

**Responses to Comments and Questions Raised At
Public Hearing
For the Town Board of The Town of Villenova
Ball Hill Wind Energy Project
Hamlet Methodist Church, June 26, 2018**

Number	Page	Commenter	Comment	Response
1	13	Patty Bryant	<i>We had a week to read the Application prior to the Hearing. I hope we will have 10 days afterward to write the Board letters.</i>	As of this writing, the 2018 Villenova Application has been posted to www.ballhillwind.com for three (3) weeks, and the 2018 Hanover Application has been posted for two (2) weeks.
2	16		<i>Undergrounding the electrical interconnection line is an improvement.</i>	This appears to be the consensus view on this issue.
3	17		<i>The (proposed) modifications would be a colossal ruination of our rural...agricultural township.</i>	The visual aspect of the proposed modifications is marginally different from the 2016 permitted turbines.
4	17		<i>This is a huge cumulative visual impact from the Ball Hill, Arkwright and Cassadaga Wind projects.</i>	The cumulative visual impacts are assessed in Appendix E to the Application.
5	19	John Galley	<i>If the taller turbines) are economically better, what is the increase in the economic benefit to the company and to the town?</i>	The taller turbines will increase the economic competitiveness of the project, and its likelihood of success in bringing benefits to all parties. In addition, increased energy production from the turbines translates into higher Wind Energy Lease royalty payments.
6	29	Fred Bretl	<i>I think the Town should complete another state environmental quality review....</i>	The Town of Villenova, as Lead Agency, is currently conducting such a review.
7			<i>What are the impacts on infrasound, which you do not hear.</i>	The results of Epsilon Associates, Inc. research indicate that there is no audible infrasound either outside or inside homes at 1,000 feet from a wind turbine. The wind turbine sound levels meet the ANSI standard for low frequency noise in bedrooms, classrooms, and hospitals, meet the ANSI standard for thresholds of annoyance from low frequency

				<p>noise, and there should be no window rattles or perceptible airborne induced vibration of light-weight walls or ceilings within homes. In homes there may be slightly audible low frequency noise beginning at around 50 Hz (depending on other sources of low frequency noise); however, the levels are below criteria and recommendations for low frequency noise within homes. [1] Low frequency noise and infrasound from wind turbines, R. O’Neal et al, Noise Control Engineering J., 59(2), 2011.</p> <p>As noted in the 2011 NARUC report, “the widespread belief that wind turbines produce elevated or even harmful levels of low frequency and infrasonic sound is utterly untrue as proven repeatedly and independently by numerous investigators.” 2 Assessing Sound Emissions from Proposed Wind Farms & Measuring the Performance of Completed Projects, NARUC, prepared by Hessler Associates, Inc., October 2011.</p> <p>The Vestas V136/3.45 wind turbine proposed for this site would exhibit sound levels consistent with these studies.</p>
8			<p><i>What about the greater reaches of shadow flicker?</i></p>	<p>Shadow flicker has been assessed as part of the revised Visual Impacts Assessment, Appendix E. The proposed turbine would increase the number of residences that experience maximum theoretical shadow flicker of 10-20 hours per year by 3, and 40+ hours per year by 23. Eleven (11) of these latter are project participants. At 215 of the houses affected, there would be a reduction or no change in occurrence of shadow flicker.</p>

9			<i>What about the more massive cement foundations?</i>	The values associated with the larger foundations are included in the FEAF at Appendix C and are not expected to create any adverse impacts.
10			<i>What about the greater amounts of hydraulic and brake fluids in the soil?</i>	The V136/3.45 has the same fluid type and quantity as the V126/3.45, and it will be stored and handled in accordance with industry best environmental practices.
11			<i>What about the mitigation plans (for birds and bats)?</i>	As described in the FEAF, Part F. Additional Information, the new proposed turbine is expected to have the same range of impacts on avian species as the permitted turbine. A mitigation plan that will yield a net benefit to bat populations is in discussion with NYSDEC.
12			<i>What about the impact on agriculture...?</i>	No adverse impact to agriculture is expected because of the proposed modifications. Tree clearing, and wetlands impacts will decrease as compared to the permitted plan.
13			<i>What about the impact on tourism?</i>	We are not aware of any negative impact on tourism because of the proposed modifications.
14			<i>What about the devaluation of our properties?</i>	The proposed modifications are not expected to have any impact on property values.
15			<i>And what about possible adverse health effects?</i>	The proposed modifications are not expected to have any adverse health effects.
16	31	Joni Riggle	<i>Has RES offered increased host, PILOT and decommissioning payments for the increased economic loss and problems that will result?</i>	We are not aware of any “increased economic loss and problems that will result” from the proposed modifications. No increases in Host Community or PILOT payments have been offered. The Host Community Agreement provides that the secured Decommissioning cost will be recalculated every 5 years (HCA §11.6 (d)).
17	32		<i>A thousand to twelve hundred feet setbacks are grossly inadequate and irresponsible for siting these industrial monstrosities.</i>	The closest residence to any proposed turbine location is 1190 feet. All other residences are 1200 feet or more away from any turbine location. No basis has been offered for any inadequacy in these

				setbacks. All turbines will comply with applicable noise standards, and all are at least twice the total height away from residences.
18			[Question about low frequency sound.]	Please see response to Comment 7, above.
19	36	Angelo Graziano	<i>...The next one is going to be eight hundred (feet), the next one is going to go higher.</i>	The maximum total height proposed at Ball Hill is 599 feet. The height of turbines installed at Arkwright is 492 feet. The Cassadaga turbines are proposed to be 500 feet maximum.
20	44	Richard Kraft	<i>Is the compensation to municipalities going to go up too?</i>	Please see response to Comment 5, above.
21			(Will road damage caused by project construction be repaired?)	The Host Community Agreement requires a pre-construction road condition survey by an independent expert engineer, as well as a post-construction inspection, and that the project constructor repair all affected roads to at least their pre-construction condition.
22	49	Tony Clugston	<i>I have 55 solar panels, and when you go up higher, it's going to hit, do I get reimbursed for that dime?</i>	The project will assess any damages that the turbines may cause to Mr. Clugston's solar panels and discuss any compensation that may be appropriate.
23	52	Audrey Giambrone	(Questions about tree clearing.)	The proposed modifications will <u>reduce</u> ground disturbance, including tree clearing, by more than 10 acres.
24	58	Dick Ivory	(Comment regarding impact of project HCA and PILOT payments on taxes.)	Mr. Spitzer clarified that the use of funds the Town receives from the project is determined by the Town Board.
25	62		<i>Do you mind telling me how much the fed and the state are subsidizing this project in order to get it off the ground?</i>	The Federal wind energy production tax credit is \$0.019 / kwh, stepping down for projects commencing construction after 2016. The project has a contract to supply renewable energy credits to NYSERDA, in an amount that was determined by competitive auction and is confidential. While Federal and State project benefits are paid for by all Federal taxpayers and State ratepayers, the economic

				benefits of the project are enjoyed only by local taxpayers and Town residents.
26	64	Theresa Bretl	<i>Am I concerned about my property value? You bet I am.</i>	The Property Value report conducted for the project to support its 2016 permits concluded that it would not have a negative impact on local property values. The expert who prepared that report has advised that these proposed modifications would not change that conclusion.
27			(Wind energy is backed up with coal and natural gas.)	It is true that wind energy production is firmed with dispatchable fuel-based resources, however the amount of energy required from those sources will decrease by the amount generated by wind.
28	65		<i>Few people locally will benefit from (jobs).</i>	The project is expected to create 70-90 full time equivalent jobs during construction, and 5-7 full time operating technician positions. All of these positions will be available to qualified local individuals.
29	66		<i>My family is experiencing frequent signal loss of our satellite television.</i>	For its 2016 Application Ball Hill Wind commissioned four studies of potential impacts on Communication Signals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV Signals • Microwave Signals • Land Mobile and Emergency Signals • AM and FM Radio Signals A review of the proposed taller turbines for the 2018 Application has indicated no increase in impacts to these Communication Signals.
30			EMF effects of buried lines.	The design/construction of the 34.5kV system will be based mainly on the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and we will include all requirements for grounding and EMF. In addition the entire collection system (34.5kV) grounding system study will be reviewed to confirm that no safety or EMF issue arises.
31			Questions about Decommissioning.	Please see response to Comment 16.

32	69	Dan Spitzer	<i>Where are Vestas V136 turbines made?</i>	Vestas manufactures its wind turbine components at factories in Pueblo, Brighton and Windsor, Colorado.
33	70	Earl Riggle	Citation to article: <i>“Observed Impacts of Wind Farms on Local Vegetation Growth in Northern China”</i> .	The referenced study appears to have concluded a correlation between reduced leaf area index (LAI) and wind energy production in Northern China. Any applications to Chautauqua County are uncertain.
34	70	Greg Snow	<i>What is the duration of the PILOT?</i>	The term of the PILOT Agreement is 30 years.
35	73	Karen Harvey	<i>How do you put (the underground electric lines) in place?</i>	Direct boring will be utilized where practicable, and predominantly through wetlands. Elsewhere cut-and-fill techniques will be used.
36	74		[Reference is made to “Twenty-five percent profits” from wind projects.]	Source unknown.
37	74		<i>...(T)he PILOT in place now gives a very small percentage of what they would owe if they complied with the real tax assessment value of this project.</i>	The project would not proceed without the tax relief provided by the PILOT Agreement.
38	82	William Eaton	<i>The tax base (in Villenova) is pitiful.</i>	The Ball Hill project will bring over \$350,000 in Host Community and PILOT payments annually to Villenova.
39	83	Erwin Morey	[Questions about Decommissioning.]	Please see response to Comment 16.
40	85	Antoinette Blankenship	[Questions about Decommissioning.]	Please see response to Comment 16.
41	87	Rodney Hayes	<i>I live at 9373 Pope Hill Road.... I don't know how close this thing is to my home. The last of my understanding was it was only five hundred feet from my house.</i>	The closest proposed turbine location to this address is approximately 1686 feet away (T11).
42	94	John Galley	(What are the technical specification of the V136/3.45 and the impact studies?)	The impact studies of the V136/3.45 at the locations proposed for the Ball hill project are in the 2018 Application at the www.ballhillwind.com . The Application includes the technical specifications for the V136/3.45.
43	98	Jim English	<i>Has anybody contacted or been in touch with our REA, ... and how they are going to operate with this new system?</i>	The project's operations will not affect the rural electrification system.

44	100	Christie Lokietek	[Questions about avian impacts.]	As described in the FEAF, Part F. Additional Information, the new proposed turbine is expected to have the same range of impacts on avian species as the previously permitted turbine. A mitigation plan is in discussion with NYSDEC that will yield a net benefit to bat populations.
45	101		<i>...I've heard that there is a gag order on individuals who are under contract for windmills.... And I want to know if that's true.</i>	That is not true. The Lease Agreement contains a Confidentiality provision to protect Intellectual Property and the privacy of commercial terms, but landowners are not restricted from disclosing non-Confidential Information.
46	103	Joni Riggle	<i>The larger blades and power turbines, obviously, will cause more barotrauma for the bats.</i>	A mitigation plan, including production curtailment and a bat habitat conservation project, is in discussion with NYSDEC designed to result in a net benefit to bat populations.
47	105		<i>The Department of Public Service and New Hampshire do not allow net commissioning.</i>	The secured costs of Decommissioning will be reviewed and updated every 5 years pursuant to the Host Community Agreement.