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NH DEPT. OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

APR 27 2010

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Re: Groton Wind, LLC, SEC Docket No. 2010-01

April 27, 2010

Thomas S. Burack
Chairman
Site Evaluation Committee
N.H. Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Chairman Burack:

By this letter the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (Forest Society) wishes to clarify for the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) its interest in permanently conserving working forest land owned by Green Acre Woodlands (GAW) in Groton.

The Forest Society has been working with Green Acre Woodlands and the State's Department of Resources and Economic Development over the past five years to secure federal Forest Legacy funding for the State of New Hampshire to acquire a conservation easement on 6,578 acres of GAW land in Groton. The Forest Society is the "project sponsor" for this project and is being compensated by GAW for our services as project sponsor. A total of \$3.6 million has been committed in federal dollars for the purchase of the easement, which we hope to close later this year.

GAW has partnered separately with Iberdrola to develop the Groton Wind Project. The wind turbines for this project will be located on land directly abutting (but not encumbered by) the conservation easement. Roads servicing the wind project are located on lands that will be subject to the easement. While the Forest Society is coordinating our efforts with those of the applicant to ensure the timely completion of the Forest Legacy project, we wish to make clear the following:

1. The Forest Society will not be offering an opinion on the Wind Project as part of the permitting process. This is to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest, given our role as the project sponsor of the proposed Forest Legacy easement on the GAW tracts. In this role, we are facilitating negotiations between the landowner, who is also a party to the Groton Wind Project, and the N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development, which is a member of the SEC.
2. The conservation easement referenced on Page 73 of the SEC permit application will, if completed, be purchased and held by the State of New Hampshire, not the Forest Society. This is clearly stated on page 74 of the application, but it is less clear in the text on the page 73 reference to

mitigation. In addition, the proposed contribution to an easement stewardship fund would also go to the State of New Hampshire, not the Forest Society.

3. We welcome the wind project applicant's proposal to share survey and other data with the Forest Society and State of New Hampshire for purposes of completing the Forest Legacy easement on the GAW tracts. However, the acceptance and use of this data does not imply the Forest Society's support for (or opposition to) the proposed mitigation for the impacts of the Groton Wind project.
4. There will be no wind towers located on any acreage protected under the proposed Forest Legacy easement, in accordance with the program's guidelines.

Thank you, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jane A. Difley
President/Forester

Cc: George Bald, Commissioner, NH Dept. of Resources and Economic
Development
Susan Francher, NH DRED, Division of Forest & Lands
Edward Cherian, New England Development Director, Iberdrola Renewables
Bob Berti, FORECO, for Green Acres Woodlands