

Monday, August 09, 2010

Regarding PUC Docket 4185

Dear Commissioners,

My wife and I just arrived at our home on Block Island next to the South East Light and as the deadline for your decision approaches we wanted to drop you last minute notes from the beautiful bluffs of Block Island.

We know you have heard lots of testimony and obviously this letter is not testimony only a very late commentary. I'll keep it short.

In January 2009 DWW convinced the Town of New Shoreham Council to issue a permit for the unpermitted use of a radar station on the grounds of the Southeast Lighthouse property. DWW claimed and the Town concurred that it was an emergency of health and safety to put a NORAD like radar station on a National Landmark in the midst of 60 or 70 preserved acres. The purpose of this "avian" radar was to monitor bird traffic for at least 18 months, including two migrations to allow DWW a head start on permitting their nascent, critically timed enterprise.

The land where the radar station is sited is land preserved by the federal Government and the Nature Conservancy and individuals like myself and my wife and countless islanders and friends of Block Island. We meant to protect it for wildlife and critical habitats of wildlife and plants native to the island.

Harrier hawks have hunted and nested in these bluffs forever. I've personally witnessed them for over two decades. Many times a day they would catch the wind and hunt for mice and small birds through the swale heading down to the sea. Two years ago, before the radar was installed we had a nesting pair right in the swale. For an entire summer the parents taught their fledglings to fly and hunt and feed each other; get them ready for life on their own. This was a beautiful event. After the summer the young had left and the parents returned to hunt their territory.

Since the avian radar was installed the hawks are gone. They aren't nesting here and they aren't hunting here. They've been hunting here forever and now they're gone. My point is that the avian radar came and the hawks are gone. How can you count birds if you chase them away with the thing that's meant to count them?

There was no emergency of health and safety. DWW was granted this permit under convenient pretenses to benefit their enterprise. The new legislation calls for a power purchase agreement that is likely to provide environmental benefits, including the reduction of carbon emissions; not to the exclusion of other

environmental impacts. Those are not yet finally measured by the SAMP process.

Even if the turbines do reduce emissions and that is far from proven; like the radar that precedes them it is far more likely that they will have a negative impact on the environment of the island and the surrounding waters.

Commissioners, it is time. It is time in our country for people who have only their own interest at heart; who are for only having it go their way at the expense of all around them to be told and to keep being told that this will not stand. It is not the American Way to rewrite laws to please a few who can influence and persuade and cajole those in government who make our laws. Ours is a government for the people by the people not for the businesses and by the businesses. It is my belief that you already know that.

The wind machine farm is simply wrong, wrong minded, wrongly conceived and wrongly executed to put these wind machines in state waters anywhere in the USA; but especially in Rhode Island; where we have so little ocean to be the 'Ocean State'. Please protect our laws, our shores and our natural heritage and send these icons of greed out to sea where they belong.

Thank you

Michael Delia
Intervener Docket 4111
Land Owner Block Island, RI
Dedicated Conservationist