

Maple Harvest Wind Project impacts to Infrastructure and Environment

Dear Neighbors,

As Palmer's proposed Maple Harvest Industrial Wind Project progresses, it is critical that we fully understand the very real impact this construction will have on our roads, environment, and daily lives.

While marketed as "green energy," the steps required to install 680-foot turbines would create serious, long-lasting disruptions for our community - even before a single turbine starts spinning.

What to Expect if the Project Moves Forward:

Road Damage and Traffic Disruptions:

- Many local roads are narrow, aging, and not designed for elevated levels of industrial traffic. An estimated 10,000 heavy-duty vehicles will make these trips within a one-year period.
- It will be necessary to widen existing country roads or construct new access roads.
- The constant heavy traffic and oversized loads could severely damage our roads, leaving towns responsible for expensive repairs. Many companies repair roads, but there is no guarantee of ongoing maintenance once projects are finished.

Blasting and Heavy Equipment:

- Blasting will be necessary to prepare turbine foundations, causing loud explosions, vibrations, and dust across the surrounding areas.
- Construction will involve massive equipment, including cranes, concrete trucks, oversized turbine component carriers, and regular escort vehicles.
- Some turbine parts - especially blades and tower sections - may be too large for ground transport, requiring helicopter airlifts to construction sites.

- Areas for staging and laydown of equipment, heavy machinery, and possibly helicopters will be needed.

Unknown Substation and Transmission Line Locations:

- A substation will be established to facilitate the collection and transmission of electricity from the turbines to the power grid.
- Overhead transmission lines will span across our towns. Huge metal lattice structures to carry the new power lines across our hillsides and valleys will add to the industrialization of our landscape.
- Palmer has not yet disclosed where the new substation and transmission lines will be located, leaving nearby residents uncertain about the additional impact it will have.
- Regarding the use of eminent domain for transmission facilities, as authorized by the 2024 NYS RAPID Act.

Habitat Destruction and Water Quality Concerns:

- To prepare space for turbines, access roads, and transmission lines, extensive land clearing and tree removal will be necessary.
- This will destroy critical habitat for many animal species, including endangered bats, migratory birds, pollinators, and our common wildlife.
- Increased soil compaction and extent of impervious surfaces will lead to increased surface water run-off and considerable damage to streams that feed Onondaga Creek and the Kettle Lakes.
- Potential damage to wells and drinking water quality is a grave concern.

Construction Timeline and Long-Term Disruptions:

- Based on Palmer's initial documentation, the construction may extend over several months to years, contingent upon factors such as weather conditions, permit approvals, and equipment availability.
- Even after construction ends, ongoing maintenance, including heavy truck traffic for oil changes, repairs, and blade replacements, will continue for decades.
- This will result in ongoing noise, traffic, and infrastructure damage even after the turbines are constructed.
- The irony is stark: while promoted as "green energy," this project could permanently damage the very ecosystems it claims to protect.

What You Can Do:

- Stay Informed: Review public documents, attend local meetings, and share this information with your neighbors.
- Speak Up: Remind decision-makers that our roads, our environment, and our quality of life are at stake.
- If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please reach out to Southern Hills Wind Watch. Let's ensure our community is heard.

The Southern Hills Wind Watch Team

Please visit us at
[Southernhillswindwatch.com](https://southernhillswindwatch.com).

"Once the trees are cut, the roads are broken, and the silence is lost — it cannot be easily reclaimed."