

# Mars Hill ME DEP Nighttime Noise Variance 45=>50 dbA

“There are 4 protected locations where the noise level would be above 45 dBA, but less than 50 dBA, **which is approximately equivalent to the noise that songbirds make . . .** the Department finds that the applicants’ project will not have an unreasonable adverse impact . . . and therefore grants a variance from the noise standards for the windpower farm.”

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2004.

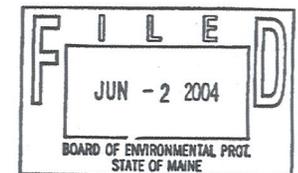
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

By: *Dawn R. Gallagher*  
DAWN R. GALLAGHER, COMMISSIONER

PLEASE NOTE THE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

Date of initial receipt of application January 12, 2004  
Date of application acceptance January 22, 2004

Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection  
RC/L21635AN/BN



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In fact, the turbines at Mars Hill produce night time readings 52.5 dBA, which Andrew Fisk of MDEP has characterized as ‘substantially in compliance’, and has issued a letter of compliance to First Wind/UPC.

He acknowledged, during a recent meeting in Fort Kent, that this reflected an average measurement which included downtime, though the statute is meant to regulate sound sources during operation.