

Misc Stuff

John Slagel

Exhibit 5

Topic 1A: Are they Quiet?

JAN 21ST HANKARD - Excerpts from my questioning

- MR. JOHN SLAGEL: Q. Okay, you're the sound guy and this case hinges on sound. Lots of people are telling me these are going to be too loud. Some people, like the union guys that work on them, say they'll be quiet and everybody else who thinks they're loud is crazy. You presented a lot of stuff and I want to be very clear on what you're stating. Will these turbines be quiet and not cause anyone issues or are you simply saying that they meet Illinois Pollution Control Board limits?
- MR. HANKARD. I am saying that they meet the Illinois Pollution Control Board limits
- [cut]
- Q. Yeah. Well, let's say something is right at the IPCB limits, which in different octave bands there's different decibels. What's the average -- if you take and you do the average, what's the average decibel level that something meeting the IPCB limits would be at?
- A. Well, that -- I believe if you take, if you assume that a source is operating right up to each of the band limits.
- Q. Or let's say the turbines when you were testing them they were right at the limit, what's the A-weighted decibel?
- A. Right, it's about 45, 46 dB(A).
- Q. Okay. So when a guy who works on windmills says these are quiet, there's no noise in the house, and you're saying you've measured 45 you said?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who's not telling the truth here?
- A. 45 decibels is what you could receive at a house, so --
- Q. And that's not a quiet --
- A. I don't know what the guy that works on the turbine, you know, was talking about, so --

Topic 1B: Nocebo and IPCB Limits

- JAN 21ST HANKARD
- Q: Did the residents ever record complaints when the turbines were shut down suggesting the nocebo effect?
- A. No, I was actually supplied whenever – when we were doing our study and one of the residents complained about noise, I was always given that information, and I compared it to the turbine operations and the noise levels that we were measuring at that time, and I found that they were -- they understood when the turbines were working. They did not complain when the turbines weren't working.
- Q. So basically when the residents complained, the turbines were running at or near max capacity every time.
- A. Almost every time, that's correct.
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- Q. Okay. Now, from the California Ridge study, people were complaining about turbine noise as you were measuring it and found it to be under the IPCB limits, correct?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. So we can conclude that meeting the IPCB limits will not protect you from noise complaints from residents, correct?
- A. It did not in that case.

Topic 1: Summary

- Applicant's witness is not saying these turbines will be quiet. In fact, he says a home that is right near the IPCB limits will be receiving 45-46 dbA.
- He also goes on to say that just because you meet IPCB limits does not mean you will not have complaints. Not in the CR case anyway.
- He also says that during CR testing, the residents affected by the turbines knew when they were running – no nocebo effect found.

Topic 2: What if this happens here?

- JAN 21ST HANKARD
- Q. Okay. Okay, so the California Ridge noise study compliance analysis, what was the purpose of the study? Why did you guys do it?
- A. To determine if that project -- if the noise levels from that project met the Illinois Pollution Control Board limits.
- Q. Okay. And are you going to do that on our project also when it's completed or is there a specific reason you did that project?
- A. That project was the result of a noise complaint, so --
- Q. Okay. So after you did the study, what was the -- did it pacify the people that had noise complaints?
- A. I don't know if it pacified them.
- Q. Okay. Well, I guess people were saying the turbines are too loud, and so you guys came in, do a study, correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And your study said?
- A. That it meets the Illinois limits.
- Q. Uh-huh. So then what was your conclusion about what to do about the residents complaining about that it was too loud?
- A. I guess that was the end of my responsibility. That was what I was hired to do, determine if we met the law.

Topic 2: Summary

- If this happens here? If residents are bothered by the noise and complain about it?
- Based on CR history, applicant may do IPCB compliance testing and if found to be in compliance, nothing will be done.
- Don't forget – IPCB compliance does not equal no noise complaints (see CR study).

Topic 3: Is a mile out safe?

- FEB 9th MARVIN STICHNOTH
- Marvin: "we would lay there at night and usually we'd go to sleep by the TV. Then maybe two o'clock, three o'clock in the morning we'd wake up with this roar. You couldn't -- you couldn't get away from it. You'd go into the bathroom in the middle of the house, shut the doors, and it would penetrate. It's such a low frequency that nothing stops it. It -- I'd put my pillow over my head and still it would come through. It's hard to imagine if you don't experience it the low frequency that is so irritating. Well, what can you do? Finally, my wife says we've got to do something. So she got a box window fan that sat on the floor of the bedroom, and now for six months now we've been running the box fan at night. And it's a low frequency too, but it's not so irritating and it's just loud enough that it drowns out the sound of the wind turbines. I still -- I still don't have a good night's sleep when they're running. Somehow it -- the fan overpowers the wind turbines, but it still penetrates your body and it still causes sleep deprivation."
- [my questioning later]
- Q: Thank you. Also, do you know -- do you know, is it like one particular turbine affecting your -- making the noise or is it a group? Do you have any experience there?
- A. Well, there's approximately five or six of them lined up on the township line, and I'm just barely south of the township line, so no, I can't say which one's doing it.
- Q. Okay. And how far -- like you said it's about a mile. Do you know the exact distances?
- A. According to Google Earth, it's 1.18 miles from the nearest one, and there are several that are just a little farther than that.

Topic 3 Summary

- Witness has trouble sleeping with turbines over 1 mile away.

Topic 4A:Property Values – Witness

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- JAN 14TH MARK THAYER
- MR. SLAGEL:
- 10 Q. Hello? Okay. I'm John Slagel. So my particular question is this. What concerns me is you came here and you say wind turbines will not affect your property values in a statistical way, whatever, right?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. Okay. So I have a very small rental house outside of Fairbury here. Its main attraction is it's very quiet, on a quiet road nobody goes on, about the only house on the road, okay? Lots of wind comes from the southwest, no houses that way, clear panoramic view. When the wind farm comes here, I'm going to have three turbines within a 90-degree view at 1800 foot, 1800 foot and 2400 foot. So your study is saying that my particular house is not going to lose value? Or in general mine might, but somebody else's will gain? How does it apply to my exact situation?
- 4 A. That's a tough one.
- 5 Q. Well, you're saying it won't change the value, so I shouldn't worry about the wind farm?
- 7 A. Our expectation from all the literature is that nearby property values are not affected by wind turbines, either proximity to wind turbines or view of wind turbines. That's the results of the scientific literature. Now, a specific home, it's impossible to comment on a specific home. You just don't know. There's so many variables. I just -- you just don't know.

Topic 4B:Property Value – Witness 2

- FEB 17TH MICHAEL McCANN
- Q. My name is John Slagel. I have a small house in the country right where they're going – they're going to build three wind turbines by it. Right now, the southern view's a clear view, nothing except for houses on the other side of the mile. It's on a very quiet street. There's just a small - [mic problems] Okay. Anyway, they're going to build three turbines within the southern view, at that angle basically.
- A. Okay.
- Q. They are going to be 1864 foot, 1881 foot, and 2391 foot from my house there. Like I say, it's on a quiet road, it's very quiet, there's no traffic at night. Do you think this will impact the property values of that house?
- A. It certainly falls within the shorter distances that value impacts are measurable and measured in other locations, so all the conditions are ripe for it if they build turbines that close to your home, yes, sir.

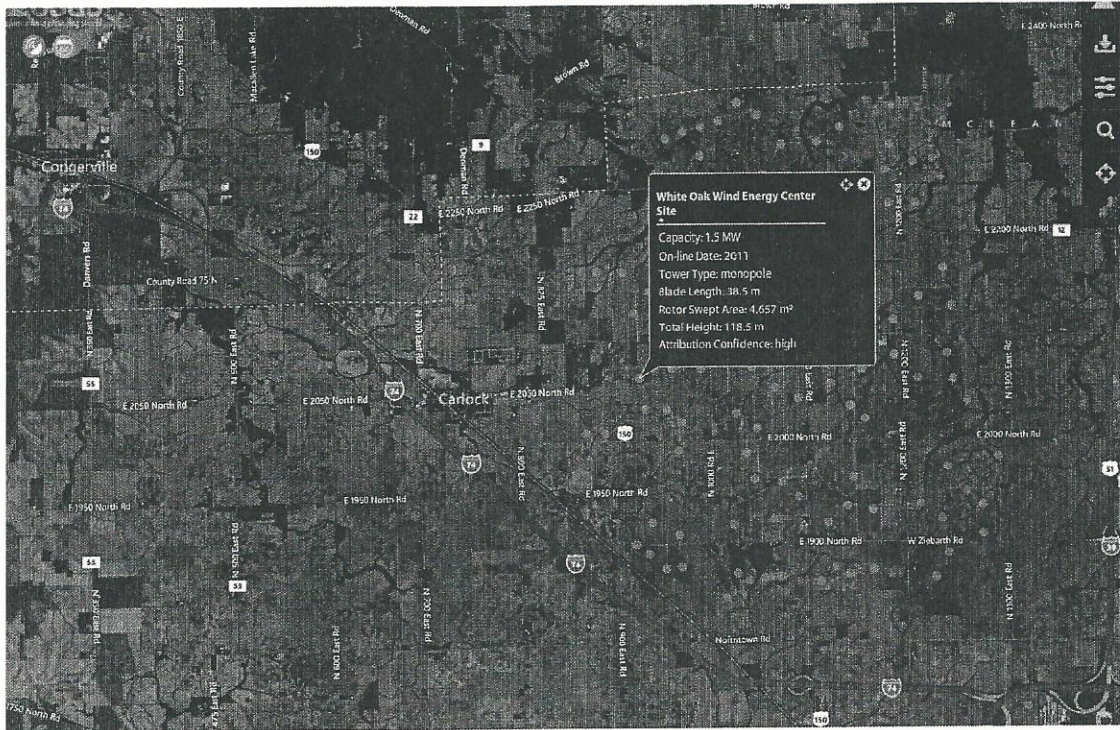
Topic 4 Summary

- Two witness were asked essentially the same question about a real life property example.
- One witness, who presented studies to show no statistical property value loss, couldn't answer to an individual real life example property.
- Another witness, who studied real property values using the local real-estate history in Streator-Cayuga Ridge, thinks the conditions are ripe for property value loss on the example specific property.

Topic 5 Carlock – Losing Students

- Yesterday in Sunday's Pantagraph (3/15/2015) was an interesting article:
- HEADLINE: CARLOCK COMMUNITY FIGHTING FOR SCHOOL
- "what they acknowledge appears to be an uphill battle: keeping a school in Carlock, population 552, viable as its district, "
- "Enrollment at Carlock has dipped from 142 in 2010-11 to 125 in 2012-13 to 115 this year"
- "but supporters aren't taking any chances. They've held open houses, produced brochures and used every communication method at their disposal — from telephone to social media to word-of-mouth — to broadcast that Carlock wants families, with some positive results."
- "he worries the fire department would struggle to attract enough members and, eventually, the town would fade away without the school."

Carlock on USGS Turbine Map



- USGS: White Oak Wind Energy Center became operational in 2011
- “Enrollment at Carlock has dipped from 142 in 2010-11 to 125 in 2012-13 to 115 this year”

