

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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April 16, 2009

Mr. Thomas B. Getz, Chairman  
Site Evaluation Sub-Committee  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

RE: GRANITE RELIABLE POWER, SEC Docket NO. 2008-04

Dear Chairman Getz:

I am writing to express concern over the conditions that Public Counsel has proposed for the Granite Reliable Power wind project. I read in the newspaper that he has proposed numerous conditions, which I fear could make the project economically infeasible. I urge the Sub-Committee to approve the project and to reject Public Counsel's proposed conditions. To me it is ironic that he has expressed concern about the financial ability of Noble Environmental Power and GRP throughout this process, yet at every end of the process he has recommended conditions that appear to be an attempt to so burden the project that it will jeopardize it from a financial perspective.

As you know, Noble has agreed to a mitigation plan that is going to cost approximately \$2.4 million. Noble has also agreed to do many other studies, has agreed to a decommissioning plan and a payment in lieu of taxes with the Coos County Commissioners, and has made many modifications to its plans to accommodate concerns expressed by various parties. In addition, the process itself has been a very expensive one for Noble. It is my understanding the Public Counsel's witnesses alone have cost GRP \$125,000, and there are many other expenses that GRP has incurred for its own consultants and lawyers, and other committee expense throughout this process. I strongly disagree that it is either necessary or appropriate for the Sub-Committee to also require that GRP pay DRED \$200,000, buy two fire trucks, build a fire stations, employ many different consultants, conduct a large number of additional studies, bury transmission lines, and other similar proposals that will unnecessarily restrict, limit and burden GRP in a way that could jeopardize the viability of this project.

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I also disagree with his recommendation that the parties be allowed to request a hearing before the Sub-Committee on the terms and documentation of the financing and that GRP be required to enter into a purchase power agreement. I believe these proposed conditions go far beyond what the Site Evaluation Committee has ever required before and urge you not to go along with his recommendations.

This project is good for New Hampshire and good for the North Country. It has been studied, modified, reviewed by the appropriate state agencies, and now needs to move forward. Please approve it as soon as possible and with the burdensome conditions that Public Counsel has recommended.

Thanks you for considering my comments. Please share them with the rest of the Sub-Committee.

Sincerely,

Raymond S. Burton  
Executive Councilor

cc: Attorney General Kelly Ayotte  
Commissioner of DES, Thomas Burack