

**New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
Docket Number 2013-01**

**EDPR COMMENTS ON THE PETITION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY COMMITTEE, TO ADOPT RULES ESTABLISHING
PROCEDURES AND SITING CRITERIA FOR WIND POWERED FACILITIES**

My name is Jeffrey Nemeth, and I work for EDP Renewables. EDPR has developed over 4000 MWs of wind in the US, and currently owns and operates over 3800 MWs. While we have been developing wind farms in New England since 2003 in Maine, only recently have we started to develop a project in New Hampshire.

EDPR entered into New Hampshire as we saw an area that was good for wind energy development: there are numerous sites that combine good wind energy, access to transmission, supportive landowners, and a clear and fair permitting process. The New Hampshire legislature has demonstrated repeatedly over the last decade their clear support for renewable energy, affirming as recently as last year through Senate Bill 218, and always through bipartisan support, that New Hampshire was committed to renewable energy.

With this context, EDPR is currently developing a 60 MW project, Spruce Ridge Wind Farm, in the towns of Groton, Alexandria, Hebron and Orange, all in Grafton County. This project would be 15-25 turbines, and involve working with a single landowner. As there is a transmission line going through the proposed project site, even access to the transmission is through this single landowner. We believe this project has the necessary requirements to be able to be economically constructed and to benefit New Hampshire with the \$140 million dollar investment, over 100 construction jobs, and several permanent positions. These towns will also receive property taxes for the existence of the project.

EDPR encourages the revisiting of the Site Evaluation Committee process, and would like to be a stakeholder in the Wind Energy Siting Facility Guidelines Working group if it again gets convened. Having a clear structure where all stakeholders can address their concerns is necessary for the construction and operations of a wind farm; our company aims to be a good neighbor and partner for the communities that we work in for the next 25 years of the project lifecycle, and the best way to be a good neighbor is to start off making sure the stakeholder concerns are addressed.

While EDPR was not active in New Hampshire in 2007, we understand the Proposed Wind Siting Guidelines were constructed in a collaborative fashion among many stakeholders. The effort and thought that went into these proposed guidelines is obvious, and we hope many parts of this document can be used as a base for the next iteration.

The wind industry has learned a large amount over the last six years, and as the technology of wind turbines has advanced and as countless peer-reviewed studies have been published on all aspects of wind energy – from sound studies to industry best practices on setbacks to bird and bat guidelines – some aspects of the 2007 Proposed Wind Siting Guidelines could be used as a base and others should be created anew.



If a stakeholder process is initiated, EDPR looks forward to being a productive stakeholder.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Jeffrey Nemeth

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