



**STEUBEN COUNTY
INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

*Driving the Wheels
of Change*

TO: Rick VenVertloh, LaBella Associates
Tom Hagner, Ecogen LLC

FROM: Kathy Warren, Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: Comments Draft GEIS

DATE: May 9, 2005

Enclosed please find comments received last week on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (Items 4 – 6).

Also enclosed are comments received by the IDA but not address to the IDA (Items 1 – 3). Do you want these comments sent to you every week also? Please advise.

Thanks.

Steuben County IDA

ECOGEN 003

From: "Riders' Rest" <ridersrest@usadatanet.net>
To: <fesambay@aol.com>; "Sierra Club" <ATL-FINGERLAKES-STEUBEN-COMM@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG>; "Rachel Treichler" <info@altenergylaw.com>
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2005 8:00 PM
Subject: AK Re: Accidents -wind turbine exploding

FYI!

RR

I frequently receive requests for information about accidents or damage relating to wind turbines.

There is a wealth of information and photos on this highly recommended French website:

<http://ventdubocage.net/>

and

<http://ventdubocage.net/accident.htm>

There you may see a short movie of the Danish wind turbine that exploded on 20th January 2005 (I RR'd text)!

Much else besides including information about 225 accidents in Germany since 1997 - these are just those that have been reported.

AK

ECOGEN 004

Steuben County IDA

From: "Riders' Rest" <ridersrest@usadatanet.net>
To: "Deb" <debhooose@empacc.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2005 7:08 PM
Attach: Fwd- NY_Cornell halts planning for wind project.eml
Subject: Fw: NY: Cornell halts planning for wind project

CORNELL HALTS WIND PROJECT! 4130105
 Journal report below

You might all recall the letter I recently forwarded from Cornell Senior Danny Pearlstein. Well, it looks more and more like common sense is starting to become a factor in this issue. HOORAY for Cornell and thank you, Danny !!!!!

(Danny's letter of April 15 and today's article below)

Two summers ago I visited the 11 megawatt Madison Wind Project two hours from Ithaca along gusty Route 20 near Colgate University. There, seven awesome turbines stand a few hundred feet above acres of remote farmland. The enthusiastic farmer showed us around and related a touching story about a visiting group of mentally handicapped adults that declared her wind farm both quiet and beautiful. I marveled at renewable energy's bright future. On campus, I have been continually inspired by the Kyoto Task Team, a group of students, faculty and staff organized to bring Cornell into compliance with the Kyoto Protocol. The Team seeks to reduce the University's carbon dioxide emissions to seven percent below what they were in 1990 by between 2008 and 2012, in large part by changing how we acquire and use energy.

As a human being hoping for a decent environment for his grandchildren, I am very excited about power that comes from the sun above rather than within the earth. As photovoltaic solarpanels that turn light into electricity are not as effective at producing large amounts of energy, I salute the global move to harness the squeaky clean and constantly renewed wind. Cornell does too. After cajoling by students from KyotoNOW – which masterfully took control of Day Hall in 2001 to get the University to agree to adopt the Kyoto Protocol – Cornell conducted a wind study within a 15 mile radius of campus and singled out an agricultural research site on nearby Mount Pleasant as a likely spot for eight turbines that could generate 10 to 15 percent of the electricity we consume and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

Initially, I was delighted. But then I began listening to the concerns of residents near the proposed site, hikers, skiers, birdwatchers, astronomers who frequent the nearby observatory and even trainee pilots concerned about 400 foot wind turbines cropping up in the flight path to the Ithaca airport. As a result, I am no longer an unabashed supporter of tapping Mount Pleasant.

Many vocal opponents of the project have emerged from the Mount Pleasant community itself. They fear that eight wind turbines and the accompanying infrastructure would substantially disrupt the relatively bucolic way of life they sought out when they purchased their homes. They also point to the significant noise and light impacts of a wind farm, impacts that, if realized, would present a reduction in quality of life, no matter the immediate surroundings.

Mount Pleasanters are loathe to see their environment markedly transformed. Many ardent environmentalists from the wider community have labeled this position a "Not in My Backyard" attitude. Residents have shot back that they have a "Not in Anybody's Backyard" stance on wind turbines. While some may elect to live in the slowly rotating shadows of turbine blades, they caution that no one should be compelled to bear the bulk of renewable energy's brunt so directly.

And they're right. Some who have expressed hesitation about Cornell's proposed wind farm have reasoned from the points of view of migrating birds and bats, people out to observe them, amateur and academic stargazers and the WHCU radio station, whose transmitter rises from the adjacent crest. But at root, the people who call Mount Pleasant home deserve the greatest consideration. Our shared goal of environmental protection is impossible without environmental justice.

Given the strength of conviction in opposition to wind turbines on Mount Pleasant, Cornell must tread as carefully as possible. The project was initiated at the behest of rightfully and intensely dissatisfied students. It would be a shame if Cornell used its commitment to Kyoto to arouse the immense ire of its neighbors, who are citizens of the University by virtue of the fact that their lives are so impacted by Cornell.

Both those for and against the nascent Mount Pleasant wind power project see themselves as the true stewards of the planet up against insensitive folks who cannot conceive of the nature of the environmental crisis. Both sides argue that we must become accustomed to changes in our lifestyle if we are to persevere as a species. They differ merely on implementation.

Many of the people who have moved to Mount Pleasant over the years did so precisely because they are environmentalists who appreciate the natural world. They believe that Cornell should green itself either through vigorous energy conservation that may well transform our lives and our institutions or through renewable power sources unaccompanied by such substantial local environmental impacts. Those who favor the turbines now in question minimize potential consequences and believe neighbors should be proud to be in the energy avant garde.

It may well turn out to be true that we need millions of turbines across the nation to save whatever piece of civilization is worth saving. And it is equally likely that huge turbines cause severe and lasting harm to those who live beneath them, such that they ought to be located as far as possible from homes, schools and hospitals.

This April, Campus Sustainability Month at Cornell, is a great time to reflect on the sustainable solution to these kinds of controversies. The most important piece often left out of discussions of ecological sustainability is that such arrangements must be socially sustainable as well. Without democracy, sustainability is out of the question.

Danny Pearlstein is a senior in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He can be reached at dp89@cornell.edu Thinking in Public appears Fridays.

Forwarded Message:

Subj: NY: **Cornell halts planning for wind project**

Date: 4/30/2005 10:44:37 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: irminsul@bcn.net

To: irminsul@bcn.net

Sent from the Internet (Details)

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/news/stories/20050430/localnews/2124400.html>

Cornell halts planning for wind project

JENNIE DALEY
Journal Staff

ITHACA -- Cornell University decided not to proceed with its wind energy project on Mount Pleasant after more than four months of preparing to study the feasibility of eight 400-foot wind turbines.

At a meeting Thursday night with residents in the area, Cornell announced its intentions. It followed that meeting with a press release sent out late Friday afternoon.

A host of issues and unanswerable concerns led to the decision, according to Simeon Moss, director of Cornell's press office.

"We are not going to put up a tower at this time," Moss said. "There were a number of issues that came up, there was the question of land use, view sheds, the regulatory environment that's out there. To go forward in such an uncertain environment doesn't make sense."

While the tower, which was to house meteorological measuring equipment, will not be built, Cornell said it will go ahead with a bird and bat study of the area. No effective analysis of the potential impact of wind turbines on avian populations exists and Cornell's Lab of Ornithology will continue with their plan to evaluate populations in the area. The lab hopes to use bioacoustics instead of radar to determine avian patterns on a portion of Mt. Pleasant.

Residents in the area said they are pleased with the decision. They had organized a petition with over 300 signatures protesting the project.

"I can sum up in one word the feeling in the room when they made their announcement -- 'elation,'" John Semmler, a Mt. Pleasant Road, resident said. "We were all just so relieved that they've realized that this was not a viable option for Mount Pleasant."

His sentiments were echoed by a neighbor

"We were surprised and gratified," said Stuart Davis. "They thought things over carefully, listened to community concerns and decided in favor of environmental policies and being a good neighbor."

Residents were also concerned about property values and the strobe effect from the blades and resulting impact on the wildlife in the area.

One of the issues in the mix was the proximity of the towers to the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport in the Village of Lansing. The Federal Aviation Administration regulates obstructions within a certain radius of an airport, disallowing towers of over 500-feet within five miles of an airport. The proposed site was about four miles away and would have held eight 400-foot towers.

"They were certainly a concern," said Robert Nicholas, airport manager. "It seems they weighed proximity with a couple of other issues and decided it was too big a hill to climb."

Cornell said, while it is not considering other sites at this time, it still hopes to pursue alternative energies and hopes the decision will lead to a discussion of the pros and cons of wind power in the community.

Contact: jdaley@ithaca.gannett.com

Steuben County IDA

ECOGEN 005

From: "D & L Roberson" <irminsul@bcn.net>
To: "Irminsul" <irminsul@bcn.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2005 10:43 AM
Subject: NY: Cornell halts planning for wind project

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/news/stories/20050430/localnews/2124400.html>

Cornell halts planning for wind project

JENNIE DALEY
Journal Staff

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Contact: jdaley@ithaca.gannett.com

Steuben County IDA

From: <Suemommie@aol.com>
To: <scida@empacc.net>; <information@cgr.org>; <fac@fifthave.org>;
 <bacallj@assembly.state.ny.us>; <communityenergy@newwindenergy.com>;
 <Contact@CanWEA.ca>; <nwcc@resolv.org>; <windmail@awea.org>;
 <wwindea@wwindea.org>; <danish@windpower.org>; <ewea@ewea.org>; <info@nyserda.org>;
 <jfishgertz@nyseg.com>; <jtroth@nyseg.com>; <mail@ziikha.com>; <makroft@nyseg.com>;
 <ebblank@newwindenergy.com>; <semerine@awea.org>; <Senator_Clinton@clinton.senate.gov>;
 <senatorschumer@schumer.senate.gov>; <service@energycentral.com>;
 <service@franklintempleton.ca>; <sraddon@daemen.edu>;
 <support@renewableEnergyaccess.com>; <tgc@nyserda.org>; <web-master@energyeast.com>;
 <Welisten@selectenergy.com>; <windenergy.usa@ps.ge.com>; <enquiry@ecogen.co.uk>;
 <henry.frantzen@gs.com>; <gs-investorrelations@gs.com>; <prospectus-ny@ny.email.gs.com>;
 <gs-funds@gs.com>; <dpaeweb@gw.dec.state.ny.us>; <lawrence.bailey@hq.doe.gov>;
 <rajendra.sharma@hq.doe.gov>; <sat.goel@science.doe.gov>; <craig.zamuda@hq.doe.gov>;
 <roselle.drahushak-crow@go.doe.gov>; <srsander@bpa.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2005 9:14 PM
Subject: Ecogen DGEIS NY State

To all stakeholders and concerned NY citizens:

Concerning Commercial wind development in NY State:

I'm sure you're aware of the Prattsburgh situation and the recently released DGEIS by Ecogen LLC. Click here: Ecogen Windpower EIS.

Commercial wind development (CWD) has become an extremely heated topic in all potentially targeted areas, not just in NY or the U.S. but around the world.

Development of this type has been resisted for years. In the UK a whole new political party has formed based primarily on their opposition to CWD and the damage it's causing there. Massive industrial machines posing as friends of the environment are using such status to push into (usually) rural residential locations where they do not belong and are not often welcome, consequently jeopardizing the lives and well being of all who happen to fall in the path of the local wind developer.

It's preposterous and even unimaginable that such development is being considered for residential locations, but the wind industry's PR team has done a good job of convincing the general public that it's not only acceptable, but an honor. It is, in fact, deplorable.

Today's CWD is the result of 30 years worth of disappointing government R&D, disappointing because it's ultimate goal of becoming a viable energy source has not been realized. The economics don't work and the environmental benefits have simply not materialized. But that is not stopping the industry that's sprouted up because of the attempt.

There are no less than 18 towns within an hour and a half's drive from the Orchard Park/ East Aurora area that together are looking at proposals that would erect over 700 industrial wind turbines. Good environmental lawyers who understand the complexities of this issue are going to soon be in great demand.

The industry's only valid reason for building these huge mechanical structures and their necessary infrastructure in our pristine rural countryside is that they will supposedly help relieve the threat of global warming. Our politicians look good when they support such measures, smart business leaders take advantage of the environmentally responsible image and the tax breaks, power companies are able to meet vote getting mandates set by hopeful politicians, and big corporations can shelter millions with wind development.

But consider this:

current global installations: **65,000 turbines** - 39,000MWcapacity

95,397,120MWh

1/2 of 1% (.006) world total wind generated electricity, 2003

REDUCTION IN GLOBAL WARMING - 1/4 OF 1% OR LESS

How many more turbines would it take to see any measurable impact on global warming? How many natural environments lost, animals displaced, birds killed, habitats destroyed?

To add more wind power will exasperate the problem CWD creates, and do nothing to help global warming...their only acceptable excuse for industrializing rural communities.

CWD IS MERELY SYMBOLIC, AND OUR RURAL HERITAGE IS FACING A THREAT AS NEVER BEFORE. PRATTSBURGH ALONG WITH MANY OTHER NY RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE UNDER THE GUN. THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING. PLEASE BE PART OF A SOLUTION INSTEAD OF ADDING TO THE PROBLEM. DO NOT ALLOW NY'S RURAL COMMUNITIES TO BECOME INDUSTRIALIZED WITH WIND DEVELOPMENT.

THE WIND INDUSTRY HAS DEVELOPED A WHOLE NEW LANGUAGE THAT IS USED IN DOCUMENTS LIKE THE PRATTSBURG DGEIS TO SIDESTEP THE REAL ISSUES.

THERE IS NO TRUE JUSTIFICATION

Thank you,

Sue Sliwinski

Sardinia. NY

Comments: DGEIS Ecogen, LLC Prattsburgh/Italy Wind Farm
April 27,2005

Ecogen, LLC has proposed to build an electric generating facility in the midst of an already-established rural-residential area in Prattsburgh, NY. Fifty-three 40-story high mechanical structures would become the new neighbors in a justifiably resistant community. *These structures would introduce dangers and risks that do not currently exist.*

As stated, the given reason for this proposal is to produce electricity, which currently will amount to less than 1% of NY's power needs, and only one-tenth of that amount by 2016 (Renewable Power Outlook 2005). Yet at that point this massive and intrusive development will still have over 20 years left to operate, with steadily decreasing value and output, and will surely quash any growth the region might hope to see.

With new hazards, dangers and risks introduced, it's unreasonable to assume that real estate values in the area will remain steady. Page 78 of the DGEIS states that the WTG's will discourage residential use. It's easy to see why when you consider these well-documented impacts:

***Communication interruption...** television and cell phone signals reflect off rotating turbine blades causing interference

***Risk to quantity and quality of well water...** construction of huge foundations and construction run-off often affects the integrity of area groundwater and wells

***Safety issues** including: Deteriorating road conditions, minimum security, increased stray voltage, EMF's, fire hazards, constant maintenance requiring unknown service reps to be routinely in neighborhood, increased lightning strikes in vicinity, blade fragment and ice throw

***Loss of wildlife habitat** due to service roads and mechanical structures in otherwise natural areas - Industry commissioned studies often flawed and inadequate

***Increased traffic**, increased chance of auto and pedestrian accidents

***Noise-** noise caused most often by the aerodynamic slicing of the atmosphere - the #1 complaint of nearby residents, also mechanical noise can be significant

***Strobe effects-** which flood onto properties and into homes when the blades eclipse the rising or setting sun – varies with season and location of towers - also large sweeping shadows occur when turbines are nearby

***Visual dominance-** close proximity to residences causes huge structures to be the most dominant element in the local living environment - known to cause stress and emotional fatigue

***Blade tip speeds average between 200 and 300 mph** when hub speeds are approx. 20-35 rpm's-

***Loss of natural amenities and visual, quiet enjoyment** – the outdoors no longer offers respite, loss of recreation, spiritual deprivation for any residents who may have found strength and renewal in their natural surroundings...

***Property devaluation** –homes within one to two miles of commercial wind development have suffered significant losses documented to 30%, and fail to appreciate as they normally would without such development.....

If Ecogen believes these impacts require little or no mitigation, then that confidence should be conveyed to the residents by guaranteeing current appraised values along with their normally expected appreciation, which for many in Prattsburgh, as anywhere, represents life savings and the only means to financial security.

The **closest residents** are facing the greatest impact, yet they're repeatedly discounted with phrases like "only in the immediate vicinity," "low density residential area" or "just those in close proximity." These are the very people who deserve the highest and most sensitive regard, but instead, Ecogen appears to be dismissing their valid concerns one by one. Perhaps this ill-conceived plan will someday be an example of what NOT to do.

Out of 1478 properties, just 74 are farms, some of which are no longer productive. 1404 properties are residential, clearly rendering Prattsburgh unsuitable for commercial wind development, especially on this scale. Regardless, residents continue to find themselves targeted and are expected to change their habits and the way they live in order to cope with the probable changes. According to the DGEIS, this seems to be best accomplished by simply staying indoors.

In fact, the DGEIS tends to 'mitigate' potential problems with this solution throughout the document, and concludes that the majority of recreational outdoor space doesn't even warrant consideration. One example is the document's assertion that shadow flicker will only be a problem on the outside of a house, implying, as usual, that if the occupants stay inside (with drapes drawn) they won't be bothered...except even that is untrue.

A recent article**Prisoners get respite from turbine**

JOHN ELWORTHY <mailto:john.elworthy@archant.co>

08 April 2005 07:05

A wind turbine next to high-security Whitemoor Prison is to be switched off at certain times of the year because its shadows upset inmates.....

Computer programs exist today and are used by somewhat more responsible developers to identify the exact locations where shadow flicker would occur and exactly how long it would last. Results from these programs along with actual experience has shown that a 1000' distance does not reduce flicker. In addition, at this close proximity, long sweeping shadows occur almost daily across the ground. In Europe and other parts of the world, it is a best practice standard to insure that flicker DOES NOT OCCUR AT ANY RESIDENCE. If it means moving the turbines, then the turbines are moved.

Ecogen, LLC asserts that it will not relocate its turbines for any reason.

The noise analysis in the DGEIS is an example of this developer's callous attempt to force huge machines into inappropriate areas, and shows a total lack of regard for the local residents. The National Wind Coordinating Committee and even some manufacturers themselves admit that noise up to 2 miles away from industrial wind turbines can be disturbing. Correspondence with acoustic experts having real life experience state the same, and they also add that local residents should never be expected to tolerate turbine (or any constant) noise that's 5 dba over ambient. See below:

16th October 2002

*Susan Sliwinski
10820 Allen Road
East Concord,
NY 14055
USA*

*Your Ref
Our Ref WCNY **PROPOSED WIND FARM***

Dear Ms. Sliwinski.

Thank you for your enquiry about wind farm noise. I should probably explain my background and interest in wind farms. I have been a noise and acoustic consultant for more than 30 years and most of my current work is dealing with the assessment of environmental noise as it affects residential properties. I work equally for those potentially

5/2/2005

creating noise and those affected by it. I have been a supporter of wind energy and other forms of renewable energy for some 35 years. I have carried out noise assessments for both "sides" in planning applications for wind farms and adopt the same method of assessment whoever employs me.

Firstly, I will deal with the standards adopted for new noise sources in the UK. There are some variations throughout Europe but in broad terms they are not very different. Where a new noise is to be introduced into a residential area it is normal to set a noise limit relative to the pre-existing background noise.

Typical planning conditions imposed by rural local authorities (and sometimes urban ones) require that the new noise be no more than 5dB above the pre-existing background. This is based on the procedure set out in British Standard 3143. I should note here that the existing background noise is measured using "L_{A90}", the level exceeded for 90% of the time – in other words it is close to the minimum.

With wind farms it would be reasonable to make background noise measurements when wind speeds at the development site were in the range at which the turbines operate. There is an argument sometimes used that, because wind turbines only operate when it is windy, the background noise levels are high. This is not necessarily true. I recently climbed from a valley to a wind farm 1½ miles away. There was enough wind for all the turbines to be operating yet when I took noise measurements out of view of the turbines, the level was consistently 22-23dBA. dBA is A-weighted decibels which corresponds roughly to loudness. An increase in 10dBA is a doubling of loudness, an increase of 20dBA is a quadrupling of loudness and so on.

Some advice I've heard suggests that wind turbines can be 35 to 40dBA at the nearest housing. I think this is quite wrong and there is no reason why wind farms should be differently treated than anything else. In fact, there is good reason why wind farms should be treated more stringently than other noise sources.

Most noise, for example that from a biomass development which has similar importance in renewable energy development, has the potential of being controlled at source at a later date by silencing or by barriers. Wind farms, once constructed, cannot practicably have noise reduced at source or by barriers.

In practice, in most rural areas, my rule of thumb is that the nearest turbine needs to be at least 1¼ miles from any house. However, these are areas where the background noise level can be 20dBA at night. On this basis, noise from the wind farm should not exceed 25-30dBA, and 30dBA is high. If your area is similar and the developers are suggesting that 40-50 decibels is acceptable, this is quite outrageous. 40dBA would be four times as loud as your background noise.

Most of the Scottish wind farms that have recently been approved have no housing closer than about 1 mile, except where the house belongs to the landowner of the wind farm site. There are a few applications with houses as close as about 2000 feet but these have all either been turned down or withdrawn by the developer.

I am not familiar with the GE turbines, but I suspect that they have a sound power level of about 105dBA. In this case, the noise level would be between 45 and 50dBA at 1400 feet in neutral weather conditions and if the nearest turbines were in full view.

Please let me know if you would like any other information.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Bowdler

www.newacoustics.co.uk

Another firm, Angevine Acoustics in East Aurora, points out that the NYSDEC has guidelines for noise

produced from gas well pumping stations. These facilities are almost always located in quiet rural areas, and must be located far enough away from the closest residence so as not to exceed established ambient levels. Wind turbines should be held to the same standard. Ecogen recognizes that noise exceeding 5dba over ambient can be intrusive, yet, citing unreliable and long discredited theory, they manage to *justify a 20 decibel increase, and conclude, "impacts from noise are anticipated to be minor..."*

What will they do for the Prattsburgh residents if they're wrong?

Developers have taken advantage of the fact that no precedent exists to govern their industry, and have arrived on the scene unimpeded making heinous declarations that industrial wind turbines, machines that seem eerily out of place even in vast wastelands, can and **will** fit naturally and intimately on the landscape and within the daily lives of the rural residents who live there...whether they're welcome or not. It's highly likely that even the noted environmental study conducted prior to the adoption of the RPS and that supposedly led to setback guidance, was greatly influenced by the industry itself...who no doubt *advised* authors with no 'wind' experience and few references to guide them.

Other issues:

If any private airstrips fall within or near the boundaries of the generating facility, FAA rules prohibit wind turbines (or any structure that tall) from getting closer than 9,000 feet.

The Prattsburgh Emergency Services are mostly made up of volunteers. Is it fair to expect them to come to someone's rescue in an extraordinary event requiring them to perform feats they've never attempted or have little to zero training in?

In Somerset County Pa., a man was killed less than a year ago at a wind farm, and another recent article states,

– Man falls to Death from E66- by Paul Gipe, former president of the AWEA....
"The death in Germany and the recent death in California bring to 22 the number of men killed working with wind energy..."

In just one decade, Prattsburgh wind 'farm' will meet only one-tenth of 1 % of NY's power needs, and even less for the remainder of the plant's operating life.

Under the circumstances, commercial wind development is socially unacceptable, and signs are that it's already self-destructing. Every day more and more people are realizing that commercial wind is an environmental and economic folly. The question is, how long can it continue unabated and who will be the biggest losers in the end? Right now, it's not looking good for the rural resident.

**Sue Sliwinski
 Sardinia, NY**

Steuben County IDA

ECOGEN 007

From: <Sksajs@aol.com>
To: <scida@empacc.net>
Cc: <kakisper@gw.dec.state.ny.us>; <janasca@gw.dec.state.ny.us>; <jlhairie@gw.dec.state.ny.us>; <tonkop@assembly.state.ny.us>; <johns@assembly.state.ny.us>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2005 9:00 AM
Attach: SCIDA.jpg
Subject: Comment Period

Dear SCIDA Board
SCIDA Clerk
James Sherron, Director,

We are in receipt of Ecogen's draft GEIS sent April 25, 2005 and received April 27, 2005. Ecogen's Draft GEIS is extensive and exceeds 1000 pages; the Final Scope was a mere 35 pages, in comparison.

We also understand that some of the Service List were able to review a preliminary draft GEIS on or around February 23, 2005 and have given preliminary reports to SCIDA from the requested March 9, 2005 through March 18, 2005. Their input was taken into consideration and the Preliminary Draft GEIS was modified and dated April 7, 2005. It was later approved by the SCIDA Board on April 21, 2005 by 4 members (three board members were absent).

These members of the service list received 15 to 24 additional days to review a small section of this extensively long document while the request to view the preliminary Draft GEIS was denied to others (letter attached).

"An EIS provides a means for agencies, project sponsors and **the public to systematically** consider significant adverse environmental impacts, alternatives and mitigation." We, a member of the public on the service list, would like the the comment period to be extended from June 17, 2005 to July 5, 2005 such that the bulk of the Service List will have a comparable time frame to review and comment on this extensive document in the spirit and intent of the goals of SEQR.

Respectfully,

Drs. Saul and Alice Sokolow
34 Avonmore Way
Penfield, NY 14526

Ruth and Terry Matilsky
6724 Baker Road
Prattsburgh New York 14873

Donna Farrington & Todd Sharrow
41 Merwin Avenue
Rochester, NY 14609

Wayne & June Sharrow
25 Sebastian Drive
Rochester, NY 14625

5/5/2005

May 3, 2005

Dr. Alice Sokolow
34 Avonmore Way
Penfield, New York 14526

Dear Dr. Sokolow:

Thank you for your email dated May 2, 2005.

I agree that the Draft GEIS is rather voluminous and could require additional time for review. It is because of this fact that SCIDA has extended the public comment period from the required thirty (30) days to fifty-seven (57) days.

The SCIDA Board also decided to allow for a public hearing based upon the complexity of the project. I would like to point out that this upcoming public hearing is not required by law.

As an attendee of the Board meeting on April 21st you were made aware that a copy of the Draft GEIS was on file at the SCIDA office and could be reviewed from that point on. To date, no one has requested to review said document. In addition, local libraries, Town halls as well as an extensive service list received the document for review.

SCIDA believes it has made every effort to insure that the public has had the opportunity to review all information and insured that the public has had ample opportunities to express their concerns as witnessed by the two presentations made by members of the Advocates for Prattsburgh directly to the SCIDA Board.

SCIDA has repeatedly adhered to the spirit and regulations of SEQR and will continue to do so. With that said, the closing of the comment period will remain June 17, 2005.

Respectfully,

James P. Sherron
Executive Director

JPS/kjw

Dr. Alice Sokolow
34 Avonmore Way
Penfield, NY 14526

Dear Dr. Sokolow:

In response to your Freedom of Information Law request I am enclosing the correspondence to Mr. Kispert that has transpired.

Regarding your request for the preliminary draft GEIS, the draft GEIS will be available to all interested agencies and parties upon acceptance by the IDA Board as outlined in SEQ. We expect to have a decision as to its completeness on April 21, 2005. If it is acceptable to the IDA Board it will be released for public comment.

Your request for the noise studies is not available at this time. The noise studies and cumulative impact of multiple wind farms will be addressed in the draft GEIS.

Thank you

Very truly yours.



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Very truly yours.



James P. Sherron
Executive Director

Steuben County IDA

ECOGEN 008

From: "Ruthe Matilsky" <rmatilsk@physics.rutgers.edu>
To: <info@steubencountyida.com>
Cc: <sksajss@physics.rutgers.edu>; "Al Wordingham" <esl750@empacc.net>; <"donna farrington"@physics.rutgers.edu>; "Nancy Wahlstrom" <emanancyw@empacc.net>; "Terry Matilsky" <matilsky@physics.rutgers.edu>; "paul Tonko" <tonkop@assembly.state.ny.us>; "John Howard" <howardj@assembly.state.ny.us>; <jodonnell@osc.state.ny.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2005 6:06 PM
Subject: Extending comment period

Dear Mr. Sherron:

While it is true that you are not exactly required by law to hold a public hearing I would remind you that in section 617.9 4 iof NYCRR it says:

"In determining whether or not to hold a SEQR hearing, the lead agency will consider: **the degree of interest in the action shown by the public or involved agencies**; whether substantive or significant adverse environmental impacts have been identified; the adequacy of the mitigation measures and alternatives proposed; and the extent ot which a public hearing can aid the agency decision-making processes by providing a forum for, or an efficient mechanism for the collection of, public comment."

I think it is safe to say that there has been a high degree of public interest shown in this project as well as signfiicant adverse environmental impacts and the question of the adequacy of the mitigation measures and therefore holding a public hearing is what anyone examining the the Ecogen SEQR would expect.

I would also like to point out that for all practical purposes the comment period beginning April 21 and ending June 17 comes to 56 days and if you subtract the five to seven days it took to receive the document and/orofficial notification that the document was available then we are looking at a real time comment period of 49 to 50 days. The document is over 1200 pages long (Tom Hagner's estimate) and it is not unreasonable to expect that most people would benefit from an increased comment period.

Let us remember that the spirit of SEQR is to ensure transparency and public involvement and to increase the comment period would enhance the likelihood of determining the legitimacy of the document.

Very truly yours,

Ruthe Matilsky

No virus found in this incoming message.

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Version: 7.0.308 / Virus Database: 266.11.3 - Release Date: 5/3/2005

5/5/2005

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KESTREL HAVEN AVIAN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY

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ECOGEN 009

02 May 2005

Mr. James P. Sherron -----
Executive Director Steuben County IDA
PO Box 393
Bath, NY 14810-0393

**Subject: Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement Ecogen. LLC –
Prattsburgh/Italy Wind Farm**

Dear Mr. Sherron,

Thank you for the opportunity to review this excellent document and for your assistance in obtaining a readable copy. This level of study is highly commendable and hopefully will set state and national standards for site selection by the wind power industry. We have the following comments, concerns and suggestions.

a Page ES10 and supporting pages: Red Lights

We have no experience with the type of light cited (L-864 Red strobe-like) but wonder why the equivocation? One of the supporting sections (Page 3-148) goes further by calling these "flashing" lights. Flashing and steady red lights are the most dangerous to migratory birds under appropriate weather conditions. Current research shows either white or red strobe lights to be the most effective mitigant. The American Bird Conservancy is working with the FAA continuously on the problem of tower proliferation that resulted in the FAA 2004 memorandum supporting the use of white strobe lights on towers above 200 feet AGL. Most recent research has demonstrated that red strobes are also effective and acceptable to the FAA. Why then has this project chosen something else?

• Page ES11 and supporting pages: KHAMO location

Kestrel Haven is improperly placed on/near Seneca Lake. We are in fact on the ridge between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes that is a much denser passerine migration route. Our location is more similar to that of the Ecogen project site.

- **Page 1-4: Met Tower**

The DGEIS and much research recognize the superiority of unguyed monopoles for collision mitigation. Yet, the meteorological tower proposed by Ecogen is a 262-foot lattice structure. Recommend this be changed to a self-supporting monopole.

- **Page 3-15: KHAMO location**

KHAMO is incorrectly sited. We are NNE of Watkins Glen on the ridge ~~between the two lakes and almost equidistant from each,~~

- **Page 3-25: KHAMO and several points on migration**

Same comment as for 3-15. Also. KHAMO was founded in the fall of 1986.

Our spring numbers are lower due largely to weather. For safety, we must cease operations in medium to high winds that are all too common here in April and May. Further, the weather dynamic of northbound migration through the Finger Lakes usually causes birds to overfly our station; they do not land to rest until encountering the Lake Ontario barrier.

Fall migrants tend to follow the high ground between the lakes in their southbound journey and the weather dynamic is often in our favor.

~~The 19-year trend here is of a large and increasing fall migration flow and a steady but much smaller northbound flow in spring.~~

We emphasize that the aggregate of migration and tower collision studies in Western and Central New York demonstrate a wide migration corridor that often shifts laterally a considerable distance from year to year as a result of weather influences. Trend data since the 1970s does show a slight overall shift of the southbound corridor from Western NY to the Finger Lakes area. Thus, one year of data collection at the Ecogen site may be misleading and not be an accurate prediction of avian use of the site. Studies conducted in 2004 also concentrated on migrant passage and were not supported by on-site ground truth inventories.

- **Correlation of radar and acoustic studies and ground truth.**

Radar and acoustic studies do a fine job of estimating the density of migrant passage aloft. However, they do not present a clear or accurate picture of birds utilizing the site for rest as they stopover during migration. A concomitant ground level study – banding and/or point counts – is missing

here. We believe that important, as your goal was to determine bird activity at potential collision altitudes and not overflight at presumably safe distances. We have roughly compared the dates of most abundant activity as reported by ABR and Old Bird, Inc. with the ground truth banding data here and at Braddock Bay during Fall 2004. There is a low correlation, which is not surprising as radar and acoustic studies document bird passage whereas point counts and banding studies document birds at lower altitudes where they may feed and rest or escape bad weather. We think the latter more relevant to a potential of collision study. It is our experience that when acoustic studies show a high concentration of migrants in passage then only banding stations to the south or north (fall or spring) would document high numbers once the birds have descended to rest. We believe a combination of radar, acoustic, point count and banding would be more effective and we hope you modify the collection plan in the future.

Braddock Bay Fall 2004 large banding days were: 23 September; **5,9,11,12** and 13 October. All of these days saw the banding of over 200 birds with the 12th being the heaviest day.

KHAMO fall 2004 large banding days were: 14,28 and 29 August; **4,8,9,19,20,21,23,24,26,27,28,29,30** September; 1,**3,5,7,8,11 through 14,18,20, 23 through 28 October**. The heaviest days are in bold.

We are encouraged that you will continue data collection through post-construction studies that we believe are a reasonable mitigation requirement. Such studies should be financed by Ecogen but conducted by an independent organization reporting directly to the NYS DEC. Copies of results should be shared with Ecogen, SCIDA, KHAMO, Braddock Bay, Old Bird, Inc. and other interested parties.

The baseline type and frequency of such studies needs to be identified in the final EIS. We suggest the collection plan include daily banding and/or point count studies from at least early August to at least mid-October and be correlated with acoustic, weather and radar information.

While we concur with Mr. Evans that this presents a fine opportunity for study, we wish to remind everyone that this project as well as others rely heavily on "mitigation". **Mitigation does not equate to problem solution but rather to someone's decision to accept a certain level of mortality.**

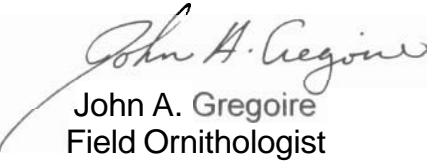
While mortality at an individual turbine, or even a particular wind farm or telecommunications site, may be low, the aggregate death of birds and bats increases each year from already staggering numbers. Further, the species greatly affected are some of those on the most tenuous ground for survival. Is

this or any other technology a convenience worth the eventual extinction of many species?

Recognizing the above, a reasonable mitigation requirement for this or any project known to kill birds and bats would be a mandatory donation per individual killed to an organization dedicated to habitat preservation and maintenance such as The Nature Conservancy. A penalty of \$100.00 per individual killed is not unreasonable.

Please retain us on distribution for project materials in hard copy.

Sincerely,



John A. Gregoire
Field Ornithologist