



NEW HAMPSHIRE NATURAL HERITAGE BUREAU

DRED - DIVISION OF FORESTS & LANDS

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To: Site Evaluation Committee

From: Melissa Coppola, Environmental Information Specialist

Date: August 31, 2010

Subject: Final Report: Site Evaluation Committee #2010-01
Application for Groton Wind, LLC

On 29 July 2010, NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) staff visited the location of the proposed wind facility in Groton, NH. The purpose of the visit was to search for a state-threatened plant species that is known to occur not far from the project, but outside the project boundaries. Although it is unlikely that any portion of the property has been surveyed for rare plant species in the past, the entire project area was too large for a comprehensive survey. To increase the likelihood of locating rare plants, NHB performed a focused survey within the project area. All survey efforts were focused on the west access road and west ridge (Fletcher Mtn.), in areas with steep slopes and potential for colluvial enrichment.

No rare plant species were observed during the surveys. Similarly, no signs of appropriate habitat for the particular state-threatened species were noted. Even the steepest slopes of the west ridge showed signs of recent forest management activities, which would also exclude the potential for exemplary natural communities at this location.

Based on the observations made during the site visit and the application materials provided, NHB has determined that it is unlikely that the proposed wind facility will impact rare plants species or exemplary natural communities.