

Rittershaus, Alexander (HOU)

From: Keenan, John - Rep. (HOU)
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2013 9:41 AM
To: Rittershaus, Alexander (HOU)
Subject: FW: Wind turbine WESRA Wind Energy Relief Act Citizens Health Protect Act
Attachments: Seep_View_Up_Woods.jpg; Seep.jpg; Turbines_Seep.jpg

(Molly)

From: Larry Lorusso [mailto:larry@cytafex.com]
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 12:03 PM
To: Keenan, John - Rep. (HOU); Finegold, Barry (SEN); Cusack, Mark - Rep (HOU); Donoghue, Eileen (SEN); Pacheco, Marc R (SEN); Eldridge, James (SEN); Humason, Donald (SEN); Rogers, John - Rep. (HOU); Timilty, Walter - Rep. (HOU); Benson, Jennifer - Rep. (HOU); Mahoney, John - Rep (HOU); Hunt, Randy - Rep (HOU); Golden, Thomas - Rep. (HOU); DiNatale, Stephen - Rep. (HOU); Chan, Tackey - Rep (HOU); Mirra, Leonard (HOU); Downing, Benjamin (SEN)
Subject: Wind turbine WESRA Wind Energy Relief Act Citizens Health Protect Act

Hello,

My name is Larry Lorusso and I'm a resident of Clarksburg and a neighbor of Hoosac Wind. When the project received final approval I was in favor of the project, but that was based on information provided by Iberdrola, the developer. We were told the project would provide power to 22,000 homes and there was no down side and the project would be good for the environment, and for the neighbors. Shortly after approval, the facts started to be revealed. The work commenced on Hoosac Ridge and Crum Hill, with thousands of trees being cut and bull dozed down, with much of the timber of little commercial use. A fair amount of the wood was ground up and spread around the project. Then the blasting and filling began which resulted in the swamps and wetlands being eliminated on the ridge. Huge amounts of fill were brought in from some other places and while the mountaintop wasn't removed, considerable alteration took place. The final permit called for 75 acres to be permanently altered, but a much larger area has been disrupted. What I called the "Enchanted Forest" has been largely destroyed. I don't think it could have been called a wilderness, but it was a large unspoiled area, in a mostly natural state with scenic qualities and was an excellent habitat for wildlife.

I'm very familiar with Hoosac Ridge and we have been going up there for many years, long before the project and remember how it was. Now the watershed has been altered and what used to be perennial streams, now flashes when it rains only to be down to a trickle a few days later. In some areas where there were swamps, now are pools of tainted water with very high levels of phenols from the shredded trees that are now decomposing. We have been told these "seeps" present no health issues and we could drink from the pools as phenols are natural and organic. While phenols are indeed organic, they do present health issues. I mention this as there a number of wells in the area that are replenished from the watershed and the "seeps" are draining down the mountain and what wildlife are left have been getting into the "seeps". I have a standing offer to anyone willing to drink a sample from the seeps, so far no takers, and I do not blame them. Aside from the affects of phenols, the liquid stinks! I've included some pictures that illustrate what I'm talking about when referring to the "seeps".

Where in the past I used to sleep very soundly, now we are at times woken from sleep by noise from the turbines. We slept this Summer mostly with the windows closed for this reason and still were kept up at times. Where I used to look forward to Winter, I'm dreading it, knowing the storms will bring noise from the turbines, sometimes for days and nights on end. You don't need any studies to understand sleep deprivation does have health implications. After a few nights in a row of not sleeping well, getting up not feeling rested and refreshed does take a toll. There have been a number of nights where I've been forced to sleep on the couch to try and get some reprieve from the noise. Some of my neighbors have it much worse and I feel relatively fortunate. We look forward to studying the health implications that industrial wind turbines present. It's not just the noise, but occasionally I have waken at night, heart pounding in my chest, body soaked in sweat as if I've just had a nightmare about some evil trying to get me. Only there is no noise, no bad dream, or threat, and before last December I never had this experience. We were told we shouldn't be hearing any sound from Hoosac Wind being a mile away, and if anything it would be like the refrigerator. I don't get woken by the refrigerator and it's just behind the couch. Hoosac Wind makes a most unnatural noise, which changes depending of conditions, which can sound like a jet that circles overhead or sometimes like a dryer with sneakers in it. It's a very annoying asynchronous rhythm reminiscent of a dripping faucet that is difficult to ignore and in a way a sort of torture. For this reason I call Hoosac Wind "the neighbors from Hell". Also I believe it's the neighbors of potential projects need to have a say in siting, as it's they who will bear the brunt living close to industrial wind projects. We had no voice with Hoosac Wind as our town only abuts the project. It's the residents of these rural communities that make these towns what they are, with some family's living here for generations.

Last Spring after a number of neighbors complained to Mass DEP about the noise, Iberdrola hired RGS to do the Hoosac Wind Sound Study. It was a farce right from the beginning with various mistakes in the liability release from the developer. The neighbors were reluctant to sign it, and Iberdrola never did correct the mistakes. We were informed only 5 properties would be tested and lots of pressure was applied to us to host testing equipment here. I repeatedly said that with so few testing sites, it should be the most impacted properties, which we admitted was not here. In fact out of the 6 test sites, 4 were at properties sympathetic to Iberdrola in some way. The equipment was improperly placed behind trees and in the woods, and the worst properties weren't tested in spite of complaints by the owners. The test results had numerous inconsistencies and didn't follow MassDEP protocol. Iberdrola directed every aspect of the testing including being present directing where equipment was placed. RSG's sound study was peer reviewed by experts in the field who found numerous issues with the sound study. The fox is taking care of the chickens and saying nothing is wrong! We need an independent sound test where the developer has no control over the study at all.

After almost a year the neighbors of Hoosac Wind are suffering in various ways with no relief in sight. Some have abandoned their homes with no recourse while others try to find a way to escape the suffering, but lack the resources to do so. Many of us choose to live in this place of great natural beauty with rural qualities. It used to be very quiet here with the few sounds of civilization fleeting. Many nights I would go out and enjoy sounds of Nature and look at the night sky, but now, often I

retreat inside. I don't enjoy being outside in the yard doing things as I used to. Our peace and quiet stolen, along with a sense of well being and the uncertainties of what the future may bring. I used to hope I could spend whatever time I have left at this place we call Home. As they say, is no place like Home, but now I'm not so sure as we no longer feel safe and is difficult pursue happiness on our property as we once did before Hoosac Wind moved in.

Sincerely,
Larry Lorusso
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