

Testimony of David Swirsky/DBA/ New Age Energy Group, LLC before the Energy and  
Technology Committee

On proposed *House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind  
Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations*

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is David Swirsky and I am submitting this testimony in opposition to proposed House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations.

In regards to the following actions:

**Set Back Regulations:** There is a provision enforced by each manufacturer as to the distance a turbine should be erected from standing buildings. Normally this is 1.1 x the tip height. Again, set back is based on where the towers are built. Within a residential area this would be determined by the number of residential dwellings near the project.

**Tower Height:** Height of the tower is based on the need of wind speed to allow the turbine to turn (cut in speed). This is usually regulated by the FAA. Any project should file a height restriction request with the FAA to determine if there is any interference with air flight, transmissions, or turbulence. There is no need for any other restriction.

**Flicker:** Flicker would only be detrimental if the turbine is near a highway or major interchange of excessive use. Note: In New Haven, CT. there is a 100 kw tower that was allowed to be built near I 95 and I 91. This structure is over two hundred feet high and can be seen as one travels through the area. As well, there are other towers of size near highways: Providence, RI, Waltham, MA, Boston, MA, Berkshire, MA, as well as in the middle of downtown Cleveland, OH. This would be determined by the project engineer.

**Decommission:** Most turbines have a life of twenty five (25) years. Based on the design, these fixtures can be retro fitted with updated equipment and given another twenty years of life. Also note, that the contracts of the owner(s) of these projects have decommissioning as part of any agreement.

**Sizes:** The size of the project is based on wind availability. The less cut in speed, the higher the tower is needed. The blades of the turbine are also designed to be longer for less wind speed. Size of a project or how many turbines can be built is determined by separation of each unit from one and another. Normally, a 2.5 mega watt turbine should take up one and a third acre.

**Ice Throw:** Industry practice is to place warning signs and fences surrounding the turbine. The mechanical structure will deactivate and switch off the blade based on ice accumulation. Note, these turbines are monitored 24 hours a day and site personnel activate the start up of the system. Ice shedding/ice throw problems, can be mitigated by building a minimum distance of 1.5 x ( hub height + rotor diameter ) from occupied structures, roads, property lines, and public use areas.

**Noise:** Noise of the "lattice" tower is commensurate to the kilo watt out put of the turbine. Small machines can make noise of a swimming pool pump. Larger turbines can make noise equivalent to living five hundred feet from a freeway. The noise is that of a "whooshing" sound, not high pitched. Remote areas generally reduce noise emission nuisance risk potential.

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Impact on Natural Resources: While all fuel extraction processes can have an impact on the environment, there has been no real evidence of any detriment to property or animal life. Bird kills will occur in their natural habitat from predators, power from overhead wires, and people. In impact research studies, there is no real determination that wind mills increase animal life deaths. Most species fly using inborn senses and learn to alter their flight patterns. Most turbines are fenced off, and there is no vibration in the towers that would affect lower plant life. In consideration of this, most lines should be built to go underground versus having additional overhead lines. In accordance with any manufactured component, corrosion is a factor to consider when building a turbine. This should be taken into consideration by a project developer when deciding where to place these structures.

In all, there is no real reason not to build wind turbines in cities or rural areas (or offshore). There is a Federal law that States use 10% renewable power and this will increase to 20 % by 2015. Connecticut does not generate power, therefore all our power comes from out of State. New York, the mid west, and Canada are main supply areas for our power and this is mostly fossil fuels from coal or oil. We need to have the ability to build a renewable energy program in Connecticut as the state has one of the highest electricity rates in the US.