

**Monhegan Plantation Power District**

**PO Box 127**

**Monhegan, ME 04852**

August 21, 2013

Dear Community Member –

We're writing to you today to ask for your voice – there are updates to the turbine test site below the island that will impact Monhegan. For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting at the school on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup>, here's a brief outline of what was discussed:

- The University of Maine and their partners are applying for funding and permits that will enable them to put two 6 megawatt floating turbines in the University's test site two miles south of the island
- The turbines will send power through a cable that will land on the mainland in the New Harbor area
- A second smaller cable could potentially be run to Monhegan -- they have identified 4 possible landing sites
- The turbine platforms will be 300 feet in diameter; the towers will be 300 feet tall; the blade diameter will be 450 feet (each blade is 1 ½ football fields long)
- The turbines will be clearly visible from the southern end and eastern side of the island – and will have lights, so will also be visible at night
- The University has begun sound studies and bird and mammal studies are already underway
- It is not clear who will own the potential cable to Monhegan
- The cable and the turbine have a 20 year life expectancy – there is no current plan for what happens after 20 years
- The cable from New Harbor to the turbines will carry fiber optics and it may be possible that the fiber might be extended to the island
- It is not known yet how it will impact our fishing grounds

We, as a community, have an opportunity (and perhaps a responsibility) to state our expectations and needs to the University and the companies developing the test site, as well as various project decision-makers. Just like the Dr. Seuss story, the voice of "every Who in Whoville needs to be heard". We're asking you to be in touch with the following people to let them know that we're here – 2 miles from the site paying one of the highest electric rates in the country; that the change in use of the test site will impact our fishing, our skyline and our ambient noise; and that we want "a seat at the table" as discussion and permitting moves forward. While we hope this will be an ongoing conversation, it is important to note that the University will be submitting a proposal to the Maine Public Utilities Commission on September 1, 2013 to be able to sell power. In order to maximize our impact, our community should try to state what we want and what our concerns are as soon as possible in order to be sure that we have a voice in this process as it moves forward.

Please consider contacting the following individuals and agencies with your thoughts and priorities:

- Senator Chris Johnson; 3 State House Station; Augusta, ME 04333; [chris@dirigo.net](mailto:chris@dirigo.net)
- Representative Mick Devin; 2 State House Station; Augusta, ME 04333; [mdevin@maine.edu](mailto:mdevin@maine.edu)
- Public Utilities Commission; 18 State House Station; Augusta, ME 04333; 207-287-3831; [maine.puc@maine.gov](mailto:maine.puc@maine.gov)
- Tim Schneider, Office of the Public Advocate; 112 State House Station; Augusta, ME 04333; 207-287-2445; [tim.schneider@maine.gov](mailto:tim.schneider@maine.gov)
- For the University of Maine: [Elizabeth.viselli@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.viselli@umit.maine.edu)
- For Monhegan Plantation Power District: [bookkeeper@monheganpower.com](mailto:bookkeeper@monheganpower.com)

We thank you for speaking up and asking to be heard.

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