

## WHY I OPPOSE THE DAIRY HILLS WIND FARM PROJECT

Richard Barth

This memo outlines why I oppose the Dairy Hills Wind Farm project from Horizon Wind Energy, even though I live in the village of Perry and will not be living under any wind turbines if that project goes forward.

1. Horizon's business practices are not compatible with our community. The company sneaked into town and convinced a group of property owners to lease their land before the public became aware of the project's impact on the town. They could have and should have been above board from the beginning to build trust that they will be responsible corporate neighbors after they get what they want. We should not go into business individually or collectively with people we cannot trust.
2. The property rights of non-participating property owners are being ignored and abused. Property rights include quiet enjoyment. Being surrounded by numerous 410' moving turbines does not assure quiet enjoyment. People who oppose the project know this and are spending thousands of dollars out of their own pockets to protect their property rights. No one else involved in this issue has had to spend any of their own money. This should tell you just how strongly the opposition to Dairy Hills feels.
3. My spouse and I have property outside the village that we are planning to build a home on. If this project is not stopped, we will not build that home because there will be no way to stop Horizon from planting turbines within 1500 feet of the home. We are not going to line up and volunteer to lose our rights too.
4. The Town's Comprehensive Plan, which is our constitution for permissible development, does not permit industrial applications like Dairy Hills in the township's agricultural zones. There has been no attempt to address this shortcoming by anyone. If Dairy Hills goes thru, the Comprehensive Plan will be worthless.
5. The economics and science of producing electricity by wind power are a disaster. This point is made over and over in the literature and by experienced people speaking about wind power. The combination of private company greed and government subsidies that cooperate with that greed is shoving this project down our throats. If this project goes thru, I'm convinced we will find this out the hard way.
6. Locally, only a few will benefit to any significant degree in our community from this project. The turbine companies will reap huge profits, local land owners will get some lease income (perhaps a lot of it depending on how many turbines are on their land), the rights of neighbors who choose not to participate will be crushed, and the town will get some crumbs scattered on the floor by the turbine company. For 14 years I put business deals together, and this is one of the worst business deals I've ever seen.

7. There are numerous potential health risks from living close to turbines, and they cannot be mitigated no matter what the state and Horizon claim. This project is not worth the risk. We are all obligated to protect all of our neighbors first, before anyone benefits financially from any venture.

8. This project ignores European experiences collected over many years. Our European neighbors have discovered thru experience that wind energy does not deliver what it promises and creates problems that cannot be corrected without huge setbacks from the turbines, setbacks that are 3-4 times what our new local law requires.

9. It's obvious to people who return to Perry after a long absence, like I have, that the fine people of this town and the surrounding area are bombarded everyday by predators who think they can take advantage of a downtrodden town. Perryites question their own value as people and feel unworthy because the economy has been in a downward spiral for decades with no end in sight. Moreover, the EIS process in New York only requires examination of the impact of a huge project like Dairy Hills on the natural environment. But this project continues the destruction of the mental environment in Perry and nothing good can come from that. Where we should be looking for ways to build self-esteem, community and a healthy free standing economy, Horizon offers less self-reliance and more dependence on big business and government handouts.

10. Our only remaining economic asset, the town's farmland, is in jeopardy of being lost to industrial applications like wind turbines. Many acres of cropland will be lost because of the Dairy Hills project, perhaps never to return to production. Is the short term benefit really worth a potential loss of our only economic asset? I am not ready for that gamble.

A program has been proposed that will endorse alternative energy applications in a responsible way, a program that will avoid threats to the health and welfare of our citizens for the benefit of a relative few. This locally-based and locally-coordinated program for alternative energy production can provide savings and income for property owners who adopt it, and for the Town of Perry. It can preserve our farmland and benefit farmers while preserving the property rights of neighbors. It will provide more electricity for customers who need it from the grid, and in short, everybody will win. It is not Horizon's way, nor the opposition's way; it is a Third Way, and it will work for everyone's benefit.

Refusing Horizon's plan and endorsing this Third Way secures the Town of Perry's future for decades to come, in a way our fathers laid out in the comprehensive plan. It preserves our values and our community, and says to the people of Perry "You matter to us, and we care about all of you". This is the honorable and responsible approach that will build the reputations of our current leadership as the men who made a huge positive difference here.