

Comment Form
Silver Maple Wind Project

Though not opposed to wind power in general, I want to go on record as being opposed to the Silver Maple Wind Project proposed for Pisgah Mountain located off Route 180 in Clifton, Maine, and to urge the Department of Environmental Protection to deny the permit. If permitted, Silver Maple will build **five additional industrial wind turbines on Pisgah Mountain. The turbines will be 567' to 607' tall (about 100' taller than the existing ones). For comparison, a 45-story building is approximately 550' tall, the observation tower at Penobscot Narrows is 420', and the Statue of Liberty is 305'.**

The beauty of this area was noted in Planning Report No. 90, prepared for the Maine Critical Areas Program titled *Maine's Finest Lakes: The Results of the Maine Lakes Study*. The report notes three areas in the organized townships that contain especially scenic lakes – the Moosehead Lake area, Mount Desert Island's lakes, **and this third area around Pisgah Mountain.** This exemplary scenic area includes neighboring towns of Otis, Eddington, Mariaville, Amherst, Dedham, and Holden, and is beloved by many recreational users, visitors and landowners. The scenic area so rich in natural resources includes two municipal water supplies: Hatcase Pond, approximately three miles from the proposed site, provides water for Brewer and Floods Pond, which is only 1.4 miles from the project, supplies Bangor. Silver Maple is partially within, or very close to, the watershed of Floods Pond which has a larger tributary brook at the western edge of the project site.

The Silver Maple project will have **multiple negative impacts**, not only in Clifton, but also in neighboring towns and ponds, including destruction and degradation of scenic beauty and natural eco-systems, reduction of property values, increased noise levels, lower quality of life, loss of dark skies, and killing of birds and bats. Silver Maple will do nothing to enhance our state brand: "Maine: The Way Life Should Be".

1. Check the statement(s) you agree with:

- Wind projects should not be sited and/or expanded in the exemplary scenic environment of Pisgah Mountain.
- Five additional wind towers on Pisgah Mountain will negatively impact scenic resources of local and state significance, and further detract from my enjoyment of the surrounding area.
- I will see or hear (even within permitted sound levels) the towers from my home, and I find that distressing.
- I believe studies that show proximity to wind towers lowers property values.
- I believe that the unnatural noise levels in this rural, scenic setting present far reaching health hazards to humans and wildlife.
- I believe that the Silver Maple developers have not taken adequate steps to protect bats and birds.

- 2. Circle one or more:** Own land Live Work Visit Hike Enjoy scenic beauty with no visual pollution
 Rock climb Fish Swim Boat Bird Watch Use public landings
 Stargaze Hunt Camp Other: _____

- 3. Circle the scenic feature(s) you enjoy:** Burnt Pond - Floods Pond - Hatcase Pond Hopkins Pond Mountainy Pond
 Holbrook Pond - Second Pond - Graham Lake - Green Lake - the West Branch of the Union River Eagles Bluff
Parks Pond Bluff Peaked Mountain (locally Big Chick) Little Peaked Mountain (locally Little Chick Hill)

Additional comments: (write additional comments on back)
See attached, Disposal of windmill blades is a problem. I don't support projects of this scale. I believe distributed, smaller scale projects that supply energy needs locally are more efficient and have a smaller environmental impact.

4. Mail or email Comments

To:
 Jessica Damon, Project Manager
 Department of Environmental Protection
 106 Hogan Road
 Bangor, Maine 04401
SilverMapleWind.DEP@maine.gov

From:
 Name: Mary Ann McGarry
 Address: 6 Batchelder St.
 City, State, Zip: Plymouth, N.H. 03264
 Email address: mmcgarry@plymouth.edu

For more information go to the Facebook page "Stop Silver Maple Wind Energy Project in Clifton, Maine", or contact Teresa Davis 207-537-3432. or email at TT.D7246@gmail.com.

Steve Kahl and I co-own a camp/cabin on Hopkins Pond, since 2000.

- Save post
- Delete
- Turn off translations
- View edit history
- Edit post
- Turn off notifications for this post
- Embed



Mary Ann McGarry Stop Silver Maple wind energy project in Clifton, Maine

14 mins ·

I am sending in the comment form for the Silver Maple Wind Energy Project in Clifton, Maine to Jessica Daimon at DEP. I will attach a copy of the posts I made, below:

#2 Related to my post below on this site, about why I am opposed to the Silver Maple wind energy project in Clifton, Maine, is my commitment to promoting, small scale, distributed, modular, flexible energy systems that are CLOSE to the load they serve, and are generally only 10 megawatts in size. In contrast, conventional, large scale, centralized power stations require electric energy be transmitted over long distances; there is some inefficiency in this. I think the former systems have a better chance at lowering environmental impacts while still securing a supply of energy, of course batteries are required for storing energy to deal with the intermittency This may may seem more complicated, but this is because these "systems" involve different, more novel kinds of components and shapes.

See the photo of the Nordicgrizzly.com residential home wind turbine generator for sale for ~\$1000. This is just one example.

#1 I am opposed to the Silver Maple wind energy project in Maine. I am a professor of environmental science and policy at Plymouth State University and have a camp on Hopkins Pond (where we happen to have solar panels since 2005 I believe, and are connected to the grid).

My major concern with the proposed wind project is regarding the disposal of the blades. There is growing recognition/concern about figuring out how to recycle the blades; they are piling up in landfills. We need to factor in the total life cycle costs of any energy source- mining materials, manufacturing and transporting components to the site, operation side effects, and disposal. We need to weigh these costs with the savings of the energy produced.

Check out the article below by Chris Martin, February 5, 2020. The mission of Bloomberg is to connect decision makers to "a dynamic network of information, people and ideas."

I believe in decentralized, smart grid systems, where consumers have a roll in determining how energy is produced and delivered. This responsibility is essential for creating consumers who understand environmental impacts. What I share on this site is material I am preparing to present as a case study in my environmental policy class.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/.../wind-turbine-blades-can-t-be-re...?>



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