

Vermonters Impacted By Utility Scale Wind

Paul and Carol Brouha, Sutton, Vermont, live next to First Wind's 16 2.5 MW wind turbine project



We live on the family farm, tucked under a forested ridgeline in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Raptors ride the thermals, and thrushes send their haunting, flute-like songs down from the crescent of Green Mountains that embraces us. Bears, moose, and deer roam the unfragmented forest that extends northwest to Crystal Lake for 6 miles.

In 1971 we left the University of Vermont for graduate work and to find jobs. Because of being nurtured in this place with its fragrance of balsam and deep leaf mold, its spring creeper chorus, its native trout in Calendar and Clark Brooks, Paul became a wildlife and fisheries biologist. I, southern-born, adopted a new state, wrote wildlife articles and taught English.

We came back to Paul's home in 2007 to retire in the silence, solitude, and beauty of the seasons.

Ours is an extension of the farm refuge that Paul's parents, Elizabeth and Lucien Brouha, bought for \$1100 in 1941. The Nazis had run them out of Belgium. Paul's uncle had been shot by a Nazi firing squad at the Citadel in Liege, Belgium, because of his leadership in the Resistance. As a teenage spy, a courier, Paul's father had been imprisoned by the Germans in WWI. When WWII came he was on the German most-wanted list.

The family had to find a new home. Paul's parents' car was the last car out before the arm of the German barricade slammed down closing the road from France into Spain. They then continued on to America by way of Portugal.

After buying the farm in 1941, they brought Paul here from the hospital as a

newborn in 1946. Almost 60 years later, in 2001, we spread his mother's ashes in the apple orchard, gardens, and hayfields.

A local stonemason built memorial granite steps to our upper flower garden and engraved on the stone the history of the flight and resettling of the Brouhas.

The forested mountains reminded Paul's parents of the Ardennes in Belgium, where Elizabeth's family had a retreat, an old mill house with a trout hatchery in the sluices. After she had established herself here, Elizabeth devoted her last thirty years to the non-profit she formed to help fulfill local children's "birthright," as she called it, to express themselves in the arts. Her "Friends of Burklyn" brought artists in residence to Northeast Kingdom schools. Young Vermonters published their poems in books they bound. They danced, painted, sculpted, fiddled, and acted in plays they wrote.

Their artistic expression was often connected with place, with snowshoe treks, history found on gravestones in a cemetery on Hardscrabble Mountain, maple sugaring, birthing a calf, sparkling stars, and Aurora Borealis with its green and red curtains of flashing lights brushing the ridgelines around us.

In her own way Elizabeth preserved what we are trying to preserve, what is unique to Vermont, something that is the birthright of Vermonters: "these Green Mountains," as in the state song. We are environmentalists who know you don't destroy the environment to save it. You use your imagination and effort to produce suitable forms of

green energy that match the land. Paul has worked for several years in the hope of bringing to our community a wood pellet plant that would create local jobs for loggers and plant workers, contribute to the health of the forests, and be in keeping with Vermont. After construction, a wind farm the size of the proposed Sheffield Wind Plant would yield maybe two local jobs. A pellet plant would yield as many as 50-70 jobs.

Once you do your homework on industrial wind energy, you see that its cachet and iconic "green" image are the products of massive marketing by big business defrauding the public.

Because of the haven the Green Mountains have been for our family and because of the imprint the ridges and streams have made on our consciousness, our professions grew out of the peaceful environs here. Our fight to protect wildlife, fish, birds, bats, the natural-resource-based economy, and to honor our Town and Regional plans is now in its ninth year. We have spent money we may well need in our old age.

Yet, we would miss the mark if we did not work to protect the natural birthright for present and future Vermonters.

~ Carol Brouha, Sutton Vermont



Existing • Searsburg: Enxco/Green Mountain Power, 11 × 550 KW = 6.05 MW. PSB approved in 1996

Approved by Vermont Public Service Board

- Sheffield (Vermont Wind): First Wind, 16 × 2.5 MW = 40 MW. Docket #7156, approved 8/8/07. Site work began 9/10
- Readsboro, Searsburg (Deerfield Wind): Iberdrola (Spain), 15 × 2.0 MW = 30 MW. Docket #7250, approved 4/16/09 U.S. Forest Service permit decision expected Spring 2011
- Milton (Georgia Mountain Community Wind): Harrison Concrete Corp., 4 × 2.75 MW = 11 MW. Docket #7508, approved 6/11/10 with conditions. PSB Technical hearings on setbacks 3/11

In Process or Recent Activity: Measurement tower erected, wind developer prospecting for sites

- Lowell (Kingdom Community Wind): Green Mountain Power/VEC, 21 × 3 MW = 63 MW. Docket #7628, submitted 5/21/10. Measurement towers erected 2010. Technical hearings 2/11
- Eden: BNE Energy. Measurement tower erected 10/10
- Ira (Vermont Community Wind Farm): Per White-Hansen/Enel (Italy), 32-54 × 1.5-2.5 MW = 80 MW. Measurement tower erected 12/09. On hold
- Hubbardton (Grandpa's Knob): Reunion Power, 20 × 2-2.5 MW = 40-60 MW. Preparing to file. Measurement towers erected 1/08
- Bolton: Green Mountain Clean Energy. 6-7 × ? MW. FAA obstruction evaluation submitted 6/10; Measurement tower approved 10/10
- Waitsfield/Northfield: Citizens Energy 20 × 1.5-3 MW = 30-60 MW

Second developer, may be looking elsewhere

- Londonderry (Glebe Mountain): Volkswind (Germany) Originally proposed as 47.5 MW by Catamount Energy

Hanging around a long time

- Manchester (Little Equinox): Endless Energy, 8 × 3 MW = 24 MW. Financial prospectus circulated in '09, 3 measurement towers erected

FAA obstruction evaluation submitted

- Coventry 2 × ? MW, FAA obstruction evaluation submitted 7/10
- Wilmington (Chimney Hill): 1 × ? MW, FAA obstruction evaluation submitted 9/10
- Washington: Horizon 15 × ? MW, FAA obstruction evaluation submitted 2/08
- White River Junction (Hurricane Hill): 1 × ? MW, FAA obstruction evaluation submitted 11/07

Thank you to
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Withdrawn, Could Return

- Readsboro (Dutch Hill): Noble Environmental Power/Vermont Environmental Research Assoc., 20 × 2.5 MW = 45 MW. Interconnection requested 9/05, withdrawn
- East Haven, Ferdinand, Brighton: EMDC, 53 MW. Measurement towers approved. Interconnection requested 5/05, withdrawn

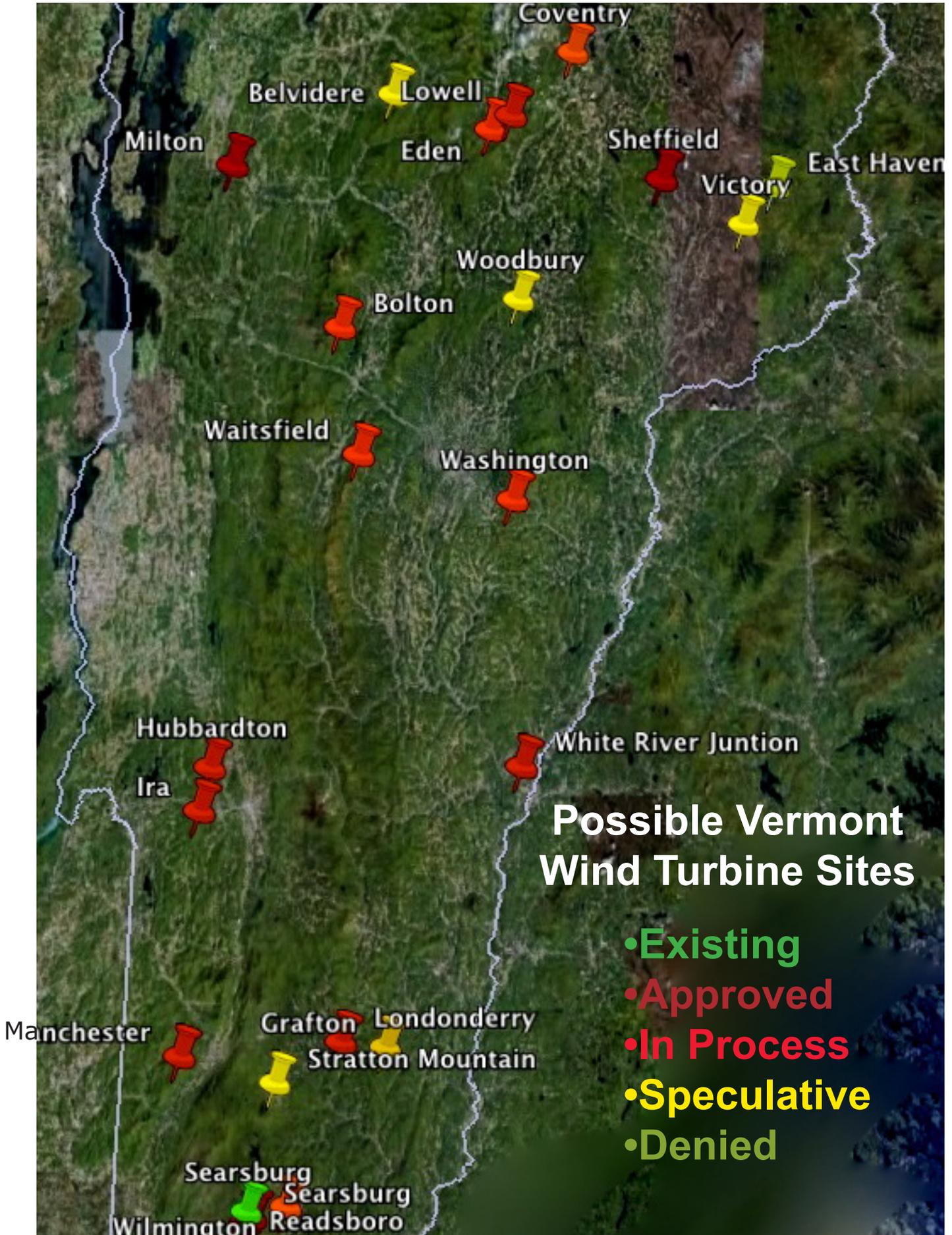
Denied, Possibly Returning

- East Haven (East Mountain): Vermont Public Power Supply Authority: permit denied 7/06, 4 × 1.5 MW = 6 MW Interconnection requested 10/03, updated interconnection requested 9/09, for 3 × 2-3 MW = 6-9 MW

Details of Activity at Wind Development Sites in Vermont

Speculative

- Stratton Mountain -- Stratton Planning Commission 1 × 2-3 MW
- Woodbury -- applied to CEDF for grant for met tower, denied
- Belvidere (Cold Hollow Mountains): Disgen, 10-20 turbines
- Grafton -- First Wind 52 MW
- Victory (Umpire Mountain): Enxco/Vt. Enviro. Research Assoc.



**TRUCK CARRYING
EXPLOSIVES OVERTURNS
AT FIRST WIND'S
SHEFFIELD SITE**

*Accident Releases more than
100 Gallons of Ethylene
Glycol, Hydraulic Fluid and
Fuel Oil into Brook*

Nations Brook has been documented by Vermont Fish and Wildlife to be an excellent native trout stream from its headwaters to its confluence with Miller's Run. It has excellent water quality and habitat for trout. It has had a robust self-reproducing population that also provides young fish that grow and contribute to the fishery in Miller's Run, a tributary of the Passumpsic River and then of the Connecticut River. At this time of year fertilized trout eggs are incubating in the gravels of Nations Brook and they and the young invertebrates they will depend upon for food after they hatch are very much at risk from pollution such as that introduced by the reported accident. Basically, they have to survive in place in the gravels because they can't yet swim away from the pollution. Depending on the toxicity and duration of the exposure to the



pollution, this accident could have resulted in anything from modest aquatic environmental effects to a complete kill of trout and invertebrates over much of the length of the stream.

*Paul Brouha
Certified Fisheries Scientist
by The American Fisheries Society*

**Vermonters
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Wind**

We are Don and Shirley Nelson. We live in Lowell, Vermont.



We are abutting landowners along one and a half miles of Green Mountain Power's proposed Lowell Mountains wind power project.

Don's father and mother moved here in 1942. The family worked hard to make improvements to the buildings and to the land as they could. They bought an old barn in Woodbury, Vermont- dismantled it, numbered each part, brought it here and rebuilt the already old barn. It stood until it was burned by arson on August 13, 2010. Don's father and the family ran the dairy farm here until we bought it from him in 1968 and ran it as a dairy farm for 30 years.

We bought the land with the idea that we wanted our children to grow up in the country as we had and this was the ideal place. We made improvements to the land as most farmers do - we wanted to make this a place that we could call home and others could enjoy as much as a place we could be proud of. This is a place that is private, at the end of the Bayley-Hazen Road (also the Catamount Trail) and maintained as Class 4 beyond our buildings. We are in a bowl surrounded by mountains and hills.

To us this has meant a place for our family to grow up and learn the values of being good stewards of the land and to learn to be good citizens knowing the values of caring and sharing.

We have always felt that in having this property we should share its beauty and history with others. We have thought long and hard on every improvement to our home and its surroundings to make it more desirable without changing the historical value. We don't post our land, allowing some excellent hunting for deer, bear, turkeys, moose, partridge, woodcock and other various animals. We allow VAST to use about 1 1/2 miles of trail on our property. Both attract hikers, bikers, skiers, horseback riders, Sunday drivers, leaf peepers, birders and people who are just plain lost because Map Quest sent them in this direction. Sterling College has used Lowell Mountain for their winter survival course almost since the time we bought it.

To us this wind turbine proposal means destroying a place that is so unique, quiet and peaceful. It would be raping a pristine mountain that would otherwise remain a visual beauty for miles and miles around. This is a very prominent ridgeline which can be seen to the north and south from Mt. Mansfield to Jay Peak and beyond. National Geographic Society has named Vermont "one of the best- rated places in the world, and No.1 in the United States, for stewardship and authenticity". (They rated it 5th in the world and 1st in the United States in the November /December issue of National Geographic Traveler magazine). The Lowell Wind Project would mean a big bite out of Vermont that can never be replaced!



**Wind Turbine Site
Clearing and Road
Building in Sheffield
November 2010**

