

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 8887

Petition of Dairy Air Wind, LLC for a certificate of)
public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, for the)
installation of a single turbine, 2.2 MW wind-)
powered electric generation facility located on the)
Dairy Air Farm in Holland, Vermont)

PREFILED TESTIMONY OF BRYAN DAVIS

Mr. Davis is a lifelong dairy farmer, property owner in Derby Line, Vermont, and Chair of the Derby School Board. Mr. Davis testifies in rebuttal to non-Petitioners' prefiled evidence on aesthetics, orderly development of the region, issues relating to the International Water Company facilities.

1 Q1. Please state your name and address for the record.

2 A1. My name is Bryan Davis, and my address is 1422 Herrick Road, Derby, Vermont.

3 Q2. What is your occupation?

4 A2. I am a dairy farmer, but I stopped producing milk last year after selling my
5 mature cows, and I'm now raising 65 heifers. I also have a small sugaring
6 operation with 4,500 taps.

7 Q3. How long have you lived in Derby/Derby Line?

8 A3. I was born and raised in the Northeast Kingdom. We moved from Newport to
9 Derby Line when I was four (4). My dad bought a farm in Derby Line in 1959 and
10 I bought the farm next door in 1978, and I have lived there ever since. My wife,
11 Susan, and I raised three children on our farm.

12 Q4. Please describe your public and community service.

13 A4. I have served on the Derby School Board for about 20 years and I currently serve
14 as chair. I was on the St. Albans Coop board for 22 years, I am past president of
15 the Orleans County Farm Bureau, and for the last 8 years I have served on the
16 Yankee Farm Credit board, a lending institution for agriculture. Before I stopped
17 producing milk for sale, I was chair of the New England Dairy Promotion board

1 and served on the board of Dairy Management, Inc., a national dairy promotion
2 organization. I am also an Eagle Scout.

3 Q5. How well do you know Holland, the neighboring community?

4 A5. Very well. As I said, I've lived in Derby Line since I was 4.

5 Q6. What is your experience with wind turbine projects?

6 A6. I've been interested in wind turbines since I was a child, and so was my dad.
7 When I was in middle school, my dad took me to visit a fellow in Holland who
8 had installed a small, two-blade wind turbine at his house. The turbine was
9 connected to a battery set in his basement and he ran the house off the electricity
10 produced by the turbine. Years later, in 2005, I was awarded a grant to install a
11 small Bergey wind turbine on my farm. The turbine performed better than the
12 other 21 installations in Vermont that were completed through the same grant
13 program administered by the Department of Public Service and led me to want a
14 larger one on my property. I've travelled to Syracuse, New York a lot and drive
15 by the wind farm across the lake in New York along 11B. I've stopped to watch
16 and listen to those turbines. In 2011/2012, I had an agreement with a developer
17 to install a 2.2 MW wind turbine on my farm. I was looking forward to hosting a
18 large wind turbine and watching it make power. The project was eventually
19 withdrawn from permitting by the developer.

1 Q7. What is your relationship to the host landowners of the Dairy Air Wind Project?

2 A7. I know Kim Champney from my work on the Derby School Board, and Brian is a
3 fellow farmer. Brian and I have done some cattle transactions and we've shared
4 equipment from time to time.

5 Q8. How has your relationship with Kim and Brian Champney affected your
6 testimony about the Dairy Air Wind Project?

7 A8. It hasn't affected me at all. I am testifying because I have information that the
8 Public Utility Commission might find helpful in making its decision.

9 Q9. What financial or other benefit will you personally derive from the Dairy Air
10 Wind Project by testifying or if it is approved?

11 A9. I will not benefit personally, and I am not being paid or compensated in any way
12 for providing testimony.

13 Q10. What is the distance between the Dairy Air Farm and your property?

14 A10. It's about 3 miles as the crow flies from my farm to the Dairy Air Farm. We have
15 a 360-degree view from our property and I can see the Dairy Air Farm from my
16 fields.

17 Q11. Please describe the views from your property.

1 A11. The views from my property are valleys and cropland, and we can see Jay Peak,
2 Owls Head, Lake Memphremagog, the Village of Derby Line, the Canadian town
3 of Stanstead, Rock Island, and the wind turbines in Lowell and Sheffield. The red
4 blinking lights on the cell towers across the Canadian border are also visible. The
5 views from our house are western and northern views.

6 Q12. What visual impact will a 499-foot tall wind turbine have on the area
7 surrounding the wind turbine?

8 A12. The wind turbine will be visible, but they are beautiful. I don't find the 499-foot
9 wind turbine to be shocking or offensive at all. I enjoy watching wind turbines
10 turn in the wind, and it wouldn't bother me a bit if there were wind turbines on
11 the ridgeline that I see when I look northwest from my property.

12 Q13. What do you know about noise from wind turbines?

13 A13. I know that my Bergey wind turbine made a loud whipping or flapping sound
14 that was louder than any sound I've heard coming from the wind farm in New
15 York. I also know that the sound standards applied to wind turbines are more
16 stringent than the sound levels that come from household equipment or even
17 sounds that come from vehicles.

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1 Q14. Have you experienced ice being thrown from a wind turbine?

2 A14. No, I have not. I did not experience that with my Bergey and I have never seen
3 ice being dropped or thrown from the wind farm I've been by numerous times in
4 New York.

5 Q15. How will the wind turbine impact dairy cows?

6 A15. The wind turbine won't bother cows at Brian's farm or others. The cows will be
7 fine.

8 Q16. How familiar are you with the International Water Company facilities in Holland
9 and Derby Line?

10 A16. I am very familiar because the back-up water line from Holland Pond goes across
11 both my farm and my dad's farm, and one of the reservoirs is located on my
12 property. The water line is visible in two spots on my dad's farm. My property
13 hosts two manholes that are used to access and turn valves. I've been farming
14 over the water line since I bought the farm.

15 Q17. How has the water line been affected by farming equipment driving over it?

16 A17. The water line has had decades of heavy farming equipment, including large
17 tractors and manure spreaders, driving over it without causing breaks or leaks.

1 Q18. How is the water line from Holland Pond used by the International Water
2 Company?

3 A18. The water line through Holland is connected to an old uncapped reservoir that is
4 used as backup if the newer, capped reservoir is out of service. The capped
5 reservoir was put in about 15 years ago in order to meet water quality standards
6 and it is supplied by wells located in Stanstead, Quebec. The old uncapped
7 reservoir and water line are used only if the capped reservoir isn't working.

8 Q19. What do you recommend that the Public Utility Commission do in this case?

9 A19. I think the Commission should allow the wind turbine to be built. It will not
10 cause the adverse impacts claimed by some people and will be a benefit to
11 Holland and Vermont.

12 Q20. Does this conclude your testimony?

13 A20. Yes, thank you.