

FEB 16 17 PM 02  
VT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

**STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Docket No. 8816

Petition of Swanton Wind LLC for a certificate of public )  
good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, for the construction )  
of an up to 20 MW wind-powered electric generation )  
plant powered by up to 7 wind turbines located along )  
Rocky Ridge in Swanton, Vermont )

**AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN E. WILLEY**

NOW COMES John E Willey, and on oath does depose and swear as follows:

1. My name is John E Willey. I am 57 years old.
2. I live at 4 Red Barn Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452. Having been friends of the Dubie family since early childhood, I have had the privilege of spending a great amount of time enjoying the woods and waters of Fairfield Pond.
3. I am a member of Vermonters for a Clean Environment and support VCE's mission. Having personally invested a significant amount of resource into a solar project at my residence, I fully support renewable energy projects that make sense and protect our environment.
4. A close relative spent much of his professional life in the industrial wind industry, so I took an interest in the Swanton Wind project and have followed the issue since it became more public. I am aware that Swanton Wind has applied to the Vermont Public Service Board for a Certificate of Public Good to build seven industrial wind turbines on Rocky Ridge in Swanton.
5. My position at Vermont Systems has required much travel, and has taken me to all 50 states. I have seen some tremendous wind projects as a result. I marvel at the miles and miles of wind towers in the Palm Springs area of California. I know that while many folks feel

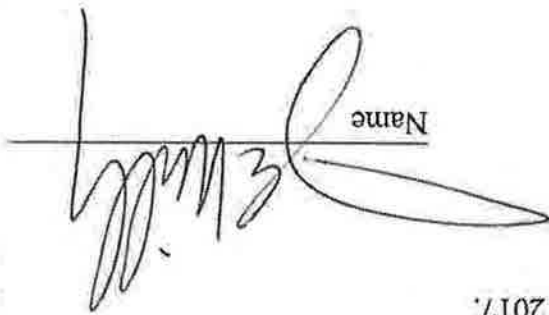
they are ugly, many feel it is a beautiful site. That is a matter of opinion. For the most part, the towers of Palm Springs are placed on the desert floor, with very little impact to the environment or to people, as almost nobody lives within range of these towers. I would consider this a "responsible renewable project." The destructive impact this project would have to Rocky Ridge, it's wetlands which feed Fairfield Pond, and eventually Lake Champlain is undeniable. It makes no sense to me to cause such destruction with so little return of "renewable energy." The damage of this project will be real, to both the natural beauty of our state and to the economy.

6. Vermont Systems depends on an economy that will keep skilled, energetic people here in our state. We find it is more and more difficult to find employees as many are leaving for better opportunities elsewhere. In talking with our new hires, it is the unique beauty of Vermont that keeps them here. If projects like the Swanton Wind Project continue to be approved, it will remove this tremendous "magnet" that keeps people here and attracts others to come.

7. While I spent many days of my youth swimming in Fairfield Pond and hiking the woods surrounding it, it wasn't until I returned to Vermont from 8 years active duty with the Army, that I truly appreciated what we have here. I have been so lucky to spend every deer camp season, and much time during sugaring season enjoying the woods around Fairfield Pond. I spent time in Germany, Kentucky, Virginia, Louisiana, Colorado and California. While those places have many redeeming qualities, there is nothing quite like the peace and beauty of our state, and specifically Fairfield Pond and Rocky Ridge. If this wind project is implemented, people will say "it's just like New York". We cannot afford to be "like" any other place.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I love Vermont and our way of life.

DATED this 14th day of February, 2017.

  
Name

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 14<sup>th</sup> day of Feb., 2017.

Maria Ruthmann  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: 2/10/19