

Hilltown Community Wind Power Focus Group Meeting
January 22, 2006
Huyck Preserve, Rensselaerville, NY

Comments made re: analysis of potential sites

Western Knox site

Open – no tree removal required?

Knox Cave/Craven Road – plateau, might be worth looking at... coordinates?

South-central Knox site

Open- no tree removal required?

Eastern Knox site

Tree removal?

Indiana bat hibernacula

Thatcher Park – nearby

Visibility vs. pre existing radio towers

Western Berne site

State Forest area present

Tax maps – plot size

Central Berne site

State land present - Cole Hill

Eastern Berne site

Radio towers – power feeds above/below ground

Construction issues re: footing/foundations – rock

Microwave path – Doppler, proximity to radio towers – construction issues

Established right-of-way for power re: existing radio towers

Active hawk migration site

Proximity to Thatcher Park

East Berne/ New Scotland site

Trees?

Berne-Rensselaerville site

Near Triangle Lake and Crystal lake – housing distribution

High Point Road – elevation... in beam of NEXRAD

Rensselaerville- Westerlo site

Private air strip on site (in middle)

General comments re: the process of site selection

- Tree removal on ridge lines/escarpments – questionable... clear approximately 3 acres for turbine assembly
- Building on State land?
- Radio communication impacts?
- Trees on site – effective ground level raised w/ trees
- Tree removal not necessarily an issue if not readily seen
- Noise? An issue needs to be addressed... is it an issue?
- Reverberation through bed rock?
- Doppler Tower – were there studies done?
- Approach governing bodies (ZBA, Planning Boards) – are they willing to go along?
- Disadvantage – wind farms not found in local ordinances
- Wind farms considered industrial?
- Get public involved leads to acceptance?
- Post site analysis report on web site
- Deal with the number of people that you have at meetings more important
- Get an Enterprise reporter to come to meeting (next site meeting)
- Participants at meeting concerned they do not have enough information to evaluate sites
- How many turbines – an issue re: public assessment – dealing with multiple land owners
- Jobs – economics impacted positively

General Discussion

- Legal entity
- 2 parallel courses – technology and political
 - Need permissible law
 - Ideal choice: Albany Co. Power Authority (working on – S. Gordon)
 - Another option: Green Island Power Authority (or something akin to) – partnering with such an entity
- Can specific locations be identified within the nine sites described?
- Upfront: advantages clear – revenue gain to Town – not decreased power bills for individuals
- Green Island benefits: offering incoming businesses 2 cents/kw
- Green Island benefits – per the individual homeowner – worth explaining
- Crude economics model needed re: Fenner – estimate impacts on the community
- More conversational information required by participants

Criteria for evaluation of sites

- meters/second (wind speed relative to elevation)
- open parcel

- visibility
- large lots
- access to grid/ roads
- plateau area/ridges

Next Meeting

Date: 2-12-06

Location: TBA – Berne or Knox?