

## TransAlta Corporation

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September 24, 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 (AWE) – Status update on the aerial obstruction lightning

Dear Ms. Monroe:

This status update follows up on our September 11, 2019 letter. As you know, on Monday, September 9, 2019, AWE completed a site inspection and reported four (4) non-operational aerial obstruction lights to the FAA under a Notices to Airmen (NOTAM¹) for turbines 3, 4, 5 and 6. Following this inspection, a plan was put in place to have the lights inspected/repaired/replaced as appropriate.

On Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> AWE's contractor was on site to inspect the temporary lights that were not functioning, and which had been previously reported to the FAA under a NOTAM. The contractor inspected and tested the lights, which were working at the time of the inspection. However, on the evening of Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> AWE inspected the lights again after dusk and the four lights, which were originally in question, were not working as well as one additional light (turbines 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8). AWE promptly contacted the FAA to file the appropriate NOTAM.

On Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> the temporary light for turbine 4 was replaced with a new temporary light, which is currently operational. On Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> the permanent light for turbine 6 was commissioned, which will be part of the Aircraft Detection Lighting System ("ADSL"). The permanent light for turbine 3 will be commissioned by Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. The temporary lights for turbines 5 and 8, however, are not operating properly, although NOTAMs have been

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A NOTAM is a FAA approved method to communicate a lighting outage of more than 30 minutes. AWE recognizes and is aware that a NOTAM cannot be used instead of temporary lightning. At no time was a NOTAM requested by AWE or issued by the FAA to avoid utilizing temporary lighting during the construction period; temporary lights were installed as described above. However, in the case of outages of the temporary or permanent lights, the FAA Marking & Lighting Conditions for AWE clearly requires that any light outages shall be reported to the FAA: "Any failure or malfunction that lasts more than thirty (30) minutes and affects a top light or flashing obstruction light, regardless of its position, should be reported immediately to (877) 487-6867 so a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) can be issued. As soon as the normal operation is restored, notify the same number." Therefore, the use of the NOTAM for the current situation is not in violation of any requirements of the Certificate and is a requirement of the FAA to ensure public safety.



filed with the FAA as required. To resolve this issue, AWE has addressed permanent lighting as discussed below.

The permanent lights for turbines 6 and 7 are currently operating and the permanent lights for turbines 1, 3, 4 and 9 will be commissioned by Friday, September 27th. Once the permanent lights for turbines 1, 3, 4 and 9 are confirmed to be operating, all remaining temporary lighting will be removed from the respective turbine. Pursuant to the Determinations of No Hazard issued to AWE turbines 2, 5 and 8 are not required by the FAA to have permanent lighting.

To the extent necessary, AWE will diligently notify the FAA, as required, for any applicable NOTAM. In addition, AWE will continue completing nightly inspections of the aerial obstruction lighting until the time when the ADLS is installed and commissioned later this year (before COD) and the Town of Antrim will be notified once we reach that milestone. At that time, the permanent lights will operate when aircraft are detected, and the system will be monitored 24/7 by TransAlta's Wind Control Center. In the meantime, the aerial obstruction lights will remain on all night independently of the presence or absence of nearby aerial traffic and will operate in a synchronized manner as required by the FAA Determination of No Hazard.

If you wish to proceed with a visit to assess the situation at the site, our team remains available to coordinate such visit at your convenience.

We wish to reiterate that TransAlta is committed to the safe operation of all of its facilities including AWE.

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

Yours truly,

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