

**Kingsbury Plantation
Board of Assessors
Kingsbury Plantation, Maine**

Kingsbury Plantation Office
1069 Douty Hill Road
Sangerville, Maine 04479

May 20, 2013

John Silvestri, Hearing Officer \Deputy Commissioner
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

Via e-mail to john.silvestri@maine.gov;

Re: First Wind LLC/Blue Sky West LLC/Bingham Project

Dear Deputy Commissioner John Silvestri;

I am writing on behalf of the residents and landowners of Kingsbury Plantation that are opposed to the First Wind Bingham Project which proposes approximately 22 wind turbines on the north side of Kingsbury Plantation.

The small community of Kingsbury is one of the fastest growing communities if not the fastest in Maine. We have grown from 3 residents in 1980 to 27 in 2013. Our growth is attributed in most part to our remote rural setting. Our low density and acres of forest and wildlife provide a quality of life that is often meant by the term "Maine, the way life should be." There are no utilities available in Kingsbury. Perhaps the irony of this project is that we have no electricity except those with small personal generators, yet we are confronted with on the largest electrical wind generation project and if it is approved, we will still not have electrical service. There has been a consistent resistance to bring "power" into Kingsbury because of the perceived notion that it would bring more development to the already developing camp lots.

Our economy is dominated by the forest industry. Kingsbury is largely wooded with Kingsbury Pond being the largest waterbody on the west end. There are several smaller ponds on the north east side of the Plantation. With the exception of a few summer days when four wheelers are enjoying the north woods, the area is quiet. We have no school aged children and most of our inhabitants are well past retirement age. Many have owned property for years before moving here after their retirement to enjoy the closeness with nature.

The Assessors of Kingsbury have heard from some of our citizens and they are quite concerned with essentially two issues.

The first issue is one of aesthetics. Most of the camp owners and residents around Kingsbury Pond are concerned about the visual impact the towers will have on the enjoyment of their property. The Pond folks are not just impacted by the Kingsbury turbines. The turbines proposed for Mayfield, the township to our immediate west, are of a greater concern. The visual impacts of the Mayfield turbines outweigh the impact of the proposed turbines in Kingsbury. It is our understanding that the proposed towers are to be of the largest to date in the State of Maine being in excess of 500 feet in height. It is believed that from the top of Cowett Hill on the south side of Kingsbury Stream and about 2.5 miles east of the Kingsbury Pond all of the turbines in Kingsbury and most in Mayfield will be visible and the required FAA lighting will have a negative impact on the evening enjoyment of the night sky. This area has been a desirable location for avid amateur astronomers. A few decades ago (1940's & 1950's) a University of Maine professor set up his equipment to monitor a meteor from the top of Cowett Hill.

The second issue of concern is the long term low volume sound from the blades when turning. There are several that have expressed this concern and most are those on the north side of Rt. 16, the Alton Worcester Highway.

First Wind has been responsive to the Kingsbury inhabitants with offering public information meetings and a sizable Community Enhancement Agreement which the Plantation approved. However, it is the belief of the Kingsbury Assessors that the individual residents should be allowed an opportunity to express themselves to the Commissioner and the Board as this matter moves forward through the permitting process. Our Assessors are not qualified engineers or experts on wind generation projects but we are elected to serve our constituents and ensure that they have a fair and equitable opportunity to be heard.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard and we look forward to working with DEP, LUPC, and First Wind as we work our way through this process.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. Louis Sidell, Jr.
First Assessor, Kingsbury Plantation.