

William Cundiff

From: neexpansion@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, December 02, 2010 10:07 AM
To: wcundiff@douglasma.org
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Subject: Vestas Correction to Safety Manual
Attachments: NEES APW Vestas Safety Manual Correction 111510.pdf

Dear Bill,

Please find attached a correction to the operators safety manual issued by Vestas on November 15, 2010. Previously you had posted a submission by abutters that referenced the Vestas safety manual as recommending a safety radius around the turbine tower. That argument was used by some neighbors to make the claim that the setback to residences was insufficient. A couple of points regarding this claim:

1. This correction by Vestas to the safety manual makes it clear that Vestas has no recommended safety zone around the turbines under normal operating conditions. Also, as the correction states, "Vestas' Safety Regulations manuals should not be cited as support for any specific safety zone or setback for wind turbines in normal operation."
2. In any event, the Vestas equipment and its manuals are completely irrelevant to the Douglas Woods Wind Farm. As you are aware, American Pro Wind, LLC plans to install Nordex turbines on the project site. American Pro Wind has submitted to the Town of Douglas the Nordex safety manual for its review.

Please post this latest correction and share this information with the Planning Board.

Thank you,

Rod

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November 15, 2010

RE: Vestas Safety Manual - Correction and Clarification of Language

Certain older versions of the "General Precautions" chapter of Vestas' Safety Regulations manuals, including the manual entitled "Safety Regulations for Operators and Technicians – V90-3.0 MW/V100-2.75 MW" warn turbine operators and technicians to stay outside a certain radius from a wind turbine "unless necessary". This language, however, was meant to apply only in case of abnormal operation such as fire. The warning was never intended to apply to turbines operating normally. Accordingly, the specific warning was misplaced in the manual's "General Precautions" chapter.

Vestas has no documentation, studies or analysis proscribing a specified safety zone around its wind turbines in normal operation. As a result, Vestas has recently undertaken efforts to remove the warning from the "General Precautions" chapter in all of its manuals. However, Vestas does continue to specify a radius that should be evacuated in case of abnormal operating conditions such as fire. Vestas' Safety Regulations manuals should not be cited as support for any specific safety zone or setback for wind turbines in normal operation.

Wind turbines are sophisticated pieces of equipment and Vestas takes great care to ensure the safety of its equipment, its employees and their communities. As with any sophisticated electric generation equipment, abnormal operating conditions can occur. Nevertheless, Vestas wind turbines in normal operation are safe. Vestas employs thousands of service and maintenance technicians who work safely within close proximity to wind turbines every day.