

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Docket No. 2010-01**

**Application of Groton Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Site and Facility
for a Renewable Energy Facility in Groton, New Hampshire**

**ORDER AND NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE,
SITE VISIT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING**

Issued May 21, 2010

The Application

On March 26, 2010, Groton Wind, LLC, (Applicant) filed an Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility. The Applicant petitions the Site Evaluation Committee (Committee) for authority to site, construct and operate a renewable energy facility (Facility) in the Town of Groton, Grafton County. The Applicant proposes a wind energy facility consisting of 24 wind turbines, each having a nameplate capacity of 2 megawatts (MW) for a total nameplate capacity of 48 MW. On April 26, 2010, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee accepted the Application as provided in RSA 162-H:6-a, III. On May 7, 2010, the Chairman of the Committee designated a Subcommittee to review the Application as provided in RSA 162-H: 4, V.

Nature and Location of the Facility and Ancillary Facilities

The Facility does not yet have a formal street address but is accessible from an access road off of Groton Hollow Road, Groton. The proposed site consists of 4,180 acres and is bounded by Route 25 to the North, Tenney Mountain Ski Resort to the East, the Forest Society's Cockermouth Forest to the South, and Halls Brook Road to the West. The area consists of two distinct ridgeline features known as Tenney Mountain and Fletcher Mountain, which are separated by a valley known as Groton Hollow. Both ridges are oriented northeast/southwest and range in peak elevation from 1,850 to 2,300 feet.

As proposed, the Facility will utilize Gamesa G87 wind turbines. Each turbine consists of: a four-section tower that will be approximately 256 feet tall; a nacelle containing a drive train, gearbox and generator measuring 28 feet in length, 10 feet in height, and 11 feet in width; and a rotor consisting of three fiberglass composite blades each measuring 139 feet in length. The overall height of each turbine is approximately 399 feet. In addition, the Applicant proposes to construct an operation and maintenance building, a 34.5kV electrical collection system, and a collection switchyard. The Applicant proposes to upgrade 2.4 mile of roads on the proposed site and to construct 9.3 miles of new roads within the site. The Applicant intends to interconnect the Facility to the Beebe River Substation owned by Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH). The Applicant proposes to deliver the Facility's output through the

existing distribution system, consisting of 13 miles of distribution lines within existing rights-of-way from the switchyard at the proposed site to the Beebe River Substation.

The Application also contains a series of site plans, maps, figures, photographs and drawings that detail the nature and location of various aspects of the Facility. The Application and all other correspondence and records regarding this matter are available for public inspection at the Office of the Chairman at the address set forth below and are available on line at www.nhsec.nh.gov.

Pre-Hearing Conference

On **June 7, 2010 at 10 A.M.**, a Pre-Hearing Conference will be held at the office of the Public Utilities Commission, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Hearing Room A, Concord, New Hampshire. The purpose of the Pre-Hearing Conference is to review petitions to intervene, determine contested issues, prepare a discovery schedule and discuss proposed hearing schedules for the balance of the proceedings in this docket.

Intervention

Any person who may be interested in participating as a party in the Committee's consideration of the Application shall file a Petition to Intervene pursuant to RSA 541-A:32 and Site 202.11 on or before **June 4, 2010**. Petitions to Intervene should be addressed to the Chairman of the Committee at the following address:

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

Petitions to Intervene must set forth facts demonstrating that the petitioner's rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, or that the petitioner qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law; and, that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings would not be impaired by allowing the intervention. The Chairman of the Subcommittee will rule on all motions for intervention and parties may be subject to conditions, limitations and/or consolidation with others.

Site Visit and Public Information Hearing

On **June 28, 2010 at 1 P.M.**, weather permitting, members of the Subcommittee will conduct a site inspection visit at various places within or adjacent to the Site and location of the proposed Facility. The site visit is expected to commence at the Wal-Mart Supercenter parking lot, 683 Tenney Mountain Highway, Plymouth, N.H. and will proceed to various locations both within and outside of the proposed site.

On **June 28, 2010 at 7 p.m.**, a Public Information Hearing will be held in room 220 of Hyde Hall, Plymouth State University. Hyde Hall is located on the corner of High Street and Langdon Street in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Pursuant to R.S.A 162-H: 6-a, IV, R.S.A 162-H:10, I, and Site 201.01, the Subcommittee is required to hold at least one Public Information Hearing in the county in which the proposed facility is to be located. The hearing shall be for public information on the proposed facility with the Applicant presenting the information to the Subcommittee and the public. The proceedings shall be recorded and members of the public will be permitted to submit questions and give public comment.

Counsel for the Public

Pursuant to RSA 162-H: 9, the Attorney General shall appoint an Assistant Attorney General as Counsel for the Public. Counsel for the Public shall represent the public in seeking to protect the quality of the environment and in seeking to ensure an adequate supply of energy. The appointment of Counsel for the Public does not prevent any person from being heard or represented by counsel.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that that the duly designated Subcommittee of the Site Evaluation Committee shall hold a Pre-Hearing Conference, a Site Inspection Visit and a Public Information Hearing at the times and places as set forth above; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Applicant shall cause this Order and Notice to be published, on or before May 27, 2010, in a newspaper of general statewide circulation. The Applicant shall also cause this Order and Notice to be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in Grafton County as soon as practicable, consistent with such newspaper's publication schedules. In addition, the Applicant shall publish at least one display advertisement publicizing the public information hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in Grafton County not less than ten, nor more than fourteen days, prior to the public information hearing. The Applicant shall file an affidavit attesting to said publications of notice with the Chairman of the Committee on or before June 20, 2010.

By Order of the Site Evaluation Committee this twenty-first day of May, 2010



New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
Thomas B. Getz, Presiding Officer
Subcommittee Chairman