

The Maine Problem

UPC Wind's industrial wind power project on Mars Hill in Maine, just completed this winter, has caused a lot of local stir, primarily because of the noise it makes. Residents who live within half a mile of the project began **complaining of disturbing thumping noises** as soon as the turbines were activated. Since then, UPC has done a lot of public relations "damage control" and **commissioned its own noise study** to evaluate the situation. The results are now public.

Did UPC's noise study find and correct the problem?

- No. According to UPC's new numbers, there really isn't a problem. Their project meets the noise criteria they said it would. Period.
- Why is there still a problem? The answer can be found by comparing the noise study done for Cohocton with the new one done in Maine.
- Both studies have fraudulently defective assessments of ambient noise obtained by using improper wind screens on their microphones which give baseline noise levels that are 5-10 dBA high. The resulting levels of "allowable noise" are therefore 5-10 dBA too high as well.
- Both studies assume that turbine noise will be masked by ambient noise but overlook the fact that naturally-occurring ambient noise does not have the deep low "thumping" sounds that turbines generate.
- Both studies estimate noise propagation and masking based on the average noise turbines generate at all frequencies (106 dBA) not their much higher dBA output at lower frequencies (120 dBA).
- Microphones used to monitor noise compliance don't measure accurately down into the thumping frequencies below 100 Hz.

So the result is troublesome noise that UPC can deny. What else can you expect from a developer whose bottom line is making money? Costly corporate honesty? **It's time to wake up and smell the coffee** before it's too late and we're all stuck with noise that won't go away.

Visit us at www.cohoctonfree.com, check out our "Updates" section for more background information and links about this topic (and many others), and then **let our Town leaders know what you think**.

