

December 23, 2013

Susan Hudson, Clerk
Vermont Public Service Board
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

RE: Complaint against Georgia Mountain Community Wind, Docket #7508

Dear Mrs. Hudson,

Based on Title 30 §208 and PSB Rule 2.301, we, Dan and Tina FitzGerald and Scott and Melodie McLane, claim that Georgia Mountain Community Wind (GMCW) has violated its CPG on the following counts:

1. Operation of turbines during icing conditions
2. Violation of noise standard due to increased noise from turbines operating during icing conditions

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. We live at 40 Fitzgerald Place, Milton VT and 1179 Georgia Mountain Road, Georgia VT.
2. We are parties to the GMCW Docket #7508.
3. Mid-afternoon Friday, December 20, icing began in our neighborhood. The turbines were not operating Friday afternoon.
4. Between 3 and 5 a.m. Saturday, December 21, we were awakened by noise from the wind turbines. The turbines were very loud and we allege a violation of the sound standard occurred between 3 and 5 a.m. This screen shot from Facebook documents our experience at the time it was occurring:



Tina FitzGerald

Could not sleep, I stepped outside to see what the weather was. The noise here tonight is really crazy! I have not heard it like this since last winter.

 Like ·  Comment ·  Share · [Stop Notifications](#) · December 21 at 3:14am via mobile

 2 people like this.



Steven N Luann Therrien winter is the worse time for us also.
December 21 at 4:01am via mobile · [Like](#)



Melodie McLane Tina, the deep rumble of the turbines woke me up at 4:45 a.m. Luann, how is the noise in Sheffield this morning?
December 21 at 5:17am · [Like](#)

5. At noon, Saturday, December 21, the turbines were operating, when ice was building up around our homes.
6. At 1 p.m. Saturday, December 21, we heard the fans when the turbines were turned off during the ice storm.
7. At 8:55 p.m. on Saturday, December 21, the turbines were operating again. We could hear them but the mountain was socked in and we could not see them, or determine how many were operating. Conditions in the neighborhood were icing.
8. Cody FitzGerald, 19, was awakened in the middle of the night Saturday/Sunday with his "ears bothering him." He said it was a "loud rumble" in his bedroom.
9. At 5:30 a.m. Sunday, December 22, turbines were running. Trees were popping and crashing at our homes and on the mountain. Icing conditions continued.
10. At 1:28 p.m. Sunday, December 22, at least one turbine was running and we recorded a sound level of 38 dBA using our Extech sound meter. Trees were crashing on the mountain. Icing conditions continued.
11. At 3:00 p.m. Sunday, December 22, at least one turbine was running. Trees were crashing on the mountain as the ice continued to build up.
12. At 6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 22, at least one turbine was running, sounded like more. The noise was a roaring with a grating sound. Using our Extech sound meter, we took a snapshot of 47 dBA. There were trees snapping and crashing on mountain constantly. We are alleging a violation of the sound standard at this time. Melodie McLane sent an email to Geoff Commons at the Public Service Department questioning whether the turbines should be operating during icing conditions.
13. At 6:30 p.m. Sunday, December 22, all the turbines were running. We could not get good sound readings because trees were cracking and crashing constantly on the mountain. Icing conditions continued.
14. At 9:00 p.m. Sunday, December 22, all the turbines were running. The fans were audible. Trees were cracking and crashing on mountain. Icing conditions continued.
15. At 9:50 p.m. Sunday, December 22, all the turbines were running and the fans were audible. Trees were cracking and crashing on the mountain. There had been light freezing rain off and on all day. Fog had been on the mountain all day, so we could not see turbines. There was a thick layer of ice on trees and the ground, thick enough to support Scott's weight without him breaking through.

16. Photos by Melodie McLane, Sunday Dec. 22, 2013. 6 p.m.



17. As we write this at the end of the day on Monday, December 23, we are still experiencing icing conditions, the temperature is at or below 32°, and the turbines continue to operate. This photo was taken by Melodie McLane at 3:30 pm on Monday, December 23, 2013 showing the iced condition of the trees and the turbine, which is operating, in the background.



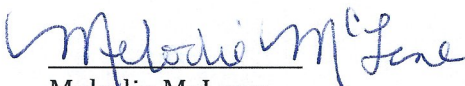
DEMONSTRATION THAT COMPLAINANTS ARE ENTITLED TO RELIEF

- GMCW's Winter Operating Protocol, approved on 1/13/12, states:
 2. The wind turbines will be monitored via the facility's Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system 24 hours per day, seven days a week throughout the year. **The turbines shall be subject to shutdown under the following conditions ("Icing Conditions"):**
 - a. The installed ice monitoring device(s) and heated wind sensors (installation and continued operations subject to reliability testing) detect that unsafe conditions are present due to icing conditions;
 - b. Ice accretion is recognized by the site operator;
 - c. **Air temperature, relative humidity and other meteorological conditions at the site are conducive to ice formation;**
 - d. Air temperature is several degrees above zero degrees Celsius after icing conditions; or
 - e. Other weather conditions at the project site create an unsafe operating environment.
(emphasis added)
- GMCW operated wind turbines on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, December 20 – 23, 2013, when air temperature, relative humidity and other meteorological conditions at the site were conducive to ice formation.
- GMCW's wind turbines created noise that awakened us from our sleep, having a demonstrable impact on our health and quality of life.
- There is substantial evidence that GMCW has violated its CPG on two counts.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

We request that the Board sanction GMCW for violating its CPG, in an amount sufficient to deter operating the wind turbines in violation of its CPG in the future.

Sincerely,


Melodie McLane


Scott McLane


Tina FitzGerald

CC: Susan Paruch, PSD
Geoff Commons, PSD

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

We, Scott and Melodie McLane certify that on December 23, 2013, we forwarded copies of our Complaint to the following service list by email:

Mrs. Susan Hudson, Clerk
Vermont Public Service Board
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Dated at Georgia, Vermont this 23rd day of December 2013.

By: _____


Scott McLane


Melodie McLane