



Town of Hounsfield Planning Board
Kathy Snyder – Chairwoman

21 December 2009

C/O Diane Nier – Town Clerk
18774 County Route 66
Watertown, NY 13601

Copy: Town of Hounsfield Supervisor-elect Mr. Timothy Scee (satsunmore@twcny.rr.com)
Honorable Barry M. Ormsby (barryormsby@aol.com)
Honorable Robert F. Hagemann III (RobertH@co.jefferson.ny.us)

Honorable Assemblywoman Dede Scozzafava
93 East Main Street
Gouverneur, NY 13642

SUBJECT: Public Comments to Town of Hounsfield Planning Board Hearing
Upstate NY Power Corporation – Galloo Island Industrial Wind Project

Madame Chairwoman Snyder,

We thank you for the opportunity to offer public comments prior to your Planning Boards deliberation of the subject project. At this time, the NYSDEC has not provided their final decision on the DEIS, as part of their SEQRA process. During the public commenting period, many abnormalities and inconsistencies of the DEIS were discussed with the NYSDEC through correspondence from our Coalition. The correspondence was directed to the Regional Director, the subject Project Manager and the DEC Director, Mr. Grannis. We have a team of skilled professionals awaiting feedback from this correspondence, presumably this is the cause for the delay from the NYSDEC.

The Coalition for the Preservation of the Golden Crescent and the 1000 Islands Region

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The DEIS is quite large, and understandably, without experts and skilled professionals, it is quite a task to digest, dissect and offer constructive comments to the project DEIS. Presumably the Town of Hounsfield also retained their own professional services to review in great detail this massive DEIS document, as the project resides in their town.

During your Board's deliberation, we trust you will take into account past precedents from your Board and your Town. Commendably, your Town had the foresight to go through a complete revitalization a few decades ago. The result has been a thriving, picturesque community, steeped with history and character. The revitalization came at the expense of enforcing very strict rules to maintain the character and quality of life chosen by your town government. These rules include color schemes, materials of construction, and architectural styles that can and will be used to preserve the visual aesthetics of your community. Also, the vast amount of historic preservation throughout Hounsfield is commendable.

As Galloo Island resides in the Town of Hounsfield one would assume the same strict standards would apply, especially to historic preservation and aesthetics as they affect the character and quality of life of those that can view them. Your Planning Board is expected to follow your past precedents of enforcement to maintain the character and quality of life resulting from your actions.

Your task of deliberation is unenviable; however, your missive is quite clear, which will of course be made through an unbiased evaluation based on past town actions. Your Board must review the site plan for a project of this magnitude to be placed in the Town of Hounsfield. Disregard that it is an island some 11 miles from your mainland town. Your decision will affect (or actually attract) the location of future industrial wind projects, and transmission lines throughout your community and neighboring communities. Heed this advice, study the facts, follow your past actions of enforcement, and the decision your Board must make will be very clear – DO NOT APPROVE THE SITE PLAN to allow this project to proceed, use "home rule" – it is an obvious choice.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Aliasso, Jr. -- Co-Chair

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