

Swanton Wind Project

- 7 industrial wind turbines
- Larger towers and larger blades than Georgia Mountain
- On ridge surrounding Rt 105, Pond Road, Fairfield Pond and French Hill
- Houses as close as 1200 feet from the turbines. Many more within the 3600 foot range which is the closest property in Georgia.
- Will overlook Fairfield Pond
- Wetlands, beaver ponds and high habitat block on the ridge
- Currently no buyer for the power

For more information you may visit: swantonwind.wordpress.com which is a site we have set up to provide information on this project. It includes a link to an informational video at www.Vermontenergyoptions.org

Wind Issues in Vermont

- **Aesthetics** – Vermont’s landscape and “Unspoiled” “Beautiful” “Mountains”
 - Tourism and second home economic impacts have not been evaluated
 - Flashing red lights visible beyond 10 miles
- **Noise & Health** – PSB standard 45 dBA, a level that guarantees complaints
 - Infrasound – noise produced by wind turbines, not regulated
 - Sleep disturbance, nausea, vertigo, headaches, increased blood pressure
 - Noisier when it rains and in the wintertime
- **Shadow Flicker** and reflection/glare
- **Safety Issues** – Blade throw, ice throw, collapse, fire
- **Property Values** – Lempster NH – dozens of homes for sale around wind project, home sales in Sutton VT chilled
 - Town assessment values were reduced in Georgia, Vt due to the noise issues from the Georgia Mountain Wind Project.
- **Technology Failures**
 - Clipper Turbines known to be a flawed design – Sheffield/First Wind
 - Gearbox failures regardless of manufacturer at 5 – 7 years
 - Danes acknowledging lifespan is 10 - 15 years, not 20 - 25

- **Environmental & Natural Resource Impacts**
 - Bears
 - Birds
 - Bats
 - Wildlife
 - Habitat fragmentation
 - Connectivity
 - High Altitude Forests
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Headwaters
 - Wetlands
 - Water Supplies
 - Sensitive Soils
 - Steep Slopes
 - Blasting
 - Stormwater Runoff
 - Iron Floc, Oil
- **Intermittency & Claims about number of homes powered**
 - Until we have storage, intermittency is an issue
- **Aviation** – Interference with radar and safety issues for airports, gliders, hang gliders
- **Grid Integration Issues**
 - Grid constraints – curtailment when electricity not needed or cannot be integrated into the system
- **Lack of Independent Monitoring for Noise, Wildlife and Water Impacts**
- **Lack of Transparency**
- **Adequacy of Decommissioning Funds & Plans**
- **Lack of Planning for Statewide & Cumulative Impacts**
- **Do Wind Turbines in New England Reduce Fossil Fuel Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions?**
 - Northern New England wind projects competing with other renewables like biomass and hydro
 - Producing electricity when there is no demand. Solar better match to shave peak load.
 - Oil, coal and nuclear being displaced by natural gas
 - Coal plants run infrequently, primarily when cold and natural gas price is high
 - Oil usage for electric generation was .6% in 2011, sometimes needed for reliability
 - Coal and nuclear are baseload plants that do not ramp
 - Most efficient natural gas plant in the ISO-NE system is inefficient when it ramps in response to wind
 - NE grid has no flex natural gas generators designed to ramp efficiently
 - \$2 billion has been spent to build 767 MW of big wind in New England and there is no demonstrated fossil fuel and greenhouse gas emission reduction.