

Dear Fairfield Resident:

I have lived in the Town of Fairfield all my life, which now surprisingly is well over a half century. During that time I have seen many issues in the Town come and go, be ever so important one year, and almost forgotten by the next. The proposed wind turbine issue will differ from that in our town, as it could be the most important decision in the Town's history. That decision can and will impact the Town's residents and taxpayers for generations.

Everyone is in general agreement that green energy and alternative energy sources need to be developed to save our environment and reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Along the way we need to be very careful and make the right choices in this endeavor. Windmills are not green or clean energy sources.

The phrase "windmill farm" will not be used in this publication. "Windmill" and "farm" are fancy words for an industrial development which it actually is. One cannot "farm" wind.

I categorize everyone living in our town into one of three groups. The first group is the landowners of the property that these 400' monstrosities will be built on. They will be paid by the developer annually. No one at this time knows exactly how much, but rumors are somewhere between \$5,000 to \$7,000 per windmill. Some of the farmers will have multiple wind turbines on their property which will be a sizable annual payment.

The second group is the property owners that live in and around the proposed wind towers. They will not receive any compensation whatsoever and will be forced to live with any negative effects the wind turbines may create and most importantly the change in their environment. **This group is the most vulnerable and will have the most at stake.**

The third group of people are like myself, that live out of sight (I live in Middleville) and away from the industrial development. How it will affect us is simple economics.

Wind turbine developments follow a pattern after they are constructed. The developer builds a wind turbine complex in a town, and reaps all the tax incentives from the government until they expire. He then sells his company to another large energy corporation like Florida Power and Light for example, and then they take all the tax advantages available from the Federal Government. And who knows after that.

If this pattern holds true the Town will not know who it will be doing business with in the future. This is just one of many reasons why extreme caution should be used in the decision making process.

Let's go back to the first group of people, the landowners who will be paid for wind turbine placement. Through a contract with the wind turbine developers, they will waive their right to any future legal claim. This whole thing is about money. It certainly appears that these landowners have not considered such factors as health issues, TV and cell phone reception, noise, shadow flicker, encroachment on their neighbor's property, appearance and everything else you hear in the media concerning these installations. Obviously, money overshadows all of these factors.

The second group of people are the landowners and families that will be most affected by these 400' monstrosities. The community of wind turbines will be built all around them and they will not be able to do anything about it. Several concerns are relevant for these "**victims**" and are as follows:

1. They will **not** receive any compensation and the wind turbines could be located very close to their property. The Town has adopted a 1250' setback distance to any residence for each windmill, and "height of structure" (approx. 260') setback to any property line. Within those areas there may not be any future residential development of any kind. Therefore, if a turbine is located 260' from the group #1 property line, **group #2 will have restrictions for 990' on their property** and be **forced** to comply with the setback provisions established by the Town. To make it very clear, portions of this group's land could be rendered not useable for its intended use by the landowner. This could be a taking of property without compensation, which is far worse than eminent domain proceedings.

2. **Property values are a factor.** This group will be in and around the windmill complex. Certainly anyone with any amount of common sense would recognize this industrial facility is **not** an asset in the real estate market. This group will be **forced** to live with whatever happens to **their** property values as a result of the windmill project, and it will not be positive.
3. **Shadow flicker is a reality.** If these 400' giants are located to the east or west of these families they will have shadow flicker through the blades of the rotor. At certain times of the day when the sun rises and sets, this phenomenon will become real and this group **will have to live** with whatever effects it will have on their homes and families.
4. **Windmills make noise.....period!** If noise is not an issue, why have they set a 50db noise level in local law? I have heard it on the Tug Hill complex. Windmill noise is usually at its peak about a half mile away, but in mountainous terrain it can travel up to two miles. The rotor appears to spin slowly, but actually the tips of these rotors could be moving as fast as **200 mph**. Anything moving through the air at that speed will make noise. A segment of the noise is "low frequency" and there are mountains of studies and documentation on how low frequency noise has **negatively** impacted the population around these industrial developments. I could go on and on about windmill noise, but time and space prevents that.
5. Anthony and Lisa Sementilli live on Davis Road in our town (green dot on the map). They have an 11 yr. old daughter Alisha who suffers from **Central Auditory Processing Disorder**. That disorder affects the communication and sound understanding between the ears and the brain. In West Canada School Alisha wears a headphone set to block out all background noise and her teachers wear a microphone to communicate with her. Alisha's condition has existed long before the windmill issue came to our town. Alisha's audiologist and pediatricians warn her parents that background noise from windmills will have a **catastrophic effect on Alisha's condition**. Dr. Nina Pierpont, one of the nation's most leading authorities on the effects of windmill noise, has recommended a minimum distance of 1.5 miles be between any windmill and the Sementilli home. Should windmills be placed as they are located on the map, basically in her backyard, the aftermath will be severely detrimental to Alisha's development and well being. **How many of you have a friend or relative with a pacemaker or other electric medical device, which may be affected by windmills?**

Lisa Sementilli went to the September Town Meeting to discuss this medical condition, and was **denied an opportunity to speak** because it was windmill related. **Incidentally, did you know in September the Town Board denied any further discussion on the windmill issue at their meetings?** Lisa took her concern to the County Legislature in early October, and to this date **neither the town nor Atlantic Wind has contacted her.**

**This is a bona fide example of a health issue that exists in our town and will be aggravated by the presence of windmills.** Depression, ADHD, epilepsy or other medical conditions may also be worsened by windmills. These factors are part of the reason that I used the word "**victims**" in this group earlier in this article.

6. I understand there are about forty-nine wind towers planned for Fairfield. Most of these will be illuminated with strobe lights at night. This group will live around an industrial complex that will look like a lit-up Christmas tree every night of the year. It will be non-stop, and any peaceful night time skies Fairfield may have had **will be gone forever.**
7. Fairfield has had a long standing reputation for its gentle rolling hills on a high plateau overlooking the Kuyahoorra and Mohawk Valleys. This is and has been the natural wealth that the Town possesses. In late 2005, the town assessor personally told me the Town of Fairfield was the **fastest growing town in Herkimer County**. When forty-nine of these 400' towering giants soar into Fairfield skies, **that will also change.**
8. I have a DVD disc produced by the concerned citizens of Delaware County in April of this year. The documentary is about the massive wind facility on the Tug Hill Plateau in Lewis County. It has several interviews with local residents near the wind turbine development and their reactions

living with these monsters. **Everyone in this group should see this documentary** for an insight of what you may be facing if a windmill development becomes your new neighbor. Contact one of us listed at the end of this publication and we will forward a copy to you.

The third group of people are the rest of the Fairfield residents that live out of sight of the windmill complex. Our first concern should be for the Sementelli family and their well being. Secondly, the overall future of our town and what direction we are moving in is of high importance. Unquestionably, the overall tax base of any municipality is the foundation of its basic existence. As that foundation and tax base grow through real estate transactions, sub-divisions, residential expansion and new business, the Town's wealth and worthiness grows at the same rate. Certainly, the sound investments into the Town's tax base have an accrual effect, and with proper management, propel that community to financial prosperity. **I think the exact opposite will happen with windmills in Fairfield.**

I previously spoke about the 1250' setback provisions the Town has adopted. That 1250' radius equates to about 110 acres. Simple math.....110 acres x 49 windmills = 5,390 Town of Fairfield acres rendered un-developable. There will be no real estate transactions because who will want that land, no new sub-divisions, no residential growth, and no new businesses. **Positive growth will come to a screeching halt** in this area, and the surrounding thousands of acres as well. **When growth stops our sales tax revenue will be affected and decrease as well.** Has anyone out there ever heard of anyone building or buying a new home, and looking for a Town with windmills in it? HELLO!

For the windmill companies this is a gold rush. They leave the impression that everybody is going to get rich, and windmill developments are the answer to municipality's fiscal woes! I personally believe that in our town the windmill pilot payments are a short term solution for a long term problem. The derailment of the positive growth we are experiencing now will cost us all dearly down the line.

I became interested in the windmill issue a few months ago, and launched my own investigation into the merits of the controversy. I regret I wasn't involved two years ago, but I didn't hear much about it then and had no concerns. The more I learned about the overall picture of windmills, the more I considered them to be a step backward in Fairfield. I believe Fairfield should not be the leader in this venture. **Let the other windmill facilities develop in other towns, and let us witness their internal compatibility with their municipality before we jump in. If we have an attractive site for a windmill complex in Fairfield, it will always be there in the future, and we all will have a better insight on just how well it will fit into our community. Patience is a virtue and in this situation its good common sense and good business.**

Everything I have covered in this publication I believe to be true. I also have felt an obligation to share my opinions with you and ask for your help.

I have joined forces with the Fairfield Concerned Citizens, a group that is dedicated to the purpose of stopping windmill development in our town. The reasons I have mentioned in this publication are only the tip of the iceberg of beliefs we share to motivate us in this pursuit. We have retained a well known Saratoga attorney to represent us in our legal challenge. This legal challenge will be very costly and we will need the financial support from the community to see it through. There is a very simple solution. **If you agree that our quality of life should not be compromised, please support us with your generous donations. We need everybody's support.** Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this publication.

**Respectfully,  
Don Denapole, Middleville**

Your tax deductible donations may be made to the "Fairfield Concerned Citizens", and sent to PO Box 1013, Little Falls, N.Y, 13365. If you have any questions regarding this publication, or the windmill issue, please contact:

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