



North Country Council, Inc.

Regional Planning Commission & Economic Development District
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October 15, 2010

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

Re: Groton Wind, LLC
SEC Docket No. 2010-01

Dear Chairman Burack:

I am writing to provide information to assist with the Site Evaluation Committee's consideration of a Certificate of Site and Facility for the above-referenced proposed energy facility. Specifically, this information pertains to RSA 162-H:16 IV.(b) regarding the Committee's consideration of the proposed facility in relation to the orderly development of the region.

To ensure that the criteria listed below regarding the orderly development of the region are met, North Country Council respectfully requests that the agreement resulting from the negotiations between the Town of Groton and the applicant is incorporated into the permit as a permit condition. This will ensure the protection of the community's interests should the ownership of the project change hands in the future. Similarly, North Country Council requests that the Committee consider conditions as necessary to ensure that the impacts of the project do not interfere with the capacity of the region's transportation and emergency response system to provide for the orderly development of the region.

North Country Council is the regional planning commission for all of Coos County and parts of Grafton and Carroll County. North Country Council, through its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee and its Board of Directors, has adopted the following Energy Goal:

The North Country Wisely Uses Its Alternative and Renewable Resource Base To Generate Energy And Heat For Community And Regional Economic Benefits.

Rationale: The decline of the pulp and paper industry and higher energy costs (among other factors) has increased interest in alternative and renewable energy production. Our forest resource is one of our greatest competitive advantages, and the need to use that resource sustainably has recently been brought into focus by wood supply and availability studies. There is also a recognition that efficiency and other local economic benefits can be increased by capturing heat (i.e., cogeneration, district heating), and using a greater share of the energy locally to economize on transmission costs. Distribution and transmission costs are currently an issue. It is widely recognized that some existing regulations and policies may need to be reviewed and adapted.

In addition, the following Alternative and Renewable Energy Production Strategy provides the criteria against which the proposed facility should be evaluated to determine compatibility with the orderly development of the region:

Support the development of new large-scale renewable and alternative energy projects (including wind, solar, natural gas, methane, biomass, geothermal and others) which:

- Permits local access to low cost heat and power
- Co-locates with industry and create jobs
- Incorporates community benefit agreements
- Have positive fiscal impacts
- Are consistent with
 - host community and regional development goals
 - sustainable resource use and
 - environmental stewardship standards

Thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the regional planning commission to assist the work of the Site Evaluation Committee.

Sincerely,



Tara E. Bamford
Planning Director