

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BEFORE THE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
DOCKET NO. 2015-02
APPLICATION OF ANTRIM WIND ENERGY, LLC
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY
FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF DOUGLAS A. BECHTEL
ON BEHALF OF THE
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

August 15, 2016

Qualifications of Douglas A. Bechtel

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Douglas A. Bechtel and my business address is 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301.

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

A. I am employed by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (Audubon), and I hold the position of President.

Q. Please summarize your educational and professional background and experience.

A. I hold an M.S. degree in Botany and a B.A. degree in Biology. Prior to joining the Audubon staff, I served as Executive Director of Audubon International in Troy, NY from 2013 until May 2016. From 1998 to 2013 I held a series of positions with the New Hampshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, including Assistant Director of Science and Stewardship/Natural Heritage Ecologist, Director of Freshwater Science and Conservation, and Director of Conservation Science. I came to Audubon in June of this year to serve as President.

Q. Please describe your current employment responsibilities.

A. As President, I am responsible for day to day operations, budgeting, and staff management. I am the public face of NH Audubon and serve ex officio on the Board of Trustees and all Board committees.

Purpose of Testimony

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide supplemental information about the dam at Willard Pond and historical information about the summit of Goodhue Hill.

Supplemental Testimony

Q. Please state whether the boat launch, dam, or vehicles parked next to the boat launch are visible from Willard Pond.

A. The opening in shoreline vegetation at the unpaved boat launch is visible from some areas of Willard Pond. The NH Fish and Game kiosk can be seen by the unaided eye only at fairly close range. The 180 ft. earthen dam is vegetated and blends in with the natural shoreline. The concrete spillway is 10ft. wide and 2ft. high and is only visible from the Pond at close range. Vehicles are only present at the boat launch while actively launching or retrieving boats, as parking is not permitted there. The parking area for the boat launch is located more than 700ft. from the shoreline and is not visible from the Pond.

Q. Was there ever an opening at the summit of Goodhue Hill prior to NH Audubon's clearcut in 2012?

A. Much of the summit of Goodhue Hill was sheep pasture at one time. Aerial photography from 1952 shows an extensive open area on the north slope and summit of Goodhue Hill. Remnant stone walls indicate the previous extent of this clearing. Aerial photography from 1974 shows the edges of this area growing in to white pine, with a central open area remaining. The U.S. Geological Survey Stoddard, New Hampshire 7.5 x 15 minute, 1:25,000-scale metric topographic map,

Provisional Edition of 1984 (43072-AI-TM-025) also shows an open area near the summit of Goodhue Hill. While regeneration had advanced further into the clearing by the time of the 2012 harvest, the opening had not become completely reforested. Restoring a portion of the original forest opening to early successional habitat was a major reason for the harvest.

Aerial photography from 1952 is provided as Attachment DB 6-1.

Aerial photography from 1974 is provided as Attachment DB 6-2.

The pertinent portion of the USGS topographic map is provided as Attachment DB 6-3.

A photograph of the stone wall bordering the 2012 clearcut is provided as Attachment DB 6-4.

Q. Was Audubon's decision to open Goodhue Hill in any way connected to the 2012 SEC application of Antrim Wind Energy?

Not at all. Audubon's plan to further open Goodhue Hill was in place long before the first Antrim Wind Energy project was proposed.

Attachment DB 6-1 (AWE)
Aerial photography from 1952

6-52

DQU-4K-145



Attachment DB 6-2 (AWE)
Aerial photography from 1974

15-74

33011 674 246

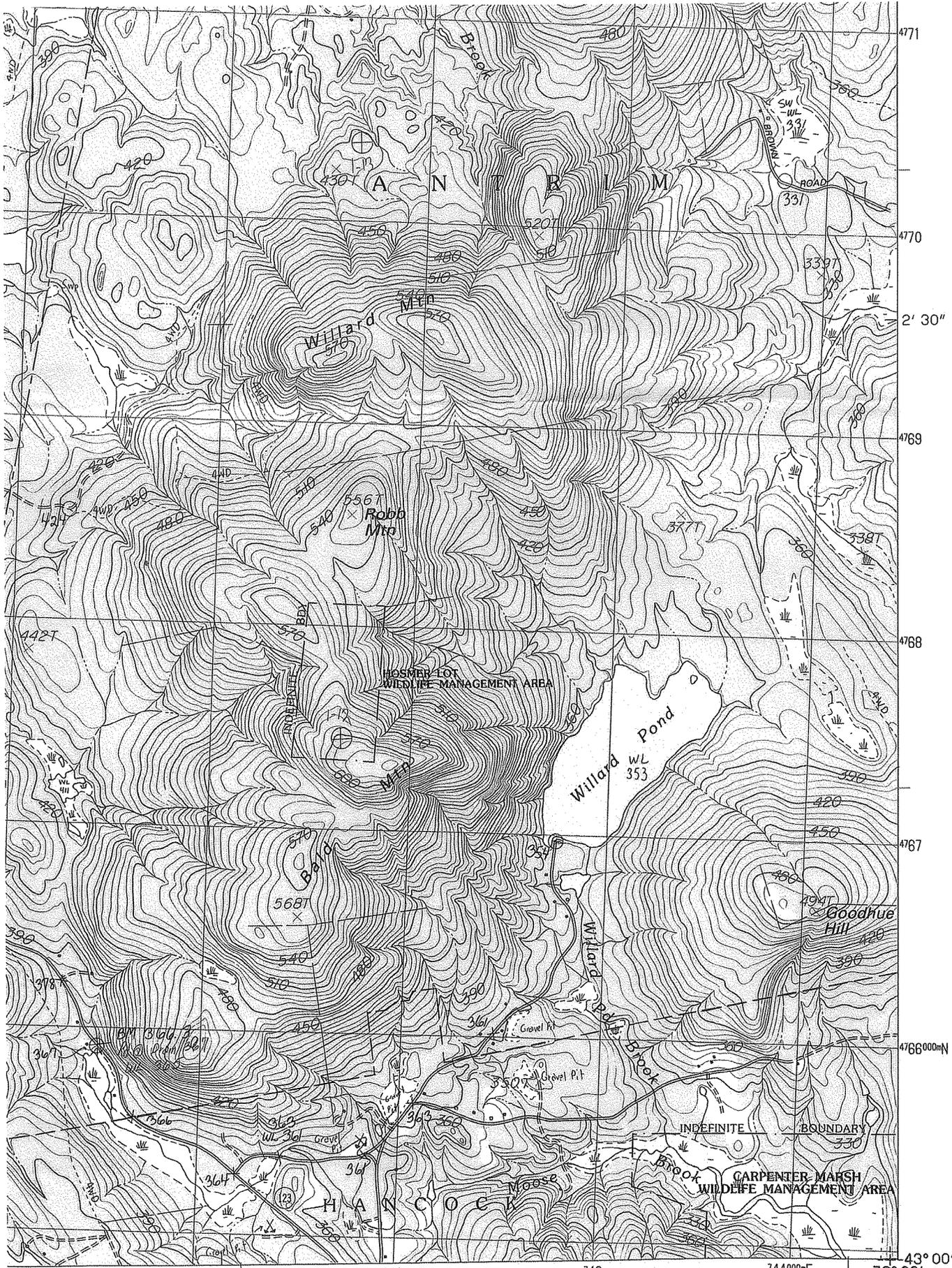


Attachment DB 6-3 (AWE)

U.S. Geological Survey Stoddard, New Hampshire

7.5 x 15 minute, 1:25,000-scale metric topographic map, Provisional Edition of 1984

(43072-AI-TM-025)



STODDARD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1984
43072-AI-TM-025

Attachment DB 6-4 (AWE)

Photograph of stone wall bordering 2012 clearcut on Goodhue Hill

