

**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
NANCY B. RENDALL AND PETER J. WALKER
ON BEHALF OF GROTON WIND, LLC**

November 19, 2010

1 **Qualifications of Peter J. Walker**

2

3

Q. Please state your name and business address.

4

A. My name is Peter J. Walker. My business address is 6 Bedford Farms
5 Drive, Suite 607, Bedford, New Hampshire, 03110.

5

6

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

7

A. I am employed by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. ("VHB"). I hold the
8 position of Director of Environmental Services.

8

9

Q. What are your background and qualifications?

10

A. My background and qualifications are set forth in my testimony filed in
11 this docket on October 12, 2010 and have not changed since that time.

11

12 **Qualifications of Nancy B. Rendall**

13

Q. Please state your name and business address.

14

A. My name is Nancy B. Rendall and my business address is 6 Bedford

15

Farms Drive, Suite 607, Bedford, New Hampshire, 03110. My qualifications

1 were included in my prefiled direct testimony which was submitted with the
2 Groton Wind, LLC Application on March 26, 2010 and have not changed since
3 that time.

4 **Purpose of Second Supplemental Prefiled Testimony**

5 **Q. What is the purpose of this supplemental prefiled testimony?**

6 A. The purpose of this testimony is to provide updated/additional information
7 concerning the potential impacts of a small portion of the Groton Wind, LLC
8 Project (“Groton Wind” or “the Project”) – an alternate power line route from the
9 Project site to Route 25 described in Exhibit 5, Appendix 42 (Figure 6a) - on
10 wetlands, streams and vernal pools..

11 **Q. Please describe the components and proposed location of the above-**
12 **referenced alternative power line.**

13 A. The overhead line between the Groton Wind Project site and Route 25 is
14 currently anticipated to include approximately 37 single wood pole structures on a
15 35-foot wide cleared right-of-way (“ROW.”) Approximately 10-12 of the poles
16 would be on the current leased land for the Groton Wind Project (and thus
17 previously reviewed as part of the project area), and the remainder on two
18 property easements. The poles would carry a total of six conductors on two davit
19 arms (three on each), and would range in height from 34 to 42 feet above existing
20 ground level. The taller poles would typically be located at angle points in the
21 line. The line has been sited to follow existing logging roads/skid trails where
22 possible, and will include multiple angles and shifts in orientation. No permanent

1 access roads or other man-made features, beyond the wood poles, are proposed on
2 the ROW.

3 **Q. Have you conducted a field investigation of the property where the**
4 **alternative overhead power line is proposed to be located?**

5 A. Yes. On October 29, 2010 Nancy Rendall and Michael Leo inspected the
6 alignment of the proposed alternative overhead power line. The field
7 investigations were made in order to determine the potential for impacts to
8 wetlands, streams, and vernal pools and to assess engineering considerations
9 relative to the alternative route.

10 Wetlands and streams were identified in the field and located using GPS
11 survey. Notes were also recorded to document information such as stream
12 classification and width, proposed wetland classifications, general characteristics,
13 and potential functions and values of the wetland. Photos were taken of identified
14 wetland and stream resources. A total of nine wetlands, seven intermittent
15 streams and one perennial stream were found to be located within or immediately
16 adjacent to the study area corridor.

17 A written report summarizing these findings was prepared by Nancy
18 Rendall and submitted to the Applicant on November 2, 2010. Our understanding
19 is that this report has been marked for identification as Exhibit 44 in the above-
20 captioned docket.

1 **Q. Please explain whether this alternative overhead power line will have**
2 **any impacts on wetlands and, if so, whether those impacts can be avoided or**
3 **minimized.**

4 A. The alternative overhead power line cannot completely avoid crossing
5 wetlands and streams, but it can be built without creating permanent direct
6 impacts. Based on the preliminary plans for the overhead line, it is our
7 understanding that none of the poles would be placed directly in a wetland or
8 stream. However, construction of the overhead power line requires that a 35 ft
9 wide corridor be cleared of trees and taller shrubs, and this cleared corridor would
10 be maintained permanently for safety reasons. It may not be possible to avoid all
11 clearing impacts within wetlands along the alternative route, but clearing of
12 vegetation from wetlands is not considered “dredge” or “fill” under the state
13 wetlands law (RSA 482-A) as long as the clearing can be accomplished without
14 disturbing the soil surface, and construction of the alternative overhead power line
15 can be accomplished with minimal clearing in wetlands. VHB will continue to
16 work with the Applicant to adjust the alignment as necessary to minimize
17 impacts.

18 **Q. Have you discussed the alternative overhead power line with any**
19 **representatives of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental**
20 **Services (“DES”)?**

21 A. Yes. On November 5, Nancy Rendall and Peter Walker met with Craig
22 Rennie of the DES Water Division to review the alternative overhead power line.

1 Mr. Rennie has been the technical reviewer for Groton Wind's Wetland and
2 Alteration of Terrain applications and was responsible for issuing technical
3 comments and recommended permit conditions to the Site Evaluation Committee.

4 **Q. Has DES indicated whether the inclusion of the alternative overhead**
5 **power line in the Project's plans changes any of DES's findings and/or**
6 **recommendations issued on October 8, 2010 regarding the Applicant's**
7 **Alteration of Terrain Permit or Wetlands Permit?**

8 A. Mr. Rennie indicated that he did not have any significant concerns with
9 the alternative. He indicated that the overhead line would not trigger Alteration of
10 Terrain jurisdiction and that it may be possible to construct the line without any
11 permanent impacts to wetlands, especially if the applicant were willing to conduct
12 any clearing within wetlands, if such clearing is necessary, under frozen
13 conditions and there was no other work that would occur directly within the
14 wetlands or streams (i.e., pole placement or equipment for stringing lines).

15 **Q. In your professional opinion, will the alternative overhead power line**
16 **have an unreasonable adverse effect on wetlands or water quality?**

17 A. No. The Project will not have unreasonable adverse effect on wetlands or
18 water quality. Wetland impacts will be minimal and temporary and may be
19 avoided altogether. The construction of the power line would not degrade water
20 quality, particularly if built according to standard best management practices.

21 **Q. Have you assessed the alternative overhead power line's impacts on**
22 **wildlife and wildlife habitat?**

1 A. We submitted the alternative route for review through the NH Natural
2 Heritage Bureau's online "Data Check Tool" to determine if there are any known
3 records of threatened, endangered or species of concern within a one-mile radius
4 of the proposed alternative power line. The Data Check Tool indicated that there
5 are no known records of threatened, endangered or species of concern within a
6 one-mile radius of alternative route. Based on the relatively small foot print of
7 the power line, and the relatively limited amount of clearing needed for its
8 construction, we do not believe that the alternative overhead power line will have
9 an unreasonable adverse impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat.

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

11 A. Yes.

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