

**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  
SALLY WOOD-SIMONS**

**ON BEHALF OF UPC VERMONT WIND, LLC**

September 25, 2006

Summary:

Ms. Simons 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 Sally Wood-Simons. I live at 553 Mosher Rd., Sheffield, VT.

3

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

5 Response. No.

6

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

8 **UPC?**

9 Response. No.

10

11 **Q. How long have you been living in Sheffield?**

12 Response. My husband and I have lived at this location for 19 years. Prior to that,  
13 for ten years, we lived in the village of Sheffield.

14

15 **Q. Where is your property in relation to the wind project, and will you be able to**  
16 **see the project from your home?**

17 Response. Our home is at the top of an open field that is a pasture for the horses I  
18 breed and raise. Our view is of the White Mountains of New Hampshire. On a  
19 clear day, we have a view over at least five ridgelines.

20

21 We also own land across the road from our home place that is both open and

22

south and west. Again, the view includes ridgelines.

1           In addition, I own property about one mile north of our home place on the  
2 Nelson Hill Road. This property also is used to raise and maintain horses. The land  
3 is open and near the top of a hill, so that we have beautiful views, including  
4 ridgelines, from the barn in every direction.

5           These three properties are located approximately two to three miles south, as  
6 the crow flies, from the proposed location of the turbines. We would not be able to  
7 see the turbines from our home, but we would have a clear view of the turbines to  
8 the north from our other properties.

9

10 **Q.    What outdoor activities do you enjoy on your property?**

11       Response. We exercise our dogs and horses on the properties and in the area. We  
12 also teach our horses to accept the many distractions they must encounter, including,  
13 among other things, cars, trucks, farm equipment, snow machines and all-terrain  
14 vehicles. We also enjoy looking for and identifying birds, animals and other wildlife  
15 that can be found in the area. We take pleasure in driving the area's back roads to  
16 sightsee. In general, we enjoy the quiet peacefulness that our rural location affords,  
17 and we would welcome the addition of wind turbines into this peacefulness.

18

19 **Q.    Will you be able to see the turbines from roads that you routinely travel on**  
20 **or from other public places in the area that you frequent?**

21       Response. We would be able to see the turbines from many of the roads we  
22 routinely travel, including, among others, Vermont Route 122, Berry Hill Road,

1 Nelson Hill Road and Town Farm Road. Viewing the turbines above the treetops or  
2 over the ridgelines would not affect our appreciation of the landscapes.

3

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

10 **Do you agree?**

11 Response. The addition of wind turbines to our view would not destroy the  
12 ridgelines, but would provide an added feature. They would be a welcome sight in  
13 that they enhance the peacefulness of the area, and I would know that we are helping  
14 to provide a clean, renewable source for our energy needs.

15 The visual impacts of seeing wind turbines over a few ridgelines would in no  
16 way be a problem for me in that my views will not be diminished—the ridgelines are  
17 not going anywhere. I have seen turbines in other locations and find them beautiful,  
18 and they give me an increased sense of appreciation for the resourcefulness of  
19 humans. In addition, the turning of the blades on the turbines is very quieting and  
20 restful for me. I much prefer to look at wind turbines over ridgelines than to see the  
21 slashes made on mountains to facilitate winter recreation, or the cleared areas  
22 required to run overhead transmission lines.

23

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

2 Response. I do not believe the wind turbines in Sheffield would present any of the  
3 problems cited by detractors so far. From what I have learned and seen, the turbines  
4 are relatively quiet, so noise is not a factor. Sale prices for real property may or may  
5 not be affected. The location of the property in relation to the turbines may make a  
6 property more attractive to some, less attractive to others.

7 I do not believe that the turning of the blades will scare animals—wild or  
8 domestic. I have seen pictures of wildlife browsing quietly beneath wind turbines.  
9 My horses will get used to the turning blades more easily than they become  
10 accustomed to fast-moving, loud, toxic-smelling machines that travel the roads, or  
11 airplanes flying overhead, or thunderstorms. The flashing lights on the turbines will  
12 become just more points of light in the night sky—no more, no less.

13 I support wind turbines functioning in our town and in the area for a number  
14 of reasons. The demand now and in the future for additional electricity is a fact.  
15 Wind turbines are a clean, renewable, environmentally friendly source of electricity  
16 that, along with other similar sources, will help reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.  
17 Furthermore, the landowners on whose property the turbines will be placed have  
18 agreed to and support the construction of the towers on their properties. The  
19 project will provide the Town of Sheffield and the State of Vermont with an income  
20 source for years to come that will benefit both the taxpayers of Sheffield and public  
21 school children in Vermont in a variety of ways.

1                   I cannot see any reason, other than the attitude of some that do not wish to  
2                   see any improvements or alterations made to the landscape in theirs or their  
3                   neighbors' backyards, not to go forward with this project.

4

5   **Q.   Does this conclude your testimony at this time?**

6   Response. Yes it does.