

STATE OF VERMONT

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

RULE 5.700 PUBLIC HEARING

WIND GENERATION FACILITY SOUND RULEMAKING

Lowell Grade School, 52 Gelo Park Road  
Lowell, Vermont

Tuesday, May 2, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

SARAH HOFMANN, MODERATOR

THOMAS KNAUER, ANALYST

REPORTED BY: MARILEE JAYE YOUNG, CSR

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1                   THE MODERATOR: Hi, everyone. Thanks for  
2 being here. I'm very sorry about the chair situation.  
3 We've been looking for someone from the school to help  
4 us. We found every loose chair we can and,  
5 unfortunately, cannot find any more at this point until  
6 we have a school member of and/or the school staff who  
7 might be able to help us.

8                   Good evening, and thank you for being here.  
9 We're here this evening for a public hearing as part of  
10 the Public Service Board's rulemaking process for a rule  
11 regarding sounds for wind-powered electric generation  
12 facilities pursuant to section -- put the glasses on --  
13 12(a) of Act 174. I am Sarah Hofmann; I'm a member of  
14 the Public Service Board. With me this evening is Tom  
15 Knauer, an analyst with the Public Service Board.

16                  The purpose of tonight's hearing is to provide  
17 an opportunity for the Public Service Board to hear  
18 input from members of the public regarding the rule  
19 being developed by the Board to regulate sound levels  
20 from wind-powered generation facilities in response to a  
21 directive from the Vermont legislature. Tonight's  
22 public hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter  
23 and, if you have an in-the-least-unusual name spelling,  
24 please spell it when you get up to the microphone. The  
25 other thing is, it's find to read a statement, there's

1 nothing wrong with that. The court reporter just asks  
2 that you read it slowly enough that she can transcribe  
3 it; and, of course, we'll also take written comments if  
4 you have any.

5 This transcript along with other comments  
6 received by the Board at public hearings and Level 3  
7 writing will be considered by the Board as it moves  
8 forward with the rulemaking process. The legislative  
9 directive to the Board requires that the rule be adopted  
10 by July 1, 2017. Tonight is the second in the series of  
11 three public hearings that will be held in the evenings  
12 at different locations throughout the state. So last  
13 night there was one in Bennington, tomorrow night --  
14 Thursday night there's one in Montpelier. Additionally,  
15 a workshop on the technical aspects of the rule will be  
16 held in Montpelier this Thursday in the board's hearing  
17 room at 9:30 a.m. Final written comments on the  
18 proposed rule must be filed by May 11, 2017, to allow  
19 the Board to prepare the necessary documents in support  
20 of the rules of filing with the Secretary of State and  
21 the legislative committee on administrative rules in  
22 time to meet the July 1 deadline. The target date for  
23 making the filing with the Secretary of State and the  
24 legislative committee is May 16.

25 Please remember that this is not the only forum

1 for your input. If you wish to provide more detailed-  
2 comments or if you prefer to not speak tonight but want  
3 to provide written comments at a later date, we  
4 encourage you to send written comments either  
5 electronically or via regular email. You'll notice that  
6 we have papers up here indicating the address of where  
7 you should direct comments. Please include a reference  
8 to the "rulemaking for sound from wind generation  
9 facilities" when submitting written comments. If you do  
10 have written comments with you this evening, please feel  
11 free to hand them to us tonight. Please keep in mind  
12 the May 11 date for final written comments. The address  
13 for submission of written comments on email  
14 psb.clerk@vermont.gov. We also have regular mail at  
15 Vermont Public Service Board, 112 State Street,  
16 Montpelier, Vermont; and, as I said, there are papers up  
17 here with that address.

18           If you do wish to speak this evening please put  
19 your name on the sign-up sheet. There's one here,  
20 there's another one here. We'll just take them in the  
21 order of called. I will call out your names from the  
22 sign-up sheet in the in order that you signed up. I  
23 will call people three at a time, so we're going to have  
24 one up, the microphone's over here so you can kind of  
25 see us and the crowd, and then there will be two people

1 on deck, so you just know to get up and it'll be your  
2 turn. When it's your turn to speak, please state and  
3 spell your name clearly for the benefit of the court  
4 reporter. Given the large number of people who wish to  
5 speak this evening, we will impose a time limit of three  
6 minutes on each speaker. I would add, if you already  
7 spoke in Bennington last night, please let others go  
8 first before you take another turn. If we get through  
9 the list and there's still time remaining, then we may  
10 see if other people want to request to speak or go back  
11 to somebody who maybe had other things they wanted to  
12 say but the time limit cut them off. So, with that,  
13 we'll start down the list, and the first three names,  
14 we'll start with Dustin Lang, then Rebecca Boulanger and  
15 Mark Whitworth; so Dustin Lang, please. Thank you.

16 DUSTIN LANG: Dustin Lang. Good evening,  
17 bonsoir. As part of the you widespread enthusiasm for  
18 renewable energy, state and local governments are  
19 promoting what appear to be lenient rules for how  
20 industrial wind farms can be located in communities  
21 which are predominantly rural and, often, very quiet.  
22 Complaints from residents near existing wind turbine  
23 installations are common, however, raising questions  
24 about whether current U.S. siting guidelines are  
25 sufficiently protective for people living close to wind

1 turbine developments. Research is emerging that  
2 suggests significant health effects are associated with  
3 living too close to modern industrial wind turbines.

4           Research into the computer modeling and other  
5 methods used to determine the layout of wind turbine  
6 developments, including the distance from nearby  
7 residences, is at the same time showing that the output  
8 of the models may not be accurate enough to be used as  
9 the sole basis for siting decisions. These two previous  
10 statements are from an abbreviated version of a formal  
11 paper entitled "Simple Guidelines for Siting Wind  
12 Turbines to Prevent Health Risks." The formal paper was  
13 presented to the Institute of Noise Control Engineers at  
14 its Noise-Con. conference in Detroit, Michigan, in July  
15 of 2008, almost nine years ago.

16           The construction of large wind turbine projects  
17 in the U.S. is a relatively-recent phenomenon, with most  
18 projects being built after 2002. Other countries,  
19 especially in Europe, have been using wind energy  
20 systems since the early 1990s or earlier. The wind  
21 industry complies with stricter noise limits in other  
22 countries of the world than it does in the U.S. Why is  
23 this? Industry representatives advising governmental  
24 committees have worked to establish sound limits and  
25 setbacks that are lenient and favor the industry. In

1 Wisconsin the State Task Force has recommended 50 dBA  
2 sound limits. When Wisconsin's Town of Union wind  
3 turbine committee made an open records request to find  
4 out the scientific basis for the sound levels in the  
5 state's draft model ordinance, it found that no  
6 scientific or medical data was used at all. Review of  
7 the meeting minutes provided under the request showed  
8 that the limits had been set by Task Force members  
9 representing the wind industry. This may explain why  
10 state-level committees or task forces have drafted  
11 ordinances with upper limits of 50 dBA or higher instead  
12 of the much-lower limits applied to similar projects in  
13 other countries, such as Denmark and Germany.

14 I would like to close with a quote; it's from  
15 "One Page Takings Summary: U.S. Constitution and Local  
16 Land Use," by George S. Hawkins, Esquire, Stony Brook-  
17 Millstone Watershed Association. "A subset of society  
18 should not be forced to bear the cost of a benefit for  
19 the larger society."

20 Thank you.

21 THE MODERATOR: Rebecca Boulanger, Mark  
22 Whitworth, and Ted Fleischer.

23 MS. BOULANGER: Good evening. My name is  
24 Rebecca Boulanger B-o-u-l-a-n-g-e-r. My home is on  
25 Kidder Hill in Irasburg, Vermont. I am here this

1 evening with people from many towns in northern Vermont  
2 all wearing different shades of green to show our  
3 support for lowering the sound standards and for setting  
4 a setback rule of 10 times the height of the turbines.

5 I was born in the Northeast Kingdom; I have  
6 lived here most of my life. The people here are good,  
7 honest, hardworking individuals who love the land, they  
8 love the wilderness, they love the rural, small  
9 communities. They are passionately concerned about the  
10 environment, and they strongly support efforts to  
11 protect it. However, they do, everyone here, I believe,  
12 believes in renewable energy, but it is not right, it is  
13 not safe, and it is not good public policy to allow the  
14 construction of industrial wind turbines in areas where  
15 people live, where children play, and where people work  
16 on their land. We already have 39 industrial turbines  
17 in our Northeast Kingdom, and they're just a few miles  
18 from here. People whose homes are within just a few  
19 miles of these turbines have suffered considerable  
20 health conditions as a result of wind turbine noise,  
21 infrasound, and low-frequency sound. They have suffered  
22 nausea, headaches, dizziness, ear ringing, sleepless-  
23 ness, and they have suffered being ignored until now.

24 We thank you for coming here tonight. We thank  
25 you for listening to us. We support very strongly your



1 idea of setting setback standards that will protect  
2 Vermonters from the any adverse affects that might come  
3 from wind turbine noise. We ask that you listen very  
4 closely to the people who have -- who speak tonight and  
5 you go back with these thoughts in your mind and  
6 hopefully keep the lower standards and the setback rules  
7 to protect Vermonters. Thank you.

8 THE MODERATOR: Mark Whitworth and then  
9 Ted Fleischer followed by Laura Whitcomb.

10 MR. WHITWORTH: I'm Mark Whitworth  
11 W-h-i-t-w-o-r-t-h. I'm on the Board of directors of  
12 Energize Vermont, which supports sustainable renewable  
13 energy that protects our environment and respects our  
14 communities. I also live in Newark, not too far from  
15 here.

16 Energize Vermont supports the development of  
17 noise standards for wind turbines in Vermont. The  
18 Public Service Board's proposed standards are a step in  
19 the right direction. They bring Vermont closer to  
20 jurisdictions that have far more experience in wind --  
21 with wind turbines than we do. Our new standards should  
22 protect human health and prevent turbine neighbors to  
23 enjoy their property, any part of their property, just  
24 like any other Vermonter. The noise standards should be  
25 applied at property boundaries. Neighbors of Vermont's

1 wind turbines have reported severe negative impacts from  
2 turbine operations. They may not be able to explain the  
3 physiological mechanisms that cause these effects, but  
4 they are Vermont's foremost experts on turbine impacts,  
5 vertigo, ringing in the ears, nausea, depression, loss  
6 of sleep, and a host of other conditions. We must  
7 listen to them and we must learn from them. They are  
8 telling us that we have a problem. They are telling the  
9 truth. The World Health Organization doesn't yet  
10 understand the mechanisms by which turbines affect us,  
11 but they know thousand avoid some of these effects:  
12 Limit indoor noise to 30 decibels at night, that's with  
13 an open window; they recommend lower noise levels for  
14 low-frequency noise, the kinds of noise that wind  
15 turbines produce. An indoor limit of 30 decibels should  
16 be the starting point for any set of noise standards  
17 that are going to be protective of human health. The  
18 wind industry doesn't like the PSB's proposed rules, and  
19 their trade association in Vermont is trying to portray  
20 them as being out of the mainstream. They have a fact  
21 sheet, and it lists a bunch of standards that appear to  
22 be laxer than the ones that you propose. But they chose  
23 not to include Denmark's standard of 20 decibels on  
24 nighttime low-frequency noise. They chose not to  
25 include Germany's 35-decibel standard, which aggregates

1 all nighttime noise. If you're the guy that causes the  
2 overall nighttime noise level to go over 35 decibels,  
3 you're out of there. They chose not to include any  
4 standards that they didn't like. In their list of  
5 standards they chose to mischaracterize Oregon's  
6 standard, which is 10 decibels above ambient background  
7 levels, a level that the State assumes is 26 decibels.  
8 So Oregon's basic nighttime standard is 36 decibels, not  
9 the 50-decibel limit listed in their fact sheet. Rather  
10 than fix the noise problem, the wind industry pretends  
11 that there is no problem. Rather than cooperate with  
12 neighbors, the wind industry ridicules them and says  
13 that they are lying or that it's all in their heads.  
14 The industry brings in other turbine neighbors to  
15 testify that there are no problems, that the tax breaks  
16 are grand, and the turbines are majestic. That's what  
17 happened at the PSB's hearing in Morrisville three years  
18 ago; that may happen tonight. Guess what, not everybody  
19 reacts to turbines the same way; guess what, neighbors  
20 that live closer to turbines report more problems than  
21 those that live farther away. The wind industry  
22 deliberately sets neighbors against one another; that's  
23 how they operate. The wind industry compares turbine  
24 noise to rustling leaves and whispered conversation.  
25 What baloney.

1           Turbines produce an unique blend of noise that  
2 includes audible noise, low-frequency noise, and  
3 infrasound. One of the scientists at our own Department  
4 of Health said this: There is a qualitative difference  
5 between turbine noise and other types of noise, waves  
6 traffic, for instance. The low-frequency noise produced  
7 by turbine operations has different characteristics and  
8 different effects on people. The Department of Health  
9 says that there is no direct link between turbine noise  
10 and adverse health impacts, but they say that there are  
11 links between turbine operations and sleep disturbance  
12 and direct links between sleep disturbance and ill  
13 health. I'll bet the neighbors can help our state  
14 government connect the dots.

15           Energize Vermont supports strict noise  
16 standards based on a 30-decibel indoor limit; we support  
17 careful monitoring, swift justice, and meaningful  
18 punishment for wind operators that break the rules.

19           THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Whitworth.

20           You will notice that we have Mr. Knauer is  
21 giving hand signals to people when they go over, and  
22 it's not to be rude; it really is that we have a lot of  
23 people who want to talk. So you will get the signal.  
24 We didn't yank you, but we're going to -- we will kind  
25 of signal to you that it's time to -- to move on at

1 least for the time being.

2 Next up is Tom Fleischer, followed by Laura  
3 Whitcomb, and Alton Warner. I need to wear my glasses.

4 MR. FLEISCHER: Ted Fleischer  
5 F-l-e-i-s-c-h-e-r. I am one of the neighbors that the  
6 first three speakers spoke about, and I live much closer  
7 than most but probably not the closest house or the  
8 closest property. I occasionally, rare occasions, can  
9 hear the turbines, but it sounds like wind rustling  
10 through the leaves, as the last gentleman mentioned;  
11 and, if there's any wind at my house, I can't hear it,  
12 because the wind through my pine needles is louder. I  
13 have zero stake in this game. I don't draw energy from  
14 the grid, I create all of my own; I don't pay for the  
15 cheaper energy from the wind turbines; and I have bought  
16 the property that the wind turbines are on. And I have  
17 yet to really notice them. I have to actually go  
18 outside and pay attention and see if I can hear them  
19 before I can notice that they're spinning. Honestly, I  
20 would prefer, I guess, if I didn't see them on the  
21 ridgelines; that's my honest opinion. But I don't mind  
22 looking at them, and I certainly don't mind looking at  
23 them when it's compared to other things that I fled  
24 Pennsylvania from 30 or more years ago to move up here  
25 to Vermont, like coal-fired and strip mining in the

1 mountains for the coal, and the firing of the coal  
2 plants. And I would -- I would say that we're all  
3 entitled to our own opinions, but we need to make  
4 educated opinions, and we should go and we should listen  
5 to them. I am the neighbor that the last gentleman  
6 called an expert on the subject. So listen to this  
7 expert; the turbines are not loud. I have not been able  
8 to hear them, they have not destroyed our home or our  
9 playing outside. I have three children, ranges from  
10 four to 16, and a wife, two dogs; and on the rare  
11 occasions that I can hear them, when the wind is from  
12 the southeast, that's the only time, and it can't be  
13 windy at my house, and then it sounds like this, and  
14 it's about that loud in the distance. The chickadees  
15 and the jays are louder, okay. So I would rather see  
16 those than a nuclear plant, than strip mining entire  
17 mountainsides for coal, than the acid rain that dropped  
18 on my old home from the coal-fired plants in the mid  
19 west and in Pennsylvania. So I'm telling you right now,  
20 they're not great, but I guarantee that somebody here  
21 left a porch light on for when they get home; and, if  
22 that porch light is on, you're drawing power, and you  
23 need something to create power. Unless you're like me  
24 and you're making a hundred percent of it yourself,  
25 renewable, 100 percent of it, you need those turbines.

1 And, if you've got lights on at home, you're part of why  
2 those turbines are there. And, if they are regular  
3 Edison bulbs, you're a bigger part of the reason; if  
4 they're fluorescent bulbs, you're still a reason.  
5 Switch to all LEDs. But the turbines are there.  
6 They're helping keep the nuclear and the coal-fired  
7 plants to a minimum, and that's my opinion, and I  
8 respect the opinions of the others in this room.

9 Thank you.

10 THE MODERATOR: Next up is Laura Whitcomb  
11 followed by Alton Warner and Suzanna Jones.

12 MS. WHITCOMB: My name is Laura Whitcomb,  
13 Laura L-a-u-r-a Whitcomb W-h-i-t-c-o-m-b. I was born  
14 and raised here in Vermont. Um, I never moved out of  
15 Vermont; I lived here, you know, my whole life. I have  
16 not had any of some of the health illnesses that people  
17 have spoke up, no nausea, vomiting, any health issues  
18 whatsoever, and I live really close to the towers. I'm  
19 actually towards -- towards 21 to -- I think it's  
20 probably 15 to 21. I can see most of the towers right  
21 from where I'm living.

22 Um, I want to thank the folks that were have  
23 been providing us with clean energy. I have lived close  
24 to wind turbines for a couple of years. For about 10  
25 years prior to staying there, myself and my family take

1 frequent walks to see the wildlife, and I don't feel  
2 wildlife is diminishing. An this huge area of land I've  
3 seen beavers, ducks, geese, moose, deer, and rabbits,  
4 not only by their tracks and their droppings. As far as  
5 the noise of the wind turbines, they don't bother me at  
6 all. Most know how thin mobile home walls are. I never  
7 hear them from inside the -- inside the home. I heard a  
8 man say how he used to record wildlife noises in  
9 different areas and then come back 10 years later and  
10 the noises would be gone. But, as I think back to all  
11 the frequent walks, and the walks we still take today,  
12 the noises are there, same as always.

13           And I'd also like to take time to read a letter  
14 from my mom and my dad. My dad is ill and they couldn't  
15 make it, so I'll try to make it as quickly as I can.  
16 Um, this letter is written by Esther Webber.

17           "I cannot talk about the wind  
18 turbines without at first talking about  
19 the people from the Green Mountain  
20 Power and the Kingdom Community Wind.  
21 They are the people with the courage  
22 and the determination to make the wind  
23 projects happen, people who are caring  
24 and concerned about making our world a  
25 better place for our children with good



1 clean energy. They are the kindest and  
2 most caring people I have ever met.  
3 When Robert Dostis came to our house in  
4 June last year, my husband was in a lot  
5 of pain, very sick. We told him that  
6 we completely supported the wind project  
7 because the wind was doing good for a  
8 change, instead of knocking down trees  
9 and power lines, ripping off the roof of  
10 our house, or totally destroying our  
11 screen houses we had put up for the  
12 last 10 years. Robert Dostis" --  
13 excuse me if I'm saying that wrong.  
14 I'll actually spell that last name,  
15 because I'm probably not pronouncing it  
16 correctly. It's D-o-s-t-i-s -- "bought  
17 us a new screen house. Trip and Andy  
18 Tetreault and family brought it to us,  
19 put it up for us. Andy and Gert  
20 Tetreault check up on us often to see  
21 how my husband is doing. The turbines  
22 that make the noise once in a while do  
23 not bother us, do not affect our  
24 sleep, or give us any health issues.  
25 A big benefit is the wind project pays

1 a lot of the town taxes, easing the  
2 burden of the rest of us tax pairs.  
3 It also helped Lowell's economy by  
4 bringing in jobs for a lot of the  
5 local people when the turbines were  
6 built. Electricity produced from  
7 Lowell turbines is used locally. I  
8 do not believe the noise is  
9 an issue with the wind turbines.  
10 We live very close to them, and we  
11 don't -- they don't bother us. I  
12 believe it is because people just  
13 don't like the way they look  
14 because it spoils their view  
15 and don't like the change. I say  
16 to those people, if you don't like  
17 what you see in one direction, look  
18 in another. You will see it,  
19 beauty everywhere.

20 "Sincerely, Esther Webber, a  
21 lifetime supporter of wind power"  
22 Thank you very much.

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Next up is  
24 Alton Warner, followed by Suzanna Jones and Darlene  
25 Hogleund.

1 MR. WARNER: Okay, Alden Warner, that's  
2 A-l-d-e-n W-a-r-n-e-r. I think that there's a lot of  
3 people that probably don't really understand the  
4 relationship between noise and decibels readings, so I'd  
5 like to do a little experiment, if it's okay with you.  
6 I brought a decibel reader with me, and I'm going to  
7 ask -- I'm have you look at it, as well, because I don't  
8 want people thinking I'm reading it wrong. I'm going to  
9 ask everybody to be totally, totally silent for 10  
10 seconds when I give you a sign, and I'm going to bring  
11 this up, and I would like to have you read it so we'll  
12 know what a decibel level reading is of total silence.

13 THE MODERATOR: This is the person who  
14 needs her glasses for everybody?

15 MR. WARNER: Okay, from starting now?

16 THE MODERATOR: It says --

17 MR. WARNER: You've got to be quiet.  
18 You've got to wait until it's done, okay?

19 Okay.

20 THE MODERATOR: It's coming out about  
21 43.8.

22 MR. WARNER: Now, you tell me how it's  
23 possible to build a turbine that creates only 32  
24 decibels. If you can't sleep at 40 decibels, I think  
25 there's a problem.

1 Thank you.

2 THE MODERATOR: Suzanna Jones, Darlene  
3 Hogleund, and Andy Tetreault, Sr.

4 MS. JONES: Just so you know, this is  
5 going to take about like 20 seconds over three minutes  
6 so I can speak slow enough for her. Thanks.

7 Suzanna Jones S-u-z-a-n-n-a, Smith is  
8 S-m-i-t-h. Just Kidding. I'm going to read excerpts  
9 from the Turbine Noise Journal of Shirley Nelson. She  
10 can't be here as a result of the gag order imposed on  
11 the Nelsons by Green Mountain Power, which was a  
12 condition for the sale of their farm. They were forced  
13 to leave because of their health. The diary is a public  
14 document, and the link to the entire journal is included  
15 here. These entries reveal that the Nelsons were  
16 subjected to a sustained and cumulative form of torture.  
17 They found relief by leaving the farm for short periods  
18 only to find that that relief was more difficult to  
19 achieve even with longer stretches away from time later  
20 on. Most of what I will read is from the period when  
21 the Nelsons had a decibel monitor. Note adverse effects  
22 noted with decibel averages in upper thirties and low  
23 forties. Keep in mind that the Nelson's farmhouse is  
24 actually farther away from the closest turbine than the  
25 new setback rules would require.

1 "1/10/13 Noise continued through night.  
2 Didn't sleep well. 41.2 maximum/30.5  
3 minimum. Still feeling irritable and not  
4 concentrating.

5 "1/12 Ears still ringing. Tossed and  
6 turned a long time after 3:00. Don't  
7 feel rested at all. Took two sets of  
8 reading on north side of house. 41.5  
9 maximum/21.8 minimum, 40.5 maximum/21.7  
10 minimum.

11 1/16 Couldn't get to sleep last night  
12 until well after 1:30. Ears ringing  
13 this morning when I got up almost 7:00.  
14 This is the new norm. Feel lightheaded  
15 this morning. Seems loud. Readings  
16 42.2 maximum/24.4 minimum.

17 1/18 Ears ringing before I got out of  
18 bed. Never seems to stop anymore.  
19 Ears ringing and head hurts on left  
20 side. 42.3 maximum/21.9 minimum.  
21 Don's ears ringing and feel funny, he  
22 says. GMP's expert said in the tech  
23 hearings that there would be no  
24 problems with sound below 45. They  
25 said it would feel like a

1 refrigerator or a library. Well, I  
2 have news for them. If my  
3 refrigerator ran like that it would  
4 be replaced or repaired. And if  
5 that sound was in the library, no  
6 one would go there. I cried  
7 miserably all day. Can't seem to  
8 concentrate on anything. Can't  
9 balance a checkbook.

10 1/19 Ear ringings. Temples hurt  
11 as if I'd clenched my teeth all  
12 night. Went to ball games in  
13 Orleans. Right ear stopped  
14 ringing, left not too bad.  
15 Headache gone. When we got home  
16 11:30 nothing was turning. By  
17 1:30 ears ringing again. At that  
18 time all turbines running except  
19 T13. 39.4 max/23.4 minimum.

20 1/22 Ears ringing, mild headache,  
21 head feels tight. Gone from 1:15  
22 to 2:45. Ears stopped ringing  
23 this time. Ears ringing again.  
24 43.0 max/26.7 minimum.

25 1/27 Woke up around 1 with ears

1           ringing loudly. Enough to wake  
2           me. 44.6 maximum/34.1 minimum.  
3           Couldn't go back to sleep. Ears  
4           ringing. Feeling of band around  
5           my head and headache right in  
6           the forehead and back of head.  
7           1/30 Didn't sleep well. Ears  
8           ringing loudly. Head feels tight.  
9           Have a headache. Don has a  
10          migraine. Inside sounds like  
11          it's raining and/or wind blowing  
12          but not a breath of air moving  
13          here. Outside sounds like an  
14          airplane, low and should be  
15          landing. 40.4 max/41.3 minimum.  
16          Can't believe the reading is that  
17          low because the noise is all  
18          around."  
19          To be continued Thursday night. Thanks.  
20                    THE MODERATOR: Darlene Hoglund followed  
21          by Andy Tetreault, Sr., and then Steve Wright.  
22                    MS. HOGLUND: Darlene Hoglund  
23          H-o-g-l-u-n-d. Me and my husband feel that the wind  
24          turbines don't cause us that much concern. The noise  
25          isn't really that annoying; it's not much louder than

1 the wind blowing through a pine grove. We hear noise of  
2 the trucks down on Route 100 much more than the  
3 turbines. We also can view all of them right from our  
4 dooryard. Sincerely, Darlene and Blake Hoglund.

5 THE MODERATOR: This is a reminder that  
6 for those who do have written statements, if you want to  
7 leave them with us, we'll take them back and indicate  
8 they have been received.

9 Next up Andy Tetreault, Sr., followed by Steve  
10 Wright and William Wahl, Jr.

11 A. That's Tetreault T-e-t-r-e-a-u-l-t. I've  
12 written my comments down, but I'm not a public speaker.  
13 Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. I'm Andy  
14 Tetreault; this is my wife Gert, a lifelong residence of  
15 Lowell and active community member. I live about three  
16 miles from KCW and can see all 21 turbines from our  
17 property. We have worked with Green Mountain Power from  
18 the start of KCW to make sure that folks have the  
19 information they needed about the project. Townspeople  
20 came to my wife, Gert, and I with questions and comments  
21 about the turbines, starting from well before it was  
22 built and continues today. As a result we have a pretty  
23 good sense of where the community stands, and we -- we  
24 actually started in 2008 before Green Mountain was even  
25 in the picture.



1           People of Lowell have nearly five years of  
2 living with KCW. As part of our community, the vast  
3 majority will tell you that the plant is welcome in our  
4 town. I have 22 letters from Lowell residents who live  
5 within three miles and as close as one mile to the wind  
6 turbines. They want to be sure you heard their  
7 prospective and that they support the project and have  
8 no issues with the sounds from KCW. The current sound  
9 standard of 45 decibel works fine. If the new standards  
10 you are proposing would have been enforced when KCW was  
11 being considered, the project would never have been  
12 built.

13           If we may, we would like to submit these  
14 letters to you for the record. Thank you for listening  
15 to us and continue to welcome KCW.

16           THE MODERATOR: Steve Wright, William  
17 Wahl, Jr., and Hilary Elmer?

18           MR. WRIGHT: Thank you for being here and  
19 convening this interesting conversation about wind  
20 energy. Thank you to you folks who have attended,  
21 whether you wear a bright green or subtle green or no  
22 green or all, whether you agree with one point or  
23 another, thank you for being here. If we're going to  
24 have local government in Vermont, this is the way it  
25 needs to be. Thank you again.

1           Nearly seven years since Green Mountain Power  
2     filed its application to build the Lowell wind project,  
3     some realities have changed, some of the data has  
4     changed, lots of the data has changed, some of the facts  
5     have changed, if you can change facts. My name is Steve  
6     Wright. I live in Craftsbury. I'm the president of  
7     Ridge Protectors, which is a non-profit organization,  
8     actually founded by the folks in Sheffield during their  
9     struggle, whose goal is to protect our mountain heritage  
10    and see that that mountain heritage continues to play  
11    the biological and sociological functions that have been  
12    visited there.

13           I'm a former Fish & Wildlife commissioner for  
14    the State of Vermont, and I actually sometimes think  
15    when I look out, that what we have here, we're talking  
16    about whitetail deer rather than wind energy. Thank  
17    goodness we're not. I'm also a former member, seven  
18    years, under Governors Kucinich and Dean with the State  
19    Environmental Board. That particular experience gave me  
20    a particular point of view relative to development of  
21    certain -- relative to development in any case.  
22    Following are some proposed standards regarding turbine  
23    noise which might have originated with my work, it has  
24    originated with some of my work with our -- excuse me --  
25    Ridge Protectors: Exterior noise level 35 dBA, no

1 averaging, taken at the property line; interior noise  
2 level 30 dBA, the World Health Organization standard, no  
3 averaging, taken at the property line; turbine setbacks  
4 should be 10 feet times turbine height from the property  
5 boundary, with additional distances considered due to  
6 topography and due to noise magnification; any/all noise  
7 measurements should be taken at the property line.

8 Anything less may constitute a taking; same noise  
9 standards and setbacks apply to all sizes and capacity  
10 of turbines; and, finally, infrasound or LFN standard  
11 anywhere on the property should be 20 dBA as in  
12 Denmark's interior rules.

13 Thank you.

14 THE MODERATOR: William Wahl, Jr., Hilary  
15 Elmer, Keith Ballek.

16 MR. WAHL: I'm Willy Wahl, Kidder Hill  
17 Ridge. I'm originally from Connecticut; I've been  
18 coming to Vermont for 30 years plus to see the scenery  
19 and mountains, coming snowmobile and, like a lot of  
20 people, coming up you see on the highway coming for that  
21 I don't want to get off the subject but ridgelines do  
22 matter.

23 I appreciate at least you guys are listening  
24 now a little bit to setbacks more. I mean, we are the  
25 public; you're the Public Service Board, so at least

1 you're -- you're listening some, hopefully.

2           We bought on Kidder Hill Ridge and heard about  
3 stuff going on and then got engulfed in reading about  
4 everything and reading about noise that doesn't affect  
5 everybody, it affects certain people, and it also  
6 depends on the way the wind blows, so some people are  
7 kind of for it don't, I don't think, they understand all  
8 of it. It depends on how it's blowing. There's so much  
9 research out there about it that big business doesn't,  
10 you know, they don't want you to hear it, and I just  
11 appreciate, you know, you listening to what the public  
12 have to say about it.

13           Thanks.

14           THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Hilary Elmer  
15 is next, Keith Ballek, and Giselle Chevallay.

16           MS. CHEVALLAY: Giselle Chevallay.

17           THE MODERATOR: Thank you. You'll have to  
18 do it, too. Thank you.

19           MS. ELMER: I'm Hilary Elmer, it's  
20 H-i-l-a-r-y E-l-m-e-r. So I have been a 10-year  
21 resident of Lowell. My husband and I bought property  
22 here. We bought 43 acres because we wanted to  
23 homestead, we wanted to live the dream of living off the  
24 land, being one with nature, and we like to consider our  
25 little 43 acres as just our little wilderness paradise.

1 So sometimes when I am working in my garden and it's  
2 very quiet I can hear things around me. I mean, I hear  
3 the birds and I hear owls at night, sometimes I hear my  
4 dog barking, and I hear cars on the highway, and I live  
5 miles from the highway, I live way to heck back in the  
6 woods, and it amazes me sometimes how many man-made  
7 sounds I hear even though I live so far away, my  
8 neighbors are like a half a mile away from me, I'm still  
9 hearing man-made noises all the time. And I also, like  
10 I said, I'm a homesteader, so we have goats and we have  
11 chickens, and my animals are really noisy and sometimes  
12 their noises bother me a little bit but I put up with it  
13 because I appreciate the products that they give me, I  
14 appreciate that my dog keeps bears away, and I  
15 appreciate that my goats give me milk, my chickens give  
16 me eggs, it matters to me. Well, I'm using electricity,  
17 I'm on the grid, I draw electricity, and I even use that  
18 electricity to help live off the land, to raise my  
19 chickens and stuff, so I am really grateful for the  
20 windmills and that they provide some energy for us, and  
21 I support it. Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Keith Ballek.

23 MR. BALLEK: Yes.

24 THE MODERATOR: Followed by Nicole

25 Chevallay -- sorry, you're going to have to help me --

1 and Robert Luongo.

2 MR. BALLEK: Keith Ballek B-a-l-l-e-k. I  
3 live in Sheffield. I chair my town's planning  
4 commission, but I'm hear to speak on behalf of some of  
5 my experiences visiting neighbors and in a couple  
6 places. I feel I have a good deal of experience with  
7 the current unresolved noise issues with industrial  
8 wind, probably more so than the paid lobbyists,  
9 attorneys, advocates, organizations, and so-called  
10 experts, all who benefit financially from continuing to  
11 recite the same scripted, outdated misinformation, which  
12 I feel it is.

13 Having visited the Therrien family residence  
14 under the Sheffield wind project dozens of times before  
15 they were forced from their home, they can't live there  
16 anymore, they haven't for quite sometime, I can tell you  
17 what I've experienced. The turbine noise is a  
18 continuous, throbbing, pulsating roar that can go on for  
19 days and nights at a time, not all the time but, when it  
20 does, it can go on for days. This happens inside and  
21 outside of the home. The sound bounces off of the base  
22 of the mountain just north of the house, causing like a  
23 stereo echo chamber-like effect. I believe the sound is  
24 also transmitted through the bedrock because, if you're  
25 standing in an upright level it's noisy enough but, if

1 you put your head down to hip level, it's like the sound  
2 is being transmitted, reverberating out of the ground.  
3 It's a whole different type of noise, and I feel that  
4 making comparisons to the sounds of a car going down a  
5 highway or to a refrigerator, it's not even credible; in  
6 fact, it's asides. Making comparisons to wind projects  
7 in various locations around the country, they talk  
8 about, Oh, out here in a cornfield or maybe someone is a  
9 little further down from a turbine, even here in  
10 Vermont, the whole thing, it dilutes the data base  
11 because it's terrain specific. I feel the terrain in  
12 Vermont has a lot to do with it. The mountains can  
13 funnel the noise in. The Therrien house, their  
14 residence I'm saying is approximately three quarters of  
15 a mile from the nearest turbines. I think the starting  
16 point for distance, for setbacks, should be from the end  
17 of the property line; because, otherwise, you can go not  
18 too many feet from the house and it's very noisy. And  
19 there's times it's quiet, too; but, when it's noisy,  
20 it's a throbbing, pulsating sound. I also think that,  
21 when they record the data, they shouldn't be averaging  
22 it out. Like, if they're doing recording within an hour  
23 period, monitoring, it should be based on the highest  
24 noise level, not averaging in the low points, because  
25 they'll do what they continue to do, they'll just play

1 with the numbers, and the violations will be hidden,  
2 they would be hidden in the averages, and that's what  
3 happens.

4           We need accountability when it comes to noise  
5 and also carbon reduction and productivity and  
6 environmental damage. There's been little, if any,  
7 accountability in any of that. So wind industry and  
8 their supporters act with dismissiveness while people  
9 are cast aside as collateral damage, and they shouldn't  
10 be dismissive about this. People are suffering. There  
11 are some people who can't speak tonight because they  
12 have signed a nondisclosure agreement and, if there's  
13 any attorneys in this room, I'm sure they can tell you  
14 about it, but they won't, but you should ask them  
15 anyway, and I have -- and I can throw this in, too. I  
16 have interviewed residents on the Eaton Road under the  
17 Lowell wind project, and you will have these, one of  
18 these, disturbing experience tonight. Sam Mason lives  
19 on the Eaton Road in Lowell. He cannot be here tonight  
20 because he was sent away on business, he will be gone  
21 all week, but he felt very bad he couldn't be here and  
22 asked me to testify on his behalf. There continues to  
23 be serious noise issues that can continue around the  
24 clock for days at a time. He describes it as a loud,  
25 pulsating, throbbing sound like a washing machine.



1 MS. ROWLEE: Excuse me, I'm giving him my  
2 time so he can finish with Sam Mason.

3 MR. BALLEK: And this will be quick. This  
4 sound reverberates through the walls of his home. He  
5 has to shut his doors and windows, turn up the radio and  
6 fan, which only partially drowns out the sound. He,  
7 also, he has a young son who has autism. He used to  
8 love to play outside. When the noise started from the  
9 turbines, he would cover his ears, go into the house.  
10 Now he doesn't even like to go outside when the turbines  
11 are silent because he's been conditioned to associate  
12 outside with noise. That has made him very  
13 uncomfortable. Sam stated to me that, if a neighbor  
14 made that kind of noise, authorities would make them  
15 stop or be charged with disturbing the peace. He wanted  
16 to ask -- he wanted to ask me this to you or to the  
17 State -- how the State could let a situation like this  
18 happen and no one is held accountable. Why are the  
19 people being protected? The value of his home has  
20 dropped from \$95,000 down to \$72,000. If he tried to  
21 sell his home, if anyone would even buy it, he would go  
22 deeper in debt. And I'd also, one other thing, and I'd  
23 like the people should state here when they come up how  
24 far they are from the turbine. I know some are closer  
25 than others, sometimes it has to do with the terrain,

1 but how many are profiting in one way or another from  
2 this, whether from a lobbying -- a lobbying group, from  
3 Green Mountain Power directly or indirectly. I just  
4 think that's an important thing to know. And thanks for  
5 your time.

6 THE MODERATOR: And thank you, too, Ms.  
7 Chevallay, for deeding her time. We'll put you at the  
8 top of the list if we get back to the beginning, get  
9 through everybody. Robert Luongo, Deane Ronlee --

10 MR. LUONGO: Robert L-u-o-n-g-o.

11 THE MODERATOR: On deck: Deane Ronlee and  
12 Harold Roufee.

13 MS. RONLEE: No, it's Diane and Harold  
14 Rowlee.

15 THE MODERATOR: Oh, okay, Rowlee. Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. LUONGO: Yes, I moved here four years  
18 ago and bought some land 'cause this is where I wanted  
19 to retire. This is Vermont, come on, I grew up here in  
20 the '60s and the '70s. Vermont was the best place in  
21 the world. I was gone for 20 years. I came back  
22 because this is where I love, this is what where my  
23 heart is, and I'm seeing this. I mean, I grew up doing  
24 power plants, coal-fired, noisy. You can go to your  
25 gas, noisy; oil, noisy. I just got done working a nuke

1 plant, real noisy. These turbines I can see from my  
2 backyard; I hear nothing. I hear the coyotes at night,  
3 I hear the turkeys, I hear the partridge, I hear all the  
4 wildlife. That's Vermont. And we've got people in here  
5 crying because decibels are too loud? Come on, give me  
6 a break. They were built there because of wind. Wind  
7 goes through my woods every day. I can't hear anything  
8 at night on a windy night but the trees, the leaves. Be  
9 real, people; this is Vermont. We love Vermont. The  
10 wind towers are the answer. I just drove up 91, and I  
11 saw all kinds of solars in the field. They look  
12 terrible; it looks like crap. The wind towers from my  
13 backyard, that's technology, that's the new way. Let's  
14 live with it and enjoy it and be thankful that we have  
15 that here. I mean, I've never heard them. I live two  
16 miles from there. Doesn't matter the direction of the  
17 wind. I sit on my back porch all the time and listen to  
18 the wildlife, and there's no place I'd rather be.

19 Thank you.

20 THE MODERATOR: Diane Rowlee followed by  
21 Harold Rowlee and Bruce Collopy. So if the on-deck  
22 people could go over here so they're next to the  
23 microphone.

24 MS. ROWLEE: You called us twice and we  
25 passed.

1 THE MODERATOR: Oh, you passed both times?  
2 Okay, then Mr. Collopy, please.

3 MR. COLLOPY: Thank you very much. Thanks  
4 everyone for coming. My name is Bruce Collopy  
5 C-o-l-l-o-p-y. I live on Fairfield Pond, the site of  
6 the proposed 20-milliwatt Swanton wind industrial --  
7 industrial wind generation facility.

8 I feel that it's time for Vermont to make a  
9 major change on our renewable energy goals in how we are  
10 going to achieve them. It is time that, while we try to  
11 meet this goal of being self reliant on our energy  
12 consumption, we need to start thinking about the people  
13 and put the people before the profits. There are too  
14 many families suffering for our lack of true  
15 understanding of wind turbine noise and infrasound  
16 issues. The wind industry has been throwing out  
17 computer data on how these turbines are not noisy, do  
18 not cause problems, and it's only the -- it's only in  
19 the people's heads. These victims are not computers;  
20 they're real. They're our neighbors, and they're our  
21 friends. They are part of the public. You can  
22 manipulate the data however you want, but the real  
23 people around Vermont and the world are standing up to  
24 the truth, standing up for their rights and demanding to  
25 be heard.

1           As you listen to the two sides while you make  
2 this very-important decision over the next few months,  
3 we hope you have learned enough to realize that what has  
4 been done in the past is not safe. This mistake cannot  
5 be repeated for future projects. For Vermonters and  
6 their families. I'm not a sound expert, but I do live  
7 with a hereditary hearing loss due to an illness called  
8 "metius." So, the buzzing that you hear people get, I  
9 have it 24 hours a day. I'm saying it's at 50-60  
10 decibels right now. I hear it over all of you my whole  
11 life, okay, so I know what that sound is. I had the  
12 chance to spend an hour at a victim's home on Georgia  
13 Mountain. The wind was blowing in the opposite  
14 direction from me, okay, opposite direction where I  
15 stood; and, due to my hearing loss, I could not hear the  
16 noise as loudly as the other people in my party, but  
17 what I did feel was a thump, thump, thump, and I was  
18 like freaking out. I'm on these people's front porch,  
19 I'm 3,800 feet from the closest one, okay, so then -- I  
20 believe this is called "infrasound,," which is you feel  
21 more than you hear. So at 3,800 feet from the nearest  
22 turbine, I could only imagine how bad that noise  
23 infrasound would have felt if the wind were blowing in  
24 my face. All I know is that people are suffering and  
25 that, alone, is enough to make a change and to protect

1 us all.

2           If we meet our goals for renewable energy with  
3 the regulations that are in place now, there will be so  
4 many victims that it just won't matter. Who will win?  
5 Not Vermonters. Please, do not be influenced by the  
6 wind industry and their lobbyists. They have all the  
7 money; they have all the power; and, to date, they have  
8 all the say, too. Since being educated, communities are  
9 voting against industrial wind in their residential  
10 neighborhoods. Again, it all comes down to a simple  
11 answer: Protect the people.

12           Thank you.

13           THE MODERATOR: Chris Blair, Jan  
14 Rozendaal, and Rita Clark. Chris Blair? Is that Chris?  
15 Are you Chris?

16           MS. BLAIS: I am.

17           THE MODERATOR: Chris Blair.

18           MS. BLAIS: There is an "s" at the end.  
19 Blais.

20           THE MODERATOR: Oh, sorry.

21           MS. BLAIS: Okay, Chris Blais B-l-a-i-s  
22 from Derby Line and Morgan. We have a proposed wind  
23 project that's up on Seymour Lake, and I'm here in a  
24 preventative issue in respect that we've had town  
25 meetings, we go to votes, and the votes are, you know,

1 90 percent against this. I don't understand how Vermont  
2 has gotten to the point of you have a community that  
3 says, We don't want this in our community. That's one  
4 of the reasons why I moved to Vermont. I'm from Ohio.  
5 Firestone, BF Goodrich, Bridgestone, that's where I grew  
6 up, where, when I was a kid, you'd put rubberbands,  
7 believe it or not, on a coat hanger, and it would  
8 disintegrate the rubberbands, the air was so bad. I  
9 can't tell you how much I value Vermont. My concern is  
10 that if the same ridgeline towers come to Lake Seymour.  
11 We've got a very unique situation up in Morgan where the  
12 watershed, all of the drainage from those, once the wind  
13 towers are put in, are going to go down into that lake.  
14 The lake is noted for its fish. As soon as the  
15 topography of the land is changed, it's going to affect  
16 so much, and the association, the Lake Seymour  
17 Association, has sent documentation to the Public  
18 Service Board in this respect. But what I don't  
19 understand is how we in the Northeast Kingdom became  
20 victims of wind power. If you voted it and you want it  
21 in your community, I applaud you, because you've gotten  
22 what you want; but, by the same token, if we're in a  
23 pristine area with a water that is absolutely gorgeous  
24 and we don't want it, why should we have to have it  
25 shoved down our throat. It seems like we don't have any

1 say so. It's going to affect our property values, it's  
2 going to affect our lake. And, when I left my porch  
3 light on, those wind towers that are there, that's not  
4 coming out of that money. Those wind towers, from my  
5 understanding, all of that energy, those kilowatt hours,  
6 they're going down country. Lowell did a great job in  
7 respect of negotiating a deal to help you out in this  
8 area, but most of those towers, Vermont is not  
9 benefiting from those kilowatt hours. They're going  
10 down country.

11 If Connecticut and Massachusetts or wherever  
12 the power is going want the wind towers, put them down  
13 there put them down there. And, if Montpelier is for  
14 it, why aren't there wind towers in Camel's Hump? I  
15 don't understand why all of a sudden in the past five or  
16 10 years that the north country seems to become  
17 victimized for people coming and wanting to set up wind  
18 towers for profit. When we wear green here tonight,  
19 it's to protect the environment. And there's three  
20 things that I think the Public Service Board, but, more  
21 importantly, the State of Vermont -- and I'm getting  
22 there, I promise -- should have three things that they  
23 need to consider, it's three S's so it's easy to  
24 remember, and it's site, size, and stewardship. If you  
25 are in that area where they are proposing these wind



1 towers, the people locally should have major input on  
2 their proposal, because it's affecting them directly.  
3 Health wise, whether you believe it or not, which I can  
4 see it going both ways but I truly believe it does have.  
5 Property values, they're aesthetics, and just -- and the  
6 lake, itself. The idea of size. If you're putting up a  
7 commercial wind tower to send power to out of state,  
8 then you should be taxed as an industry. You're not  
9 doing it for the benefit of green power; you're doing it  
10 to make money. And there should be laws in the books.  
11 If you are a self-sustaining farmer or homesteader and  
12 you have your wind tower and it's to make power for  
13 yourself, I applaud you. I wish I had the smarts to do  
14 it myself, but I don't. So my congratulations. But, if  
15 you're a commercial person that's coming out from  
16 someplace else to sell power down country, then it  
17 should be taxed completely different, because you're an  
18 industry, you're an industry. The other thing that we  
19 need to take into consideration is Vermonters are known  
20 for their stewardship, we love our land, and we need to  
21 be careful of the decisions that we're making right now,  
22 so.

23 THE MODERATOR: I'm sorry, I've got to ask  
24 if somebody wants to cede their time to Chris. We do  
25 have to move on. We'll come back to you at the end.

1 You did get through the three S's but if you want to  
2 keep -- somebody want to give their time to Chris?

3 Okay, well, thank you very much.

4 MS. BLAIS: No problem. Thank you.

5 THE MODERATOR: Next up, Jan Rozendaal  
6 with Rita Clark and Penny Dubie on deck.

7 MR. ROZENDAAL: Good evening. I'm Jan  
8 Rozendaal J-a-n R-o-z-e-n-d-a-a-l. I can assure you I  
9 have no economic interest in the Green Mountain Power or  
10 any of the wind economy. I have a home on Route 58 up  
11 on the Irasburg Road, and I'm also the trail chief for  
12 the Catamount Trails ski trail, which passes over the  
13 Lowell mountains directly next to the northern -- most-  
14 northerly wind turbine. So I've been asked to come and  
15 on my subjective experience about the sound. I go up  
16 there quite frequently to work on the trail. We have  
17 ski groups that come over quite often in the winter, and  
18 I ask them if they hear the noise. Every time I go up  
19 there in the winter and the fall, I listen carefully,  
20 and I can honestly say that the only noise I've ever  
21 heard is a very faint whisper of, as one gentleman put  
22 it, like the wind through the trees, and I do listen  
23 carefully.

24 So I think the issue here tonight is sound. A  
25 lot of people are talking about things that have nothing

1 to do with sound, and I'd just like to give my  
2 experience, which is that my personal experience is that  
3 I've never heard more than a whisper of sound.

4 Thank you.

5 THE MODERATOR: Rita Clark, Penny Dubie,  
6 Suzanne Moulton.

7 MS. CLARK: Hi. Rita Clark R-i-t-a  
8 C-l-a-r-k. I had to drop my green vest, kept my purple  
9 on. So I came from out of town because I couldn't make  
10 the climate mobilization March in Washington, D.C., this  
11 weekend, and I felt guilty and said, I'm going to do my  
12 civil duty. Even though I'm from Fletcher, which is an  
13 hour away, I wanted to come tonight to share my opinion,  
14 and I'm thanking you for listening.

15 So my daughter was visiting me this weekend,  
16 which is why I didn't go to the March of in D.C., even  
17 though she's from D.C. My daughter's always famous for  
18 saying to me, "Mom, it's not about you." I think you've  
19 all heard your kids say that when they want me to listen  
20 to them and not to always think about yourselves. So  
21 my -- that theme, it's not about you, is, I think,  
22 applicable to this entire audience and to our government  
23 and to the whole world. We need to stop thinking just  
24 about what's good for ourselves, even though there is a  
25 gentleman that mentioned that, you know, there are --

1 that the government should not interfere with subsets or  
2 create subsets. But, guess what, I'm a woman, I'm  
3 already a subset. If you're African-American, you're a  
4 subset. And our country has often subjugated those  
5 subjects for the better -- well, for other causes. So I  
6 think the thing that my daughter pointed out to me was  
7 we need to think about our responsibility rather than  
8 everything that affects us personally. To me, at this  
9 meeting, doesn't seem to be about sound; I think it's  
10 about responsibility. You know, first we said the roads  
11 that go up to the wind turbines are bad, then we said  
12 they kill birds, then we said they're too loud; and it  
13 sounds like even the community members have different  
14 viewpoints of that. I live near the Georgia wind  
15 turbines and, when I look at them, I just say, Oh,  
16 they're beautiful, they're helping Burlington. I don't  
17 care who they help. They don't have to help Fletcher;  
18 they're helping someone. So our responsibility and I  
19 believe your responsibility as a Public Service Board is  
20 to think about the responsibility that we have to our  
21 community, to our world, and not just to human beings  
22 but to other living organisms in this climate  
23 control/climate change atmosphere that we're living in.  
24 We need to look ahead, we need to think about our goals  
25 for 2050; and, if we lower this decibel rating, it will

1 discourage wind development, it will discourage it. I  
2 also want you to know that I have some neighbors who  
3 would love to have a wind turbine in their backyard, but  
4 their topography is wrong. They cannot. The State's  
5 come in, they've done studies; they don't have enough  
6 wind to generate. So, while you're thinking, Oh, these  
7 are terrible, there are other people that would love to  
8 have them. So we need to think about the bigger  
9 picture, the goals for the future, and our  
10 responsibility, not just our personal responsibility but  
11 our responsibility to the community.

12 Thank you.

13 THE MODERATOR: Penny Dubie, Suzanne  
14 Moulton, and Vicky Lewis.

15 MS. DUBIE: Hi. Penny Dubie D-u-b-i-e,  
16 and I'm from Fairfield, Vermont. I live within a mile  
17 of a proposed project. If we really want to fight  
18 climate change, if we really want citizens to accept the  
19 development of industrial wind, the State needs to  
20 assure citizens that they will be protected, and, if we  
21 allow developers to site industrial wind too close to  
22 neighbors and communities, you will see a pushback on  
23 the development of renewable energy. The more wind  
24 energy that encroaches on small communities in rural  
25 towns, the more resistance it will face. We know that

1 having lower noise standards will not inhibit wind  
2 development in Vermont. Denmark and Germany both have  
3 similar noise standards, and they're leaders in wind  
4 energy. Thank you for the lower noise standards for  
5 nighttime. Even though this recognizes the importance  
6 of the quieter nighttime noise, it's extremely important  
7 to add the interior standard, 30 decibels. The World  
8 Health Organization recommends 30 decibels for healthy  
9 sleep.

10 Last year, in Montpelier, the house voted  
11 unanimously to task the Public Service Board with  
12 developing more protective noise standards. Eliminating  
13 the indoor noise standard makes the standards less  
14 protective. It's also very important that the  
15 measurement for sound is taken at neighbors' property  
16 line and not their residence. Neighbors have a right to  
17 the full use of their property, all their property.  
18 With the residence standard rather than a property line  
19 standard, the Board is still proposing to continue the  
20 taking of private property as wind developers are given  
21 permission to uncompensated use of their neighbors'  
22 property.

23 The Comprehensive Energy Plan says that we need  
24 to learn from the operation of existing wind projects to  
25 inform any future recommendations for sound. We've

1 learned a lot since the first wind turbines were built  
2 in Vermont. We've learned that turbine noise attenuates  
3 much less through open bedroom windows than the industry  
4 assumes of 15 decibels. This supports the lower  
5 nighttime standards. Wind turbine noise violations and  
6 complaints occurred where none were expected or  
7 predicted. This means they had poor modeling. There  
8 really needs to be a safety margin built into the sound  
9 monitoring, a minimum of six decibels under the  
10 criterion level in modeling in order to receive the CPG.  
11 Sheffield, Lowell, and Georgia Mountain have all  
12 violated their CPG noise standards. And we also need to  
13 have the noise standards be at L max. Any averaging  
14 allows for the contamination of the testing and the  
15 noise levels above the standard.

16           There needs to be a transparent third-party  
17 continuous noise monitoring after a project is built.  
18 Allowing an industry to monitor itself just doesn't  
19 work. Industrial wind turbines are not a cottage  
20 industrial. They're industrial projects making millions  
21 of dollars, and they need to be regulated as such.  
22 Neighbors cannot be and should not be expected to police  
23 these operations. Please make Vermont a leader in  
24 protecting neighbors of industrial wind projects as we  
25 move forward toward our renewable energy goals. Please

1 support strong protective noise standards to make sure  
2 no more Vermonters are not sacrificed.

3 Thank you.

4 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Suzanne  
5 Moulton, Vicky Lewis, Red Ferguson.

6 MS. MOULTON: Suzanne Moulton  
7 M-o-u-l-t-o-n. So, when I wrote this piece today, I  
8 didn't realize that we were just discussing sound  
9 tonight; I thought we were discussing reasons for  
10 setbacks, so.

11 THE MODERATOR: That's acceptable,  
12 setbacks have something to do with sound.

13 MS. MOULTON: So I would like to talk  
14 tonight about the problem of ice throw created by an  
15 industrial wind turbine. I drive school bus in Holland  
16 where a project is proposed for just 300 feet off the  
17 road where I travel with children every day. We all  
18 know this problem exists, but developers would have us  
19 believe that they have it under control and the danger  
20 to us and our property is minimal. Just last year in  
21 the Balsams, researchers reported seeing ice chunks  
22 thrown from 400-foot wind turbines and found ice craters  
23 and broken saplings 930 feet from a turbine. There have  
24 been numerous complaints filed with the Public Service  
25 Board about ice throws from projects. In an email in



1 2000 Mr. Zimmerman of VERA talks about ice from the  
2 Searsburg project. He states that they found a piece of  
3 ice five to six inches thick, three feet wide and three  
4 feet long, probably weighing several hundred pounds.  
5 Icing is a real danger, he states. When there is heavy  
6 rime frost on them, they roar loudly and sound scary,  
7 and you instinctively want to stay away. He states,  
8 because of the dangers of ice throw, wind turbines  
9 should not be near human development. So he admits of  
10 the dangers; yet, when he and his cohorts want to put up  
11 a project, they pay some expert from California, who  
12 knows nothing of our constant weather changes, to tell  
13 us there is minimal damage. What is minimal danger?  
14 One death, a couple homes destroyed? What does that  
15 mean exactly? The only way to keep the citizens of  
16 Vermont and their properties safe is for the Public  
17 Service Board to adopt these setback standards.

18 Thank you.

19 THE MODERATOR: Vicky Lewis, Red Ferguson,  
20 and Christine Lang. There are some seats up here now,  
21 as people have thinned out, if you want to come forward.

22 MS. LEWIS: Hello, my name is Vicky Lewis  
23 L-e-w-i-s. I live in Whittier Road in Derby Line,  
24 Vermont. I will be approximately two miles, as the crow  
25 flies, from the proposed Dairy Air wind project in

1 Holland, Vermont.

2           There is a saying I appreciate and find fitting  
3 in many situations, "We do not know what we do know  
4 until the very moment we know." And so goes the case  
5 for industrial wind turbine projects in the state of  
6 Vermont. At the onset of the wave of industrial  
7 projects in our state one could say we did not know or  
8 we did not give enough attention to the information  
9 readily available regarding the detrimental impact from  
10 sound and siting issues with industrial wind turbine  
11 projects. But now we know. Much voice has been given  
12 and still is to the developers' statements of industrial  
13 wind turbine projects having been peer reviewed, thus,  
14 placing this peer review standard as the ultimate  
15 standard in determining the safety and benefit of these  
16 projects. However, over the course of years, a much  
17 more beneficial and telling standard to assess the  
18 safety and benefit of industrial wind project has come  
19 forth, those conducted from field studies. These rich  
20 and troubling field-study outcomes have come from  
21 residents and property owners who have been forced to  
22 live every day with the impact of these projects.  
23 Indeed, no peer review study could ever compare. The  
24 information residents have provided to our state  
25 regarding the hazards from these projects has profoundly

1 created another level of knowing. Now that the many  
2 entities of our state have heard and learned about the  
3 detrimental impact from sound and setback issues with  
4 these projects, our State has an onus of responsibility,  
5 to rectify these issues, putting forth sound and setback  
6 standards that will adequately protect the residents of  
7 this state, that will guarantee every resident is able  
8 to exercise their constitutional right to the peaceful  
9 and quiet enjoyment of their homes and properties should  
10 always come before the financial benefit to any  
11 developer or investor. We cannot and know what we know,  
12 and our state now knows. Please put forth the sound and  
13 setback standards proposed that will protect the  
14 residents of this state from these detrimental projects.

15 Thank you.

16 THE MODERATOR: Red Ferguson, Christine  
17 Lang, and Hollis Thresher.

18 MR. FERGUSON: It's not that I'm pretty  
19 but, when I'm sitting out there, I want to see the face  
20 of the person who's speaking, okay. I was going to pass  
21 on my turn to have a voice here tonight, but I want to  
22 correct a misconception. One of the speakers out here  
23 said that these wind tower wind farms should be taxed.  
24 By gosh, they are. Lowell, Vermont, gets over half a  
25 million dollars in tax money. Have you ever thought

1 about that? You're benefiting; people that live here  
2 are benefiting. The second thing, during the course of  
3 the installation of those turbines, Green Mountain Power  
4 changed the units they were going to put in there. They  
5 were supposed to be 2.3 megawatts; they're 3.2 now, with  
6 the latest technology fan blades on them. The second  
7 thing that you need to think about is, if you aren't for  
8 a wind farm, maybe you should negotiate a package, kind  
9 of like Lowell did, that will benefit the community and  
10 have the latest technologies to create the least amount  
11 of problems and concerns. It's just a simple thing.  
12 Yes, things have changed over time, almost always for  
13 the better; that's our nature. So I am correct that  
14 they are on the tax issue; I stand corrected and I  
15 forgot to say, I'm not Red, I'm R-o-d Ferguson,  
16 Fer-gu-son, that's how you spell that last one.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 THE MODERATOR: Very sorry, Red -- Rod.  
19 Christine Lang, Hollis Thresher, and Pat Sagui.

20 MS. SAGUI: I'm going to pass.

21 THE MODERATOR: Which was?

22 MS. SAGUI: Sagui, the last one.

23 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

24 MS. LANG: Hi. I'm Christine Lang, and I  
25 live in Swanton, Vermont. I was at the Statehouse last

1 session when the House of Representatives took a roll  
2 call vote on the original S230 bill. In that bill,  
3 which eventually is the reason why we're all here  
4 looking at these new standards, but in that bill all  
5 wind projects from the date that bill became effective  
6 would have to comply with the rules that were set from  
7 these rules. That got taken out of the bill eventually,  
8 but in that roll call vote, that was an unanimous vote  
9 in the house, 142 representatives to zero, all voted for  
10 that bill. Many of them spoke about that bill before  
11 they voted, and what they all spoke about was the noise  
12 issue. That's why they were voting for the bill,  
13 because the noise issue was in there and they were all  
14 glad Vermont was finally taking issue, taking notice of  
15 the issue, and was finally going to do something about  
16 it to protect Vermonters and no more we're going to be  
17 harmed by these industrial installations. So those 142  
18 representatives are not looking for the status quo from  
19 these new standards; they're looking for strict,  
20 protective standards that can be enforced, okay, and  
21 your proposed noise rule is definitely a step in the  
22 right direction.

23 Now, so certainly we don't want to do anything  
24 worse than what we've already got in our existing  
25 installations because there's problems in all of them.

1 And there is no interior standard in the new proposal,  
2 which is very concerning, because there's a 30-dBA  
3 interior standard in the current installations, and the  
4 wind industry has met the standard by saying that  
5 there's a 15 dBA attenuation from exterior to interior.  
6 That's been proven in Sheffield, Vermont, that that is  
7 not the case, that it's more like one to three, which  
8 makes sense. Think about it. If you're near your open  
9 window in your house, it's going to be pretty much the  
10 same noise as what it is outside. 15 dBA is a huge  
11 drop, and it's not going to drop that much when your  
12 window's open, and I think in Vermont it's not, you  
13 know, we have the cold winters, so in the summertime we  
14 like to have our windows open, and we should be allowed  
15 to do that. So, looking at that, you're really looking  
16 at it's a 31-to-33 dBA standard outside the house, if  
17 it's one to three inside, to maintain that 30-dBA  
18 standard. So, with your 35 nighttime standard, you're  
19 definitely close to that.

20 Big issue as far as regulation of the wind  
21 turbine projects, they're self regulated, basically,  
22 now. Neighbors complain, and they jump through hoops  
23 just to get acknowledgments that there's an issue and  
24 then, when they get acknowledgment of it, what's their  
25 reward? Oh, you get to go to Montpelier, you have to

1 fill out paperwork, you have to go to hearings. This is  
2 what neighbors have to. It's an industrial installation  
3 that the State allowed to go in, and the neighbor has to  
4 do all this. They have to sit in front of lawyers from  
5 the wind industry, staring at them and belittling them.  
6 The very first -- My first introduction to wind was when  
7 they discussed the property in Swanton; they came to our  
8 town. And I didn't really know much about wind at the  
9 time, and I said, Well, I know there's been some  
10 complaints in Georgia, I can remember hearing something  
11 about that, and they looked at me and they said: Those  
12 are just the complainers, don't listen to them. That's  
13 what -- and I've met those people now. They are not  
14 just the complainers; they are Vermonters, just like you  
15 and I. They are good, solid people.

16 So, again, the paperwork just drags on and  
17 on and on. And the model, they talk about the modeling  
18 all the time, modeling of the sound. A wind developer  
19 can model whatever they want, you know, with your  
20 terrain, you're rocky, you know, are you going over soft  
21 ground. It's impossible to know what's really going to  
22 lap when you put those 500-foot turbines with blades  
23 that are the size of airplanes up there. And at the  
24 sound workshop in Montpelier, Mr. Olsen was one of the  
25 noise experts for the Department of Public Service, said

1 it's up to the developer to determine how much risk they  
2 want to take in creating that model. The lack of  
3 enforcement in Vermont for developers is, I'll take as  
4 much risk as I want because nothing's ever going to  
5 happen; I'm just going to keep throwing lawyers at it,  
6 and those poor people are just going to suffer. And  
7 they don't care. It's really sad.

8 So continuous, transparent, third-party noise  
9 monitoring for the life of the project, it has to be  
10 done. Take that responsibility away from the neighbors,  
11 put it back on the State, put it back on the developers,  
12 and put it the way it should be. When there's a  
13 problem, can be found immediately. If you have an Lmax  
14 standard, much easier to monitor, and I think my time is  
15 up, but now is your chance to protect Vermonters.  
16 Please listen to the people who are living and  
17 suffering. I understand it's fine for some people, but,  
18 certainly, it's not for everybody.

19 Thanks.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you.  
21 People are bringing statements are up. Hollis, Karen  
22 Jenne, maybe, Jenna, and Noreen Hession. So  
23 Mr. Thresher.

24 MR. THRESHER: Okay, I'm not much of a  
25 public speaker either, but my name is Hollis Thresher.



1 My wife and I were both born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont.  
2 In May of 2006 I retired from the Air Force after 20  
3 years and returned home to purchase a home in Holland,  
4 Vermont. Angela had looked on the Internet for two  
5 years at dozens of houses before deciding on 395 Lyon  
6 road. None of the houses that we had looked at on the  
7 Internet were located near any industrial wind turbine.  
8 If there was wind turbine, we wouldn't have purchased  
9 our house. We had decided on Holland, as our family has  
10 summer camp in Island Pond, camped there for over 20  
11 years, and still vacations there today. We  
12 wholeheartedly support the Public Service Board's  
13 proposal for reduced sound standards and the 10 times  
14 residential height rule for setbacks. We also request  
15 that the Board consider imposing and enforcing harsher  
16 penalties for the violations from these wind turbines.  
17 Our neighbors, Brian and Kim Champney have petitioned to  
18 install a 499-foot-tall turbine just 3,700 feet from our  
19 house. If approved, we will be forced to leave our  
20 retirement home of 11 years. Their request comes after  
21 the construction of an approximate 100-by-150-foot new  
22 robotic barn. This barn has eight industrial-sized fans  
23 to keep the barn cool that now resonate at our  
24 residence. The barn was built without any input from  
25 us, as Holland has no zoning, but now we're forced to

1 live with the noise that resonates just by those  
2 industrial fans. That is all I have here. So I just  
3 hope that the Service Board will please let our voices  
4 be heard here today and finalize your new proposed  
5 standards. And I have nothing against farming; my last  
6 name is Thresher, so how could I be against that, but  
7 what I am against is an industrial wind turbine in my  
8 front yard, looking at it 24 hours a day with a red  
9 beacon at night, and listening and hearing it when I can  
10 already hear these fans. So the 10 times setback, we  
11 fall within that zone, so please enforce that. If that  
12 turbine goes up, we'll be glad to move, because I'm not  
13 going to stay there if the turbine goes up, but,  
14 hopefully, that proposed turbine will not.

15 Thank you.

16 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Karen, Noreen  
17 Hession, and Gerry Green.

18 MS. JENNE: My name is Karen Jenne  
19 J-e-n-n-e, and I live in Derby Line. First of all, I  
20 want to thank the Board for adjusting the sound  
21 standards and setbacks as they have. I was formally on  
22 the Derby Select Board and was involved in the Derby  
23 Line wind project. I believe this is a step in the  
24 right direction. I wish it had gone further; I wish the  
25 decibel level was lower. As far as the setbacks, I

1 agree with what you got now, but I would hope you would  
2 consider some sort of international setback because at  
3 the Derby Line project, it did create an international  
4 incident with the proposed locations at that time. Some  
5 properties straddle both the United States and Canada.  
6 I think that needs to be considered so we can get along  
7 with our neighbors. In our case up there, there's a  
8 shared water sewer system, which is going to have an  
9 effect on the setbacks on those proposed projects, but I  
10 agree with what you've done and I believe it's a step in  
11 the right direction.

12 Thank you.

13 THE MODERATOR: Noreen, Jerry Green, and  
14 then Dave Robitille.

15 MS. HESSION: My name's Noreen Hession,  
16 I'm from Newark. I want to start by thanking the Public  
17 Service Board --

18 MR. GREEN: You cut in front of me?

19 MS. HESSION: Pardon me?

20 MR. GREEN: My name's Gerry Green. I  
21 think you've just called my name.

22 THE MODERATOR: No, Noreen's in front of  
23 you. Then you can go.

24 MR. GREEN: Oh, okay.

25 MS. HESSION: I want to thank the Public

1 Service Board for hosting this hearing tonight. I want  
2 to start by saying I'm not a climate change denier; I am  
3 a Vermonter and I'm an environmentalist, and I'm for  
4 doing every smart thing, every efficient thing, every  
5 useful thing that has a meaningful, quantifiable impact  
6 on reducing greenhouse gas emissions while never  
7 destroying our environment, nor harming our wildlife or  
8 people. The Public Service Board's taken comments on  
9 this topic from Vermonters for years, and to my  
10 knowledge, prior to this proposed sound rule, nothing  
11 has been done to enhance protection for Vermont  
12 citizens. Industrial-scale energy developers enjoy a  
13 privilege status in Vermont because they masquerade as  
14 environmentalists, while reaping huge profits and  
15 neighbors who suffer and deserve compassion are  
16 ridiculed by those developers and dismissed by district  
17 cheerleaders. It's my sincere hope that this time  
18 concerns of Vermonters and our neighbors will take  
19 precedence over the interest of developers and their  
20 lobbyists.

21 My husband and I have talked about building a  
22 new home on our land for 22 years. I don't know if  
23 we're going to do that, but it shouldn't be up to the  
24 industrial wind complex to determine where I build a  
25 home on my land. The Public Service Board rule proposed

1 the sound measurements be 100 feet from a residence.  
2 This measurement should be from my property line, not  
3 from the location of my current home. I have the right  
4 to use all of my property, and you have the  
5 responsibility to not create confusing loopholes that  
6 would allow developers an unconstitutional taking of my  
7 private property.

8           No. 2, we need to have a noise standard that's  
9 maximum standards with no averaging. While the daytime  
10 standard of 42 dBA is an improvement, it's still too  
11 high. The new rule also eliminates the interior  
12 standard. Why, when you've been tasked with addressing  
13 the concerns of Vermont citizens in resolving problems  
14 related to wind noise would you eliminate a standard.  
15 Surely you have must know that wind turbine owners do  
16 not protect neighbors unless they are forced to do so.  
17 Wind turbine owners respond to neighbors' complaints by  
18 ridiculing them. The legislature has instructed the PSB  
19 to fix the problem with noise from wind generation  
20 facilities, not ignore the problem or make it worse, so  
21 let's not eliminate the interior standards. I imagine  
22 you're familiar with the World Health Organization's  
23 community guideline for noise, which states, Where noise  
24 is continuous, the sound pressure should not exceed 30  
25 dBA. When noise is composed of large proportional

1 low-frequency sounds, a still lower guideline value is  
2 recommended, because noise -- because low frequency  
3 noise can disturb rest and sleep, even at low sound  
4 pressure levels. The World Health Organization goes on  
5 to say: This is especially applicable for rural  
6 environments, where the public has a strong appreciation  
7 for quiet and natural sound scapes. For Vermonters  
8 living in rural areas, the ambient noise level is often  
9 in the low 20s; 30 dBA is the correct standard for all  
10 times of day, in light of the well-known fact that  
11 increases of 10 dBA above background noise will result  
12 in disturbances which will lead to complaints.

13 No. 3, in terms of low-frequency noise, I will  
14 remind you in the '80s the Department of Energy led  
15 research into neighbor complaints of wind turbines.  
16 According to the lead investigator, this is a quote, The  
17 annoyance was real, not imagined, end quote. The source  
18 of the problem was impulsive infrasound low-frequency  
19 noise. The research determined people became more  
20 sensitive with cumulative exposure. They could feel the  
21 sound pressure and were disturbed by it at levels when  
22 they couldn't hear it. This is precisely the people  
23 living near the wind turbines described today. They  
24 report feeling pulsations or vibrations, even when they  
25 can't hear the turbines. This rule we're discussing

1 tonight does not address low-frequency noise or  
2 infrasound, and it should. A 20-dBC interior standard,  
3 as adopted by Denmark, would be appropriate to address  
4 low-frequency noise.

5           Two more quick points, one is that I was  
6 astounded to read that second homes and camps under the  
7 definitions of residents are not protected by the  
8 problem of the wind noise rule. Why would the PSB  
9 create a group of second-class citizens; they're  
10 homeowners, they're taxpayers with fewer rights than  
11 full-time Vermonters. It's bad for our tourist economy,  
12 bad for real estate values, and it's disturbing how it  
13 implies about all Vermonters feel about people who visit  
14 and invest in our state.

15           And, finally, in terms of monitoring, we need  
16 full-time, full-frequency spector-inclusive monitoring.  
17 It has to include all kinds of weather and wind  
18 conditions. It should be performed by professionals who  
19 are independent of the wind industry, who have been  
20 approved by people who are suffering. It has to be done  
21 in a way that ensures the lack of either the lack of  
22 either unintentional or deliberate manipulation of  
23 turbine operations, and all results should be made  
24 available to all parties.

25           Thanks.

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

2 Gerry Green, Dave Robitille, Sally Collopy.

3 MR. GREEN: Hi. I'm Gerry; I live in  
4 Lowell, Vermont. Anybody who don't know me, probably  
5 don't want to. I live fairly close to the wind  
6 turbines, and I cannot hear them, and I've heard all  
7 kinds of stuff about noise and stuff. I got some fellas  
8 drive by my house about four o'clock in the morning and  
9 got these pickup trucks with them souped-up mufflers on  
10 them, pisses me off, and it wakes me right up. But  
11 there is no law against that; there's no guidelines,  
12 there's nothing. Talking -- some lady here was talking  
13 about the Nelsons and their financial issues. I'm sure  
14 the Nelsons are very well financially sound right now,  
15 so I don't understand. And, as far as our wind turbines  
16 that we have up here on the mountains, at one time that  
17 mountain was for sale, and everybody in this room had a  
18 right to buy it, but nobody did. The guy that owned  
19 it's grandson bought it and did something with it. He  
20 didn't build condos on it, he didn't turn it into Stowe,  
21 he didn't turn it into Burlington. It's still a  
22 mountain. And those wind turbines don't bother me a  
23 bit, not one bit. And, as far as animals go, you're not  
24 supposed to go up there, I guess, but there are still  
25 animals up there. You've got to go in the back way, you



1 can find them. Don't walk up the road, 'cause they  
2 ain't there. Go in the woods. All you folks that are  
3 worried about animals and bears and deer and moose and  
4 all this stuff, they're still there. Don't drive up in  
5 a car; you ain't going to see them. They ain't there  
6 where you -- it's not a park, it's still woods. They're  
7 still there. And I don't understand why nobody wants  
8 wind, nobody wants solar, nobody wants hydro. When you  
9 turn your light on, where do you think that power's  
10 going to come from? Canada? It's going to come out of  
11 Canada, and where are they getting it from? They buying  
12 it from Connecticut? No, they're not. You're paying --  
13 why can't we do that? We can't have hydro cause it  
14 kills fish. You can't have solar power cause it plugs  
15 up all the fields and stuff with panels. So what's  
16 wrong with wind? I can't hear it. I can see a lot of  
17 the towers from my house. Set on my porch at night and  
18 I like to see them turn around. I think it's pretty  
19 cool.

20 My name's Gerry Green from Lowell, Vermont.

21 Thank you.

22 (from the audience): Kills the bats.

23 Kills bats.

24 MR. GREEN: Bullshit.

25 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Dave

1 Robitille, Sally Collopy, and Robin Clark.

2 MR. ROBITILLE: Dave Robitille,  
3 R-o-b-i-t-i-l-l-e. I'm a resident from Lowell. Thank  
4 you for being here. I wish to hell I wasn't. I'm  
5 getting old, and I'm getting crotchety, and I'm tired of  
6 getting up here and saying the same thing over and over  
7 and over every time. Somebody gets a bee in their  
8 bonnet, decides they found a better way to shut down the  
9 windmills; and this, to me, just represents another way  
10 to try to shut down the windmills. If you lower the  
11 level of sound to an unattainable goal, as Alden just  
12 demonstrated quiet clearly, then you will shut them  
13 down. We couldn't win it this way, we couldn't win it  
14 that way, we couldn't complain our way out of it, and  
15 now we'll come around and do this; and that's, for me,  
16 that's all this represents.

17 Going forward, I got no problem. If you want  
18 to say windmill projects from now on have to have this,  
19 I got no problem with that, but I grew up in Vermont  
20 where people treated people fairly, and at the time this  
21 level was accepted and it's been maintained. Has it  
22 been violated a few times? Yes. I read the report. I  
23 couldn't believe it; I think out of 365 days it was  
24 violated four times, I think I read. Come on, show me  
25 another industry in Vermont that's that quiet. Okay?

1           I live right here at corner of 58 and 100. The  
2 last thing -- When the leaves are off the trees, you can  
3 come stand in my south pasture, with me and my alpacas,  
4 and you can see every one of them, never heard a one. I  
5 thought a while ago, the last time testified, that I was  
6 going to have to eat those words. Turned out I was  
7 wrong. What I was hearing wasn't the windmills; it was  
8 some other Jack and Nate further down the valley. And  
9 the other problem I have with this is I really wonder  
10 about it's constitutionality. How can you single out  
11 one entity and say, You have to have this noise  
12 standard, but nobody else has to. Okay. I've got an  
13 industry over across the road -- river from me, wakes me  
14 up with at least 90 decibels every day. I don't  
15 complain about it; the guy's got a right to run his  
16 business. It's okay. He does the best he can. I get  
17 the same guy doing 360s at two o'clock in the morning in  
18 the middle of 58 and 100. I'd like to go out and shoot  
19 him, but I don't. Okay. Teenagers will be teenagers,  
20 and sooner or later his father's going to figure out  
21 that his tires are going 10,000 miles less than they  
22 should, all right. But to me this is just unAmerican,  
23 unVermonty, and lacking in respect of entities,  
24 businesses, whatever. By the way, I don't represent  
25 anybody about Dave Robitille, okay. Nobody pays me

1   crap. I wish. But I hear a lot of people talking about  
2   their fears of what might happen or this thing that  
3   happened to this one person, and I understand there are  
4   people that are complaining, complaining about windmill  
5   sickness and all that crap, and that's what it is, it's  
6   crap. I'm a retired registered nurse. When this whole  
7   thing came up, I reviewed every piece of literature that  
8   could be found on it and found out that, yes, in peer-  
9   reviewed studies they found that there was no  
10   statistical difference in these complaints than the  
11   general population, period. If that were true, then  
12   everybody who lives on I95 between Hartford and  
13   Washington, D.C., would be complaining about infrasound.  
14   Everybody says, Well, the infrasound that comes from  
15   highways is different from what comes from windmills.  
16   Infrasound is infrasound. It doesn't change its  
17   quality; it is what it is. Now, are there people who  
18   might be a little more sensitive to it? Possibly. But  
19   I suspect they're really rare. And, as a nurse, I can  
20   tell you that every symptom that I've heard described is  
21   also a symptom that can develop, you wouldn't now about  
22   this, but if you're over 30 --

23                   THE MODERATOR: That was good, but it's  
24   still over your five minutes.

25                   MR. ROBITILLE: All right. I'm just going

1 to say, as a nurse, I've treated a lot of people with  
2 tinnitus. Not one of them lived near a windmill. It's  
3 a natural part of aging sometimes.

4 Thank you.

5 THE MODERATOR: Sally Collopy, Robin  
6 Clark, and Steve Therrien. And there are a few seats up  
7 here folks, if you want to come forward.

8 MS. COLLOPY: Sally Collopy C-o-l-l-o-p-y.  
9 Hi. I live in Fairfield, Vermont, and will be affected  
10 by the proposed Swanton wind 20-megawatt industrial wind  
11 generation facility. The proposed Swanton wind facility  
12 would be the largest turbines to date and closest to  
13 homes, with the closest being 1,800 feet away, unlike  
14 found heard from Mr. Luongo at two miles away, and I  
15 would be really curious to know how many miles away some  
16 of these other folks live that have spoke today,  
17 certainly not 1,800 feet, I know that.

18 Over the past five years not one noise  
19 complaint has yet to be resolved from an existing wind  
20 facility. Why on earth would you want to create more  
21 problems for Vermont families? My assumption is that  
22 you don't want to, which is why you've drafted these  
23 proposed new noise standards. As the comprehensive  
24 energy plan says, learn from the operation of existing  
25 wind projects to inform any future recommendations for

1 sound. Wind supporters compare decibel levels of  
2 everyday noise generated from different activities.  
3 Most recently the inaccurate and misleading, two-page  
4 flyer from REV, for example, we're accused of not  
5 wanting anyone to mow their lawn, farmers to use their  
6 tractors, loggers to use their chain saws, et cetera.  
7 This is a ridiculous argument made for supporting  
8 harmful noise levels of industrial wind. I am six miles  
9 away as the crow flies from the train station in St.  
10 Albans. I know that when the train comes into the  
11 station the whistle blows at a 90 to 110 dBA, as  
12 required by law. If I chose to live in St. Albans, I  
13 would know this and accept this. Also, I would know  
14 that the train comes and goes at certain times each day  
15 and can plan for it accordingly, and that the whistle  
16 only lasts around one minute and that it's then over. A  
17 nearby farmer hays our seven acres, so twice a year for  
18 up to four hours daily for about four days on the  
19 tractor will be working the fields up to 90 dBA  
20 decibels, like the wind industry says, that we don't  
21 want. The tractor is not running 24/7. It is  
22 predictable. It is also not waking me up from a sound  
23 sleep at two o'clock in the morning day after day after  
24 day when I have to get up and go to work the next day.  
25 To compare industrial turbine noise to living in the

1 city also makes no sense. People who choose to live  
2 next to the airport know that there will be loud airport  
3 noise daily. One of the main reasons we left Winooski  
4 was due to the noise and light pollution. We wanted to  
5 live where it was quiet, rural quiet. Some ambient  
6 noise levels around Fairfield Pond where he live  
7 register at about 20 dBA; that's why we chose to live  
8 there. I did not choose to live next to a 20-megawatt  
9 industrial wind project where unnatural noise levels can  
10 wake you up out of a sound sleep, disturbing your sleep  
11 regularly throughout the night, day in and day out. I  
12 do not want to learn what that is like from experience.  
13 I know from talking with other victims of industrial  
14 wind that it is horrible, bordering on being a form of  
15 torture, an experience that people should have a choice  
16 to subject themselves to. The daytime noise standard  
17 proposed of 42 dBA is an improvement but still too high  
18 for neighbors like us living in an environment of 20  
19 dBA. A 42 dBA would be appropriate for an urban area  
20 like Burlington or Montpelier. Also, it's important to  
21 have the standard be a maximum standard with no  
22 averaging. Averaging allows for high spikes that would  
23 be out of compliance and is used by the industry to hide  
24 violations. The measurement rule being 100 feet from  
25 the home should be at the property line. Neighbors

1 should be able to peacefully enjoy all of their  
2 property. With the resident standard rather than  
3 property line standard, the Board is proposing to  
4 continue the taking of private property for a public  
5 good in violation of Article II of the Vermont  
6 Constitution as wind turbine noise pollution would be  
7 allowed to trespass on neighbors' private property. Due  
8 to the extreme quaintness of rural communities where  
9 industrial wind is often proposed, the nighttime  
10 standard of 35 dBA should also be the daytime standard.  
11 It is imperative to add back in the 30-dBA interior  
12 standard. The World Health Organization recommends 30  
13 dBA for healthy sleep. If the standard is 35 dBA at a  
14 distance of 100 feet from a residence, you more than  
15 likely would not be able to achieve the 30 dBA interior  
16 standard. An increase of 10 dBA of background noise is  
17 well documented to generate complaints. Vermont has  
18 been a leader in so many ways that I've been proud of.  
19 Industrial wind is not one of them. You have the  
20 ability to protect Vermonters with these new standards.  
21 Vermont can be a leader with our renewable energy goals  
22 without sacrificing our citizens, strong standards will  
23 reduce, possibly even eliminate complaints being brought  
24 before the PSB. We can protect our citizens, respect  
25 our communities, and still achieve our goals.



1 Thank you.

2 THE MODERATOR: Robin Clark, Steve  
3 Therrien, Steve Mason. So we'll go are Robin.

4 MS. CLARK: Robin Clark from Lowell. I'm  
5 probably one of the ones in the minority that speak  
6 against the industrial wind project, and I sat through  
7 three weeks of technical trials with expert witnesses  
8 and testimony, and here we are, we're still having this  
9 debate. I think that you are starting in the right  
10 direction with the standards. However, we're heard  
11 about the need for real-time monitoring by independent  
12 companies and to share -- so that the neighbors don't  
13 have to be responsible for policing the noise impacts.  
14 I do live 1.6 miles north of the project, and I have to  
15 say that I don't have constant problems with the impacts  
16 and, when I do, I have to call or email Green Mountain  
17 Power. I have been at properties that are much closer.  
18 Friend of mine that have had extreme impacts and had to  
19 leave their property. I have ridden on horseback over  
20 the Bailey Hazen Road, I have ridden on the Eden Road,  
21 and the impacts on those areas are just horrendous.  
22 Those people and me, myself, were naive to think that we  
23 had Agency's in place to protect us, protect the  
24 wildlife, and protect the mountains, and our watershed,  
25 and I have to say it was quiet an eye opener to see what

1 we ended up with. Hopefully this is a step in the right  
2 direction and not another dog-and-pony show that we have  
3 been forced to participate in with very little results,  
4 but I do thank you for coming. I also think that you're  
5 apt to get a biased opinion coming to Lowell because  
6 many people in Lowell are very happy with their tax  
7 relief, not so much the production of green energy.  
8 Many of the people that spoke tonight live way beyond  
9 the one-mile setback, so all that's another biased  
10 opinion, as far as I'm concerned. I think that should  
11 have probably been asked when people said they were from  
12 Lowell, How far are you from the project? I think there  
13 were maybe one or two that might be within the mile, but  
14 most everybody was two miles or more.

15 Thank you.

16 THE MODERATOR: Steve Therrien, Steve  
17 Mason, and Dave -- Pam? Sorry for everybody I've  
18 murdered your name. Please forgive me. Steve.

19 MR. THERRIEN: Steve Therrien, formerly  
20 from Sheffield, an actual victim of these things. Who  
21 are the ones that live close that say they can't hear  
22 them? Can I see a show of hands? No hands. Just one.  
23 Amazing. Well, we did. 45 decibels from a refrigerator  
24 inside a closet, yes, it's loud. 45 decibels over miles  
25 and miles and miles disrupting the whole area, my

1 goodness, wow, what a concept. My kids would wake up at  
2 night crying. This alerts your system; you are feeling  
3 it. I had a person out from Chautaugua, New York, had a  
4 testimony on how he felt in his house. It felt so  
5 personal and deep to me, I had to stop listening to it.  
6 You're in your house, you're invaded by this noise. And  
7 it's not even the noise that you're being invaded by,  
8 you're being invaded by sound and feeling. It is  
9 uncomfortable, days and days of it will go on a stretch,  
10 you're on pins and needles. What a great way to raise a  
11 bunch of kids; you know, you're all ready to set a  
12 stroke, the kids are all screaming. Do you know what  
13 it's like to have a kid wake up in a panic attack in the  
14 middle of the night, you can't get him back to sleep.  
15 Well, what a great day that's going to make for the next  
16 day. I commend you for trying to set the new sound  
17 standards. I still don't think it's going to help for  
18 some of these in too close of proximity, but it's better  
19 than nothing. I'll take better than nothing right at  
20 this point.

21 This part of anything of these wind turbines, I  
22 don't know what anybody can say good about them. We  
23 sell our RECs out of state, so they can't even call them  
24 green anymore. Chris Recchia of the Department of  
25 Public Service already said it has nothing to do with

1 global warming or we can't call it that, it's climate  
2 change. It has no zero effect, and we're destroying  
3 ecosystem. Areas that were wet for however long are now  
4 dry; areas that were dry are now wet. It does disrupt  
5 the wildlife. The harmony is gone. We've gone up to my  
6 place to clean stuff out, and I'm looking around. It's  
7 just no birds around. You know, one would say, Hey,  
8 there's no bird around, no big deal. Well, I think it  
9 is a big deal, shows a collapse of the ecosystem. I  
10 really think, again, to make an effort to try to get it  
11 and, yes, real-time monitoring, not that the wind  
12 industry would gain their studies of any sort, you know,  
13 they're on the up and up. What I do like the wind  
14 company's have actually done half our job for us; they  
15 do bad business, they lie, cheat. I'm sorry, they  
16 bought it, they earned it. I don't know of anybody in  
17 Vermont that could get away with doing such shabby  
18 business.

19 That's all I have to say.

20 THE MODERATOR: Steve, and then Pam  
21 Thibeault.

22 MR. MASON: Hi. My name is Steve Mason,  
23 and I'm a little remiss. I wanted to welcome everybody  
24 here to our little school on behalf of the school board.  
25 I signed No. 1 on the sheet; I didn't know it was sheet

1 No. 3. So welcome. We're fighting hard to keep our  
2 little school, local governance, because of Act 46, but  
3 that's not why we're here tonight. I'm here tonight  
4 because I live in Lowell. I see 17 of the towers from  
5 my front porch. I look at them often. I'm not offended  
6 by them.

7 (from the audience): How far away?

8 MR. MASON: We're about maybe three  
9 quarters of a mile, a mile, something like that. I've  
10 never measured it. I walk my dog at least five times a  
11 day, and I've heard the windmills on about five  
12 occasions. I don't have a dog in this fight; I'm just  
13 here to tell you what I know from my perspective. My  
14 family has been here since 1845; I'm fifth generation in  
15 Lowell. My great grandfather settled on Lowell  
16 Mountain, and I don't know how he'd feel about it or any  
17 of the generations before. I tried to keep an open mind  
18 when they were going in. I think we made the transition  
19 with an open mind. The fact is, they don't affect us.  
20 I don't doubt that some people are affected, like I am,  
21 about poverty and my interest in education, so I honor  
22 the people that feel that way, and just telling you the  
23 way it is to me.

24 Thank you.

25 THE MODERATOR: Pam.

1 MS. TETREAULT: I'm Pam Tetreault. I live  
2 in Lowell. I thank you for allowing me to speak  
3 tonight.

4 THE MODERATOR: Can you spell your last  
5 name?

6 MS. TETREAULT: Yes, T-e-t-r-e-a-u-l-t,  
7 third-generation Lowell resident. I'm against lowering  
8 decibel ratings from 45 to 42. I do not think that the  
9 project has been a detriment to our society. I agree  
10 with your setbacks. I believe the decibel reading that  
11 is now set is fine at 45. I do think that you should  
12 continue with the monitoring, however. I think it's  
13 unreasonable to single out commercial wind, not take  
14 into consideration other businesses in the area, in  
15 Vermont, that may or may not hit that 45 decibel. If  
16 you're going to change the sounds, it needs to be for  
17 all commercial properties, not just industrial wind. I  
18 live at 844 Irish Hill Road. I am 1.9 miles from the  
19 Lowell wind project. There have only been two occasions  
20 since the project has been running that I have heard  
21 them, actually once inside and once outside. It was  
22 when the project first started, and it was a windy --  
23 there was a storm, a gust coming up, everything was  
24 blowing around, and I could hear the swish of that. As  
25 far as in my daily life, they do not offend me in any

1 way. Turbine 6 is right in front of my porch. When the  
2 leaves are off, I can see a lot of the others. I also  
3 own property up on Route 58. We can see them. That's  
4 further away, that's about four miles, no problems  
5 there. But, from the 1.8, 1.9 range that I am, I have  
6 had no adverse reactions or symptoms. I do have sleep  
7 apnea, I've had it for 10 years, but I don't think the  
8 wind project wasn't formed then, so I'm not sure what I  
9 could blame it on, but I do believe that there are  
10 health things that some people feel. However, last year  
11 our health commissioner, Harry Chen, had made a  
12 statement that there was no scientific evidence of  
13 linking the wind project, the wind turbines, to any  
14 adverse human health risks. So I think you need to look  
15 back at that, and there have been other studies. As  
16 Alden did when he first started with the lower decibel  
17 here inside this room, there are also -- you can Google  
18 the noisehealth.com and see where they say at 50  
19 decibels it's a refrigerator, at 60 it's an air  
20 conditioner, flushing the toilet is at 75, you know,  
21 vacuum cleaner is at 75, an alarm clock in the morning,  
22 your garbage disposal, there's many things that come and  
23 go throughout the day. I am in no way a camera or video  
24 person. However, I have something I'd like to just show  
25 you that you would be able to hear here, and that is

1 from my house Friday evening at 8:30, and then this  
2 morning while it was raining.

3 THE MODERATOR: Well, can you hold it up  
4 to the microphone.

5 MS. TETREAULT: I can. Want to make sure  
6 I've got the right one here. Okay, so this is Friday  
7 night at 8:22, and I live in a rural area. I know I  
8 have been up to the wind property on many occasions.  
9 That's another question. How many people in this room,  
10 please raise your hands, have gone, physically gone, up  
11 on a tour to the wind project. One, two, three, four,  
12 not a lot, you are less than half, less than a third.

13 (Comments from the audience.)

14 THE MODERATOR: Pam --

15 MS. TETREAULT: All right, so I have been  
16 up there. I've seen the birds; I've seen all of it.  
17 All right, very good. Okay, here we go, here we go. Do  
18 you guys hear the wind turbines going?

19 (from the audience): Were they running  
20 that night?

21 MS. TETREAULT: Yeah, you can see them.  
22 See, you can see them. If you listen quietly, you'll  
23 hear the crickets.

24 (from the audience): Those aren't  
25 crickets.



1 MS. TETREAULT: I have crickets. I have a  
2 pond right near my house.

3 (from the audience): You grew up in  
4 Vermont?

5 MS. TETREAULT: Yeah, all my life, imagine  
6 that. I even got cows around me.

7 THE MODERATOR: I'm sorry, we're not going  
8 to get into a back and forth. Thank you, Pam. We have  
9 had a little back and forth tonight. There are just a  
10 few more people that we skipped over that I'd like to  
11 try to get back to because, even though we're at nine,  
12 we've got a little more time, so Giselle was one person  
13 who ceded her time. We have time now, if she's still  
14 here, if she would like to come forward. And you can  
15 pronounce your name correctly.

16 MS. CHEVALLAY: Giselle.

17 THE MODERATOR: Giselle.

18 MS. CHEVALLAY: My first question is for  
19 the woman who just spoke. I was wondering if she has  
20 ever benefited from --

21 MS. TETREAULT: Not a penny. No, I'm not  
22 a family member. I'm not related in any way.

23 (from the audience): You live in Lowell.  
24 You made a tax vote to let them come in, you get a ta  
25 benefit.

1 MS. TETREAULT: We voted 342 to 114 here  
2 in Lowell.

3 THE MODERATOR: Excuse me. Excuse me.  
4 Sorry, time out here. You guys have done so -- you  
5 know, you really have made me proud because you have  
6 done so well, so let's not casting dispersion on each  
7 other. Let's let this woman have her say.

8 MS. CHEVALLAY: I was just asking a simple  
9 question. I didn't expect you'D need to be that loud to  
10 answer; I could hear you. I, for some reason, had the  
11 impression that you had at one time worked for them  
12 helping with the tours. I might be mixing you up with  
13 someone else, perhaps. I don't know.

14 MS. TETREAULT: That would be my  
15 father-in-law.

16 MS. CHEVALLAY: I was trying to ask you  
17 the question; I didn't expect you to have to talk to  
18 anyone else. But, in any case, speaking to some of the  
19 things that other people have spoken to in the past,  
20 earlier this evening, some folks have forgotten to allow  
21 for, I think, have forgotten to allow for the fact that  
22 the terrain is different in different places, so some  
23 people who may live close to the wind towers have said  
24 they haven't heard much or maybe nothing, but they have  
25 to realize that, depending on the terrain, other people

1 who have heard noise and have been bothered by it are  
2 not just making it up, you know, I think that that  
3 hasn't really been addressed all that much, you know, or  
4 hasn't been acknowledged enough, so.

5           And, um, the -- another thing I noticed earlier  
6 is that some people seem to assume that everybody in the  
7 room is benefiting from power, in general. One man made  
8 some comment about every time you turn a light bulb on.  
9 Well, there's quite a few people in this room that are  
10 totally off the grid, myself included, for over 20  
11 years, so I don't really want to be lumped in and have  
12 other people tell me that you're benefiting from the  
13 towers or from the power they produce. And, if they did  
14 indeed actually produce power just for this town, that  
15 might be a little bit more, you know, that would be  
16 different. It wouldn't necessarily be good to have them  
17 on top of the mountain, it would be better to have them  
18 someplace that's already cleared. And most of the  
19 industrial wind towers, as far as I know, most if not  
20 all, do not benefit the town directly that they're in.  
21 And, as far as the tax break or the taxes are concerned,  
22 they don't actually pay a tax bill. It's in lieu of a  
23 tax bill, their payment. It's not like they're being  
24 taxed the same way as all of us are being taxed on our  
25 houses or our land.

1           So those are some of the things that I wanted  
2 to bring up that I heard other people talk about and  
3 thought would be worth commenting on or maybe  
4 correcting, so, and that's all for now.

5           THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much. We  
6 had the Rowlees earlier pass and I think they've left  
7 but, if they are here, they have an opportunity now.

8           Path Sagui.

9           MS. SAGUI: I'm going to just submit it in  
10 writing.

11          THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Now, we're to  
12 the point where does anyone else who hasn't spoken want  
13 a chance to speak? We'll start with the person behind  
14 you raised their hand first, so I'll start here with  
15 this woman, if you could come forward, please. And then  
16 we'll go to the gentleman in the back row and this  
17 gentleman over on the left-hand side.

18          MS. MCALLISTER: Hi, I am Lyse Mcallister,  
19 for my father Earl and Jane Mcallister. We live on 58,  
20 exactly one mile going up 58, where we have the full  
21 view of the 21 turbines.

22          (from the audience): How far away?

23          MS. MCALLISTER: Mile as the crow flies.  
24 That's where they took all them pictures when they  
25 advertised it on TV about the big wind towers coming in

1 Lowell. All I can say is, I know the decibels and  
2 everything, on the nights the wind comes from Albany  
3 way, you can hear them. It sounds like a helicopter  
4 coming in the field far away, but it goes away. It  
5 isn't something that's 24/7, seven days a week. They're  
6 ugly to look at. I feel that, when they do come into a  
7 place where they need to go or somebody wants to  
8 develop, it divides the town, it divides towns, it  
9 divides friends and people, and people don't think of  
10 that. They think of their health and everything else,  
11 but it really bothers people amongst the town, and it  
12 hurts people, it divides them, and that has a lot to do  
13 with the town, to keep it sound and safe. And, as far  
14 as the noise, the animals, yes, there's other things  
15 that happen, and I mean, I hunt and everything, and I  
16 know it does bother, and my horses acted funny for two  
17 months before they started going. They could hear it,  
18 but they couldn't tell where it was coming from. They  
19 go out now. I'd imagine there is some things that do  
20 happen where it does bother people. A little bit  
21 further I have a friend that lives up on Mt. Norris,  
22 right across. Some nights when it goes he has to shut  
23 his window because he can't even hear his TV, because  
24 it's straight across the valley. It just depends where  
25 you are and what time. But I think for anything,

1 anybody that can see those strobing lights, they said  
2 they were going to have something put up where, when the  
3 planes would come within sight, the lights would turn on  
4 and they would blink. Otherwise, they were going to be  
5 shut off and just two strobes. It was approved, but I  
6 haven't seen anything. I see the strobing lights at  
7 night. They do get to me after a while. I'm not living  
8 in the city; I'm in the country. And I think anybody  
9 who can see one of those wind towers from wherever they  
10 live ought to have a right to vote on them, because it  
11 bothers their property value as much as anybody else  
12 that lives within that town. We didn't only hurt our  
13 own town people; we hurt Troy, Westford, people see them  
14 in Newport City. When you come down from Sheffield  
15 Heights, you see Sheffield's, you can see Lowell's. I  
16 mean, you go by a solar field, you go by it, you don't  
17 see it again. If they're on your roof, you see them for  
18 a while and you don't see them again. These you see as  
19 you're traveling along. Out west people are traveling;  
20 there's nothing out there. But up here Vermont was  
21 known for the Green Mountain State, and every one of the  
22 Vermont ridges up here have towers on them. We don't  
23 see you see any down in Burlington and Lake Champlain.  
24 It's going to hurt fish; it don't hurt animals? They  
25 put barges in water, they put columns in water for

1 bridges, it's the same thing to put a tower on it.  
2 Let's see some down in Burlington and Champlain and down  
3 that way. We see them in (applause) Brattleboro and  
4 Vernon; you see them up on the ridgelines. What's good  
5 for the goose is good for the gander.

6 MR. THYANNIRMEGH: Saved the day. My  
7 name's Dan Thyannirmegh. I'm from Huntington Center.

8 THE MODERATOR: Can you please spell that.

9 MR. THYANNIRMEGH: T-h-y-a-n-n-i-r--  
10 that's the second name --n-i-r-m-e-g-h.

11 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

12 MR. THYANNIRMEGH: I grew up in Vermont,  
13 also, and I often see these conflicts that happen in  
14 towns, and I agree with this woman over here that just  
15 said about this issue is tearing apart Vermont towns.  
16 It tears apart towns in Wyoming, and it tears apart  
17 towns in California, anywhere in the United States it's  
18 tearing apart towns. You talk about bat, you talk about  
19 wildlife being affected; they are affected. And has  
20 everybody has seen any Monarch butterflies anywhere?  
21 No, because almost every single avenue through Texas is  
22 online of wind towers, and the Monarch butterfly can get  
23 up about a quarter mile but, you know, 500 feet is  
24 pretty damn high. And they're collapsing the bats'  
25 lungs, and I imagine they collapse the butterfly lungs.

1 Nobody's researching it. Anyway, I just want to say  
2 about Mr. Chen, he hasn't done anything in Vermont to  
3 say that this is affecting people. I went to Steve  
4 Therrien's house. I visited. I couldn't believe how  
5 bad it was, and he said it was a good day. I also have  
6 camped out at Lowell and I've camped out at Sheffield,  
7 stayed overnight. It's horrendous. It goes right --  
8 there's no way to stop the sound. You can put your  
9 fingers in your ears; it goes right to the pineal gland  
10 in the middle of your head. The closer you get to the  
11 ground, you feel the vibrations. How do you get rid of  
12 moles in your yard? You put a little windmill in your  
13 yard to get rid of the moles. You've got these 500  
14 feet. So you've got sound and there's vibrations.

15 I took a Vermont health officer up to  
16 Sheffield. We stayed overnight. He couldn't stand it  
17 either. By nine o'clock at night we were agitated as  
18 hell. Next day we were agitated. Did we find any  
19 animals the next day? No. Was there any wind? No;  
20 there was no wind whatsoever. Wind wasn't even blowing,  
21 but all night long they turned on four turbines, turned  
22 them off, turned on four turbines, turned them off,  
23 turned on four turbines, turned them off. If all of  
24 them have been going, I don't think we would be able to  
25 stay there. They were up to almost 100 decibels when we



1 were close. He said that he could not say anything to  
2 Mr. Chen because he was paid by the federal government,  
3 and he was afraid to lose his job.

4 THE MODERATOR: Could you please identify  
5 yourself and spell your name for the reporter.

6 MR. WRIGHT: Dan Wright. D-a-n  
7 W-r-i-g-h-t. I'm a Lowell resident; my kids are the  
8 fifth generation. We've lived here all of our life. We  
9 are -- my father-in-law and mother-in-law are Gert and  
10 Andy Tetreault. They're the ones that helped spear up  
11 this operation on wind, and before we stepped up and did  
12 this, we did all of our homework. We tried to figure  
13 out everything we could know about wind. We visited  
14 every single wind plant tower that we were invited to.  
15 I hunt up by Trip Wileman's land. He's the one that's  
16 the closest to the wind towers of anybody. My son and I  
17 have sat in a blind for weeks on end during the winter.  
18 We went turkey hunting last weekend. We never hear the  
19 wind towers. One time, probably a quarter to five last  
20 winter, we heard a swishing sound, and my son's like,  
21 Dad, is that the windmills? I'm like, I think so. We  
22 listened. I'm not saying that anybody here is  
23 exaggerating. For myself, I don't hear it. Robin  
24 Clark, Lise Mcallister, anybody else in town that are  
25 neighbors of mine, if you invite me to your house and I

1 hear it, that'll change my tune, but at this moment in  
2 time I have never heard them.

3 And that's all I have to safe. Thanks.

4 THE MODERATOR: Is there anyone else who  
5 hasn't spoken who would like a chance? This gentleman  
6 in the back. And if could you identify yourself and  
7 spell your name, that would be most appreciated by the  
8 court reporter.

9 MR. LIDDY: Okay, my name is Dennis Liddy  
10 and I live in Westfield. I also own a camp in Eden.  
11 And talking about doing homework, they built this  
12 project and I was on my way back from Eden to Westfield  
13 one day and following this flatbed truck, and it's  
14 carrying these at least three-by-three cement blocks.  
15 It turned on and drove up the road to go up the  
16 mountain. Said, Something blew out up there that they  
17 needed those bulkheads for, so somebody's homework  
18 wasn't done.

19 MS. MARONI: I'm Carol Maroni. I am the  
20 District 3 director for Vermont Electric Cooperative,  
21 and in that role I represent the people of Lowell and  
22 actually the towns that surround the Lowell mountains.

23 Um, one of the things that I've noticed today  
24 is that I don't think anyone is here from the town of  
25 Albany? Okay, so we have Carol here. I live in

1     Craftsbury. I live about three miles from Turbine 21.  
2     I have never heard that turbine, but a neighbor who --  
3     whose house I can see across the field can hear the  
4     turbines occasionally. She is in a direct line from the  
5     turbines and I have a hill behind me, so I don't hear  
6     them. I have heard the turbines more than a few times,  
7     and most of the times it's been when a member of the  
8     coop from Albany will call with a concern. And I have  
9     heard the turbines so loud at one point that it sounded  
10    like a plane taking off, a jet at an airport. I don't  
11    know how frequently that happens, but I have heard them  
12    enough times because I've been asked to come and listen.  
13    So whatever the Public Service Board is considering to  
14    help, I think it is the right thing to do. And, if we  
15    do have standards from the World Health Organization and  
16    other countries, I don't know how it could hurt us,  
17    especially moving forward, for any potentially new  
18    projects to -- to institute those changes. And I agree  
19    that it should be that the person should -- I mean, it  
20    should be -- the standard should be inside the house, as  
21    well; that, if that has been taken out, that it should  
22    be put back in, because our homes are really our havens  
23    and, if we can't know when it's going to be loud or when  
24    we're going to get a good night sleep, that's just  
25    really not fair, across -- across the board. And the

1 other thing that I want to say is that, as far as all of  
2 you who come from different towns in the Northeast  
3 Kingdom, Vermont Electric Cooperative has identified  
4 that we do have a grid issue on one of our interfaces,  
5 and so building new renewables in the Northeast Kingdom  
6 no longer is useful in putting renewable energy on the  
7 grid, because it means curtailing one -- one renewable  
8 energy resource to allow another to run. And I think  
9 the goal of the Public Service Board in approving these  
10 projects is to put more renewable energy on the grid,  
11 not just to build it. And I would also say that the  
12 reason that these are being built in the Northeast  
13 Kingdom instead of Burlington and some of the other  
14 places is because the land in the Northeast Kingdom is  
15 here, it's more abundant, and it's usually less  
16 expensive, and so that's what the developers are looking  
17 for.

18 But thank you very much.

19 THE MODERATOR: Can you say your last  
20 name.

21 MS. MARONI: M-a-r-o-n-i.

22 THE MODERATOR: Anybody else who we  
23 haven't heard from who wants a chance to speak tonight?  
24 I think I did, I absolutely had to cut one person off  
25 tonight, and that was Chris, and I would give her two

1 more minutes if she wants to finish but I think she's  
2 left. So with that -- Oh, did you want to finish? Are  
3 you okay?

4 MS. BLAIS: I just I hope that you send a  
5 message to the legislature that the local input should  
6 be really, really, really considered. I mean, we're  
7 talking about our livelihood, our homes, our health, and  
8 I don't understand why the Northeast Kingdom is being  
9 victimized by all of this. But, as far as state laws  
10 being put forth, you know, if you're going to put power  
11 in Vermont, then Vermont should benefit. We had our  
12 ridgeline, and the gentleman came up to speak, we asked  
13 how the town of Morgan would benefit. Morgan would not  
14 benefit at all except for the taxes on that property.  
15 If you're going to ruin our ridgeline, then -- it just  
16 it isn't right.

17 THE MODERATOR: Have you gotten a chance  
18 to talk tonight?

19 MR. KELLEY: No, and I just want to say  
20 two things quickly, okay. First of all, I'm an  
21 attorney --

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: If you could take  
23 the --

24 MR. KELLEY: I don't really need that.  
25 I'm an attorney for --

1 THE MODERATOR: For the people in the  
2 back.

3 MR. KELLEY: My name is Dave Kelley. I'm  
4 an attorney. For 25 years I represented the Vermont ski  
5 industry. I represented 12 different ski resorts. If  
6 any one of my clients ever tried to put concrete for  
7 miles across the ridgeline of one of our mountain  
8 ranges, we would have either been tarred and feathered  
9 or put in jail. To say that we have a double standard  
10 somehow is -- is almost insane, because the people who  
11 benefit from this double standard are the wind industry.  
12 And the second thing I wanted to say is very selfish. I  
13 live across the valley from your wind turbines, and so I  
14 look at those strobe lights every night. And my  
15 neighbor for three years tried sell his house. He  
16 couldn't do it until he reduced the price by about  
17 \$200,000. You guys may be getting a tax benefit today,  
18 but wait 'til you sell your house. You're going to pay  
19 the price.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you all very much  
21 for coming out tonight. Thank you for bearing with us  
22 with the seating problem. We don't know if there were  
23 other chairs, but we never found them. And we are  
24 having another public hearing Thursday night at seven.  
25 We will say at that one that we want to have people who

1 haven't gotten the chance to speak to speak first so but  
2 know that you are very welcome to come, and thank you  
3 very much for turning out tonight.

4 (The hearing adjourned at 9:22 p.m.)

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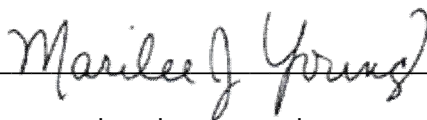
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I, Marilee J. Young, Court Reporter and Notary Public, hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 95, inclusive, are a true and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes of the Vermont Public Service Board Public Hearing held on May 2, 2017, at Lowell Grade School, 52 Gelo Park Road, Lowell, Vermont, starting at 7:00 p.m., and transcribed by me with use of computer-aided transcription and produced under my supervision for use in the matter of Rule 5.700 Wind Generation Facility Sound Rulemaking.



Marilee J. Young



My commission expires February 10, 2019

May 12, 2017

mjy