



TERESA L. DAVIS

LICENSED SITE EVALUATOR #203  
REGISTERED FORESTER #1094

72 FLOODS POND ROAD  
OTIS, ME 04605  
207-537-3432

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December 2, 2019

Jessica Damon, Project Manager  
Department of Environmental Protection  
106 Hogan Road  
Bangor, Maine 04401

[silvermaplewind.dep@maine.gov](mailto:silvermaplewind.dep@maine.gov)

Dear Jessica,

I am formally requesting that the Department of Environmental Protection hold a Public Hearing regarding the Silver Maple Wind Project application. My interest lies in the fact that I am a member of the public, live less than four miles south of the project, grew up in this area - as have my ancestors going back eight generations plus, and have loved and walked the hills of Hancock County more than most people. I am deeply concerned with what I consider to be inadequacies in the application for many reasons, some of which I list below. Many, many local people and users from far and near of the numerous scenic resources in the area, including Scenic Resources of State or National Significance, share my concerns.

- The visual impact statement is clearly insufficient in my view and the consulting firm, Strum Consulting, makes their purpose for preparing the report very clear in a cover letter to SWEB Development USA LLC dated September 19, 2019. I quote from that letter here, "The purpose of this assessment is to conduct a visual impact assessment consistent with the requirements of the State of Maine and the Town of Clifton to support SWEB's applications for the development of the Project". They have been paid to *support* SWEB's development project and their visual impact assessment is neither accurate nor thorough. As only one example, they do not address the existing character of the surrounding area at all.
- The cumulative scenic impact has not been considered in the visual impact assessment by Strum Consulting. The 55 existing industrial wind towers in Eastbrook and Township 16, MD in Hancock County share a view shed with the Silver Maple Wind Project. The Weaver Ridge Wind Project in Osborn has now been permitted and 22 new wind towers will soon be constructed in Osborn. Those 77 towering industrial structures have a huge impact on the scenic value over a vast area. Many of the Weaver Ridge proposed towers and some of the 55 existing towers are within 8 miles of Scenic Resources of State or National Significance (SRSNS) which are also listed in the Silver Maple Wind Project visual impact assessment. Many of the SRSNS are related to each other by common use, physical connection, and relationship in the landscape.

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- I believe the decommissioning component of the application is insufficient. Their projected life of the turbines is 25 to 50 years and there is no evidence that inflation was included as part of their cost estimates for decommissioning. The estimated capital costs in Section 29 of the application should be more detailed and more than a promise to pay the decommissioning costs should be required by the State of Maine.
- The north arrow on the Storm Water Management Plan Post-Development map is not oriented correctly. There is a brook on the southwest side of the southern end of Pisgah Mountain which flows directly into Floods Pond. Given the excellent nationally-renowned quality of the water in Floods Pond, which is a public water supply, the map should be oriented correctly and efforts to keep storm water out of the brook on the southwest side of Pisgah Mountain should be fully detailed. It would also be helpful to have the five existing wind towers on Pisgah Mountain included on this map, along with the five being applied for.
- It would be interesting to know whatever happened regarding the potential bat maternity roost tree located on Map 5 of 5 prepared by CES, Inc. for the Pre-Application Meeting.

Thank you for giving me, and any member of the public, the right to make this request for a Public Hearing. This proposed project will have a powerful impact on a broad region and the application should be of a higher caliber and have closer scrutiny.

Sincerely,



Teresa Davis