chunk of "wilderness" for a reasonable price.

The forest industry, state policy makers and environmentalists disagree on whether camp-lot subdivision is a serious threat to the forest resource.

One view holds that Maine has millions of acres of commercial forest and that these subdivisions do not make any difference. Some observers also say woodlots of 40 acres or more are big enough for commercial harvesting.

But critics say Maine's wood supply is already tight and will get tighter if major tracts of commer-

See LAND

Back Page This Section



Selectman Ron Bradford at his camp on Sysladobsis Lake: A vocal opponent of the changing land use.

residents and 200 summer residents have watched as loggers and developers have divided or cut up about 9,000 acres of the town.

It is easy to see why Lakeville is so attractive for this type of development.

The country is hilly and has a rugged beauty. Most of the waterfront is undeveloped and remote. But the area is accessible, less than 90 minutes from Bangor by car.

Lakeville has little control over its destiny. An unorganized plantation until 1981, Lakeville is now an incorporated town, but its population is so small it cannot find enough interested residents to form a planning board or enact land-use laws.

The town relies on the state's Land Use Regulation Commission to regulate development, although the 40-acre exemption means the agency has no jurisdiction over much of what is taking place.

Sportsmen turned away

Lakeville's most vocal opponent to the changing land use is selectman Ron Bradford who, with his wife, Katharine, run the 100-year-old Spruce Lodge sporting camp on Sysladobsis Lake.

Intense logging activity in the area now threatens the environment that has brought sportsmen from all over the country to Spruce Lodge. Already, Bradford says, hunters have been turned back by no-trespassing signs, and timber operations are degrading streams that feed the salmon-rich lakes.

Touring the area with Bradford after a rainstorm in early November, the Telegram saw evidence to support the latter claim: Muddy water washing down logging roads into streams. A major brook flowing into Sysladobsis Lake also appeared turbid.

Bradford and other concerned residents have spent the last year writing letters to politicians and circulating a petition aimed at controlling harvesting practices. In August, more than 80 residents crowded into Lakeville's town hall to complain that the cutting was ruining the town.

Their persistence has gotten some response.

Investigators from LURC have visited Lakeville and are following up on alleged environmental violations by both Sysladobsis Realty Trust and Haynes. LURC also believes at least one lot on Junior Lake has already been re-subdivided without the required state review.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has also examined the area and is looking into possible illegal filling of wetlands by Sysladobsis Realty Trust's sales partnership, ERA Troft-Putnam of Bangor.

But overall, there is little Lakeville can do to prevent much of the town from being cut and subdivided, because most of the action is legal.

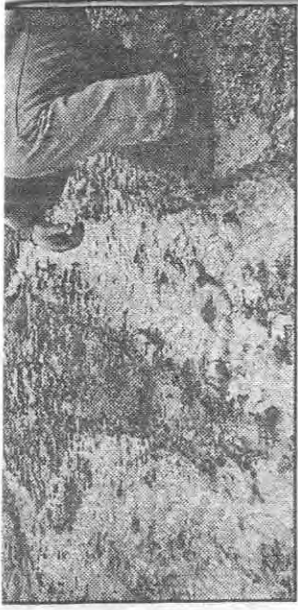
"We have long recognized that these large-lot subdivisions are causing significant land management changes," says LURC assistant director James St. Pierre. "In the short term, people may not see many visible changes. In the long term, they will."

The development of Junior Lake also shows that Maine law is at odds with state policy.

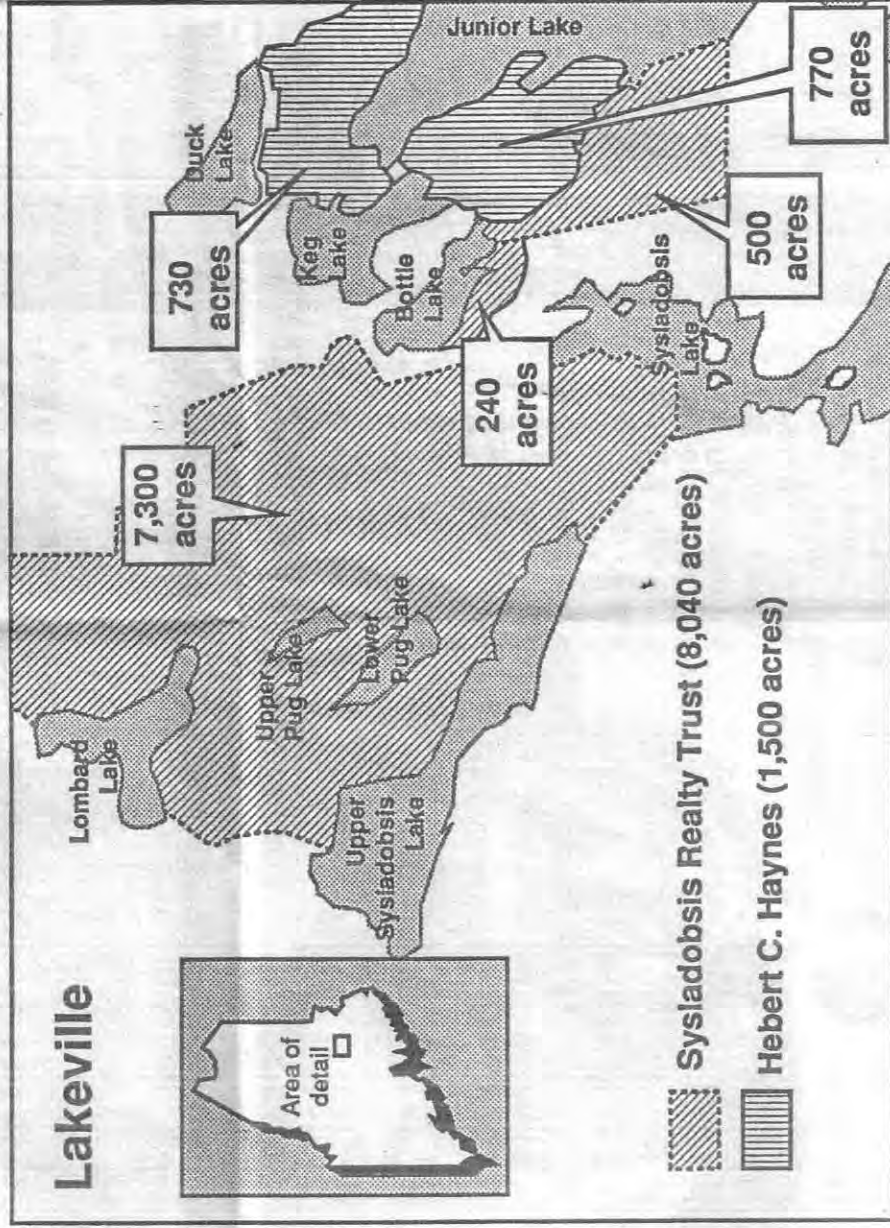
Junior Lake is the only water body in Lakeville designated Class 1 by LURC for its proposed management program for Maine's wildland lakes. It is considered a "gem lake" because of its pristine



Keeping track: notes from a recent meeting of the Lakeville selectmen on the town hall blackboard.



Lakeville Selectman Ron Bradford shows muddy water washing down a logging road after a November rain storm.



unsuccessfully argued last spring to eliminate the exemption as part of the state's new growth management laws.

"It's the weak link in our land-use planning program," says resource specialist Jerry Bley. "It strikes me as odd that if I want to divide my 10 acres in the town I live, I need to go to the planning board, yet people are dividing thousands of acres with enormous consequences and don't even have to file an application."

and Sandy Bay Township, near the Quebec border. It has filed a lawsuit and is seeking a preliminary injunction in Superior Court in connection with timber harvesting violations at a large-lot subdivision on 3,600 acres. Named in the complaint are Dewey Shaw of Gorham, Cedric and Marie Thomas of Cape Elizabeth and Timberlands Management of Jackman.

The complaint charges that 14 streams and stream channels that feed the Penobscot River were filled, altered, silted, redirected or crossed during road

Land

cial timberland are converted into camp lots. People who buy these lots, they say, generally will not tolerate bulldozers and chainsaws tearing up their woody retreats.

Critics add that those 40-acre lots can be further subdivided until all forestry opportunities are gone.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the federal Environmental Protection Agency are studying whether the filling of wetlands for roads that accompany these cut-and-sell projects in Maine should be reviewed under federal law and treated as development — not forestry.

"The question the corps is asking us," says Pam Shields, a wetlands specialist at the EPA in Boston, "is: Are these timber harvesting roads, or are they for subdivisions?"

Fast money

Converting woodland to recreation property has gone on for generations in Maine, but it has generally happened on a small scale. Now, skyrocketing land values and demand for recreational property have created a new dynamic. Forest landowners today can make quick money by selling off large tracts, rather than waiting 40 years for trees to mature.

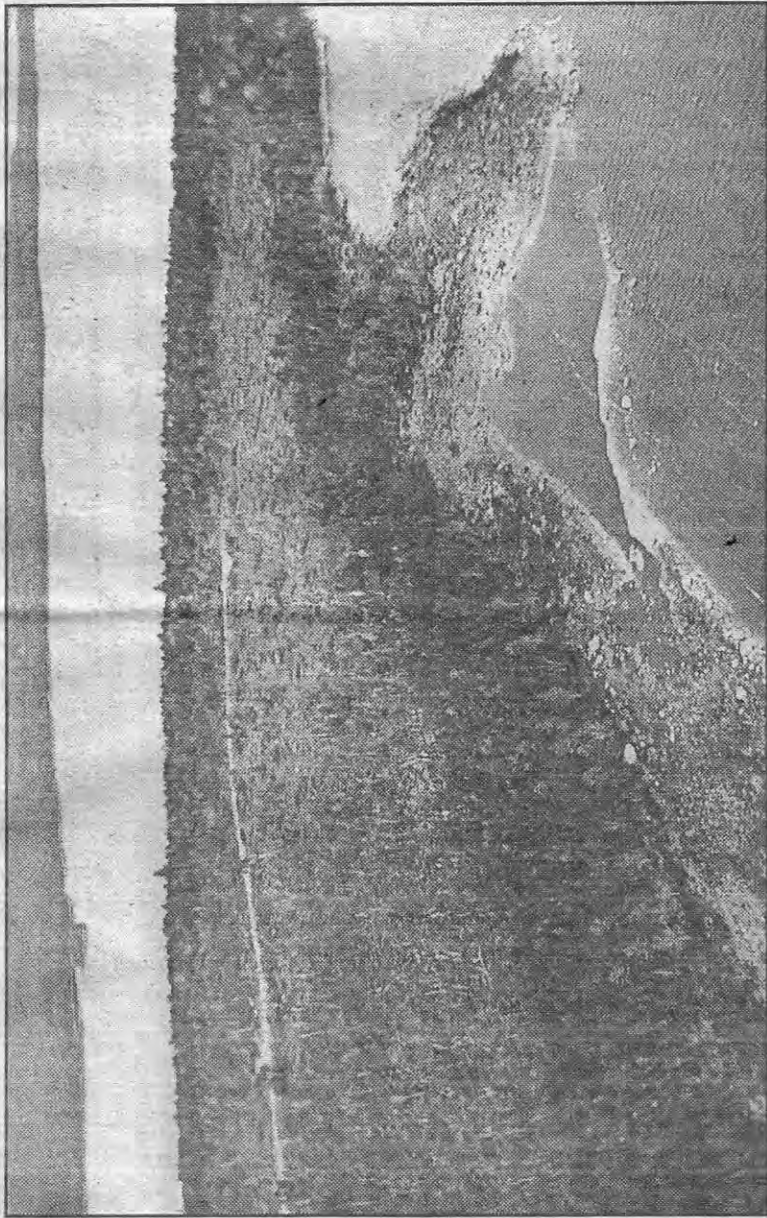
Most of the large-lot subdivisions being carved out of the forest are appearing in the unorganized territories, the vast northern and eastern woodlands that comprise half of Maine. The largest, and perhaps most controversial, example of this trend can be seen in Lakeville, a tiny town east of Lincoln.

The remote, 39,000-acre town features 10 lakes and 6,000 acres of water. Logging roads trace the landscape. Heavy cutting has created scores of scarred clearings where few trees stand. Trucks and harvesting equipment move methodically along the road network and through the woods.

On a table in the converted one-room school house that serves as Lakeville's town hall is a pile of survey maps. The maps show how thousands of acres of Lakeville have been divided into rectangles, 41 acres and larger, for sale as camp lots.

Cutting practices became controversial 13 months ago, when the Penobscot Indians sold 7,500 acres to Sysladobis Realty Trust of Bangor. Since then, H.C. Haynes Inc. of Winn, a large logging firm, has purchased two, 700-plus acre parcels.

In less than a year, Lakeville's 26 year-round residents and 200 summer residents have watched as loggers and developers have divided or cut up about 9,000 acres of the town.



Aerial photograph shows lighter-colored clear-cut acreage behind the darker tree-lined shore of Junior Lake.

Staff photos by Doug Jones





unsuccessfully argued last spring to eliminate the exemption as part of the state's new growth management laws.

"It's the weak link in our land-use planning program," says resource specialist Jerry Bley. "It strikes me as odd that if I want to divide my 10 acres in the town I live, I need to go to the planning board, yet people are dividing thousands of acres with enormous consequences and don't even have to file an application."

At Systadobis Realty Trust, partner Douglas Schmidt says he does not think recreational lots hurt Maine's forest resource because major paper companies are retaining most of their land, and because many camp lots will be logged in 30 years by small-scale operators.

He also says his company is doing nothing wrong in its harvesting practices.

"We cut along the lines of all the large contractors," Schmidt says. "You take the marketable timber where possible and it regrows. Under present standards, that's acceptable."

Schmidt supports the 40-acre exemption and says closing it would require the company to go through regulatory approval, which would drive up land prices. Schmidt points out that deeds to his camp lots only allow for one further division.

Looking ahead, Schmidt says the company will probably do more developments away from the water, to avoid regulatory review.

Controversial projects

The 40-acre exemption has been used to create several other major subdivisions, some of which have become controversial.

In Albany Township, a developer and logger were fined \$10,000 by the state last spring for timber-harvesting, road-building and water-crossing violations on land sold by CS&G-Timber Co. of Bethel.

The violations took place during the creation of a 1,000-acre subdivision on French Hill in western Maine. A settlement agreement was ultimately reached between the attorney general and JAE Realty Trust of Framingham, Mass., and Alvin Yates Logging Inc. of West Paris.

Part of the settlement required the companies to take remedial action to prevent erosion and stream siltation by last May 15.

But during an October site visit, LURC investigators found that some repairs apparently had never been done and others had been poorly carried out. St. Pierre of LURC said two weeks ago that his staff had not had time for a follow-up visit.

Meanwhile, ads for the property have run in Maine and Boston newspapers, featuring a hilltop lot with an asking price of \$80,000.

The state is also seeking legal action in Blake Gore

But overall, there is little Lakeville can do to prevent much of the town from being cut and subdivided, because most of the action is legal.

"We have long recognized that these large-lot subdivisions are causing significant land management changes," says LURC assistant director James St. Pierre. "In the short term, people may not see many visible changes. In the long term, they will."

The development of Junior Lake also shows that Maine law is at odds with state policy.

Junior Lake is the only water body in Lakeville designated Class 1 by LURC for its proposed management program for Maine's wildland lakes. It is considered a "gem lake" because of its pristine qualities.

But loggers are cutting most of the wood from the middle of the lake's Long Point, leaving a strip of trees near the shoreline.

The subdivision is known as Lakeville Shores and it was created by a subsidiary of H.C. Haynes. A map at town hall shows the project was filed last April 15, four days before a new law took effect regulating such developments.

The 17 lots start at \$55,000. A real estate ad from The Maine Sportsman calls them a "once in a lifetime offering, 40 plus acres with extensive frontage on one of Maine's finest salmon lakes in God's country."

LURC wants to create a quarter-mile restrictive zone around the shores of gem lakes and prohibit car and truck access. But these proposals have yet to be officially adopted by the state. In the case of Junior Lake, it is already too late.

40-acre law blamed

Critics place much of the blame for unregulated recreational subdivisions on the 40-acre exemption.

Under pressure from environmentalists, the Legislature last spring amended the exemption to require regulatory review of large-lot subdivisions near water. But as a concession to landowners and developers, it retained the exemption in the back country.

Owners argued that development was not a problem away from lakes and streams. But the creation of major subdivisions for remote hunting and camping lots has persuaded some officials that the practice could pose a threat to future timber stocks.

"If the issue is long-term viability of Maine's forest resource, then taking care of the 40-acre exemption only in shoreland is no answer," says assistant attorney general Jeff Pidot. "In fact, the highest value and most productive timberland is not in the shoreland area, anyway."

A former director of LURC, Pidot also points out that the law further allows large lots to be resubdivided in two every five years. Over time, he expects many lots to shrink and be completely eliminated from the timber base as new owners resell.

That trend, already seen throughout southern New England and more recently southern Maine, worries the Natural Resources Council of Maine, which

and Sandy Bay Township, near the Quebec border has filed a lawsuit and is seeking a preliminary injunction in Superior Court in connection with timber harvesting violations at a large-lot subdivision on 3,600 acres. Named in the complaint are Dewez Shaw of Gorham, Cedric and Marie Thomas of C&E Elizabeth and Timberlands Management of Jackma. The complaint charges that 14 streams and channels that feed the Penobscot River were filled, altered, silted, redirected or crossed during construction in 1987. It also says the developers failed to comply with LURC rules designed to protect the environment.

The complaint says the developers failed to he LURC warnings and settlement attempts, and continued logging and advertising 40-acre lots.

The developers have denied illegal actions. In the eastern Maine township of Prentiss, D interests of Bangor has extensively logged a 6,616-acre tract that was sold last summer for \$696,570 Patten Corp.

Patten plans to use the existing logging network to create a subdivision of lots ranging from 50 to 150 acres, according to company executive vice president Craig Higgins. It has already created a 16-acre subdivision on 730 acres.

The Prentiss site is notable because it contains lakes and is considered a prime example of the market for large camp lots away from water. Higgins says Patten bought the land because of the network and the expectation of good deer hunting. It says a forestry management plan will probably be included for the remaining land, although previous cutting practices eliminated that option on the 730-acre parcel.

Lots will be offered from \$16,000 to \$32,000 Higgins sees the market as people in southern Maine and Boston who want a large parcel of inexpensive land for hunting and camping.

While most large-lot subdivisions are created LURC territory, one venture under way by H. Haynes is proving controversial in the central Maine town of Vienna, northwest of Augusta.

Haynes is logging and selling lots totaling 1,000 acres on Vienna Mountain. Residents have raised questions about the environmental impact of the work. The town is now considering a timber harvesting ordinance that would regulate clear cutting at other practices now under way in Vienna.

Haynes says he is doing nothing wrong in Vienna and he blames local press coverage for exaggerated any problems.

Forest industry divided

The forest industry is split on whether recreation subdivisions threaten Maine's timber resource at whether the 40-acre exemption should be eliminate

The range of disagreement is evident in discussions with directors of the Maine Forest Products Council, an influential trade group.

Roger Milliken is vice president of Baskahegan Co. of Brookton, which manages 100,000 acres in northern Washington County. He is critical of subdivision harvesting practices.

"Trees are being cut indiscriminately," Milliken says. "They're being cut to the degree there are markets for it. It's not forest management. It's forest liquidation."

Milliken says the 40-acre exemption fuels the practice. He blames state lawmakers for allowing the loophole to remain open.

"It's like coming to a toll booth with six red lights and one green light that says '40 acres' on it," Milliken says.

Earle Bessey is president of E.D. Bessey and Son of Hinckley, which manages woodland in central Maine. Bessey, who is also head of the forest council, says recreational subdivisions pose a challenge for the industry, but one that can be met.

The key will be convincing landowners to manage these smaller lots and allow selective, careful logging operations. At the same time, Bessey admits some owners won't be receptive to logging on any scale.

"They feel the world is crowding in on them, and 40 acres may be their contribution to wilderness," Bessey says.

The forest products council, which represents many landowners, opposed removing the 40-acre exemption in the Legislature last spring. Bessey maintains that position today. He says policy makers should instead focus on ways to help make it economical for owners to keep their land in forest, in the face of rising market values for recreation.

"The temptation to sell is substantial," Bessey says.

Government action

Recreational subdivisions and the 40-acre exemption are shaping up as an issue for the Legislature to tackle this winter in Augusta. And in an important development, they have caught the attention of federal environmental regulators.

The Maine Audubon Society has been studying timber harvesting standards in other states and is drafting legislation to promote what it sees as more productive forestry practices.

It is considering mandatory harvest plans, reforestation and replanting, incentives to keep land in timber production and a pool of money for the state to buy development rights when important timberland is threatened with conversion.

Beyond the debate over timber resources and cutting practices in Maine, federal regulators in Boston have just identified forest subdivisions as a matter of regional interest.

Earlier this fall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received a complaint about logging in Lakeville conducted by Trott-Putnam Real Estate (Sysladobsis Realty Trust).

Upon investigation, the corps found what it says was illegal filling of wetlands in a number of locations for road building. The federal Clean Water Act allows minor wetland filling for logging operations.

"But it appears that the purpose of the roads and the filling is for land development," says Brian Valiton, an official with the Army Corps in Waltham, Mass.

The Army Corps is asking the federal EPA whether the subdivision is exempt from review under the logging provision. If not, Valiton says the case has "enormous implications" for similar projects in New England.

Valiton says Lakeville could set a precedent that would require recreational subdivisions to assess the environmental and economic impacts of land clearing, erosion and road building. These considerations are required of other major commercial and industrial developments.

Memorandum

RECEIVED

JUL 18 2011

LURC-AUGUSTA

To: Fred Todd

Maine Land Use Regulation Commission

From: Richard J. Whatley

Subject: Bowers Wind Project

Date: July 14, 2011

I am submitting my sentiments to the objection of the Bowers Wind Project. I strongly object to the placing of 3 Wind turbines on the "South Peak" which is in view from my property on Vinegar Hill. The aesthetic view will be ruined as a result of putting these 3 Wind Turbines on the "South Peak". My research shows me that the turbine will kill birds and the noise that they will make will effect the wild life in the area. There are other negatives about installing wind turbine according to my research.

I would like to reiterate my strong objections to the Bowers Wind Project and the placing of wind turbines especially on "South Peak".

Please see that my sentiments are given to the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Whatley

120 Oak Hill Road

Fayette, Maine 04349