

From: Rosemary and Alan roandalan@yahoo.com 
Subject: Re: IDA Dark Sky Places annual report
Date: September 2, 2017 at 6:21 AM
To: John Barentine john.barentine@gmail.com



Good morning John,

Annual Report- Beverly Shores, Indiana 9/2/17.

1) We have responded to seven requests from individuals looking for locations to view the night sky in or around Beverly Shores.

2) Over the next several years the local power company NIPSCO plans to retrofit their entire NW Indiana service area with 42,000 new 4000 Kelvin street lights. We continue our effort to have them change their Kelvin rating from 4000 to 2700 Kelvin. We have written an article in the Northwest Indiana times which was published in the Sunday Forum. (See attachment.) We attended a meeting at NIRPC (Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission) and read a statement based on the above article, requesting 2700 Kelvin. This directly challenged NIPSCO's agent Dr. Robert Kramer who was there advocating for the 4000K rating. We have initiated a petition and have asked town residents to write letters to Nipsco asking for our Kelvin preference. We have coordinated this effort with the neighboring town of Ogden dunes. We created a Power Point presentation for the Beverly Shores Town Council and requested our town council president draft a letter to Nipsco in support of our request for 2700 Kelvin. We have contacted our US House Representative Peter Visclosky, who's office has indicated their support if needed. Our Town Council President has requested that we wait to proceed with Rep. Visclosky's offer until she is able to meet directly with NIPSCO.

3) We continue to support the effort to limit commercial development at the Indiana dunes State Park.

4) We continue to support the National Park Service and the Chicago astronomical society monthly stargazing nights at Kemil Beach on the west end of Beverly Shores.

5) We have written a letter of endorsement supporting the initiative spearheaded by Larry Silvestri of Michigan City, IN for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to become a bronze level dark sky park.

We are honored to remain active members of the IDA. Town residents continue to celebrate having been selected as a Dark Sky Community. Thank you, John for your continuing encouragement and support. Your assistance with the NIPSCO issue has been invaluable.

Sincerely,
Rosemarv and Alan Bell

LED STREET LIGHTING IN NW INDIANA, WHY 4,000 KELVIN IS NOT THE BEST CHOICE.

In June of 2014 Beverly Shores was awarded the designation of the world's seventh International Dark Sky Community. This achievement was made possible through the cooperative efforts of the Beverly Shores Town Council, Association of Beverly Shores Residents (ABSR), ABSR Environment Committee, NIPSCO, and with the very generous financial support of the residents of Beverly Shores. We now find a new challenge.

Several months ago NIPSCO announced that as a cost saving intervention, they will be replacing every street light in their system in NW Indiana with new LED street light fixtures. This will include the Town of Beverly Shores. We appreciate NIPSCO's goal of the reduction of maintenance costs, and also the reduction of power usage and operating costs that will be achieved through the retrofitting of the older High Pressure Sodium Vapor street light fixtures currently in use, with new LED technology. Reducing the use of fossil fuels, reduction of mining operations and other negative aspects of lower efficiency municipal lighting is a goal we support. NIPSCO has advised that the LED technology being utilized in this equipment will be 4,000 Kelvin rated. This Kelvin rating is our primary concern. The information that follows will help area residents understand the implications of this decision by NIPSCO. As a reference, high pressure sodium (2200K) is currently in use on most of our streets.

The source of the information that follows is from the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH - LED LIGHTING, 2016, and from THE INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY ASSOCIATION.

Kelvin (K) is the unit of measurement used to describe the "hue" of a light source. 4,000K generates a color spectrum with excessive blue wavelength. Such wavelengths are associated with more scattering of light in the human eye, causing disability glare, visual impairments due to stray light, and reduced night time visual acuity. This is a more serious problem in eyes of those over 40. Research suggests intense blue spectrum light emissions may also cause retinal damage. 4,000K is environmentally disruptive to many nocturnal species, including birds, some plant species, certain insect species, and is of considerable concern in our unique dune land environment. Some potential health effects of higher Kelvin light sources...medical evidence supports long-term increase in cancer risk, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity from chronic sleep disruption associated with exposure to higher Kelvin light sources at night. 4,000K "blue/white" LED lighting is estimated to be 5 times more powerful in influencing circadian disruptions and causing sleep disturbance, due to melatonin suppression. The American Medical Association recommendation: AMA encourages the use of 3,000K or lower lighting for all outdoor installations such as roadways. The International Dark Sky Association (IDA) concurs with this recommendation.

We are not the only community objecting to the use of LED streetlights with a high Kelvin rating. Installation of 4000K streetlights is the first generation of such conversions, and it has been met with considerable opposition. The following places have either rejected them, expressed strong opposition and demands for modification, or already been refitted with lower

Kelvin rated replacements: Davis, CA, Seattle, WA, Cambridge, MA, Queens, NY, Phoenix, AZ, Los Angeles, CA, Monterey, CA and

The Georgia Power Company. In addition to these cities, the City of Chicago has announced that it's LED retrofitting program will utilize streetlights with a Kelvin rating of 3,000 or less.

The Association of Beverly Shores Residents has been in contact with residents and organizations from other Indiana lakeshore communities who agree with these concerns and who are working on their own initiatives on this issue. The Association of Beverly Shores Residents, and the Beverly Shores Town Council has requested that NIPSCO change the Kelvin rating of the new fixtures from 4,000K to the AMA and International Dark Sky Association recommendation of a Kelvin rating of 3,000 or lower. Technology as low as 2700K is currently available for streetlight applications and is the specific Kelvin rating we have asked to be used on this project. To date, NIPSCO has declined to consider making this adjustment...and the entire NIPSCO service area in NW Indiana is now scheduled to have their street lighting refitted with this older, first generation 4,000 Kelvin rated LED equipment over the next few years.

This requested Kelvin rating is supported by the AMA, an unsurpassable authority. It is also the standard for the International Dark Sky Association. This requested change will support the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore effort for designation for Dark Sky Park, along with the Town of Beverly Shores Designation as the world's seventh Dark Sky Community.

Respectfully,

Rosemary and Alan Bell
Association of Beverly Shores Residents Board of Directors
ABSR Environment Committee