

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Request for Proposal and Comment for)
Implementing temporary sound-level)
Standards for wind generation projects)

Re: Public Service Board notice dated June 14, 2016, regarding Section 12(b) of S.260.

**COMMENTS REGARDING
NOISE LEVEL RULES FOR WIND GENERATION PROJECTS**

I own a home that is located less than a mile from both the existing Searsburg wind turbine facility and the proposed installation in the Green Mountain National Forest.

The existing facility was granted a CPG without requiring adherence to any noise standards. I can say first hand that the noise emitted from these turbines can be loud enough to wake you at night *inside your house*. This despite the existing Searsburg turbines being comparatively small relative to other installations in Vermont -- both existing and proposed. Many other homeowners near other industrial wind turbine installations have reported significant loss of enjoyment of their own homes as well as medical problems attributed to the turbines. This is acknowledged by the industry by the fact that they have purchased several homes close to industrial wind turbine installations where health issues have been reported.

When noise levels are represented by developers, that are frequently noted as "the level of a conversation" or "background level" on a city street. This is a non sequitur. Vermont's industrial wind facilities most often placed on ridgelines, not city streets. When siting industrial turbines on ridge tops, the ambient noise levels prior to construction are very low. Yet the developers use as 'baseline' sound data derived from readings *along the highway*. (For example: Docket 7250, Deerfield exhibits Ex. DFLD-JZ-Rev19a and Ex. DFLD-JZ-Rev19b.) By location they would be the noisiest places to take sound readings. I believe this is intentional on the part of the developers, and shows a lack of concern for individual citizens' health, homes and property.

Noise readings should be taken at the nearest property line of the nearest private owner for each turbine. Readings along a roadside are useless as they are not representative of private property or dwellings. In fact, they serve to misrepresent the noise generated by the turbines.

Any noise rules (standards) for industrial wind turbines should apply to all private property, both inside and outside dwellings, at the places normally used by the property owners. These rules should include a limitation on the noise amplification, attributable to the turbines, **of no more than 5 dB at any time *anywhere on private property.***

The public should be protected from health issues caused by industrial wind turbines. Instituting enforceable rules is a good step in achieving that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Shea". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Shea
Searsburg