

TransAlta Corporation

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September 4, 2019

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Attention: Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator 21 South Fruit St., Suite #10 Concord, NH 03301

Re: Antrim Wind Energy LLC – Tree Planting at Site Entrance

Dear Ms. Pamela G. Monroe:

Antrim Wind Energy LLC is seeking the SEC's guidance/concurrence regarding AWE's position on the following matter.

On Sheet C-1 of the permit drawings (Exhibit 7A) there are a series of plantings shown near the site entrance. These same plantings were carried over into the IFC drawings by Sewall. These plantings are also referenced in the Visual Assessment by Landworks (Appendix 9A). Page 37¹ of that report states:

"There will be a staging area of less than 2 acres cleared to the north of the substation and O&M facility that will benefit from the existing buffer along Route 9, and 100 feet of vegetation will be retained along and parallel to the highway. Once construction is complete, this area will be allowed to revegetate naturally, which is often quicker and more effective than planting measures. To reinforce the buffer along Route 9, an area adjacent to the southern edge of the buffer and where clearing abuts the buffer, will be planted with a dense landscape screen of evergreen and deciduous trees. Additionally, some landscape plantings will be added to the entry area adjacent to the access road to close the opening and provide further screening of the facility (see Exhibit 19)"

As stated in the Visual Assessment excerpt, AWE's position is that the purpose of these plantings was to create a visual screen to counter the effect of clearing the 2-acre laydown yard on site. AWE's contractor never cleared that 2-acre laydown yard and therefore a dense natural forest still remains there, which is a more effective screen than replanting would have been and as a result the Antrim Wind facility is not visible from the road. Additionally, AWE does not believe it

¹ Page 43 of the PDF file: 10-02-15-sec-2015-02-appendix-9a-lw-va-final-03sept2015-w-exhibits.pdf



is viable to successfully plant trees either in the forest or in the bedrock directly around the site entrance.

Because there currently exists a vegetative screen resulting from AWE clearing less area than permitted, which is denser and more mature than any replanting would have been, and because the facility is not visible from the road, AWE's position is that the need for the plantings shown on the plans no longer exists and that these tree plantings can be omitted. We respectfully request your concurrence on this position.

I would be happy to discuss further or answer any other questions you have.

Yours truly,

TRANSALTA CORPORATION

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