

September 23, 2010

To Members of the Fox Islands Community:

We are a group of engineers and social scientists that were commissioned by the US Department of Energy (DOE) to help assist members of the Fox Islands Electric Collaborative (FIEC) better understand the noise issues associated with wind turbines on Vinalhaven and investigate possible mitigation strategies. We visited your Islands on May 17-18 to explore basic issues, and then again on August 19th to discuss our work plan, which is posted on the Fox Islands Wind (FIW) website ([www.foxislandswind.com](http://www.foxislandswind.com)). The objectives of the study are to identify, where possible, noise sources that are the most bothersome to nearby residents of the community, link them to their sources at the turbines, identify possible mitigation strategies and costs to reduce these levels, and finally, to present our findings to the community in a form that can be easily understood.

We encourage you to participate with the FIEC neighbor observation log data collection effort. These data, when coupled with sound data collected from the island, are expected to allow the team to link time-stamped and descriptive observations from the neighbors to individual components and occurrences at the turbine site. Blank logs and instructions are available on the FIW website and at the FIEC offices.

Finally, since visiting the island, the NREL team has received a significant number of emails with various questions about the work plan and the wind turbine site and operation. Although these are all interesting questions, the study team, on its limited budget and time, does not have the time nor the ability to answer them in a timely manner. We also feel that any additional information from the team regarding the research effort should be open to the entire community. Therefore we ask that the community direct its questions to Karol Kucinski ([karolkucinski@gmail.com](mailto:karolkucinski@gmail.com)), who will then funnel them to the team. As is appropriate, the team will answer the questions via a FAQ which will be posted on a FIW website. We believe that this communication strategy will streamline and improve the overall research effort.

Our very best,

Brian McNiff, McNiff Light Industries  
Pat Moriarty, National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
Ben Hoen, Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory  
Larry Flowers, National Renewable Energy Laboratory