

1 COUNTY OF CHAUTAUQUA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTAL AGENCY

2 PUBLIC HEARING

3 IN RE: CASSADAGA WIND, LLC
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11 Public Hearing held in the above-captioned matter
12 at the VFW Post 2522, 7117 N. Main Street, Cherry
13 Creek, New York 14723, on March 22, 2017, commencing at
14 11:00 a.m.
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21 Reported by Sonya Hoffman
22 Court Reporter

23 **Ferguson & Holdnack Reporting, Inc.**
24 **333 State Street**
Suite 150
25 **Erie, PA 16507**
814-452-4556
contact@ferguson-holdnack.com

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MR. MAZGAJ: We have a sign-in sheet up here and public notices if you want a copy, and we'll get started in just a few moments or two.

All right. Can everyone hear me all right. Do we need a microphone?

Good morning, my name is Matthew Mazgaj and I'm from the law firm of Phillips Lytle in Jamestown, New York, and I represent the County of Chautauqua Industrial Developmental Agency.

I'm here on behalf of the Agency, and I've been directed by the members of the Agency to hold a public hearing. Today is March 22, 2017, and the time is now 11:04. We are in the Town of Cherry Creek at VFW Post 2522 at 7117 North Main Street, Cherry Creek, New York.

This is a public hearing pursuant to Section 859-a of the New York General Municipal Law as amended. The Agency has received an application for financial assistance in connection with the following matter, which I will refer to generally as the Project:

Cassadaga Wind, LLC, a limited liability company existing under the laws of the State of Delaware and operating in the State of New York as a foreign limited liability company, which I'll

1 refer to as the Applicant, presented an
2 application to the Agency, which application
3 requested that the Agency consider undertaking the
4 project consisting of the following:

5 A-1, the acquisition of an interest in
6 approximately 40,000 acres of land by the
7 Applicant located in the Towns of Charlotte,
8 Cherry Creek, Arkwright and Stockton, the County
9 of Chautauqua, New York, which I'll refer to as
10 the Land.

11 2, the acquisition and installation thereto
12 and thereon of certain furniture, fixtures,
13 machinery and equipment, including approximately
14 fifty-eight (58) wind turbine generators with
15 combined maximum capacity of 126 megawatts.

16 3, the acquisition, construction,
17 installation of equipping on the Land of: (i) an
18 operations and maintenance building, (ii) a system
19 of buried and overhead electrical collection
20 wires, and (iii) approximately 5.5 miles of 115 kV
21 transmission line, (iv) meteorological towers and
22 (v) an interconnection substation facility and
23 collection substation facility on the Land and a
24 system of gravel access roads, parking,
25 landscaping and related improvements to the Land,

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all of the foregoing for use by the Applicant as a wind-powered electric generating plant.

B, the granting of certain "financial assistance" within the meaning of 851(14) of the Act, with respect to the foregoing, including potential exceptions or partial exemptions from sales and use taxes, mortgage recording taxes and real property taxes, but that is not to include special assessments and ad valorem levies.

And C, the lease of the Project facility by the Applicant to the Agency and the sublease of the Project facility by the Agency to the Applicant. So that's the description of the Project.

The Applicant's request for real finance assistance includes the Applicant's annual payment to the Agency on behalf of the taxing jurisdictions of payments in lieu of taxes, which I'll refer to as PILOT payments. The proposal here is for the Applicant to pay as a PILOT payment \$4,000 per megawatt hour of installed capacity of the Project in year one, and have that amount increase based on an annual escalator.

The Applicant estimates that it will pay the Agency \$504,000 in PILOT payments in year one,

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assuming that the project facility is then at its full operating capacity. Upon receipt of PILOT payments from the applicant, the Agency will then proportionally distribute those payments to the taxing jurisdictions based on project location as provided by law. The structure of this payment in lieu of taxes proposal is a deviation from the Agency's Uniform Tax Exemption Policy, and has not yet been accepted by the Agency and would still need approval by the Agency at a later date.

Notice of this public hearing was published in the Observer on March 10, 2017 and mailed to the Chief Executive Officer of each affected tax jurisdiction on the same date.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for all interested parties to present their views both orally and in writing with respect to the Agency's involvement in this Project and the financial assistance proposed in the Application.

I am here on behalf of the Agency and not the Applicant. I cannot address any of the specifics of the project itself; that is the task of the Applicant. During the course of this hearing, the Agency will be unable to respond to comments or

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questions. We will, however, be transcribing all of the comments being made by those interested in the Agency's proposed involvement in the Project and provide a transcription to the Agency's Board of Directors.

Now, I'll be accepting any comments from everyone who is here today. Please, just for the sake of the transcriptionist, can you please identify yourself and spell your name before you provide your comments.

Is there anyone wishing to be heard with respect to the Project? Sir.

MR. BRETLE: My name is Fred Bretl, B-R-E-T-L. I'm here representing myself. I'm a member of the POLS organization, which is the Preservation Of Land Serenity and of the Agricultural Land Serenity, as well as the concerned citizens of the Cassadaga Wind farm.

I've been a resident of the Town of Arkwright for 35 years. And I would like to say that after doing research and investigation on the industrial wind turbine projects, I have come to the conclusion that they are not economically practical for our County or our State. Funding by the Federal government through the production tax

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credit labels them subsidized.

New York State is paying 11 large wind- and solar-power projects two times more in subsidies than the projects actually generate in electricity. New York Democratic Governor, Andrew Cuomo announced this past week that \$360 million in spending is targeted toward the funding of these projects; although, he did not state which projects were getting what amount.

State officials are handing out the equivalent of \$24.24 per megawatt hour over the next 20 years to the 11 projects. Wind turbines can get an additional \$23 per megawatt hour in Federal tax credits. This — the electricity generated by these 11 projects, however, will only sell for an average \$16.25 per megawatt hour.

According to the Federal Energy Information Administration, New York Independent System Operator, NISO, the State's powered grid regulator sharply criticized Cuomo's plan to boost State energy use saying that it could cause blackouts and it would make it hard to insure reliable electricity.

Therefore, this equates to the developer's losing megawatt hours at a loss — a loss to the

1
2 of the school budget, which is minuscule in its
3 nature.

4 Leaseholders will gain economically, but at
5 the expense of having the projects on their
6 property with all their inherit impacts.

7 Leaseholders, again, will gain at the expense of
8 their non-participating neighbors, whether they
9 are for or against the project, and thereby
10 fracturing the communities.

11 Jobs generated by this project during the
12 construction phase and development phase, there
13 will be a lot of jobs generated for approximately
14 a year, maybe stretched out to two years. After
15 the construction phase, during the operational
16 phase, there will probably be two to three jobs
17 locally that will monitor this project.

18 I am opposed to this project moving forward
19 because of the reasons I stated. Thank you very
20 much.

21 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Next.

22 MS. GREENSTEIN: My name is Patricia Greenstein
23 and I've lived here with my husband and children
24 for 30 years.

25 (Court reporter interrupts proceeding.)

MS. GREENSTEIN: G-R-E-E-N-S-T-E-I-N. I've lived

1 here for 30 hears. And moved out here, never
2 wanted to have to move again. And my concerns
3 are -- I'm also with the POLS and with the
4 Cassadaga -- Concerned Citizens of Cassadaga Wind
5 Project.

6 I'm opposed to the project. And I want to
7 really specifically address the -- we just really
8 found out about this in January. We have been
9 locating other neighbors, people, taxpayers in the
10 town, who were never notified, even though the PIP
11 agreement with Everpower clearly states that
12 they're supposed to actively involve the public,
13 and that did not happen.

14 We have been doing the work that Everpower
15 should have done in contacting people about the
16 turbines coming into our community, and they
17 didn't do that. And we're finding out -- this is
18 like a slow-pony home that people are finally
19 finding out about it.

20 They said that they did have -- there was
21 meetings that were scheduled, they were posted,
22 you know, in like the public announcements. There
23 weren't radio things. There weren't letters going
24 out. The mass mailings that were supposed to
25 happen with the PIP agreement never happened. I

1 was one of the few people that got a letter. I
2 replied to the letter opposing the project and
3 never heard from Everpower again. They wanted to
4 get rid of me. I've gone to Town board meetings.
5 We were -- we've been set with an egg timer. We
6 had three minutes to talk and nobody wants to
7 listen to us. If you're in opposition, they don't
8 want to hear from you.

9 I most specifically want to talk to going to
10 a legislature meeting a couple of weeks ago,
11 because I've been a big supporter of this
12 Comprehensive 20/20 Plan, which I believe the IDA
13 is also involved with. It's -- started like -- it
14 was drafted in 2011. And the plan was developed
15 among many governing boards, groups and
16 individuals from different sectors to improve life
17 in Chautauqua County.

18 And what they were really focusing on are
19 things like preserving our scenic and rural
20 lifestyle and encouraging historic preservation,
21 pushing forward active living and recreational
22 activities in the County to create more jobs to
23 really significantly impact the infrastructure and
24 create like a tourism industry.

25 They have done a very intensative plan of

1 planning trails for ski mobiles, snowmobiling,
2 hiking, boating and fishing. And some of these
3 turbines, as we look at the turbine maps, these
4 maps are basically right on top of where these
5 trails are supposed to be. The safety factors
6 involving turbines considering ice throw in the
7 winter with winter sports industry -- states from
8 Vesta that people should not be within 16- to
9 1700 feet because of ice throw.

10 As far as the equestrian trails that the
11 county put a lot of money into creating those
12 equestrian trails, you have the impact of flicker
13 effect that can spook horses and cause injury.

14 And my question is: When we are pulling
15 people in here as recreational activities, if they
16 get hurt here, who's liable for it? Is the County
17 liable? Is the homeowner liable? Is the wind
18 company liable? We're opening up a whole can of
19 worms here if we don't think through the project
20 and how the 20/20 is going to interface with the
21 wind turbine project.

22 And most specifically, I have requested that
23 they do modeling. There's computer animation
24 programs that these companies can get that will
25 illustrate in 3-D modeling, like an animation, of

1 where the flicker effects. You can put in -- you
2 layer the project on top of the geographical maps
3 of the County. You put the turbines in and then
4 you set parameters for 365 days a year when the
5 sun sets so that you know, and when the trees
6 are -- don't have any leaves on them, you can
7 accurately determine who's going to get flicker
8 and who's going to get ice throw.

9 And they haven't done this. They haven't
10 checked people's wells because people's wells are
11 going to be affected. We've been in touch with
12 people in other parts of the State that have had
13 problems. We have done our homework and done our
14 research. We've asked for these things. We've
15 listened to them talking about mitigating problems
16 ahead of time, but they're not doing the studies.
17 They're not doing the sound studies. They're not
18 doing the visual impact studies as far as flicker
19 effect and health effects.

20 But I think my main -- my main purpose of
21 going to a legislative meeting was trying to
22 understand what the County is thinking of how the
23 20/20 Plan, which is to promote an active living,
24 recreation and preserve the natural cultural
25 recreational resources. How is that going to tie

1 into the wind turbines? And I think it's a huge
2 mistake. People are not going to come here from
3 the City so that they can be around a turbine.

4 And we make the mistake of calling them
5 windmills. They're not windmills. They're not
6 like a little Dutch pretty windmill sitting on
7 somebody's lawn. These are big machines; 400
8 feet, 500 feet high, and some of them they're
9 predicting are going to be 600 high. And many of
10 the people I have come across over the last few
11 months, they say, oh, well, they're just going to
12 put those things up that are along the throughway.
13 I'm like, no, those are tiny in comparison to what
14 they're going to put up. These are going to be
15 giant things that make a lot of noise.

16 And the wind turbine companies -- here's
17 another thing I would like the IDA to look into:
18 These contracts that they're signing with
19 landowners and with what they call the Good
20 Neighbor Agreement, there are clauses in there
21 that prevent people from ever speaking out if they
22 have a problem with them. We don't get to see
23 those. And I don't know if the IDA has seen them,
24 but there's a gag -- there's gag clauses in there.

25 And they're pulling people in with big bucks.

1 And there's a very small group of people who are
2 going to make a lot of money, and the rest of us
3 are going to suffer with health effects and lower
4 property values. And I really don't think this is
5 a direction that the 20/20 plan should be leading
6 us. And I think that they need look into it
7 further before they think about putting anymore
8 money into it or just get rid of the 20/20 plan
9 because they don't work together.

10 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Next. Sir.

11 MR. TWICHELL: Yes. My name is Mark Twichell;
12 that's T-W-I-C-H-E-L-L. I'm with the Citizens
13 Environment Group, Preservation of Agricultural
14 Land Serenity. And I'm really happy that we can
15 speak before the Chautauqua County Industrial
16 Development Agency.

17 This is really where the rubber hits the
18 road. This is really part of what I somewhat
19 kindly refer to as the big lie. The big lie is
20 promoted by the wind industry.

21 (Court reporter interrupts proceedings.)

22 Voice up. Okay. So the big lie is based on
23 the wind industry's misrepresentation that No. 1,
24 it works and, No. 2, that it does no harm.

25 Now, the IDA is not necessarily involved with

1 the issue of does it work or not. The previous
2 two speakers gave very clear evidence that it does
3 not. But my interest in speaking before the IDA
4 is that it does not work financially at this level
5 that this Agency is promoting because it is
6 actually going to devalue the economic future of
7 at least four townships in Chautauqua County and
8 probably more in the future. The wind industry,
9 once it gets a foothold, it just wants to
10 progress from one township to the next.

11 And the reason that the IDA is enabling this
12 devaluation is because of big money. The big
13 money starts, of course, with all of us taxpayers
14 at the Federal level filtering through industry
15 lobbyists all the way down to State levels, which
16 promote unrealistic green energy mandates. And
17 now the rubber hits the road. We're at the IDA
18 level where the wind industry says, you know, we
19 really aren't subsidized enough; we need the local
20 taxpayers now to kick in.

21 Now, it will be a bad deal. It will be no
22 better for the Cassadaga Wind Project that it has
23 been of the Arkwright Wind Project. The Arkwright
24 Wind Project, \$270,000 PILOT. There are,
25 according to the Attorney General of New York

1 State, 10 public servants in the Township of
2 Arkwright who will make well over \$3 million from
3 this project. Well, it will work for them, but it
4 won't work for the other citizens in the Town of
5 Arkwright who will find their property devalued.
6 So I don't see how the IDA thinks that this is
7 actually a working thing in favor of the future of
8 the County.

9 And the issue then becomes -- the second part
10 of the big lie is that it won't do anybody any
11 harm; this is a good thing to have. Well, there
12 are a number of very well-established studies and
13 events which run counter to that. The wind
14 industry is the only industry that does not
15 recognize the harmful effects of infrasound. They
16 do not recognize it. They do not measure it.
17 They do not monitor it. They do not regulate it.
18 Why is the wind industry the only industry that
19 does not recognize the dangers of infrasound?

20 In the United States, the Food & Drug
21 Administration regulates all electricity forms of
22 infrasound. In the United States, all other
23 industries that create infrasound, recognize it
24 and offer mitigation or design alterations. The
25 wind industry is the only one that does not. It

1 is the infrasound which makes people sick. It is
2 not merely just the high decibel level that can be
3 regulated at 35 decibels, 45 decibels, whatever
4 the wind industry says or whatever the wind
5 industry tells the permitting agencies is an
6 acceptable audible. But the wind industry does
7 not want to touch the infrasound issue because
8 that is why people are abandoning their homes, and
9 that is why property values in Chautauqua County
10 will decrease.

11 We estimate that there's about 150 families,
12 150 families at risk from infrasound toxicity
13 because of the three currently proposed wind
14 properties in Chautauqua County. And the welfare
15 of these families will not be considered because,
16 again, the big lie is a way for a large number of
17 people with authority to treat a fairly small
18 number of people in ways that they themselves
19 would not want to be treated. Thank you very
20 much.

21 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. RIGGLE: Hi. My name is Joni, J-O-N-I,
23 Riggle, R-I-G-G-L-E, and I will be surrounded by
24 seven or eight turbines. And so, of course, we've
25 done a lot of homework on this.

1 And first I would just like to state the
2 Rotary Club, they have a really nice ethical
3 standard for public servants to uphold. And I
4 think that's really overlooked in these wind farm
5 projects.

6 The four-way test asks: Is it the truth? Is
7 it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will
8 and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to
9 all concerned? And, obviously, unequivocally
10 these wind farm projects, the answer is absolutely
11 no.

12 And I have done so much research on this, and
13 it's really disheartening. If you look at
14 Germany, the UK, Canada, Australia, Spain, all
15 these countries are cutting the subsidies.
16 They're experiencing energy poverty. They found
17 the industrial scale with wind projects are just
18 about bankrupting their economy. And I just
19 wanted to say that I'm in total agreement with
20 everything that's been well stated here. It's the
21 truth.

22 Our wind company, we have no buyers -- like
23 Mr. Bretl said, Fred said, no buyers in New York
24 State, so how does that meet the public need? We
25 have no decommissioning plan, which is very scary.

1 There's no money upfront. And I truly believe
2 we're going to look back at these wind farms and
3 think this is the largest manmade environment
4 disaster.

5 Who's going to be taking all these down? It
6 costs \$110,000 to remove one turbine, and the
7 State of New Hampshire will not allow what these
8 companies around here want to do, not
9 decommissioning where you take the resale and
10 salvage scrap value and deduct that from the
11 actual decommissioning cost and that's -- if you
12 look at the whole economics, that's bogus because
13 the market changes so much we're going to be stuck
14 holding the bag to decommission these turbines.

15 I just wanted to say along the lines of the
16 infrasound issue, our -- Everpower, I asked them
17 why are you not measuring infrasound? In their
18 sound studies, they totally discounted as a health
19 issue if it's subaudible, they're like, oh, it
20 doesn't have any affect.

21 Well, in a 2009 NYSERDA meeting, Dr. Dan
22 Driscoll, he worked for the Public Service
23 Commission for over 20 years, he's a noise control
24 engineer, he testified that infrasound is the
25 sound you can't hear, it is not blocked by your

1 walls, it penetrates your house, reverberates
2 inside it like a drum. He says it negatively
3 affects the body, especially over time. It
4 actually vibrates your human organs and tissues.
5 And there are studies showing that long term it
6 causes organ damage.

7 He said the symptoms include headache,
8 nausea, sleeplessness, et cetera. He recommends
9 setbacks of at least 3,500 feet. Our towns are
10 adopting 1,000 feet. And I think Arkwright is
11 1,200 feet. And that's woefully inadequate when
12 their turbine manuals even recommend at least 13-
13 to 1,600 feet setbacks for their own workers not
14 to be under a spinning turbine, but we're going to
15 allow our children to play in the yards and, you
16 know, have that risk of blade failure, ice throw,
17 turbine fire. They get hit by lightning. All
18 kind of things. Turbine collapse; the towers
19 collapse. That's another issue. They're only
20 going to be 500 feet from our roads. And the
21 shadow flicker can cause car accidents.

22 There's a Township -- Lincoln Township in, I
23 think, it's Illinois, their town supervisor and
24 highway superintendent said they should never be
25 within a mile of a road because of the horrible

1 strobe effect. And we're going to -- you know,
2 what if it collapses? What if it throws on a
3 school bus? Presque Isle, they took down their
4 turbine, it was a smaller turbine, but it actually
5 threw ice and collapsed the roof on one of their
6 buildings. And it could have killed -- they said
7 it could have killed people. And that was a much
8 smaller turbine.

9 Everpower's very own acousticians, George and
10 David Hessler that did our wind study and I
11 believe they did Arkwright's wind study, they were
12 at the Shirley Wind Farm out in Wisconsin, that
13 wind farm had turbines about our size, maybe
14 smaller, less powerful and they found that people
15 abandoned their homes, health hazards. It was
16 declared a human health hazard by the Brown County
17 Board of Health. They asked the State for
18 emergency funding to relocate families because it
19 was such a serious issue.

20 They said it was such a serious issue that
21 four acousticians that were independent -- and
22 like I said, our own acousticians that did our
23 sound studies here said that it was something that
24 could affect the future of the wind industry. It
25 needs to be measured, not discounted. Everpower

1 doesn't want to measure it. And I asked them
2 about that and they have no plans on measuring
3 that. Their own acousticians said that we should
4 have noise limits of 39.5 decibels to prevent
5 adverse health effects. Well, our Everpower
6 project has adopted 45 decibel goal, but our town
7 is allowing 50 decibels.

8 So I'm asking if they say at 39 we could have
9 adverse health effects, why are we allowing 45 to
10 50? Why aren't we adhering to safe noise limits?
11 Around the world, doctors are asking for at least
12 one to even 10 kilometer setbacks because they're
13 experienced in Europe. German Medical
14 Association, their physicians are asking for a ban
15 on residential wind turbines because of the health
16 effects. The French Academy of Medicine, 1.5
17 kilometers. It's over a mile setback because
18 they're much more wind experienced.

19 We're very naive in this country, that's why
20 the wind company has been predatory here. It's
21 all about the money and they're not putting public
22 health and safety first.

23 And then Everpower states that annoyance from
24 these turbines can't be mitigated by setbacks. Of
25 course, they can. Who wouldn't be annoyed by

1 strobe. We're going to get -- there's people in
2 our community that are predicted to get over 116
3 of shadow flicker. Look on YouTube in Wisconsin,
4 Bryan, Wisconsin, if you want to see what that
5 looks like. It's very disruptive. You can't even
6 block it with blinds. They say they'll buy you a
7 tree for your window. I want to be in my yard. I
8 want to be able to not be strobed out dizzy and
9 made nauseated by the strobe effect in my yard.

10 And the vibrations. Who wouldn't be annoyed
11 if your whole house is vibrating. And this goes
12 on all over. Adequate setbacks would certainly
13 mitigate these issues. By allowing 1,000 foot and
14 50-decibel noise limits, the studies have found,
15 even NYSERDA's study, that the wind farm in
16 Wyoming County, that the weather field found that
17 a core of the wind farm neighbors will be annoyed
18 and sleep deprived and develop headaches.

19 Subsequent adverse health effects include
20 increased cortisone levels, hypertension,
21 cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, immune
22 and cognitive dysfunction. The World Health
23 Organization report states that reduced sleep has
24 a greater mortality risk than smoking,
25 hypertension and cardiac disease. Sleep

1 deprivation annoyance should not be trivialized.
2 They produce very serious health effects over
3 time. No one should be forced to sleep in their
4 basement, root cellar, tent or abandon their home
5 to escape turbine vibrations and noise, as this is
6 happening in New York State and worldwide.

7 And I have more stories than -- I mean,
8 stacks of them. If you think I'm making this up,
9 I'll gladly share them with you. The WHO even
10 states at 50-decibel noise limits like ours that
11 we've adopted cause strong disruption of hormone
12 secretion cycles as we sleep. I'm thinking of all
13 the vulnerable populations, children, pregnant
14 woman, elderly, people with health problems,
15 immune dysfunction. They're exposed to these
16 hormone disrupting sleep, you know, noise levels
17 at night. Why are we exposing people to this?

18 And I just would say we need to stop this
19 project. If we cannot adopt safer setbacks and
20 noise limits, we can never put financial gain
21 above health and safety of our residents. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Next up. Going once.

24 MS. GREENSTEIN: I would like to just say one more
25 thing. This is one thing that I just wanted to

1 clearly mention is that we are all for green
2 energy on a smaller scale and conservation.

3 The people in this room, we don't want to
4 sound like not in my backyard, but we appreciate
5 the rural lifestyle. We're nature lovers. We're
6 outdoorsy kinds of people. Many of us are
7 gardeners and raise some of our own food, you
8 know, chickens and cows and whatever. And we
9 don't want to come across just sounding like we're
10 anti -- you know, saving money on energy. But it
11 needs to be done on a smaller scale.

12 We need to start looking at more things like
13 instead of giving all that money to subsidies to a
14 large wind turbine company, give it to the local
15 farmers to help, you know, with their milk prices
16 or help people insulate their home, install
17 smaller turbines or solar panels when it's
18 feasible.

19 But to take this money and throw it at large
20 Corporate America, it's really only helping a very
21 small -- it's that 1 percent who's getting helped
22 out again and everybody else is getting raked over
23 the coals. We need to do more about conservation.
24 The cheapest energy dollar will always be the one
25 that we do not expend.

1 And we are green people. We are
2 conservative. But this is just the wrong plan for
3 Chautauqua County -- for New York State. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Sir.

6 MR. PIECHOWIAK: Jeffrey Piechowiak,
7 P-I-E-C-H-O-W-I-A-K.

8 Good afternoon, my name is Jeff. I'm here
9 with my cousin, Bommer, Robbie. Let me see if I
10 can get this straight, you're the Chautauqua
11 County Industrial Developmental Agency. Right?

12 MR. MAZGAJ: Correct.

13 MR. PIECHOWIAK: Your job is to help bring
14 industry and businesses to the County.

15 MR. MAZGAJ: I'm an attorney for the IDA.
16 Correct. And their goals and mission statement
17 are outlined on their website, but generally
18 speaking --

19 MR. PIECHOWIAK: Basically, it's along those
20 lines.

21 MR. MAZGAJ: Right.

22 MR. PIECHOWIAK: Now, I'm all for moving forward
23 trying to save the earth. I'm not a tree hugger,
24 but I do agree we have to -- we have to change our
25 ways as a people, as a country and world.

1 Wind power is good. Solar power is good.
2 But the thing is that where it is placed, how it's
3 placed, how secretively everything is done under
4 the boards, and then all of a sudden you have
5 these monsters. If this is such a great project,
6 which I think it is, but eyesight horrible. Why
7 can't Chautauqua County say, yeah, I agree, we're
8 going to put these windmills up. Why don't you
9 put it down by the ski resorts where the kids with
10 the silver spoons going skiing for three months
11 out of the year? Let them put up with it.

12 You've got people out here scraping by buying
13 a plot of land, 30 or 40 acres, investing \$6- or
14 \$7,000 on a septic, another \$3- or \$4,000 on a
15 well, building a house, \$45- or \$50,000, a
16 windmill goes up across the street, immediately
17 what happens to the assessed value of your house?
18 If you're lucky, minimum 50 percent and you lose
19 it.

20 The County and the State with all this money
21 they're giving everybody, they're not going to
22 come over and say, hey, here's back your money,
23 sell the other half, go somewhere else. They
24 ain't going to do it.

25 This company, Everpower, which I spent the

1 last three weeks going through everything I could
2 to try and find out about the company, Everpower,
3 LLC from Pittsburgh, I believe, licensed in
4 Delaware, the biggest scam of bankers and
5 realtors, and the company, Delaware, LLC, owned by
6 Terra Firma, LLC in London, if this is so great
7 and they're going to -- everybody is going to be
8 making money and everybody is going to be happy,
9 why is Terra Firma trying to sell off Everpower?

10 Now, the new company buys Everpower, what
11 happens when they take over? Do things change?
12 Is it all status quo, all the people that leased
13 their land? We don't have the answers to that and
14 there's nothing in the website because we don't
15 know what's going to happen when they sell out, if
16 this is ever going to be built.

17 Common things like these underground cables,
18 the straight voltage, that's bananas to me because
19 I can't figure it out. Does that mean somebody
20 with a pacemaker walks over one of these lines and
21 is going to be (indicating) straight voltage?
22 What's the County going to do? Plow the land like
23 Doug's field and put them there.

24 You can't wait until somebody gets killed,
25 somebody gets maimed, somebody gets injured. I

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haven't heard anybody say about -- I went through websites friendly to wind power, against wind power, in the middle, and the best thing that you see is when one of these babies starts on fire. Just let them go poof. For one thing, there's no fire company here can get up there to put out the fire, it's too high.

Two, you got hazardous materials, rare earth elements. You would think that the State, the County, the Township would say what happens when that burns and that thing falls to the ground. Is that one square acre gets a fence around there like Love Canal? They don't know because nobody is ever asking the questions.

There's only one reason I could see why this is splitting towns and splitting people and neighbors up. The only adage is when I grew up you had a -- your parents told you, if you're outside and see your next-door neighbors house on fire, you grab a damn water hose and you help them put it out until the fire company gets there.

What's going to happen now? You're splitting him and her, her and him, him and her putting apart -- your house starts on fire, they're going to sit there with a beer and a lawn chair and

1 watch it go because neighbors are not going to be
2 supportive of each other because it's driving a
3 wedge through them.

4 This company -- maybe it's great, but there
5 could be different ways of doing it. You're
6 putting -- like Ms. Greenstein stated -- and, yes,
7 I stood there for a half-hour. I'm from Buffalo,
8 New York. I'm in the City. Now, I'm looking down
9 Main Street at the Seneca Tower, that's the
10 tallest building in Buffalo. And I looked it up
11 and she said it's about 16 foot and it's about 18
12 foot, shorter than the windmills. And I'm looking
13 at it, and I go holy -- it's ridiculous. And to
14 put 40, 50, 60 here on the hilltop, you just lost
15 all the beauty of this country.

16 It's all this country -- that's why I come up
17 here as a veteran. I sit in my cousin's back
18 yard. I only have one rule that I got to follow,
19 do not wake him up before 8:00 in the morning.
20 That's the only thing I have to do there and he
21 will leave me alone. I collect firewood. I mow
22 the lawn. Getting ready to build this house. I
23 got plans for a garden for his wife. For what?
24 You put all this in and two years later it's all
25 wiped out because it's worthless. Nobody is going

1 to want to buy a nice built house, septic, well,
2 garden, garage when you go like this and
3 (indicating).

4 And that's -- I've not seen anything from all
5 the meetings they've had so far that explains what
6 happens when those blades snap off. Who's going
7 to be liable, the County of Chautauqua? They're
8 saying, yeah, come on in Everpower, you can do it.

9 In Germany one of those blades snapped off
10 and it traveled one mile, one nautical mile in the
11 air before it crashed to the ground. Who's going
12 to be responsible if you wipe out a family or a
13 school bus of kids. Oh, gee whiz, we never
14 thought of that one, but it's okay, it's not going
15 to happen again. Of course it's not going to
16 happen again because the community is going to
17 tear those damn things down.

18 You drive a wedge between a man and a woman,
19 a friend, a neighbor, a boy, a girl. You're
20 splitting this community up and that's exactly
21 what Everpower wanted when they came in here.
22 That's why they got thrown out of Northern New
23 York. That's why things are being canceled. They
24 came in here like a pack of wolves and a whole
25 herd of yous are deer and they're running through

1 the woods. They're not going after the big buck
2 with the horns. They're not going to go after the
3 big female with the hooves.

4 They're going to look for the weak, the
5 small, the impaired. They go after them first.
6 You get them and the word spread and you got what
7 you got now, a community divided. And like I
8 said, what's it going to come down to? Do you get
9 little stickers for the dashboard in your car, I'm
10 for wind, I'm against wind, so when you're driving
11 down the road and somebody's got a flat tire,
12 you're for wind, I'm against wind, bye, I'm not
13 helping you.

14 And that's what you're getting on now when
15 you see here, at the firehall and everything, the
16 people are arguing about it. They're passionate
17 on both sides. You got to find a middle ground.
18 And Chautauqua County is basically -- you're the
19 pointman for these people. They have no one else
20 to go to. They got a list, Everpower, of over 250
21 names of politicians, lawyers, bigshots that you
22 can't get in touch with. They have to come to
23 you. They have to come to the small-town boards
24 and hopefully talk to them so it moves up the
25 chain of command until it gets to your office

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saying maybe we should take a look at this and how it's going to affect the property values, why are people getting so upset.

Why should my cousin put \$55-, \$65,000 into his land and then it's only worth 25,000 after that first turbine turns (indicating)? Is the County going to come in and buy the value of the land, the house, the well, the septic? No. They won't. He's stuck with it. There's a way -- there is a way to do it. Come on, guys. Like she said the small turbine by the throughway. I wouldn't mind -- that's all right. It's not three football fields up in the air.

These things aren't going to be running 24 hours a day. What are you going to do if, oh, God, we get one of those goofy weather spells and there's no wind for three months? Do they pay more for electricity? Come on, they're getting about 330 million from the State. The Federal breaks, the County breaks, I wish I had 1 percent of that. I'd buy his place and I'd turn it into a museum.

You're going to lose a lot of business. You're going to lose a lot of word of mouth. Take a ride through Chautauqua County, especially in

1 the fall with the grapes. That's the only reason
2 I come up here in the fall. I roll down the
3 frigging window like a dog and smell all those
4 damn grapes. Now, it looks like I'm going up in
5 another county and see Niagara Falls, go to the
6 Finger Lakes, because we're coming down here to an
7 industrial wasteland with all these windmills.

8 I wish the Chautauqua County IDA would bring
9 that up at their meeting and say, hey, why don't
10 we move these south, 15, 20 miles south. There's
11 mountains just as tall. Same mountain range. Put
12 it down there. They won't because they came in
13 like a pack of wolves. They went after the
14 smallest of the herd that is up here, Cherry
15 Creek, Sinclairville. They grabbed the youngest
16 not in control of the -- they told my cousin you
17 might as well stop fighting it because it's a done
18 deal. This was done five years ago once they came
19 in.

20 Now, the thing that they should be worried
21 about is what in the heck is going to happen if
22 Everpower sells out and Terra Firma sells
23 Everpower, what shell company picks it up in
24 Delaware. What's going to happen after -- in 20
25 years when these become obsolete because China

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made a bigger magnet that kills over 10,000 people for mining it? You can't go any taller than that.

That's why I think the government's place, whether it be a little hamlet, the County, the State, everybody has got to put their shoulder to the wheel and say, listen, we can do this, but we can do this a different way. They're so secretive with LLCs that you don't know who's who. Sorry I blabbed away.

MR. MAZGAJ: No. Thanks.

MR. PIECHOWIAK: I'm for alternative energy, but there's got to be a way to keep everybody happy and not having one person feel like something that comes out of the back of a cow and somebody else has like angel wings like you can't touch them. Find some happy meeting in the middle. Like I said, sorry.

MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you.

MR. BOCHMANN: Ken Bochmann, Town of Charlotte. I'd like to make this part of the record that all of meetings that have been open to the public, it's been going on since 2009. They've had public meetings at the firehalls, here, and all the Town Board meetings have been open to the public and let the people address the Board.

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The project will benefit every taxpayer, all the towns. There's some degree of the people will get additional funding that are fortunate enough to get a lease and have some equipment on their property. And I've been to many wind farms firsthand to get the experience of what it's like about all the other, so-called, detrimental effects that somewhat aren't true.

In the process, under Article 10 with New York State, it's the first project, it's going to be reviewed, it takes a year to review it. There's a lot of detailed studies that were required by the project. There's volumes of books at our Town Hall and the library. I'm sure here in Cherry Creek they're available if anybody wants to look at the studies. I could bring in a report to show you that the real estate values don't get reduced, but nobody would look at it. They'd all laugh like the lady just did.

And you can get anything you want on the computer. You can get the pros and cons. Whatever you want to click on, you can get the information. So my opinion of what the wind power does for the community, the town, the County and the State, and everybody else is entitled to

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theirs. It's freedom of speech.

I just want to go on the record that I support the wind project. We've got over 200 people that have signed the petition. They support the wind power project, and we continue to get more every day to submit to the State for the Article 10 application. Thanks to the IDA for taking the time to come here, also.

MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you for your comment.

MR. BOMMER: I'd like to respond to Mr. Bochmann. My name is Robert Bommer.

MR. MAZGAJ: Can we not do direct responses but just comments to the IDA.

MR. BOMMER: I received no letters. I received nothing on any meeting, that so-called public forum. I own property. My mother owns property in the Town of Charlotte. We received no information on any public hearing, except for one I received on January 18th saying there was a meeting on January 8th. I received that on January 23rd.

I don't know why any of the stakeholders or seasonal residents that pay taxes have never received any information on the project for how many years. My mother is 83 years old. She owns

1 property at 7314 Rude Road. She don't know how to
2 use a computer. I barely know how to use a
3 computer. To be truthful, the Public Involvement
4 Program was totally dropped. Of all the seasonal
5 residents that I know of where my property is on
6 East Road, not one person has ever received any
7 information for any public meeting held by
8 Everpower or any of the towns.

9 I'd like to leave a letter here for you to
10 become part of the thing with a map.

11 MR. MAZGAJ: Great. That will be submitted.

12 MR. BOMMER: That will become part of the record?

13 MR. MAZGAJ: Yes, sir.

14 MS. GREENSTEIN: The only reason that Mr. Bommer
15 even received that is because I contacted him
16 personally because he had written on the DPS site
17 with his complaint letter. And the only reason
18 that even came up that we believe -- this is my
19 belief, the only reason that Everpower even mailed
20 that letter that he got to all the residents is
21 because we complained to the DPS that in the PIP
22 agreement, I can't remember exactly, I think it's
23 33.6 -- here it is, 33.6 of -- it says send out
24 mass mailings. There were never any mass mailings
25 done until we complained about it.

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And the fact that our Town board has stated that, oh, well, we posted it. They post it in the business section in the South County paper. The official paper for the Town of Charlotte is --
MR. MAZGAJ: The Observer?

MS. GREENSTEIN: No. No. No. It's the Post Journal. And I never got the Post Journal. I live in the North County, so we've always gotten the Dunkirk Observer.

And 10 years ago when we went through this project, that was one of my complaints, how can you not put this in both papers? And what really is troublesome is that these wind companies, it states right in the PIP agreement that they're supposed to actively engage. Putting a little tiny thing that you have to get a magnifying glass in the public notice in the front of the paper is not actively pursuing people. Actively pursuing people is doing multiple mailing lists, and that has not happened.

The people that are invited -- and like I said, I was one of the few people who got a letter on December 19, 2015. And I took the letter and I physically wrote on the letter, sent it back to EDRP and never heard another word from anybody.

1 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Sir.

2 MR. RODGERS: Clyde Rodgers, R-O-D-G-E-R-S. I've
3 lived around here for 40-some years, been in
4 business up the road for almost 40 years. I do --
5 past Supervisor in town. I support the project.
6 And I wanted to say that the majority of my
7 customers aren't getting windmills, but the
8 majority of the people I do business with strongly
9 support it for the health of the area. Thank you.

10 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you, sir. And I'll take as
11 many comments as possible. I do -- there is
12 another public hearing at 1, so I'll have to wrap
13 this up at some point. Sir.

14 MR. ROLL: My name is Bruce Roll. I've lived in
15 Arkwright 26 years with my wife. We're opposed to
16 the Cassadaga Wind Project. We were never
17 notified. We're less than 500 feet from the
18 overlay of the Arkwright Summit Wind Project and
19 received no notification from anyone of the
20 project from the Town, from the companies --
21 excuse me, Fischer Associates, EDP Renewables.

22 And, I'm sorry, I really can't complete this,
23 but we're opposed to this project. We never
24 received notification of the Arkwright Summit Wind
25 Project. And when I called the companies, EDP

1 Renewables, Fischer Associates and called the IDA,
2 I received not -- I received denial, deception and
3 I was lied to about what was going on.

4 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you, sir. Has everyone had a
5 chance to go for a first round that wants to?

6 MS. RIGGLE: This goes on worldwide. It's the
7 same scenario in every small town worldwide. The
8 wind companies sneak in. They keep a low profile.
9 They approach the land leasers, get them on board.
10 Go to the Town Board. It's mainly the Town Board,
11 the land leasers and the official department
12 stakeholders, like the school boards, the ad
13 people and whatever, the IDA, that know about
14 these projects.

15 Be honest, who goes to every Town Board
16 meeting? Nobody I know. Even the Town Board
17 members don't show up for their own Town Board
18 meetings sometimes. It shouldn't be incumbent on
19 the resident who is going to be highly impacted,
20 especially abutters to not be notified. Third
21 PIP -- Everpower's PIP supposedly started in 2010.
22 They supposedly had a robust PIP according to
23 their literature, and they were going to notify
24 everybody at the earliest time.

25 Well, we were never notified. We're abutters

1 and we're going to have seven to eight turbines.
2 One of them is going to be about 1,200 feet from
3 our property line, and it's just a joke. And it
4 shouldn't be incumbent on you to get a newspaper.
5 A lot -- most people I know don't even get a
6 newspaper. And then when they do put it in, it's
7 after the meeting. So it really has to be met at
8 some legislative level, that has to be changed,
9 the public has a right to know these projects will
10 impact us for decades to come.

11 Health effects, economic effects,
12 environmental effects, it's just a heartbreaking
13 thing to see that there's no transparency. And
14 we've complained about it. And that is the only
15 reason -- like Mr. Bommer here did get a letter
16 after the fact, after the time for a public
17 hearing and any legitimate input that would have
18 been acknowledged, it was too little, too late.
19 And it's only because they got caught, you know,
20 not honoring their PIP agreement. It's a joke.

21 MR. MAZGAJ: Yes.

22 MR. TWICHELL: Mark Twichell again. There is
23 liability here, because as many of us know a court
24 in Ireland recently found the wind industry liable
25 for health damages.

1 Now, the rewards on this will be announced in
2 this coming -- in a few weeks, and it's expected
3 to be a multi-million dollar award to five
4 families that had to leave their homes because
5 they were too close to a wind farm. The Irish
6 High Court found the wind industry liable. Money
7 has not yet been apportioned.

8 Now, there's a lot of money at stake.
9 Lawyers are going to get really smart about this,
10 and where there's a lot of money, there's a lot of
11 lawyers. It's just the way it works. And
12 municipalities are not going to be off the hook.
13 When it comes down to big money, the wind company
14 is going to say, but they permitted us, they told
15 us we could put these wind turbines this close to
16 people's homes.

17 So, again, taxpayers are going to be nailed
18 on this because we're the ones that are going to,
19 you know, fund the reparations when our judges --
20 our judges are going to find the same thing
21 because this is happening around the world. This
22 is happening because the wind industry feels that
23 it is necessary to expand in the residential
24 neighborhoods. As long as they kept their project
25 out in the desert or the mountainside, this was

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not an issue. But the last few years have shown an expansion of the wind industry into people's places of residence, and there's a liability there.

And again, my point is that municipalities are not going to be free of that.

MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you.

MR. BRETl: My name is Fred Bretl. I'd like to add to the comments over here about the underhandedness of the developer, Everpower. For instance, they are to follow the Article 10 process, and part of that process was the Public Involvement Plan.

Well, a week ago, Judge Cassuto, the Administrative Law Judge for the DPS, reprimanded the Young and -- the law firm representing Everpower for not being upfront with their Public Involvement Plan because they mislabeled it as a Public Information Plan, which is totally different than what the Public Involvement Plan was to be. They had their meetings throughout the different townships to discuss the potential -- how nice the project is and -- but that was a Public Information Plan.

They mislead the general population by having

1 those meetings and not informing the general
2 population about the impact that a project like
3 this would have and invite them to participate in
4 that process. And I've seen also where the
5 Administrative Law Judges have called the same
6 lawyers and called them on their lack of
7 information for addressing the issues. And they
8 were told by the law judges that they need to
9 refine this to extrapolate information and to
10 really share with the Article 10 process and what
11 it's really about.

12 So there's a lot of misleading going on and
13 underhandedness and I just want to leave it at
14 that.

15 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you, sir. Anyone else wishing
16 to be heard.

17 MR. ROLL: I just have an article that explains
18 some of the perils and problems of life in a
19 wind -- in proximity to a wind project that's run
20 by EDP Renewables. I just want to submit that as
21 a specific example of some of the problems that
22 have been encountered with the project.

23 MR. MAZGAJ: Sure. Great. That will become part
24 of the record and will be submitted to the Agency
25 Board of Directors. Do you want to make a note

Submitted Written Comments

&

Attendance Sheet

Cassadaga Wind, LLC Public Hearing

Town of Cherry Creek

March 22, 2017



County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency

Public Hearing Attendance Sheet

Project: Cassadaga Wind

Public Hearing Location: Cherry Creek - VFW Post 2522, 7117 N. Main Street

Public Hearing Date and Time: March 22, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Full Name (Please Print)	Signature	Affiliation
1. <u>Jamie Rodgers</u>	<u>Jamie Rodgers</u>	<u>Pine Valley School</u>
2. <u>Fred Bretl</u>	<u>Fred Bretl</u>	<u>CCCWF</u>
3. <u>Patricia Greenstein</u>	<u>PATRICIA J. M. GREENSTEIN</u>	<u>CCCWF</u>
4. <u>Joni Riddle</u>	<u>Joni Riddle</u>	<u>CCCWF</u>
5. <u>Robert Bommer</u>	<u>Robert Bommer</u>	<u>CCCWF</u>
6. <u>Jeff Piechowick</u>	<u>Jeff Piechowick</u>	<u>SELF</u>
7. <u>BRUCE ROLL</u>	<u>Bruce Roll</u>	<u>ARCWRIGHT</u>
8. <u>Mark Twichell</u>	<u>Mark Twichell</u>	<u>PALS</u>
9. <u>Chau Kenneth Chase</u>	<u>Chau Kenneth Chase</u>	<u>Town of Cherry Creek</u>
10. <u>Kenneth Bowman</u>	<u>Kenneth Bowman</u>	<u>TOWN OF CHARLOTTE</u>
11. <u>Clyde Rodgers</u>	<u>Clyde Rodgers</u>	<u>Self</u>
12. <u>Charles Fildes</u>	<u>Charles Fildes</u>	<u>Self</u>
13. <u>Matthew Mazzej</u>	<u>Matthew Mazzej</u>	<u>CCIDA</u>

TO CHAUTAQUA T.D.A.

Letter to N.Y. D.P.S and Town of Charlotte Town Board Re: case#14-f-0490 March 20,2017

As a landowner, taxpayer and seasonal resident @2087 East rd I am totally against the proposed Cassadaga wind farm. The D.P.S did not follow protocol in reference to sec1000.4 sub a that states that a public involvement coordinator is to supply local parties with information pursuant to the public involvement program. Of all the seasonal residents I talked to, we only received one letter telling us of the proposal of the wind farm and the second letter from everpower dated Jan 18, 2017 stating that there was a public Article 10 hearing at Sinclairville Fire hall held Jan 9, 2017 , so with that being said there really was NOT ANY public involvement at all. We are all identified as stake holders and local party residents.

The D.P.S. and the Town of Charlotte should assure protection of property values, set backs ,noise limitations, environmental impact, Electro Magnetic Interference, Decommissioning and any future law suits against land owners that sign up and left to fend for them selves.

The attached map outlines the property's around turbine# 41 as you see there are 14 seasonal residences within 5000 feet and most on east road are within 2000 feet of this turbine. 14 people that had no input. This is the top of the hill and topography will show it is a large plateau with nothing between us and a turbine. There is no buffer and we are not in a valley. This will interfere with T.V. reception, cell phone use, radio reception, and just plain ugly. This in my opinion is way too close to residents.

Turbines #54,58,15and 4 are right upon the Boutwell State land, Jeep road, Earl Cardot Trails , Equestrian and snowmobile trails, and hunting lands. Way too close.

Niagara Falls and an existing wind farm in Wyoming co has enough power for all of the 8 western NY counties, please don't push it with Everpower's Phishing of rural communities and lack of public involvement.

The last thing I would like to say is that this wind farm proposal has created division , dissent , anger, arguments, and ruined friendships between landowners and neighbors that have known each other for years, I don't think it was the intended purpose but it did real good job of it!

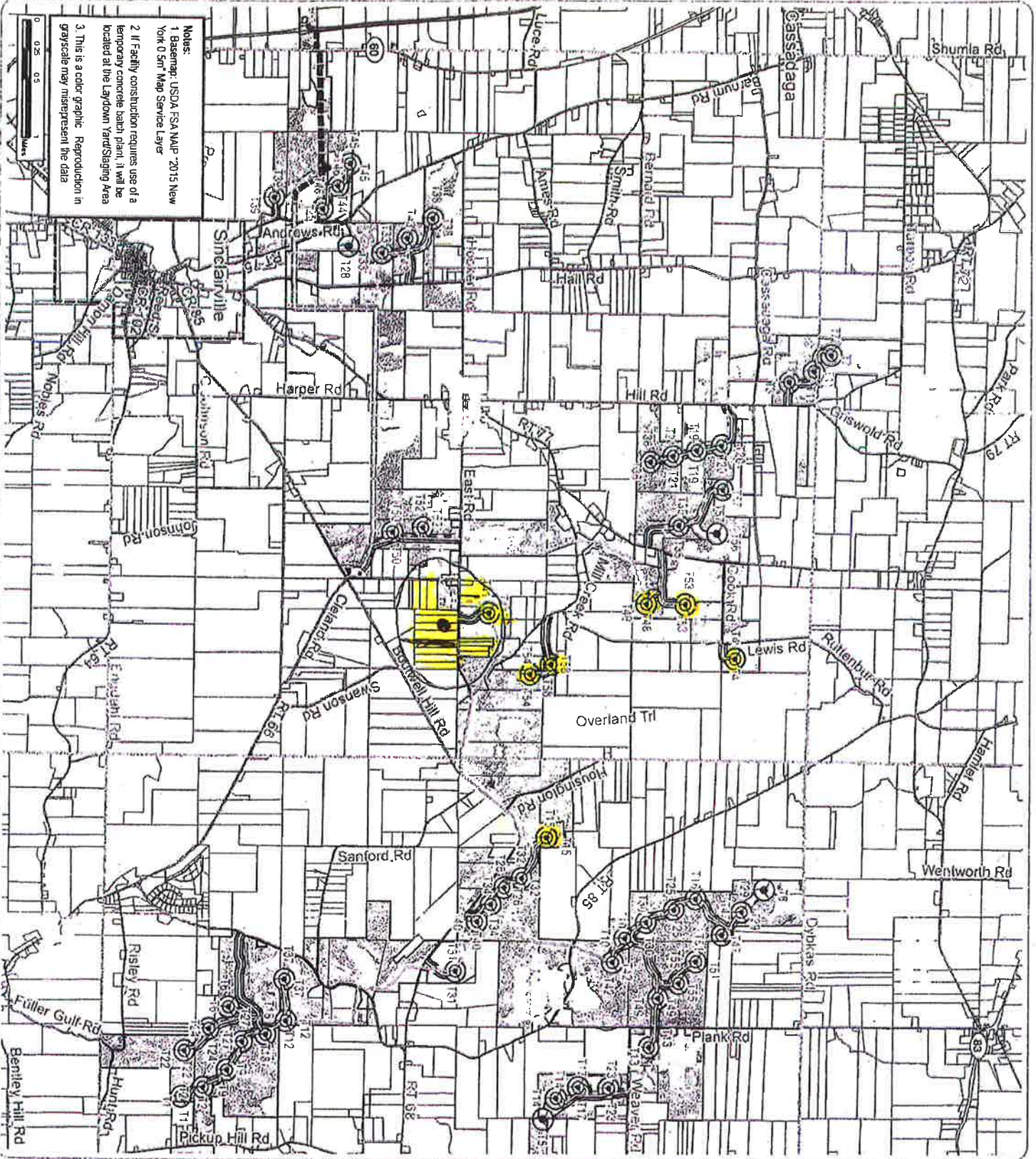
Robert Bommer

16 Seton rd Cheektowaga N.Y. 14225

2087 East rd Charlotte Ctr N.Y.

716-862-3844

How is THIS FOR DEVELOPMENT, WHEN
OUT OF TOWN LANDOWNERS REFUSE TO
SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS OR IS THIS
PROJECT AN ATTRACTION FOR TOURISM?



Notes:
 1. Base map: USDA FSA MAP 2015 New York 0.5m Map Service Layer
 2. If Facility construction requires use of a temporary concrete batch plant, it will be located at the Laydown Yard/Staging Area
 3. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data



- Wind Turbine
- Permanent Meteorological Tower
- 115 KV Generator Lead Line
- Underground Collection Line
- Overhead Collection Line
- Access Road
- Laydown Yard/Staging Area
- O&M Building
- Collection Substation
- POI Substation
- Facility Site
- Parcel Boundary
- Village Boundary
- Town Boundary
- County Boundary

Cassadaga Wind Project
 Towns of Arkwright, Charlotte, Cherry Creek, and Stockton - Chautauque County, New York
 January 2017

Updated Layout

- Wind Turbine
- Underground Collection Line
- Overhead Collection Line
- Access Road

Application Layout

- Wind Turbine
- Permanent Meteorological Tower
- 115 KV Generator Lead Line
- Underground Collection Line
- Overhead Collection Line
- Access Road

Ben Rull

3/22/17

OBSERVER

Once turbines arrive, say goodbye to peace, quiet

I sat in my living room reading this article last night with painfully throbbing ears and a headache, due to turbine noise that penetrates through the walls of my house. The noise kept me awake until 3 a.m. I had to write a reply to the tripe that was published in the OBSERVER (Feb. 19).

I bought my home to reside, because of its semi-secluded, quiet and peaceful nature. There is a river across the road from me and wooded area that surrounds me. I enjoyed listening to the river and birds, which is about all I ever heard, until a wind farm was erected around my property. There is a never-ending, jet-like sound that rips through my property and house. There is nothing natural about the noise that comes from these turbines and they are loud! The peaceful existence I once enjoyed here has been stolen from me!

EDP Renewables and the town of Chateaugay's Jericho Rise Wind Farm was planted too close to my house. There are four 482-foot turbines approximately 1,800 to 2,600 feet from my home. The industry standard for turbine "setbacks" from residences are ridiculously too close.

Much of the time, sound levels at the west and south side of my home is above the allowable 50 dBA which the town of Chateaugay has deemed to be acceptable and legal. The lower frequency dBC levels for sound, or infrasound, are not even taken into account. According to acoustic engineering experts, dBC sound levels have a much higher pressure rating than dBA readings. This noise is detrimental to human health and is well documented throughout the world. I am living proof. The noise inside and outside of my home is a completely menacing nuisance.

I am not a "naysayer." I am living with these behemoths that surround my property. In fact, I have been living with wind turbines from an older wind farm approximately 3-4 miles from me for the past 6 1/2 years. About 7 months out of the year, due to leafless trees, I can see 15 of them from my front porch. They really don't bother me. I can't say I like them, but I can't hear them either.

I was never an opponent of wind power. I am a science teacher of 11 years and teach about sound and alternative energies. It is in the state curriculum. I even went to an all day wind power teacher's workshop to get a better understanding of wind energy eight years ago. The wind industry has been setting us up for a fall a long time ago.

during or after) is honest and trustworthy, you really should be talking to people that are living in the middle of a wind farm.

Please, do not be fooled by any wind farm company! Also, if you are a non-participating landowner, do not sign their "*Neighbor Agreement*." You will lose all your rights (on, under, over, around, etc.) as a property owner. If you have any of the problems I am experiencing right now, you will lose the ability to do or say anything to anyone about it. It is a "*gag order*" for a very small annual payment.

In closing, I need to say that I gain nothing by writing this. It is only to help those that may be in danger of having to live with a wind farm near their home.

Kevin Sigourney is a resident of Chateaugay, which is located in Franklin County in northern New York near Massena.