

Application of Groton Wind, LLC

Docket No. 2010-01

Record Request: Permit condition regarding large trucks using Groton Hollow Road

Response:

The issue of heavy/oversized loads is described in Volume I, Section F.5.(e) of the Groton Wind Application at page 33.

The transport of oversized cargo on New Hampshire roads is governed by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT reviews and approves transport routes submitted by oversized load haulers. DOT then issues transport permits which typically include requirements that State Police escort vehicles lead and follow any over-sized load. This was required for the Lempster Wind project where State Trooper escorts (front and back) were required for each over-sized vehicle or group of vehicles. Typical delays at corners or crossings were no longer than 10 minutes, and often only lasted 1 to 2 minutes. In the Lempster Project, State Troopers maintained radio contact throughout transport, and controlled any temporary road restrictions. It is expected that in the event of a truck breakdown, State Police would direct emergency and other vehicles as needed.

The Groton Wind Application (Volume I, p. 15, Section D.1) identifies NH DOT approvals as an additional required permit, and previous Certificates from the Committee have been conditioned on obtaining NH DOT approvals for transport. Groton Wind will adhere to the detailed requirements of NH DOT oversized vehicle permits.

It should be noted that Groton Hollow Road is currently used on a daily basis by logging and chipping trucks with no police or other escorts. Thus, it is expected that the NH DOT permit conditions relating to oversized loads hauled for the Groton Wind Project will offer a greater level of protection to Groton Hollow Road residents than what they are currently experiencing vis-à-vis large logging and other trucks.