

Lent/Pine Hill SDEIS, UPC Phase I, by James Hall

Cohocton Planning Board Public Hearing -E January 19, 2007

No response was provided by the Cohocton Planning Board to the DEIS opposition documents for UPC Phase I. This project has been fundamentally changed from 82 MW and increased to 90 MW with the switch to 2.5 MW Clipper turbines from the 2.0 MW units. With different site locations from that in the DEIS it is evident that Phase I has become a different project. The data and studies in the SDEIS are incomplete and its conclusions are specious. Since the Clipper units are only in a testing stage, no reliable data regarding the noise, ice throw, shadow flicker are available. It would be malfeasance to approve a project the size of this UPC project using never before installed experimental industrial turbines.

The acknowledgement in the SDEIS Appendage G page i that a potential of 61 turbine sites and two substations locations were evaluated, proves that Phase I is a moving target and that it has become a totally different development. Manufacturers safety specifications for adequate protective setbacks from public roads are being disregarded. The liability insurance implication from willfully ignoring these setbacks will endanger the financial integrity of the Town of Cohocton.

The SDEIS does not address or mitigate these basic threats that come directly from an ill-conceived industrial project. UPC has a service contract with the manufacturer for servicing these units, so the promise of local employment is nothing but a hoax. UPC's refusal to provide wind data that proves that Cohocton has sufficient wind to make their project economically sound is the most telling evidence that this development is a fraud.

The visual impact map in the SDEIS has been increased to 10 miles, but no mentioned that the 420' towers will be seen from distances as far as forty miles away. Add the Dutch Hill Phase II along with the Prattsburgh UPC and Ecogen projects, and you will have as many as 229 turbines. Tug Hill has 160 1.5 MW units. So what you have in Cohocton/Prattsburgh regional development a single massive and coordinated project much larger than Tug Hill. Maple Ridge is rated for 240 MW, but the wind farm produced a paltry 0-30 MW, or 0-12.5% of capacity.

Since that development is already up for sale, only a fool would believe that UPC is here for the long haul. Without a cash escrow decommission fund, the leaseholders and the Town of Cohocton will bear the brunt of the costs when reality sinks in that the wind project is a failure.

The SDEIS is still relying on generic studies and seldom is site specific. How can conclusions of no harm be accepted when the turbines for this UPC project are untested and the results are unknown? Is this the kind of unstable future you want for this town? Reject the entire UPC industrialization of Cohocton.

Dutch Hill DEIS, UPC Phase II, by James Hall

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Dutch Hill UPC Phase II project is an integrated development that relies on the same proposed 25,000 industrial maintenance and office buildings. The facade that it is a separate stand alone and distinct project is not credible. This DEIS report attempts to look at aspects in the Phase I project not from the context of mitigating segmentation but from the admission that both developments share many of the same support facilities. The lumping of public hearings for both projects in the same meeting clearly links the need for approving both Phase I and Phase II so that construction could start at the same time. If these were really two different and distinct developments, why are both being planned for a coordinated construction at the same time?

Since UPC has ordered 52 Clipper 2.5 MW turbines, slated for Cohocton, in the same purchase order contract, it is clear that the intent is to build both Phase I and Phase II simultaneously. This fact violates the purpose of SEQR and perpetuates a fraud that Dutch Hill is a separate project.

The siting for Dutch Hill turbines will grossly impact the motorist traveling on I 390. The hypnotic effect from blade strobing presents a severe public safety hazard. Set backs are totally inadequate from this major trucking route.

The limited one-way access onto Dutch Hill prevents emergency vehicles from acceptable fire protection entry. The visual affront of industrial turbines negatively impacts the Towns of Wayland and Naples that do not allow such projects. The cumulative overkill of Phase I and II taken together alongside the 53 UPC Prattsburgh and the 99 Ecogen Prattsburgh turbines, creates the largest wind industrial complex east of the Mississippi River.

The proposed Clipper 2.5 MW turbines for Dutch Hill will not be constructed until December of 2008 and have never been used and certified for a wind project. This glaring failure of empirical evidence on the actual real world performance of this industrial turbine needs to be available BEFORE these units should be approved for the Dutch Hill project.

Manufactures set back standards for much small units are greater than the proposed distances for the Clipper 2.5 MW turbines in the Dutch Hill project. The DEIS set backs from all public roads need to be dramatically increased to provide protection from ice throw danger. The public health and safety is consistently ignored in the Dutch Hill DEIS as in the low frequency noise hazard, which is totally unprotected in the proposal.