## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

December 3, 2010 - 2:05 P.M. Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street Suite 10 Concord, New Hampshire

RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2010-01

Application of Groton Wind, LLC, for a Certificate of Site and Facility for a 48 Megawatt Wind

Energy Facility in Groton, Grafton County, New Hampshire. (Public Hearing for Discussion

and Deliberations)

PRESENT: SITE EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE:

Chairman Thomas B. Getz N.H. Public Utilities Comm.

(Presiding)

Brook Dupee, Bureau Chief Dept. of Health & Human Serv.
Richard Boisvert N.H. Div. of Historical Res.
Stephen Perry, Chief Inland Fisheries - N.H. F&G

Charles Hood, Admin. Dept. of Transportation
Donald Kent, Admin. Dept. of Resources & Econ. Dev.

Eric Steltzer Office of Energy & Planning
Michael Harrington Public Utilities Commission

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Counsel for the Committee: Michael Iacopino, Esq.

COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, LCR NO. 44

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    ALSO PRESENT:
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    Counsel for the Applicant:
                                    Susan S. Geiger, Esq.
    (Groton Wind, LLC)
                                    Douglas L. Patch, Esq.
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                                    (Orr & Reno)
 5
    Counsel for the Public:
                                    Peter Roth, Esq.
                                    (Sr. Asst. Atty. General)
                                    Evan Mulholland, Esq.
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                                    (Asst. Atty. General)
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    Reptg. the Buttolph Group: Cheryl Lewis, Intervenor
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## 1 PROCEEDINGS

I'm going to resume the hearings in Site Evaluation

Committee Docket 2010-01. Today is a public meeting

for the purpose of deliberations. And let's start on

my right and have the Members of the Committee

identify themselves for the record.

MR. GETZ: Good afternoon everyone.

MR. STELTZER: Eric Steltzer with the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning.

MR. PERRY: Stephen Perry with New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

MR. DUPEE: Rick Dupee, Department of Health and Human Services.

MR. HOOD: Charlie Hood, New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

MR. HARRINGTON: Mike Harrington, New Hampshire PUC.

DR. KENT: Don Kent, Department of Resources and Economic Development.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: And I'm Tom Getz from the Public Utilities Commission. And I'll note that Dr. Boisvert and Mr. Scott are not available this afternoon, but we do have a quorum present to conduct deliberations.

But before we turn to the issues in the case, I want to recognize Mr. Steltzer for an issue that he wanted to raise.

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MR. STELTZER: Yeah. Thank you. I just wanted to make a disclosure that Matt Magnuson, who helped work on the report that was done by UNH, is a tenant of mine. I've had no ex parte communications and don't feel that it has had any sort of prejudgment of my decision, and I believe that I can fairly judge on the matter here.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. And I'll note that that's consistent with the Site Evaluation Committee's rules as laid out as cite 202.03 that requires withdrawal if good cause exists. And such good cause would be constituted if the member believed he or she could not fairly judge the facts of the case. And Mr. Steltzer indicated he believes he can fairly judge the case, the facts of the case. And I'll note, also, that the Committee's rule states that mere knowledge of the issues, the parties or any witness, shall not constitute good cause for So, with that, let me address where we withdrawal. are.

At the end of the hearings on

November 5th, we denied a motion to close the hearings and deliberate the merits of the application. We indicated to the parties that we would like to see proposals about the conduct of further steps in this docket be filed with us by November 19th. And on November 19th we received a filing from the Applicant; one from Counsel for the Public; and one from the Buttolph/Lewis/Spring intervenor group; and we received a letter on, looks like December 1st, from Dr. Mazur. We issued a scheduling order on November 29th which set up this afternoon as the opportunity to deliberate these issues. And I guess let me just in a very general way summarize what the proposals are.

There was not a meeting of the minds of all the parties on how to proceed. And the Applicant has, you know, suggested a much -- a quicker turn-around on additional steps in this proceeding and, in fact, has submitted additional testimony from Mr. Cherian, Ms. Rendall and Mr. Walker, Ms. Luhman, Mr. Gravel and Mr. Hecklau. And they also lay out various arguments on why they do not believe substantial additional time is required for the conduct of this proceeding, and that

a lengthy delay would likely affect their ability to prepare bid documents, secure contracts and construct the project by the end of 2012, which they said would create serious financial harm.

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On the other hand, we have from Counsel for the Public a proposal to grant an extension until at least May 1 of 2011 to review the issues in the proceeding. And there's further discussion of the issues related to the proposed interconnection route, the bird and bat survey finalized findings from Fish and Game, and findings of Historical Resources. And so, effectively, I quess I would summarize: Counsel for the Public's position is that it's going to take two to three additional months in addition to when we've gotten final information on a number of things. So that puts us out into the -- to mid, late spring, I would characterize it.

And then we also have the filing from the Buttolph/Lewis/Spring group that adopts the recommendations of Counsel from the Public and notes, as well, Counsel for the Public's statement that clearly there's no rush to get approval on the proposed project before the end of the year, and

endorses the request for an extension of time until at least May 1, 2011.

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So, I know you all had an opportunity to read through these documents. So I guess with that, I just would open the floor for discussions. I don't think it's necessary at this time to have a motion. But let's see if there's any parts of this that folks would like to discuss.

MR. GETZ: Mr. Harrington.

MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah. One of the issues I guess we wanted to discuss a little bit more is the consequence of the delay. There's a certain number of issues here that have not been resolved as of yet. And, you know, looking at the 11/19 submittal by the Applicant, it says, talking about delay, "A lengthy delay such as that suggested by Counsel for the Public would likely affect the project's ability to prepare bid documents (which could not be done until final permits have been issued), secure building contracts and construct the project by the end of 2012." And then it says, "This would create serious financial harm for the project..."

Now, I'm not sure by saying that, is

that meaning because it's the end of 2010 where the federal money isn't available? But they don't specifically state that. That's what I'm trying to Is there anything, any more implication on find out. Because I just got the hearings this morning that? from the day I missed, and I haven't been able to read all 300-something pages yet. So I'm wondering whether anybody can shed any light on exactly what the issue is, where it says here "this would serious financial harm for the project, the economics of which depend upon meeting that deadline," which is construction of the project by the end of 2012. thought the critical date was to start construction, or have, you know, purchase orders issued by the end of 2010 in order to be eligible for the financing for the 34 million money.

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MR. GETZ: Yeah. Well, I'm not sure that any of us can be helpful --

MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. So there wasn't any further discussion on --

MR. GETZ: -- understanding what's in their mind. But if it would be helpful, you can inquire of counsel what they meant by it.

MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah. Well, I think

you heard what I said. So --

MS. GEIGER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Harrington. I'd be happy to address the question directly. I'd also be happy to turn it over to Mr. Cherian, because he is the project manager and could speak specifically to the concerns that he has about a significant delay in this docket.

MR. ROTH: I would object to that.

This was called as an opportunity for deliberations and some argument, not for an evidentiary testimony-based hearing of Mr. Cherian.

MS. GEIGER: Well, I'd be happy to make an offer of proof. But it's been my experience, you know, sitting in this chair, as well as your own, sometimes it's easier to hear directly from the horse's mouth the problems that would be encountered from the project and the Applicant if there is a delay. But I'd be happy to make an offer of proof.

Basically, the time frame that we're under here is such that, if we were to fail to meet the established deadline under the statute, which is December 22nd at this point, Mr. Cherian expressed to me concern that any substantial delay beyond that time, say beyond the end of January, for example,

would create problems, because he's got to have a final order in hand -- a final order, meaning wait 30 days to see whether there is an appeal and so forth -- before he can prepare bid documents. company's not going to put the project components or tasks out to bid until they know that they have a permit, a non-appealable permit -- or a permit that is final, and perhaps subject to appeal but which has not been stayed, let's put it that way. It's been expressed to me by Mr. Cherian that, if the construction contracts -- or the bids, excuse me, are put out toward the end of February, there needs to be some time for responses to those bids. We then get into the fall season. And obviously, between the winter months, as well as mud season, there could be no construction from, say, the end of 2011 until probably spring of 2012. So, it's a construction season issue.

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Well, let's put it in sequence: Final decision, bid -- RFPs putting out, contracts coming back in response, bids coming back in response, and then construction either beginning, or maybe not, until the spring of 2012. And my understanding is that, again, we need to get construction completed by

2012.

## Correct?

(Discussion between counsel and Mr.

Cherian.)

MR. GETZ: Well, yeah, I think this is, you know, for the purposes of deliberations.

It's not for further testimony. And we noted in the scheduling order that the parties may be called upon for argument regarding the schedule or outstanding motions; however, the Subcommittee will not take testimony or public comment. So, I think so far as we've gone to inquire what was meant by that particular statement I think is fair, but I don't want to get into --

MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.

MR. GETZ: -- you know, to go further on that. And plus, I think it also raises an argument about what's the relevance to our decision on how to proceed with the procedures. So I guess I would kind of stay there on that issue.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, does that mean you would not entertain a brief, and I mean very brief, responsive comment from me about that point that was just made by Attorney Geiger?

MR. GETZ: Are you saying that she's made an argument that you need a counter argument on, or are you disputing the statement? I guess I'm --

MR. ROTH: Well, I'm not sure what it is exactly, but it may go to the relevance. Because there was plenty of testimony, and I think it's fairly self-evident that the things that are as yet incomplete may very well cause the same, a similar kind of delay in contracting that they are talking about. And in any event, Mr. Mihalik made it very clear that they were prepared to go forward without a certificate by the end of this year. That's all.

MR. GETZ: Okay. Are there other issues raised by the proposals that anyone would like to discuss? Dr. Kent.

DR. KENT: Yes. I am still seeking clarity on when the business with the state agencies will be complete.

MR. GETZ: Meaning, which state agencies?

DR. KENT: All of our -- well, we had had -- I believe we had to go back to DES and wait for a final opinion. I didn't understand if Fish and Game was going to review the project again with the

alteration that's been proposed. And my understanding is we were waiting for Historical Resources. And I'm not clear from the filings when we could reasonably expect those issues to be finished.

MR. GETZ: And I think that goes to the issue of what's the appropriate procedure, and that's why we're in the situation that we are. We concluded at the end of the last hearing that we -- there was more information that was needed, and we wanted to work on a process to collect that information and to consider it. And I guess I would say I think I would interpret what you're saying is an argument for why adopting the Applicant's approach of trying to deal with this within the normal time frame by the end of December is not a preferred procedural alternative, that that's something we would have to incorporate into a longer procedure. Is that a fair conclusion on my part?

DR. KENT: Yeah. I'll be more direct this time. I would be uncomfortable having to reach a decision without the information from the state agencies being completed and presented. I'd be reluctant to issue a certificate if we're still

waiting on state agencies to determine whether impacts have been addressed. So, given that, I would be reluctant to begin hearings again unless there's a change in status on responses from those agencies.

MR. GETZ: Mr. Dupee.

MR. DUPEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I echo some of those concerns because the proposed transmission route course was different as presented to us during the course of the discussion than was originally proposed. And there are certainly parts of our statute that call for us to look at environmental impacts when we make our final decision. So I guess I'm sort of in a dilemma of not knowing what that final route might be. And our experts in the state agencies --

(Court Reporter interjects.)

MR. DUPEE: -- unless they have reviewed, I'm sort of in a dilemma to know how I would approach that question as to determining whether or not environmental impacts are unnecessarily harsh or within the confines of the statute.

MR. GETZ: And that's where I'd say I would characterize what the Applicant is saying is,

with what they've said before, with their new testimony, and if you take an approach and a different definition of what "associated facilities" are, their argument is that we can go back to hearing right away, basically, and then make certain decisions on whether there's adverse -- unreasonable adverse effects, and/or certain things would be either put off, as they argue was done in other cases, and/or certain things would be outside of the -- outside of our jurisdiction because they're not associated facilities, as I understand the argument.

But I take what you're saying is you'd be uncomfortable with the shorter procedural schedule proposed by the Applicant and looking for something --

MR. DUPEE: Essentially, there's not enough information on which to base a decision under R.S.A 162-H, as far as environmental impact.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Or the alternative is to say they haven't made their case.

MR. DUPEE: Correct.

MR. GETZ: Okay. Any other

discussion? Mr. Harrington.

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MR. HARRINGTON: I guess I have to join with what was said earlier. I'd feel pretty uncomfortable -- I mean, we get to the point where there seems to be a couple major issues here: have the new line, we have the Fish and Game review, and then we have the historical -- whatever that department is -- historical records, historical resource issue. And putting that together, that becomes a rather large part of a permit to simply defer to someone else to look at down the line. Ι mean, the purpose of this Committee is to look collectively at all these things and assess the cumulative effect of these various things, not to just farm that out to individual departments and have them look at it individually. So I'd be a little uncomfortable going forward with issuing a certificate with those types of conditions on it. We put conditions on ones in the past, but it wasn't, I think, to the extent of the unknowns associated with this one.

MR. GETZ: Okay. Mr. Steltzer.

MR. STELTZER: Yeah, I definitely think about the precedent and what has happened in the past actions that the SEC has taken on in past

proposals. So that's something that is in the back of my head. And I'd like to have this information as well.

I also struggle with the word
"significant" and how significant this change
actually is. And the alternative track, I wonder if
the SEC didn't approve of where the ISO New England
was suggesting where the three-ring bus station
needed to be located, whether we'd have any action to
take, anyways. And it seems like it's a little bit
out of our jurisdiction of whether to approve the
location of where the bus station is actually being
located at.

So I wonder how -- and so when I think about the schedule, my understanding from Public Counsel, as well as the Buttolph group, is that it should be prolonged into May. And that's largely based off of the fact that the ISO New England information isn't going to come about until March or April time frame. And I wonder if -- in my head, I'm trying to separate that issue out from the Division of Historical Resources, as well as Fish and Game, that maybe the DHR, as well as Fish and Game, could be rectified at an earlier point in time, then the

ISO New England solution would be later on in early spring.

MR. GETZ: Okay. Well, I think one thing that seems to be clear that's forming as the sentiment of the Committee is that the proposal by the Applicant for a procedure that would effectively move ahead within the 240 days originally contemplated is not going to work. Is that -- I think in that context, then, we should think about what -- a little more concretely about what the options are.

And Mr. Iacopino, the 240 days runs out on December --

MR. IACOPINO: December 22nd, I believe it was.

MR. GETZ: The 22nd. So that means if we're going to have additional consideration, additional steps or processes, that we're going to need to enlarge the time for deliberations. And I think that's, you know, permitted under 162-H:6-a,IX, that during our deliberations we can suspend those deliberations. So I think we have the authority -- and we mentioned that before -- to lengthen the time for review. I guess there's a question of how long

would we lengthen it and what would we do to get us to an endpoint.

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MR. HARRINGTON: Mr. Chairman, just as a follow-up to what was just said, I think there's quite a bit of validity in that, because if the ISO's determination, the finalization of it, isn't going to be out until, I guess, sometime the end of March or maybe April, but they would probably give us a pretty, almost an absolute idea of where the lines are going to run and the substation, and maybe some electrical things having to do with the overlapping impact studies and such that they have to run on this that may have to be still worked out, then I think that would extend the date for a longer period of time. But that really doesn't have too much bearing on this. Whether they put in a Transformer A or a Transformer B I don't think is really something the Site Evaluation Committee gets into. It's whether -where the location of the lines are going to be and if they're going to need a second building or something like that. I think those -- that information could probably be available much sooner than the final system impact station [sic] being So, maybe there's a possibility for some done.

compromise here, where we can pull the date -- push the date out beyond, but not all the way out to May whatever. Mr. Iacopino is raising his hand over there.

MR. IACOPINO: Mr. Chairman, I would just point out that it's not a system impact study that they're waiting on. It's a feasibility study.

MR. HARRINGTON: Feasiblity study.

I'm sorry.

MR. IACOPINO: So I believe that's the first round in the ISO process. So, just to the extent that, because this Committee has dealt with feasibility studies versus impact studies versus final interconnection studies in the past, this is a feasibility study that has been resubmitted to ISO.

MR. HARRINGTON: Well, I guess what

I'm suggesting is maybe the Applicant could get back

with ISO New England and come back to us with what

date would they know the, with a higher degree of

certainty, the physical layout of where the line was

going to run and where the substation would be and so

forth, because that's the type of stuff that this

Committee is interested in, not exactly the size of

the transformer that they're going to put in or if

they need to put in some other equipment downstream to accommodate the electrical output of this, which is really beyond the scope of the Committee, but nevertheless has to be done by the ISO.

MR. GETZ: And I think one way possibly to address that is maybe to do this in parts. We have testimony. What I'm also hearing, I think, is that testimony alone is not sufficient for our purposes in determining whether the application should be approved and that we would like some other information. Some of that information may come from Historic Resources, some may come from DES, some may come from Fish and Game, some may come from the ISO either directly or indirectly through the Applicant, or possibly Public Counsel or the parties, for all I know.

One way to move ahead might be to have a technical session to start discovery on the Applicant's testimony, which presumably, I mean, it's December 3rd, that that could start sometime this month, and then we could set out a step for the opportunity for responsive testimony from the parties. I think Counsel for the Public has already indicated that there may be something on the Fish and

Game issues from his witness. So we could start that process and then see if we hear something from Historic Resources that may clarify their position on some of these issues, whether indeed the Applicant and Historic Resources and the Army Corps are making progress, and then can form our decision on the historic sites. And then, also, if something is forthcoming from the ISO, then ultimately that could be fed into the process.

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Now -- and then this is where in some respects I'm in the same place now that I was before. I think it's fair to have some additional process and to try to address some of these issues, whether they're a result of changed circumstances or why they came about. But it shouldn't be entirely open-ended, So there has to be some balance in all the process. And if at some point we're not getting information from the ISO, and we think it's critical, then we'd be in a position of determining whether to proceed, whether conditions are a useful mechanism, or whether effectively it would be time to deny the certificate. But I don't think we know that today. And I think what we did conclude last time was it's appropriate to allow some additional time to see if

we can make a full judgment about the merits of this proceeding. So, I guess, any thoughts about -- and, then, actually, as well from Mr. Iacopino, about those particular processes I've thrown out there.

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MR. IACOPINO: I think what you would need -- obviously, there's been several witnesses that have provided supplemental prefiled testimony. I think that, in order to be fair to all the parties, there ought to be a technical session or some form of process for the other parties to question those witnesses with respect to the supplemental testimony, either through data requests or through a technical session, and then a time frame for the other parties to set forth any responsive testimony from witnesses that they might have, and at that point, either data requests or a technical session with the -- where the Applicant has the opportunity to get information from That's essentially the any responsive witnesses. process that we have prior to beginning the adjudicatory hearings, and that would be essentially what I would recommend, as far as the process to be before we were to next meet, because I assume that members of the Committee will also have questions of these witnesses, now that they've filed supplemental

testimony. So that we will probably be back here, if I understand everybody's position correctly, to continue with the adjudicatory hearing, so that any questions that are left from the Committee members or other parties in the nature of cross-examination based on the new prefiled testimony can be asked. So that's the process that I would think would be used.

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How you slice or dice what issues are going to be involved is really, I think, a policy decision for I think the Committee to make. There are still, as I see it, three issues outstanding. I'll just use the shorthand for the areas here: The alternative distribution line; the state agency reports, and that includes both Fish and Game and Historic Resources; and then the interconnection. So those are still the three issues where it appears that there is a dispute among the parties over whether or not -- two things: Whether or not the Committee actually has any authority over at least the interconnection, but also over the -- there appears to be a dispute amongst the parties about how much information they have and whether or not those three areas in dispute, whether or not there is in fact a basis for the Committee to grant or deny a

certificate when considering those issues.

So, the fact that the ISO issue may take longer for ISO to resolve than we might expect the state agencies' issues to get resolved in the state agencies, I don't know how you want to deal with that particular issue. But I do think that there will have to be an ability for the parties to get information about it prior to presenting their final cases to the Committee.

MR. GETZ: Did you have something?

Dr. Kent.

DR. KENT: I'd be glad to give my perspective on how these issues separate themselves a bit. Let me start from the longest term issue, which is the ISO issue.

I'm not opposed to the Applicant choosing a route for the transmission and distribution on the expectation that ISO will come up with a positive feasibility study, conditioning any certificate on that particular route that was presented to us. If you get the feasibility and everything goes well with ISO, it's the same thing you presented to us, go forward; otherwise, you would have to come back. So, I don't necessarily feel

obligated to suspend hearings until ISO completes, as long as -- completes their feasibility study, as long as the final feasibility study addresses the same footprint corridor as was presented to us for evaluation. However, I do feel more strongly that time frame must include a time for the agencies in play here, the state agencies, to respond to the changes in the application. And if the Applicant wants to -- wants us to meet sooner rather than later, and we do not have the responses from the agencies, then it's at their risk that we determine there's insufficient information to vote a certificate.

MR. GETZ: Okay. Let me just address and make sure I understand one part about the suspension. I think we're going to need to enlarge the time if we're going to do anything. So that -- so I think we need to go past the December 22nd. I guess it's a question of -- when you say not suspend, that's not what you meant, I take it?

DR. KENT: Perhaps not.

MR. GETZ: Okay.

(Mr. Boisvert joins proceedings.)

CHAIRMAN GETZ: So that if we enlarge

the time, I think what you're suggesting is that it would be a fairly discrete amount of time to do these additional processes and allow the other agencies to respond; and then, if we could deal with the interconnection piece as proposed, but to the extent there's a change, then that kind of just reopens these issues about not having a complete application.

DR. KENT: Yes. I won't use the word "suspend" again.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay.

DR. KENT: I misunderstood what we were in. My druthers would be that we pick a date to begin the -- to revisit the adjudicatory hearings that corresponds with responses from the agencies and enough time for all parties to review those responses, and then we would bring the witnesses back for more questions. And if we're still waiting for ISO, then we can deal with that issue through conditions.

MR. GETZ: Okay. Mr. Steltzer.

MR. STELTZER: I would agree with that and recognize that from the testimony that was provided by the Applicant, there was a meeting on the 29th of November with the DHR. You know, we don't

know what that status is. But it seems like things are moving fairly quickly there. As well as there's some testimony from Ms. Rendall, I believe, regarding information from DES on their initial ideas of the impact that the alternate route might have. So I do think that that could happen in a quicker time frame than late March or early/mid April.

MR. GETZ: Okay. Let me just note for the record that Dr. Boisvert is here.

DR. BOISVERT: My apologies. I was called away with some legal matters.

MR. IACOPINO: Mr. Chairman, I would just point out that, in terms of considering a schedule, you should also consider the fact that once you have heard whatever the new information is and after sufficient review by all the parties, we will still to need to schedule deliberations of the Committee. So if you're talking about something that occurs in March, late March, early April, I would recommend to the Committee that we suspend the deliberation process under the statute to at least the end of April in order to accommodate having deliberation hearings on the certificate and drafting an order.

MR. GETZ: Well, I guess there would be a certain logic, I guess, to April 26th. That would be the year -- is that the date, a year from the --

MR. IACOPINO: It's one year after acceptance.

MR. GETZ: After acceptance. And maybe that's a reasonable balance of the rights of the Applicant and the intervenors, and be a fair recognition of the public interest, that we at least at this point think about enlarging the time for this proceeding until April 26th. But then, I think we got to talk about what are the steps we would conduct -- what are the concrete steps we would conduct prior to that to -- before we get to a hearing. So --

MR. IACOPINO: And I would just point out, when I use the date to talk about deliberations, I think it is in the public interest for the public to have, for a complete deliberative hearing by this body after it's received all of the evidence, and also time to draft an order that will plainly explain to the public the reasons for the actions that the Committee is taking.

MR. GETZ: Well, let's try to break it into two parts then, whether to -- if there's any discussion about how long to enlarge the time, and then, if there's any discussion about what the concrete steps that we lay out to get to the end of the time frame.

So, anybody have any thoughts about -actually, I could do this formally. Why don't I do
this. I'll move that we enlarge the time frame to
April 26th, 2011, pursuant to R.S.A. 162-H:6-a IX,
and see if there's a second, and then see if there's
discussion.

MR. PERRY: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: We have a second. Any discussion? Mr. Harrington.

MR. HARRINGTON: I have more of a question than anything else. I'm trying to -- I kind of got lost in the logic of that date, where it came from. I was going -- I kind of thought Dr. Kent's assumption made sense, that if the Applicant was willing to go along with it, they provide us with the -- this is where we think or we want you to base your judgment on as to the location of the connection line and the substation. And really, like I said

before, the electrical part of that, what's inside the substation and so forth, we don't have any jurisdiction on it, I don't think, or probably any interest in it. But where it's going to go and how it's going to affect the orderly development of the area, we do. But if we were to take that, then I'm not sure -- how did we get to April? Are we assuming that the Fish and Game and that the records are going to be -- I was under the impression that they would be a closer date, maybe in January or something.

MR. GETZ: Well, I think what we're trying to do is achieve a balance --

MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.

MR. GETZ: -- to recognize that we need more than a month to do the things that are necessary, but not to leave it so open-ended that we -- that we're out into hearings in May and briefs and deliberations and a decision in July, that there is a point where, you know, the balance in favor the of the Applicant is in conflict with the balance in favor of the intervenors. So there's no science to April 26th. It just happens to be one year from when the filing was.

MR. HARRINGTON: Well, maybe just --

at least the way I would work it would be, let's lay out what we need to accomplish first and then figure out what the date is we need to max that, rather than pick a date and try to back-fit what we need to do into the schedule. Seems to make more sense -- well, and I'm not sure what all the steps might be. Mr. Iacopino had mentioned a number of things that would need to be done to follow due process. But maybe we can get a list of those and see what was possible. That may or may not be April 26th. Maybe not be a good date to accommodate that.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Well, I think part of that is I think we can lay out some dates for the things we have; such as, we have the new testimony. We can set a date for technical session, prehearing conference, discovery on that testimony. We could set a date for responsive testimony and discovery on that responsive testimony. But that's dealing with the things we know. What we don't know is when are we going to hear from DHR. Possibly sooner rather than later. So, maybe that intersects with that process. And I'm thinking you could have discovery in January -- or in December on the latest testimony, and you could have responsive testimony in January,

with discovery after that. And maybe the DHR stuff fits in. Maybe the other agencies' stuff fits into that in a way that doesn't cause any harm to anybody's rights. What we don't know is when we'll get the ISO information.

And I think, also, in my mind,
parallel to this, which I really haven't sorted out,
is the arguments about what constitutes an associated
facility. I haven't had the time to really look at
the opinions in Lempster and the other cases to see
at least what I think the answer is on the arguments
about is this case more like those cases and we can
handle this through a condition. So I'd like to have
some time to think that through.

So I think, you know, we would probably be looking at a hearing in the February time frame, at best, and maybe something more than that. So we would have a date that's, you know, outside of the best date, you know, in terms of accommodating the briefs and deliberations and a written order.

MR. HARRINGTON: So we could always use the April 26th date. That would be sort of like looking at it as sort of hopefully the maximum amount needed. And if things clicked in and it all fell in

	34
1	faster than we anticipate, maybe that can get pulled
2	in.
3	MR. GETZ: Oh, correct. Yeah. I
4	mean
5	MR. HARRINGTON: All right.
6	MR. GETZ: we can always issue an
7	order, and we can always move the hearing up and have
8	the deliberations and issue an order sooner.
9	MR. HARRINGTON: Then I think that
10	makes more sense to go with that date, rather than go
11	through this process all over again two or three
12	times.
13	MR. GETZ: I concur. Any other
14	discussion?
15	MR. PERRY: Mr. Chairman, I just want
16	to make sure I'm following the conversation that just
17	occurred. By establishing an April 26th date, that's
18	the date that a decision would be rendered by?
19	MR. GETZ: Unless we extended it
20	again.
21	MR. PERRY: All right.
22	MR. GETZ: Theoretically
23	MR. PERRY: So that option still
24	remains. Because we established April 26th, 2011 as

our current date for rendering a decision by. That's what we're working towards.

MR. GETZ: Yes.

MR. PERRY: Okay.

MR. GETZ: Unless there was good cause for -- either good cause for extending it or if every -- as Mr. Harrington says, if all of the information comes in in a reasonable way, then we could actually act sooner than that.

Dr. Boisvert.

DR. BOISVERT: Yeah. I apologize for being late. Like I said, I was called out on something I had to go to.

What would be the weigh points along here, that if we're to, as I understand it, have a decision by April 26th? At what point would all the studies need to be finished so that we could have them brought before us and judge the information?

CHAIRMAN GETZ: So you're saying "all the studies," meaning the ISO studies or --

DR. BOISVERT: The DHR studies and the Fish and Game.

MR. GETZ: Well, I guess I'm not clear what would come in from DHR, if it's a study or a

letter or some agreement. I guess certainly you know more about what to expect from them. But I guess from my perspective, what I see is there's been testimony from the witness about historic effects.

We've seen letters from the DHR that creates concerns in my mind about being able to make a conclusion about whether there's an unreasonable adverse effect on historic sites. So I would be hoping to see something from DHR -- I'm not sure what that would be -- or something among DHR, the Applicant and the Army Corps that resolves the large uncertainty that's sitting out there right now.

DR. BOISVERT: Right. And I see that there's a substantial amount that's uncertain. And I want to be sure there's sufficient time for the Applicant to address them all, so that we do not have a situation where it's only partway through and we're presented with a situation where they'll give assurances that they'll finish it by a certain date. I'd like to see it actually brought to fruition before we make our decision, so there's not a contingency condition we have to put on our finding. That's what I would like to see. And I just don't have a sense of what the Applicant sees as when they

will have the information completed and presented to DHR for their response.

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And that's why I think one MR. GETZ: thing that we're going to have to give some time to see how it plays out and where it would be helpful to have a prehearing conference, technical session to see what information that they can share; and that, really, I would say for today we would do one concrete thing, in terms of setting a date for the -how long -- enlarging the time frame, but then maybe we do something more directive to Mr. Iacopino, to hold a prehearing conference, a technical session, and then perhaps delegate to me the authority to issue an order setting that date, rather than just picking dates without having an opportunity to speak to Counsel for the Public, all the intervenors and the Applicant as to what's the best date. of set up a process to start discovery in January -in December, have another round of testimony in January. And then we'll figure out the details and hopefully be better informed once we have a tech session and a prehearing conference.

DR. BOISVERT: I just see it as logistical issues of whether -- getting people

1 together and working through the holiday season.

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Those are the kinds of delays that are common in many other projects. And I don't want to set too optimistic of a date for completion. I just want to make sure there is sufficient time so that we can have all the data before us for a decision.

MR. GETZ: Absolutely. I think that's fair. Mr. Harrington.

Just a follow-up to MR. HARRINGTON: Dr. Kent's suggestion, which I thought was a good one, on the idea of tying down the Applicant to a specific location for the interconnection. just not quite sure how that gets work out. that certainly can be discussed in a technical session. But I guess the Committee would at least have to show a sense that they would be willing to go that way. Because, otherwise, if we're going to wait until the feasibility study comes out, and that's not going to be available until, I'm hearing, maybe April or later, then we're not going to make that April 26th date. So we'd have to be willing to impose that on the Applicant, that you give us what -- where you think it's going to go so we can review it. And then we will -- if we issue a

certificate, it'd be under the condition that it's got to be like this when the ISO approves it; otherwise, the certificate isn't valid.

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So, do we need to at least get a sense from the Committee that people find that acceptable and that it can be discussed in the tech session with the Applicant?

MR. GETZ: Well, I think we can have some proposals on that. I guess what -- I mean, I think that there's still a fundamental argument about whether we even have jurisdiction over those facilities as associated facilities and whether we could condition it in a condition approval in a reasonable way. I mean, I just don't know the answer to that, given the facts that we have. So I think it would be something -- that's why I think that particular issue needs to be explored further among the parties through technical sessions and through other conversations, and then for us to then see where -- what we think would be acceptable. You know, it may be that they can provide us with enough facts that we are comfortable to approve it, or that we could approve it in a conditional way. Or we just may say it's all too speculative, and we're not --

and we have jurisdiction and we're not -- we can't approve it.

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MR. HARRINGTON: I was just wondering if one of the Committee members has a position that, look, until the feasiblity study is approved, I don't even want to look at this stuff, because until it's approved -- we've already seen the initial one where they were going to run the 34.5 line, and then it got changed to somewhere along the line. We know these things are susceptible to change. If people have that position, then it clearly makes a difference on the scheduling, if we were to determine we're going to wait for the ISO to provide it. Or maybe we just see what happens in the technical session. Is that what you're proposing?

MR. GETZ: I would suggest that we do
that through the technical session, because
otherwise, I think you're in a position of saying
we're not going to proceed any further until we hear
something solid from the ISO. And we don't know when
that will be, and I think it's too open-ended.

MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: And I think that puts us in a position where I think it's compromising some

of the rights of the intervenor.

So, other discussion?

(No verbal response)

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Well, then at least let me call a vote on the motion to enlarge the time frame for consideration of this proceeding until April 26th, 2011.

So, all those in favor, please signify by saying "aye."

(Multiple members indicating "aye.")

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Opposed?

(No verbal response)

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Note for the record that the vote was unanimous in favor of extending the time frame.

So that, I guess, leaves the issue of next steps in terms of a procedural prehearing conference and/or technical session. And I think that makes the most sense, in terms of our procedures. And I guess what I'm thinking is we would give Mr. Iacopino the directive and, I guess, grant -- well, it would come out of this -- there's going to be an order out of this deliberation, that we would require a prehearing conference, technical

1	session to be presided over by Mr. Iacopino and if
2	necessary I would be on call to begin the
3	discovery and see if there can be agreement on the
4	further schedule and collection of additional
5	information from the Applicant to try and round out
6	the procedures.
7	So, Mr. Iacopino, does that get us in
8	the right direction, from your perspective?
9	MR. IACOPINO: Yes, it does.
10	MR. GETZ: Any discussion about
11	setting up that prehearing conference, technical
12	session as the next
13	MR. IACOPINO: And that's not
14	something that any of you would have to attend, so
15	MR. HARRINGTON: You can note that the
16	Committee all smiled.
17	CHAIRMAN GETZ: Dr. Kent.
18	DR. KENT: I want to make sure I
19	understand you. You're going to research this issue
20	of
21	(Court Reporter interjects.)
22	DR. KENT: The Chairman will research
23	the issue of the jurisdiction?
24	MR. GETZ: Well, I think that issue is

effectively in play, whether we have -- what our jurisdiction is over the associated facilities and the interconnection. I mean, I guess that does raise an issue of whether we should -- if it makes sense to make a decision on that issue at some point in advance of the hearings or to proceed and do that as part of our -- as part of the final deliberations. I guess there's a couple of different ways you can go on that, because it goes effectively to the scope of our jurisdiction.

Mr. Iacopino.

MR. IACOPINO: As part of the procedural schedule that comes out of the prehearing conference and technical sessions, we could certainly require the parties to brief that issue, so that as a Committee you all can make a determination when you deliberate.

DR. KENT: Okay.

MR. GETZ: Because that could play out in a number of different ways. If it's a long time coming that anything came out from the ISO, but we concluded that these were not jurisdictional facilities, then that wouldn't affect the timing; on the other hand, if we conclude that they are

jurisdictional facilities, and we're not getting useful information from the ISO, then we're still, you know, maybe at that position of kind of understanding whether we have enough information to make a final decision, and then we'd be in that position again. But I think that's one of the uncertainties here. But I think what Mr. Iacopino proposes may make some sense. Let us get some arguments in writing from the parties to help us make that determination.

DR. KENT: Can I offer some guidance in that --

MR. GETZ: Please.

DR. KENT: -- preparation?

I'm starting from a position that, if an action is occurring solely because of the proposed project, then that is part and parcel of that project and falls under our jurisdiction. So we'd be looking for arguments that we could be satisfied on this issue.

MR. GETZ: Understood. Any other discussion? Mr. Harrington.

MR. HARRINGTON: Yes. I would just restate my previous comment. I agree completely with

what Dr. Kent said, but I do believe that the engineering basis of what's being done in the interconnection study is really beyond the purview of this Committee. It's how the physical lines are laid out and how it would impact that way. So, I mean, there's certain things about the interconnection study or even a feasiblity study that are going to be done downstream of this facility, where maybe someone has to put in another transformer or something, another substation 50 miles away. But that really isn't anything that we need to worry about here.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Anything else?
(No verbal response)

Would make this motion: That we ask counsel to work with the parties to determine a date for a prehearing conference, technical session in December, and that would be communicated as part of the order coming out of these deliberations, and that we then proceed from there with trying to accommodate the extra steps and the procedures that we've discussed here today. But the most immediate thing would be for -- to set up a prehearing conference and technical session and then

1	get proposals for further steps in the procedural
2	schedule, that then he would, as counsel, submit to
3	me in the normal course of the way we've conducted
4	these procedural issues in the case up to this date,
5	and then I would after that issue a scheduling order
6	as the presiding officer. So moved.
7	MR. HARRINGTON: Second.
8	MR. GETZ: Any discussion?
9	(No verbal response)
10	CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. All those in
11	favor, please say "aye."
12	(Multiple members indicating "aye.")
13	MR. GETZ: Opposed?
14	(No verbal response)
15	CHAIRMAN GETZ: Note for the record
16	that it was unanimous.
17	So, is there anything else that we
18	need to discuss today? I guess there's one other
19	outstanding motion.
20	MR. IACOPINO: The motion for
21	confidentiality of exhibits.
22	MR. GETZ: Well, there's more than one
23	motion.
24	MR. IACOPINO: Actually, there are two

1	motions. But there is a motion for confidentiality
2	of the exhibits, of the Applicant's Exhibit
3	MS. GEIGER: 33.
4	MR. IACOPINO: 40B and the exhibit
5	with the profile, capacity factor profile. I believe
6	those were the two 33. Thank you.
7	MR. GETZ: So there was the motion.
8	But were there any objections?
9	MR. IACOPINO: There was an objection
10	noted in the motion by the Buttolph group, I believe.
11	But there was no I don't recall receiving any
12	written objection from any of the parties. But I'll
13	double-check that.
14	MR. GETZ: Mr. Roth, did you have a
15	position on that motion for confidentiality?
16	MR. ROTH: I don't object to that
17	motion. I assume I'll have the same access I've
18	always had to confidential matters, concurrent with
19	the Committee.
20	MS. GEIGER: You've already been
21	provided with that information.
22	MR. ROTH: Okay.
23	MR. IACOPINO: I don't have anything.
24	MR. HARRINGTON: Just a question. One

1	was on the profile, the capacity profile. And what
2	was the other exhibit on?
3	MR. IACOPINO: The Exhibit 40B is the
4	way that they've phrased it in their supplemental
5	filings. It's the financial information for the non-
6	public entities, which are Groton Wind, LLC and one
7	of the Iberdrola companies that is not a publicly
8	held entity.
9	MR. HARRINGTON: Oh, okay. I remember
10	that now. Thank you.
11	MR. IACOPINO: It's their current
12	financial statements.
13	MR. GETZ: Okay. Well, it appears to
14	me that it's confidential financial information that,
15	you know, merits protection under R.S.A. 91-A. So I
16	would move that we grant the motion for
17	confidentiality.
18	MR. HARRINGTON: Second.
19	MR. GETZ: There's a second. Any
20	discussion?
21	DR. KENT: For both or just one at a
22	time?
23	MR. GETZ: Well, I was they were in
24	the same motion, so I was correct?

MR. IACOPINO: Yeah, they're both part of the same motion that was filed on November 10th.

MR. GETZ: All those in favor, please signify by saying "aye."

(Multiple members indicating "aye.")

MR. GETZ: Opposed?

(No verbal response)

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Note for the record that the motion was granted unanimously.

We also had a motion of the intervenor group, the Buttolph/Lewis/Spring group motion directing Groton and Iberdrola to bear the costs of their consultant on the real estate issues. And we also had an objection and then -- a motion filed on November 17th, and we had an objection from the Applicant on the 23rd, and responsive comments filed on November 27th.

MR. IACOPINO: 27th.

MR. GETZ: And I think -- I don't know if folks have had opportunity to give consideration to this. I think the operative language comes in under R.S.A. 162-H:10,V. And in the statute it says that the Site Evaluation Committee and Counsel for the Public shall -- I'm not going to read the entire

thing, but it says shall jointly conduct such reasonable studies and investigations, et cetera, and the cost of which shall be borne by the Applicant in such amount as may be approved by the Committee. And I guess it's an issue of whether it's in furtherance of the duties imposed by this chapter.

I think we have two options here: I guess we can try to discuss this in some detail and see if we can reach a conclusion today, or we can defer consideration to another time. I'm just not sure if everybody's had an opportunity to read all of the filings and to give this matter some consideration. But I wanted to at least bring it up. So, is there any preference on how to proceed?

Chairman? Did the Public Counsel file any opinion on this, one way or the other? Counsel for the Public.

Question, Mr.

MR. GETZ: There's no motion or no response that I've seen. We could give Mr. Roth opportunity to respond.

MR. HARRINGTON:

MR. ROTH: I did not file anything in writing. I did have a suggestion to make about it that I would be happy to present if the Committee is interested.

1 MR. GETZ: Please.

2 MR. ROTH: It occurs to me that trying

3 to put it into 162-H:10 --

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4 CHAIRMAN GETZ: Roman five?

-- Roman five is kind of a MR. ROTH: tight fit. And I'm not sure I would buy that parachute. But what I think is possible that the Committee could do is -- and you could look at it one of two ways, and that would be to -- the Committee has the ability in issuing a certificate to impose conditions consistent with 162-H:10, IV. respectfully, the Committee could impose a condition that required the Applicant to reimburse the cost of the expert. And when I said that you could do it one of two ways, you could just do it as a blanket matter and say this was valuable and interesting and important for our consideration, and therefore, we're going to impose that as a condition. And I think in Granite Reliable there were financial impositions upon the Applicant as part of the condition. But you could do it as simply as, yes, it was valuable and interesting and important, regardless of whether a condition comes out of it with respect to property values. Or you could make that kind of a condition,

if in fact there is a condition, that is selected with respect to property value issues. So, kind of a if for example -- I guess you look at it as if the Buttolph Group is sort of deemed to be successful with their -- with that evidence, part of that condition would be to reimburse the cost of bringing it.

MR. GETZ: So, effectively, using that approach, it would be premature.

MR. ROTH: That's correct.

Mr. Dupee.

MR. DUPEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just to make sure that I understand this correctly.

So, the intervenor group chose to hire a consultant and not discuss the hiring of the consultant with the parties, but just chose of their volition to do so.

Now the question might be who will pay for that?

MR. GETZ: Well, I don't know the answer to the second part about whether there was any discussion of that issue with Public Counsel or the Applicant. I guess I would --

Ms. Geiger, was there any discussion of that issue?

MS. GEIGER: No, Mr. Chairman, there

was no discussion. We obviously filed an objection to the motion, which I think is pretty clear. think there's absolutely no authority for the Committee to order this. We think you'd be acting beyond the scope of the legislature's authority granted to you. And a condition would be totally inappropriate, as suggested by Public Council. a condition would set a very dangerous precedent, and I think would get the Committee and applicants on a slippery slope to all sorts of mischief. I would strongly oppose the suggestion made by Public Seems to me if the intervenors -- they knew Counsel. they were going to hire Mr. McCann. If they wanted the Applicant to pay for it, it seems to me that we should have hashed this issue out well in advance of Mr. McCann being hired. We strongly oppose the suggestion made by Public Counsel. There's no precedent for it, and there's no authority for it in the statute.

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MR. GETZ: And Mr. Roth, just responding to Mr. Dupee's question, was there any discussion with Public Counsel about the engagement of Mr. McCann?

MR. ROTH: Not that I recall.

MR. GETZ: All right. So, did you
have some -- I just wanted to try to address that
fact, because I didn't know the answer.

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MR. DUPEE: That's fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Did you have anything further on that?

MR. DUPEE: No.

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Mr. Harrington.

MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah, I guess I'd be very leery about granting this based on what the -the section that was read -- yeah, the Roman five of that section of the chapter -- because this, I think, talks more about the Committee and/or Public Counsel hiring outside experts. And the other intervenors had the opportunity to go to Public Counsel and request them to do this; and apparently, from what we just heard, they didn't do that. So I don't see any statutory authority for that. And I think it sets kind of a wide-open precedent thing where people hire whoever they wanted and bring them in and hope to get paid for it. So, as far as the Public Counsel's argument that if they do this and then it was found to bring value to the argument, I haven't given that

any thought. So I would have to look at that a little bit more. But I wouldn't be comfortable using that section, Roman five of the statute, to pay -- to have the Applicant pay for this.

MR. GETZ: Dr. Kent.

DR. KENT: Yeah. It's always risky to give a faux legal opinion. I don't see anything in our statute that allows us to, after the fact, grant relief to the intervenor. If the intervenor had approached us prior to his actions and convinced us that this was a necessary study to complete, we might have gone along with it. But to have it come after the fact, without any opportunity to decide whether this is a worthwhile venture or not, is inappropriate, and I don't see a mechanism in the statute.

MR. GETZ: Mr. Steltzer.

MR. STELTZER: Yeah, I agree with those comments. And from my understanding from the record, the Committee's position was that property values may be considered and were a component that should be looked at -- or not should, but may be considered underneath it. And there wasn't necessarily a definitive judgment of whether it

should be included into the record. So, with that said, at this post date, you know, looking at reimbursements going back, you know, I have a hard time with it as well.

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MR. GETZ: Dr. Kent.

DR. KENT: Just a follow-up. I think there's two issues here: One is, is the issue important to us; and the second one is, is the particular witness the right person to clarify the issue for us? And I don't think the appropriate discussion took place at the appropriate time for us to defend the motion.

Okay. Well, let me make MR. GETZ: this proposal at this point: I think we've had a good discussion of some respects of the issue. Ι think it's not clear to me that everybody's had a chance to read all of the filings. I certainly hadn't given any consideration to the 162-H:10,IV argument. The one that had, you know, posed itself to me as the most likely provision to review this under was five. But I guess I would suggest that we give this some further consideration and make the determination at a later time. Does anybody have any objection to proceeding in that way?

DR. KENT: I'm sorry. So you're proposing we take time to review the statute?

MR. GETZ: Yes, and consider the arguments and consider the filings and what I have heard for the first time today from Mr. Roth on this issue.

DR. KENT: So, deliberate on this, and we're going to consider Mr. Roth's suggestion as well?

MR. GETZ: Yes.

Mr. Steltzer.

MR. STELTZER: Is it -- if the

Committee feels comfortable, if they've had an
opportunity to at least review the filings that have
happened to make a judgment whether at this time
162-H:V should be applied or not, it would be in the
best interest of the Buttolph Group, as well as Mr.

McCann, to make a determination to that, and then at
a later date to have the conversation about whether
we use 162-H:IV, which requires a condition, and the
cost for the condition to be had. I think that's the
direction that I would seek to take, is that, you
know, to take it in two separate determinations: One
is applicability of V, of 162-H:V, and one is to take

a look at applicability of 162-H:IV.

MR. GETZ: So are you suggesting that we do that now or at some other time? That's what I wasn't following.

DR. KENT: I would suggest that we can make -- if the Committee has had ample opportunity to look at the motion that has been filed to warrant an award based off of 162-H:V, then I think it would be in the best interest of everyone involved to come to that determination today. As to whether there should be reimbursement to the -- by the Applicant to the Buttolph group made on a condition, I think that should happen at a later date.

MR. GETZ: Any other thoughts?

MR. HARRINGTON: Just a question. Are you suggesting, then, that we clear up the 162-H:10,V issue today and then would offer the Buttolph, et cetera group the opportunity to refile under the provision that Public Counsel mentioned?

MR. STELTZER: Yes. I think we can only rule on the motion that's been made. Granted, I'm not a lawyer either. But, you know, you can only be judging off the motion that's been made. And that's what's been presented to us. And if we feel

that we have enough time to review that material, I think it would be in the best interest of Mr. McCann, the Buttolph group, the Committee and the Applicant to make that decision.

MR. HARRINGTON: I'd be comfortable doing that, Mr. Chairman, today.

MR. GETZ: I'm sorry. You'd be comfortable ruling on --

MR. HARRINGTON: On the 162-H:10,V request today.

DR. KENT: It appears that the Buttolph's group motion is based solely on 162-H:10,V; right? So --

MR. GETZ: That's how I take it.

DR. KENT: So I'm ready whenever the group is to make a decision on this. Given that, I'm not sure it's appropriate for Public Counsel or anybody else to say, well, maybe it doesn't qualify on that one, but maybe another one. It's hardly a motion or a -- I'm not sure what the mechanism is there for bringing that forward right now and asking us to take action.

MR. GETZ: Well, I mean, I think the mechanism was I asked Mr. Roth if he had an opinion

on this issue, and he gave us an opinion. So --

DR. KENT: Is he going to file a late brief in support of the Buttolph motion?

MR. GETZ: Well, I don't think it's necessary. I asked him for his opinion. So I think if we want more or we wanted to hear more explication about this issue, either on IV or V, or just on IV, or whether it could be conditioned as a general matter outside of this, then I think, you know, we've got the ability to do that.

MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, if I could clarify my position a little bit. I wouldn't have an objection to the Committee making a ruling and denying the motion under 162-H:10,V without prejudice to any party, offering as a condition to a certificate later on, obviously with the Applicant having the opportunity to oppose such a condition, that the certificate be conditioned upon whatever, including payment of -- reimbursement of the Buttolph group's fees for Mr. McCann.

MR. HARRINGTON: Just a procedural question. I guess the only motion we have in front of us is the one from the group that says they want to have reimbursement under 162-H:10,V. So if we

were to rule on that today, just for the sake of argument, say we would deny the petition, then there isn't anything in front of the Committee having to do with reimbursement. Would it then be up to the Buttolph group to file another petition requesting, if a certificate was granted, a condition of that certificate would be that they be reimbursed? But that would be an issue we'd address later on.

MR. GETZ: Correct.

DR. KENT: I would suggest the way to handle that is, as an intervenor they can impose conditions; correct?

CHAIRMAN GETZ: Correct. And I think that's --

DR. KENT: And they can propose a condition that says reimburse us, and the Committee could consider it.

MR. GETZ: And I think that's effectively what Mr. Harrington is saying. Whether it was a motion or a proposed --

DR. KENT: Then I agree with Mr.

22 Harrington.

MR. STELTZER: Mr. Chair, I just might add that it be added in closing arguments, that that

1	would be an appropriate time to be added in. There
2	doesn't necessarily need to be another motion made.
3	MR. GETZ: It could be a motion, could
4	be part of a brief. Yeah, there's several vehicles
5	where we could see this issue again.
6	MR. HARRINGTON: Speaking of a motion,
7	I'd like to make one: A motion to deny the petition.
8	I don't have the particular petition. To deny the
9	motion of intervenor group Buttolph/Lewis/Spring for
10	order directing Groton Wind, LLC and Iberdrola
11	Renewables to bear the cost of an expert witness,
12	dated November 17th, 2010.
13	MR. STELTZER: Second.
14	CHAIRMAN GETZ: Any discussion?
15	(No verbal response)
16	CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. All those in
17	favor of the motion signify by saying "aye."
18	(Multiple members indicating "aye.")
19	MR. GETZ: Opposed?
20	(No verbal response)
21	CHAIRMAN GETZ: I'll note for the
22	record that the motion was approved unanimously.
23	Mr. Iacopino, is there anything
24	additional that we need to address this afternoon?

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1	MR. IACOPINO: I don't believe so.
2	MR. GETZ: Anything further from the
3	Committee?
4	(No verbal response)
5	CHAIRMAN GETZ: Okay. Hearing
6	nothing, then we're adjourned.
7	MR. IACOPINO: I would ask that the
8	parties stay here so that we can schedule a date for
9	prehearing conference and tech session.
10	MR. GETZ: Thank you, everyone.
11	(Whereupon the hearing was adjourned
12	at 3:37 p.m.)
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#### CERTIFICATE

I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
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the State of New Hampshire, do hereby
certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic notes
of these proceedings taken at the place and
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conditions present at the time.

I further certify that I am neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action; and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.

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