

Orr&Reno

July 16, 2014

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James F. Laboe
Robert S. Carey
Jeremy D. Eggleton
John M. Zaremba
Caroline K. Brown
Heidi S. Cole
Rachel A. Goldwasser
Rebecca E. Perkins
Andrew D. Grosvenor

Via U.S. and Electronic Mail
NH Site Evaluation Committee
c/o Jane Murray, Secretary
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: Docket 2010-01, Groton Wind, LLC

Dear Ms. Murray:

On behalf of Groton Wind, LLC, and Counsel for the Public, enclosed for filing with the Site Evaluation Committee in the above-captioned docket, please find an original and 2 copies of a Partially Assented-to Joint Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement Between Groton Wind and Counsel for the Public.

Please contact me if there are any questions about this filing. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Susan S. Geiger

Lawrence A. Kelly
(Of Counsel)

Neil F. Castaldo
(Of Counsel)

cc: Service List (electronic mail only)
Enclosures
1178547_1

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

DOCKET NO. 2010-01

RE: GROTON WIND, LLC

**PARTIALLY ASSENTED-TO JOINT MOTION
TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN GROTON WIND AND
COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC**

NOW COME Groton Wind, LLC (“Groton Wind”) by and through its attorneys, and Counsel for the Public, Peter C.L. Roth, by his attorneys the Office of the Attorney General (“Counsel for the Public”) (together, “the Moving Parties”), and respectfully move the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (“Committee” or “SEC”) to approve the Settlement Agreement dated July 9, 2014, between Groton Wind and Counsel for the Public. In support of this Motion, the Moving Parties state as follows:

1. The Moving Parties have entered into a Settlement Agreement (a copy of which is attached) to resolve Counsel for the Public’s claims that the Groton Wind Project was not constructed in accordance with the Certificate of Site and Facility issued in this docket and that Groton Wind’s Environmental, Health and Safety Plan (filed October 11, 2013) is deficient.

2. In accordance with representations made to the Committee by Counsel for the Public at the June 12, 2014 status conference in this docket, *see* Tr. (6/12/14) p. 35, as well as paragraph 6 of the Settlement Agreement, the Moving Parties hereby submit the Settlement Agreement for the Committee’s review and approval.

3. The Committee should approve the Settlement because it resolves a significant dispute between the parties, ending what would be costly and time-consuming litigation with an uncertain outcome. The Settlement Agreement achieves a satisfactory and just result, in that it acknowledges the satisfaction of claims by several property owners near the project, it acknowledges the resolution of claims by the New Hampshire Fire Marshal, and it provides an important benefit to the public by means of a substantial contribution to DRED for the additional protection or enhancement of the Livermore Falls area. At the same time, the Settlement Agreement leaves open proceedings for the amendment of the certificate to seek to permit the present location of the operations and maintenance building.

4. On behalf of the Moving Parties, Counsel for the Public has circulated the Settlement Agreement to the parties to this docket, and has made a good faith effort to obtain concurrence with the relief sought herein from said parties. As of the time of finalizing this motion, the following parties have indicated their positions on it: the Town of Groton assents; the Buttolph/Lewis/Spring Intervenor Group does not assent; and no other party responded.

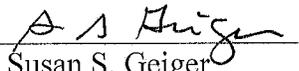
WHEREFORE, Groton Wind and Counsel for the Public respectfully request that the Committee:

- A. Approve the attached Settlement Agreement; and
- B. Grant such further relief as it deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Groton Wind, LLC
By and through its Attorneys,
ORR & RENO, P.A.

Dated: July 16, 2014

By: 
Susan S. Geiger
45 South Main Street
P.O. Box 3550
Concord, NH 03301
(603)223-9154
sgeiger@orr-reno.com

COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC

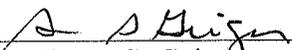
ANN M. RICE
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C.L. Roth", written over a horizontal line.

Peter C.L. Roth
Senior Assistant Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 16th day of July, 2014, copies of the within Motion were sent to persons named on the Service List either by electronic mail or first class mail, postage prepaid.



Susan S. Geiger

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made as of this 9th day of July, 2014, ("Effective Date"), by and between, Groton Wind, LLC, an Oregon limited liability company ("Groton Wind") and Peter C.L. Roth, in his capacity as Counsel to the Public ("Counsel for the Public") in New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee ("SEC") Docket No. 2010-01. Groton Wind and Counsel for the Public are sometimes referred to herein individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties."

RECITALS

- A. Groton Wind is the owner of an electric generating wind power project ("Wind Project") in Groton, New Hampshire.
- B. Counsel for the Public is a party to SEC Docket No. 2010-01 and has asserted, among other things, that: Groton Wind constructed its Wind Project not in accordance with its SEC certificate in violation of RSA 162-H:5, I; the SEC should order Groton Wind to terminate the violation and move the Wind Project's operations and maintenance ("O&M") building to its originally certificated location; and Groton Wind's Environmental, Health and Safety Plan (filed October 11, 2013) is deficient (the "Enforcement Claims").
- C. Groton Wind and Counsel for the Public recognize that claims and concerns of certain owners of property in close proximity to the O&M building (i.e. Mario Rampino, Mary Ann Peabody; and Greg Saulnier) have been addressed and settled as to these property owners.
- D. Groton Wind and Counsel for the Public recognize that Groton Wind and the Office of the State Fire Marshal have executed a Compliance Agreement to satisfy the State Fire Marshal's issues pending in SEC Docket No. 2010-01, (the "Compliance Agreement"), and have substantially performed the responsibilities required thereby, and that Groton Wind has filed, and the State Fire Marshal has accepted, the Groton Wind Plant "Emergency Plan", filed with the SEC on June 20, 2014 (the "Emergency Plan").
- E. Groton Wind and Counsel for the Public are entering into this Agreement to compromise, settle and resolve Counsel for the Public's Enforcement Claims presently pending before the SEC, for Counsel for the Public to permanently withdraw said claims, and for Groton Wind to make a payment in the amount of \$160,000 for the public benefit (the "Payment") and to take additional steps described below in paragraph 2.

AGREEMENT

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the promises, terms and conditions set forth herein the Parties mutually agree as follows:

1. Withdrawal of Enforcement Claims. Within five (5) days after full execution of this Agreement, Counsel for the Public shall: (a) cause all of his claims, protests and objections currently pending before the SEC against Groton Wind and/or the Wind Project related to the Enforcement Claims to be withdrawn by filing a notice of withdrawal with the SEC. Such withdrawal shall become permanent upon receipt by Counsel for the Public of the Payment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Counsel for the Public reserves the right to participate, in accordance with his powers under RSA 162-H:9, in an adjudicative proceeding with respect to Groton Wind's requests to amend its certificate of site and facility, but agrees that he will not demand that the Wind Project's O&M building be removed or relocated, nor will he seek or assist others with seeking a determination that Groton Wind has violated the terms of its certificate of site and facility, or any provision of law.

2. Payments and Actions by Groton Wind. Groton Wind shall make the Payment to the New Hampshire Department of Justice ("NHDOJ") on or before May 1, 2015. Up to \$10,000 of said Payment funds may be retained by NHDOJ to defray its expenses associated with SEC Docket No. 2010-01; these funds shall be used at the discretion of the Attorney General. The remaining funds shall be used by NHDOJ for the public purpose of supporting the "Livermore Falls Project" in Grafton County by the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development for park management and park infrastructure at Livermore Falls. Groton Wind shall also continue to comply with all of the terms and conditions of the Compliance Agreement and shall maintain in effect an emergency plan satisfactory to the State Fire Marshal, substantially similar to the Emergency Plan.

3. Release. Upon the delivery of the Payment by Groton Wind to Counsel for the Public, Counsel for the Public, on his own behalf, and on behalf of his representatives, employees, contractors, attorneys, agents, successors, and assigns, and any other person or entity claiming by or through any of them, will release, acquit and discharge Groton Wind from the Enforcement Claims. This release expresses a full and complete settlement of the Enforcement Claims, regardless of the adequacy of the above consideration.

4. Warranties and Representations. In addition to the representations and warranties contained elsewhere in this Agreement, the Parties warrant and represent to each other as follows:

- a. By signing below, each signatory represents and warrants that he/she is authorized to sign this Agreement on the Party's behalf and to thereby bind such Party to the terms of the Agreement.
- b. Each Party represents and warrants to all other Parties that neither the execution of this Agreement nor the performance of any obligations

hereunder will violate, or constitute a default under or breach of, any other agreement to which any Party is bound.

5. Settlement and Compromise. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement is a settlement and compromise of disputed claims described herein. The Parties agree to the following Iberdrola Renewables statement:

Iberdrola Renewables is a company that prides itself on transparency and clear communication. Iberdrola Renewables acknowledges that certain communications and decisions surrounding its construction of the operations and maintenance building of the Groton Wind Project did not meet the expectations of state officials and some members of the local community and was not explicitly authorized by the certificate. While we believe that we acted appropriately, we regret that this situation has resulted in misunderstandings and a lack of trust with those impacted. Iberdrola Renewables is working diligently to reestablish its reputation as a good corporate citizen within the State of New Hampshire, as it does at all of its nearly 60 renewable projects throughout the United States and has taken a number of important steps to rectify the situation with respect to the operations and maintenance facility.

Iberdrola Renewables also acknowledges that a lack of close coordination with the State Fire Marshal's office ahead of construction has led to further misunderstanding and a lack of trust when it comes to fire safety issues. Safety is the number one concern for Iberdrola Renewables, both for the communities it serves and its own employees and contractors. With all of this in mind, we have reached an agreement with the State Fire Marshal's office on an action plan which addresses all concerns.

6. SEC Approval. The Parties agree that within 10 days of its full execution, they will develop a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement and provide the Motion and Settlement Agreement to the parties in SEC Docket No. 2010-01 for concurrence, at which time the terms of this Agreement shall be public. The Parties agree to cooperate in advocating that this Agreement be approved by the SEC in its entirety and without modification. This Agreement is expressly conditioned upon the SEC's acceptance and approval of all of its provisions without change or condition. If the SEC does not accept this Agreement in its entirety in full satisfaction of all of the pending claims against Groton Wind and/or the Wind Project, or if the SEC makes changes to this Agreement, or issues conditions or findings that go beyond the scope of this Agreement, the Settling Parties shall negotiate reasonable modifications to this Agreement if necessary and possible. Such modifications shall take into account the SEC's determinations, and to the extent possible, maintain the original language and intent of this Agreement.
7. Entire Agreement. This Agreement sets forth the entirety of the agreement between the Parties hereto and supersedes all prior negotiations, agreements, representations, and understandings between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and any reliance upon any prior negotiations, agreements, representations, and understandings between the Parties is expressly waived and disclaimed.

8. Confidentiality of Settlement Negotiations. This Agreement is the product of confidential settlement negotiations. The content of these negotiations, including any documents prepared during such negotiations for the purpose of reaching settlement, shall be privileged and all offers of settlement shall be confidential and without prejudice to the position of any party presenting such offer.
9. Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts and facsimile signatures will be accepted in lieu of original signatures.
10. Successors. The terms of this Agreement shall be binding upon the heirs, representatives, successors and assigns of each Party hereto.
11. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New Hampshire.
12. Negotiated Agreement. This Agreement shall not be construed as if it were prepared by one of the Parties, and shall be deemed to have been negotiated by and between the Parties, who are separately represented by counsel. All provisions of this Agreement have been negotiated at arm's length, and this Agreement shall not be construed for or against any Party by reason of the authorship or alleged authorship of any provision hereof.
13. Survival. All representations and warranties set forth in, and all provisions of, this Agreement shall survive the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and the delivery of any instruments required to be delivered hereunder and be fully enforceable thereafter.
14. Performance of Additional Acts. Each Party agrees that it shall execute and deliver any and all documents and perform any and all acts required on its part or those which may be reasonably necessary to effectuate and complete and facilitate the provisions of this Agreement.
15. Modification of Agreement. Any modification of this Agreement shall be in writing and signed by the Parties.
16. Breach and Remedies. Each Party shall retain its rights to pursue legal and/or equitable actions to remedy breach(es) of this Agreement by the other Party.
17. Third Party Beneficiaries. The Parties hereto do not intend to benefit any third parties and this Agreement shall not be construed to confer any such benefit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

Saura Maynard
Witness

Peter C.L. Roth
Peter C.L. Roth
Counsel for the Public

Van Nguyen
Witness

GROTON WIND, LLC,
an Oregon Limited Liability
Company

By: *Kevin Devlin*
Name: Kevin Devlin
Authorized Representative

Its: _____

LEGAL
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Van Nguyen
Witness

By: *Scott Jacobson*
Name: Scott Jacobson
Authorized Representative

Its: _____