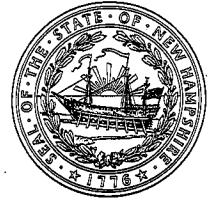




The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

November 12, 2008

Thomas Burack, Chairman  
Site Evaluation Committee  
Dept. of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord NH 03302-0095

RE: Wetlands Bureau File #2008-01419  
Project Name: Granite Reliable Power Wind Park  
Location: Dummer, Odell, Erving's Location, Millsfield, Dixville

Dear Chairman Burack:

The following represents the Wetlands Bureau status report for the EFSEC regarding the above referenced project

1. It appears that the original application requested 558,144 square feet (12.8 acres) of wetland impact for the proposed wind park; however, revised plans submitted to DES on November 3, 2008 now indicate that the wetland impacts have increased to 644,188 square feet (14.8 acres). Please provide a detailed explanation as to why the impacts have increased and provide further explanation how the design is the least impacting alternative. In addition, because the proposed wetland impact has increased by 86,044 square feet (2 acres), an additional application fee is required. Please submit an additional \$17,208.80 to complete your application.
2. The revised plans show 5 wetland impact areas that are greater than 10,000 square feet for each crossing (impact ID #102-1 = 11,324 sf; #105-5 = 10,112 sf; #106-9 = 20,043 sf; #120-1 = 10,106 sf; #120-10 = 11,215 sf). Please revise the plans to provide further reductions in wetland impact by crossing wetlands at more narrow locations or completely avoiding these larger wetland complexes.
3. A number of power line poles appear to impact wetlands at several locations, including a potential vernal pool. Please relocate poles outside of wetland areas where possible to reduce the overall wetland impact.
4. The revised wetland impact summary that was submitted to DES on November 5, 2008 from Horizons Engineering (via email) indicated that there are 9 wetland impacts to potential vernal pools totaling 6,860 square feet. A letter dated October 23, 2008 from Orr & Reno indicates that there are only 7 wetland impact areas to vernal pools that totals 6,219 square feet. Please explain the discrepancy.
5. The October 23, 2008 letter from Orr & Reno summarizes that in order to mitigate for the direct loss of vernal pool habitat, that several vernal pools will be created within the proposed conservation easement areas. Please provide a more

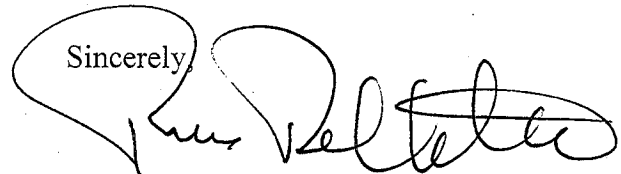
DES Web site: [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

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- detailed plan that describes the approximate size and location of each vernal pool creation area within the conservation easements.
6. Provide a more detailed plan and construction sequence for the proposed bridge crossing over the West Branch of Clear Stream (Sta 93+00). This stream is known for its high quality cold-water fishery, therefore the plans should include detailed sizing criteria to ensure that it meets the bank full dimensions of the stream and its associated floodplain so that the bridge is transparent to the natural stream morphology.
  7. The plans do not show the areas and side slopes that are planned to be revegetated. Please revise plans do differentiate (with crosshatching) the steeper side slopes that require stone verses the areas that will be revegetated. Please note that DES strongly recommends that most areas of disturbance be revegetated where practicable to protect water quality and wildlife passage.
  8. Please revise the plans to show the locations of all sediment traps that are planned at the culvert outlets, as well as the location of all rubber deflectors that are being utilized as water bars.
  9. The mitigation plan describes 2 conservation easement areas, a 660 acre site near Phillips Brook headwaters, and a 460 acre site near Mt. Kelsey and Owlhead Mountain. In order to meet the mitigation rules of Env-Wt 800, please submit property survey plans that show the metes and bounds of the easement areas, provide draft easement language that describes how the properties will be legally protected, identify the willing easement holders, and submit stewardship plans for each property.
  10. DES understands that the NH Fish & Game Department has several comments and recommendations for the proposed wind farm that should be incorporated into the final design. Please contact the NH Fish & Game Department for a list of their comments and be sure to address them in your final submittal to DES.

Sincerely,



Rene Pelletier, Assistant Director  
Water Division

cc: Service List