



39 Exchange Street, Suite 301 ph (207) 253-1965  
Portland, ME 04101 fx (207) 253-1966  
[www.EnvironmentMaine.org](http://www.EnvironmentMaine.org) [Info@EnvironmentMaine.org](mailto:Info@EnvironmentMaine.org)

October 1, 2007

Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

RE: Testimony in support of the proposed wind farm at Black Nubble, in Redington Township

Dear Members of the Board of the Land Use Regulation Commission,

On behalf of Environment Maine Research & Policy Center's more than 4,000 volunteers and activists, I would like to submit testimony in support of Black Nubble wind farm, in Redington Township. This project will move Maine's energy production towards a new energy future and contribute to lessening Maine's global warming emissions.

The Environment Maine Research & Policy Center researches problems, crafts policy solutions and educates and engages the public on issues that affect Maine's environment. We have worked extensively on the issues of clean energy and global warming, highlighting in numerous reports the policies necessary to successfully promote clean energy projects such as the Black Nubble wind farm and reduce Maine's global warming pollution, and mobilizing public support for these policies and projects.

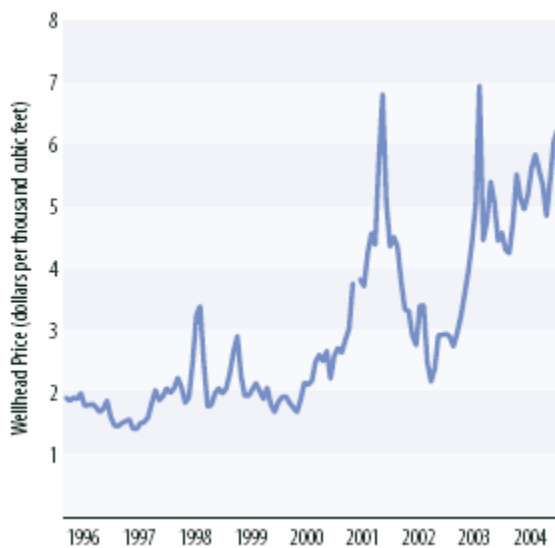
Maine creates more than half of its electricity from fossil fuels, at our peril. We use heating oil and natural gas to heat our homes and businesses. In addition to creating air and global warming pollution, these resources are finite and are not found in Maine. Fortunately, Maine has abundant sources of renewable energy and energy efficiency resources that we have only just begun to tap. Wind, solar, clean biomass and low-impact hydro energy sources are renewable, create negligible environmental damage and could supply Maine with its future energy demand.

Already, dirty energy causes massive, largely undocumented costs to public health, the environment and tourism industry. Summertime smog chokes the breath of residents and visitors alike, contributing to Maine attaining the highest rate of childhood and adult asthma in the region. Haze drastically cuts the visibility at Acadia National Park and other recreational and tourism destinations. Mercury contamination makes Maine's fish unsafe to eat for children and women of child-bearing age, and threatens the longterm health of loons and other wildlife.

Additionally, nuclear waste is still stored in insecure, non-permanent facilities at the decommissioned Maine Yankee nuclear plant site. Despite industry assurances, the National Academy of Sciences have yet to approve a safe way to store this and other nuclear waste from around the country. Neither oil, coal, gas or nuclear power will lead us towards a clean energy future – and the social and environmental costs of continuing on that path are unreasonable.

Energy price increases and the conflict in the Middle East have jump-started a long overdue national conversation about the direction of America’s energy policy. One only needs to look at the price of natural gas over the past decade to see why relying too heavily on fossil fuels drives up wholesale electric and other fuel costs (Figure 3).

**Fig. 3. Volatility in Natural Gas Prices<sup>4</sup>**



The public is clamoring for solutions and, in this generation, there has never been deeper support for increasing the amount of power we get from renewable energy. Just last year, Maine set a goal of producing 10 percent new clean energy by 2017, on top of the renewable power we already generate, and the legislature recently established the goal as a requirement of all utilities in the state. This summer for the first time, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would require our country get 15 percent of our electricity from renewable sources by 2015. Clearly, the public is clamoring for more clean energy, and the Black Nubble wind farm will be one of the projects that our state and country must embrace in order to tap our renewable energy potential.

Developing our renewable energy resources will create jobs, save consumers money and bolster rural economies. A 2004 study the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) found that a national standard requiring 20 percent of electric generation from renewable energy sources by the year 2020 save consumers tens of billions annually in lower electricity and natural gas bills, and create several hundred thousand new jobs--nearly twice as many as generating the same amount of power from fossil fuels.

In addition to diversifying and securing our energy supply, by shifting away from fossil fuels, we can reduce global warming pollution. A recent analysis based on assumptions of the Energy Information Administration indicates that national standard requiring 20 percent renewable electricity by 2020 would cut global warming pollution by 263 million metric tons in 2030; the equivalent of taking 43 million cars off the road. In order to reduce global warming emissions by the amount scientists say is necessary – 80 percent by 2050 – we will need to get projects in place that start generating clean energy and averting emissions now.

On the particulars of this project, we support the Black Nubble wind project. The Environment Maine Research & Policy Center originally took no position on the Redington Mountain and Black Nubble wind project, because we were not able to review the environmental impacts closely enough to weigh its impacts with its benefits. We submitted public testimony in support of clean energy, generally and wind power, specifically.

Since reviewing with coalition partners the scaled-back proposal of wind turbines being located just on Black Nubble, we believe the benefits of the Black Nubble wind farm far outweigh any negative impacts. By protecting Redington Mountain and redeveloping the already-logged/developed Black Nubble, the wind farm proposal has greatly lessened its impact on alpine ecological areas. Our full support for this project is in line with our larger mission to promote clean energy and curb global warming pollution. We hope that the Land Use Regulation Commission approves the Black Nubble wind farm application so that Maine can continue to move along the path to a new energy future that reduces global warming pollution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "D".

Matthew Davis  
Organizational Development Director