

FILE

Irwin, Steven

13-0990-EL-BGN

From: Kevin Ledet <kaledet1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 4:20 PM
To: PUCO ContactOPSB
Subject: Case 13-0990-EL-BGN
Attachments: turbines.docx

Categories: Red Category

Steven, I've attached a document that I would like the members of the Ohio Power Siting Board and the public to see. Also the windpark developer should be informed about the possible effect to there noise baseline. Thank you, Kevin Ledet

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2014 JUN 13 PM 1:32
PUCO

Noted for the parties that the Board has received the information and will be reviewing it. The Board will be holding a public hearing on the matter on June 13, 2014.

[Signature]

JUN 13 2014

June 11, 2014

To Steven Irwin and the voting and non-voting members of the OPSB,

Concerning Case Number 13-0990-EL-BGN

I have grave misgivings concerning the Greenwich Windpark LLC project in Greenwich TWSP, OH. I, by my own ignorance, didn't attend the public meetings held locally. I thought that these wind turbines would be like the other small and often not working turbines I had seen in this area. How mistaken I was. These turbines are gigantic. These will stand 298 feet at the turbine hub, rotor diameter of 383 feet, a little bigger than 1 and 1/4 football fields and a total structural height of 490.5 feet. The physical imprint that 25 of these behemoths make will forever impact the aesthetic and cultural values in this area, people live around here not only cows and chickens. I truly believe that the proponents of these turbines have no concept of their dimensions. Any increase in money coming into the community will certainly be offset by the reduction in property values.

I have a few statements to make about the noise level section of the report.

1st on pg. 35, a 2001 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation document is used as a source of data. Are there no newer studies to be quoted and none from the state of Ohio, where the turbines are to be located?

2nd Nordex, the maker of the N117 turbine to be used in this PARK, has a web site which gives the specs on the N117. It states that the maximum noise level is 105 decibels for this turbine. I worked for the railroads for 39 years and just before I retired in January 2011 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) made the railroads test the air horns on their locomotives. You can go to the FRA web site and obtain the exact tests procedure if you want, but for the sake of time here are the values that are mandated for locomotive air horn volume.

49 CFR 229.129 Locomotive horn. (a) Each lead locomotive shall be equipped with a locomotive horn that produces a minimum sound level of 96 dB(A) and a maximum sound level of 110 dB(A) at 100 feet forward of the locomotive in its direction of travel.

The maximum sound level of the Nordex N117 turbine is 105 decibels, the same range as a locomotive air horn at 100 feet, I'm not an acoustical engineer but 25 locomotive air horns going off in a 4600 acre PARK would be quite noisy. I've heard that people have been told that the noise created by the WINDPARK is like a lawn mower. I've had some pretty bad mowers but nothing that needed hearing protection to use.

3rd OPSB board members, on pg. 35 of the Staff Report of Investigation for Greenwich Windpark, it states that "two acoustic surveys of the project area were conducted by the Applicant between June 5 and 17, 2013. Six survey locations were sampled." Based on these surveys day and night baseline background decibel levels were set. The document further states that there was a noise measurement location in the vicinity of an active rail line which made the applicant propose an adjustment to their numbers. If this noise measurement location is on the northern end of their boundary then there is a major problem with their readings. In February 2013 the CSX railroad began to sound the locomotive

whistle at my private crossing into my woods. I have documented Emails between myself, CSX, the PUCO, and phone calls to Representative Boose, Senator Manning, ODOT trying to get the CSX to stop blowing for this crossing. This crossing was never blown at in all the years before. The CSX said they were just following the law. The law concerning private crossing was addressed in the 2 year Ohio state budget signed by Governor Kasich June 30 2013. That change didn't take effect for 90 days after the signing, so the CSX didn't notify their crews until the 1st of October to cease their horn usage at this crossing. There are probably 100 trains a day on this line and the noise level has substantially lessened. Therefore if one of the noise measurement areas is on the northern end of the boundary for the windpark then the reading are not valid and cannot be used as a baseline! The last paragraph on pg. 35 is also puzzling. How can adding 3 turbines at 105 decibels apiece to the northern end of the windpark have a net decrease of decibels at the non-participating sensitive receptors, I'm not the brightest crayon in the box but adding noise doesn't make it quieter!

I have one more point to be made. It appears that the blades to be used on this project are quite long, possibly the longest used on a land application. In view of this and the recent changes in the setback requirements in MBR hb 483 for future windpark projects I believe that the setbacks in this Greenwich windpark project should be held to the new and safer standards.

The wind turbine business has never been cost effective. For years they received PTC (production tax credit) from the US tax payers. This form of corporate welfare was stopped by the Federal government on 12/31/2013, but there is probably some lobbying going on to restore it, so get in touch with your legislatures to keep it buried. Even with the PTC, the cost per kilowatt is higher than other generating forms and often these producers have a hard time selling the power. The state government often enables these producers by establishing arbitrary alternative energy power generating requirements. This does nothing but create a false demand for this unreliable product. No wind, no power, no way! If this industry cannot walk by itself after more than 2 decades than let it fall.

Kevin Ledet

3205 Omega RD
Greenwich, OH. 44837