



Appalachian Mountain Club

September 16, 2008

Thomas S. Burack, Chairman
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
c/o New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 95
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302-0095

NH DEPT. OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SEP 17 2008

RECEIVED

Re: Petition by the Appalachian Mountain Club to intervene in the matter of Granite Reliable Power, LLC's proposed Coos County windpark (SEC Docket No. 2008-04).

Chairman Burack:

Following is the Appalachian Mountain Club's (AMC) petition to intervene in the matter of Granite Reliable Power, LLC's proposed windpark in Coos County (SEC Docket No. 2008-04). We are taking no position on the application at this time and are intervening as a neutral party.

We note that SEC's procedural rules, section 202.11(a), state "Persons seeking to intervene in a proceeding shall file petitions with the committee or subcommittee as applicable with copies served on all parties identified in the committee or subcommittee notice of hearing pursuant to the issued prehearing schedule." No parties were identified in the Committee's Order of August 27, 2008. We are sending a copy of this petition to the applicant. Once AMC has been provided with the service list by the SEC, we will also serve all other parties to this proceeding.

Sincerely,

David Publicover
Appalachian Mountain Club
Research Department
PO Box 298
Gorham, NH 03581
603-466-2721 x 200
dpublicover@outdoors.org

cc: Douglas L. Patch, Orr and Reno (representing Granite Reliable Windpower)

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**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB PETITION TO INTERVENE
IN THE MATTER OF GRANITE RELIABLE POWER, LLC
Docket No. 2008-04**

Pursuant to provisions of the SEC's administrative rules, section 202.11, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) hereby petitions to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding. Section 202.11(b) states "The presiding officer shall grant a petition to intervene if...The petition states facts demonstrating that the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests might be affected by the proceeding..." For reasons outlined below, the Appalachian Mountain Club is entitled to intervene in this matter.

The AMC, headquartered at 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108, is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to "promote the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of the *mountains*, rivers, and trails of the Appalachian region" [italics added]. We encourage public respect for the natural environment, provide leadership in its protection, and provide recreational and educational programs and facilities for the enjoyment and wise stewardship of the outdoors. Our nearly 90,000 members reside largely in the Northeast and include about 10,000 members in our New Hampshire chapter, as well as many others who visit the state on a regular basis to participate in outdoor recreational activities. The AMC therefore has an active interest in the protection of New Hampshire's significant natural resources, including its forests and mountainous areas. As the only organization in the region that has as a primary part of its mission the protection and wise use of the mountainous areas of the northeastern United States, we have an interest in any activity that may significantly affect high-elevation environments. Any proposal to modify these environments must be undertaken only with the most careful consideration of the potential long-term impacts.

The AMC recognizes that the increased use of environmentally sound renewable energy resources is a positive development. We have a long history of research and advocacy in the areas of air quality and conservation of mountain and alpine ecosystems, and fully recognize the adverse impacts that our society's continued heavy reliance on fossil fuels can have on the areas we care about. However, we feel that the construction of renewable energy facilities must be undertaken with a full understanding of the potential consequences, and that adverse impacts associated with these facilities should be avoided or mitigated to the maximum degree possible.

The AMC has a demonstrated history of active involvement with windpower siting issues across the region dating back to the early 1990s. The Club first adopted a general policy on windpower in 1996. In New Hampshire, with the encouragement of the Wind Siting Subcommittee of the legislatively-established Energy Policy Commission, we convened and led a working group of interested stakeholders (representing environmental organizations, developers, state and federal agencies, and municipal interests) that in 2007 developed proposed windpower siting guidelines for the state. These guidelines are currently being considered by the Commission. In Maine, we were a member of the 2007 Governor's Task Force on Windpower Development, which

developed recommendations for state windpower policy that have now been enacted into law. We have been members of working groups focused on development of guidance for assessing potential wildlife impacts from windpower development in both Maine and Massachusetts. We have developed a GIS-based analytical approach to assessing the relative level of potential conflict between natural resource values and windpower development across broad landscapes and are applying this analysis to ridgelines in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Finally, we have been intervenors in four commercial windpower applications in Maine, three of which were located in mountain environments similar to the one under consideration by the SEC.

In conclusion, the Appalachian Mountain Club has a long-standing interest in, and considerable experience with, both windpower siting policy and the evaluation of specific high-elevation windpower projects. This project has the potential to directly affect the interests of the organization and our members. For the foregoing reasons, the Appalachian Mountain Club requests that it be designated as an intervenor in this application process by Site Evaluation Committee.

Dated September 16, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Publicover', written in a cursive style.

David Publicover, D.F.
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