

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Docket No. 7156

Petition of UPC Vermont Wind, LLC for a Certificate of)
Public Good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. section 248,)
authorizing it to construct up to a 52 MW wind electric)
generation facility, and associated transmission and)
interconnection facilities, in Sheffield and Sutton, Vermont,))
and operate the same.)

**PREFILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF
JENNIFER JILL MATHERS**

ON BEHALF OF UPC VERMONT WIND, LLC

September 25, 2006

Summary:

Ms. Mathers offers her opinion as a local resident on UPC Vermont Wind, LLC's proposed project. She is in support of the wind project.

1 **Q. What is your name and address?**

2 Response. My name is Jennifer Jill Mathers. My husband and I live in Newark,
3 Vermont.

4

5 **Q. Are you or any member of your immediate family employed by UPC?**

6 Response. No.

7

8 **Q. Do you or any member of your immediate family have a financial interest in UPC?**

9 Response. No.

10

11 **Q. How long have you lived in Newark?**

12 Response. I moved to Lyndonville in 1983 to attend Lyndon State College, and stayed in
13 Vermont to live since then. I lived in East Burke from 1984 until July of 2000, when my
14 husband and I built our home in Newark.

15

16 **Q. What outdoor activities do you enjoy in the area where the UPC wind turbines
17 would be located?**

18 Response. We recreate in the area often. My family swims and kayaks at Lake
19 Willoughby, Island Pond, Crystal Lake and the many ponds in Newark. We ski at Burke
20 Mountain. We have friends who we visit on Darling Ridge, and we drive along Darling
21 Ridge Road to enjoy the views, go to the Children's Theatre, or check out the farm stand.

22

1 **Q. Expert witnesses for the Town of Sutton, and Universal Health Service, Inc., UHS of**
2 **Sutton, Inc., and Ridge Protectors, Inc. variously testified that the turbines will be**
3 **“freakish giants in the landscape” (Brown p. 10, line 11), and will shock and offend the**
4 **average person, because they will be out of character with their surroundings, and**
5 **significantly diminish the scenic qualities of the area (Brown p. 8, lines 16-18; Dodson p. 15,**
6 **lines 16-22; Jewell p. 26, lines 4-8). Do you agree?**

7 Response. Not only would I not mind seeing wind turbines in the area, I believe they
8 would enhance the area by showing strong support for renewable, alternative energy not
9 just by words, but by action. I believe they would be a visual benefit and a recreational
10 draw.

11 I would like to share my firsthand experience of how the presence of wind towers
12 does not diminish recreation. In 1999, prior to wind towers even being an issue in the
13 Northeast Kingdom, I took a trip to Lake Arenal, Costa Rica. The purpose of this trip
14 was 100% recreational. I went primarily to enjoy the windsurfing, and ended up visiting
15 the cloud forest and touring the area. Highly visible from the sailing site are over 30
16 wind towers. They were so stunningly beautiful to me in the sunset that, when I got
17 home and went through my photographs, one of the pictures I enlarged, framed, and hung
18 on my wall was a photo of the wind towers in the sunset. This was an unbiased and true
19 reflection of my reaction to seeing wind towers operating for the first time.

20 I visited Costa Rica four more times after that, two of those times back to Lake
21 Arenal. The presence of wind towers obviously did not inhibit or prevent me from
22 returning to an area to recreate. It is my opinion, based upon my personal experience,
23 that people will not stop coming to Burke Mountain or Crystal Lake because they can see

1 wind towers. They come to ski and boat, and they will still do that, perhaps with the
2 peace of mind that this area is taking action to better the environment by using renewable
3 resources.

4
5 **Q. Do you have any additional thoughts about the proposed project?**

6 Response. The one time I brought my husband with me to Costa Rica, his one request
7 was that we go see the wind towers up close. He was intrigued. So we did. We were
8 able to have a regular conversation directly underneath the wind towers. We did not
9 notice any appreciable hum or noise from the wind towers that was more than an
10 electrical appliance running in our home. I am surprised now that noise from a wind
11 tower is even an issue here in the NEK, as the wind towers I saw were not noisy at all.

12 I have heard the argument that people should use small personal wind towers as
13 opposed to relying on industrial wind. Well, I am looking into that, but even a
14 preliminary look shows that the current regulations do not make small wind economically
15 beneficial for residential purposes (that are tied into the grid). This is another reason why
16 I support industrial wind.

17
18 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony at this time?**

19 Response. Yes it does.