

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BEFORE THE  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**DOCKET NO. 2010-01**

**APPLICATION OF GROTON WIND, LLC  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY**

**SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL PREFILED TESTIMONY OF  
ADAM J. GRAVEL  
ON BEHALF OF  
GROTON WIND, LLC**

**November 19, 2010**

1 **Qualifications**

2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. My name is Adam J. Gravel. My business address is 30 Park Drive, Topsham,  
4 Maine, 04086.

5 **Q. Who is your current employer and what position do you hold?**

6 A. I am employed by Stantec Consulting (“Stantec”) as a Project Manager. I am  
7 responsible for coordinating and conducting wildlife use and impact assessment surveys, with a  
8 specific focus on large-scale avian and bat studies associated with wind power projects. My  
9 qualifications have not changed since the time my prefiled direct testimony was submitted in this  
10 docket.

11 **Purpose of Testimony**

12 **Q. What is the purpose of your second supplemental prefiled testimony?**

1           A.     The purpose of this testimony is to provide information regarding the potential  
2 impacts on avian and bat species as a result of the alternative overhead power line that will run  
3 from the Project site to Route 25.

4           **Q.     Please describe the alternate overhead power line route?**

5           A.     The overhead line between the Groton Wind Project site and Route 25 is currently  
6 anticipated to include approximately 37 single wood pole structures on a 35-foot wide cleared  
7 right-of-way ("ROW.") Approximately 10-12 of the poles would be on the current leased land  
8 for the Groton Wind Project (and thus previously reviewed as part of the Project area), and the  
9 remainder on two property easements. The poles would carry a total of six conductors on two  
10 davit arms (three on each), and would range in height from 34 to 42 feet above existing ground  
11 level. The taller poles would typically be located at angle points in the line. The line has been  
12 sited to follow existing logging roads/skid trails where possible, and will include multiple angles  
13 and shifts in orientation. No permanent access roads or other man-made features, beyond the  
14 wood poles, are proposed on the ROW.

15           **Q.     Are you familiar with the proposed location of the above-referenced**  
16 **alternative overhead line?**

17           A.     Yes. On November 2, 2010, I visited the proposed location of the alternate  
18 overhead power line route for the purpose of determining whether the construction of an electric  
19 line in this location would alter the conclusions that the Project will not have an unreasonable  
20 adverse effect on avian and bat species as stated in my prefiled direct and supplemental prefiled  
21 testimonies. The majority of the route has been logged recently or in the past but clearing will be  
22 required in a relatively closed canopy second growth beech-hemlock forest.

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2           **Q.     Please describe the observations made during your visit to this location.**

3           A.     During my site visit on November 2, 2010, I, along with the landowner, walked,  
4 or traveled with ATV, the proposed alternate route from Route 25 to the Project site. Most of  
5 this route was accessible via an existing skidder road/ATV trail. The first section of the  
6 proposed alternate route extends from the proposed O&M building location following an existing  
7 skidder road to a gravel pit where it then leaves the skidder road and continues to Route 25. The  
8 first leg of the proposed alternate route from Route 25 to the gravel pit is primarily second-  
9 growth beech- hemlock forest with a relatively closed canopy and tree height of approximately  
10 60 feet. This area has been selectively logged in the past but currently is relatively undisturbed.  
11 The route then extends from the gravel pit along an existing skidder road to the proposed O&M  
12 building location within the Project site. This leg of the proposed right-of-way is also within  
13 second-growth beech and hemlock forest but due to the existing skidder road has a more open  
14 canopy.

15           **Q.     Do you believe that the addition of the proposed alternative overhead power**  
16 **line to the Project will have an unreasonable adverse effect on avian or bat species?**

17           A.     No. The habitat types within the alternate power line route are indicative of  
18 recent and past timber harvesting, characteristic of this part of the State, and consistent with that  
19 found in the rest of the Project area. The proposed alternate route runs through second-growth  
20 forests; consequently, clearing for the power line in these areas may have an impact on breeding  
21 birds that utilize this habitat type. Although conversion of habitat from second-growth forest to  
22 regenerating forest may cause shifts in the species that utilize this habitat, this change is not

1 expected to be an unreasonable adverse impact since much of the proposed alternate route will  
2 utilize an existing skidder road/ATV trail. Additionally, the breeding bird communities present  
3 within the Project area and the proposed alternate power line route have experienced frequent  
4 changes in habitat over the years as a result of timber harvesting activities. The initial effects of  
5 clearing and construction of the proposed alternate power line route will be similar to timber  
6 harvesting activities currently on going within the Project site. The results of clearing will  
7 immediately produce edge habitat, which is prevalent in disturbed sites and generally used by  
8 many common bird species in the State. Following construction, vegetation will be allowed to  
9 regenerate under the power line right-of-way and maintenance will be similar to other power line  
10 right-of-ways in the State. This habitat will support many of the species commonly observed in  
11 disturbed sites such as those found during field surveys at the Project site.

12 Breeding bird surveys within the Project area did not identify any threatened or  
13 endangered bird species breeding and habitats that support these species were not identified in  
14 the project area. It is not expected that habitat or presence of threatened or endangered species  
15 occurs in the proposed alternate power line route.

16

17 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

18 **A. Yes.**

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