

**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 TO TOWN OF HOLDERNESS

Issued January 18, 2011

Introduction

On March 26, 2010, Groton Wind, LLC, (Applicant) filed an Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility (Application). The Applicant petitions the Site Evaluation Committee (Committee) for a Certificate of Site and Facility (Certificate) in order to construct a renewable energy facility (Facility) in the Town of Groton, Grafton County. The Applicant proposes to site, construct and operate a wind energy facility consisting of 24 wind turbines each having a nameplate capacity of 2 mega watts (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 appointed a Subcommittee to review the Application as provided by RSA 162-H: 4, V.

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 for the facility consists of 4,180 acres. The proposed site 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 northeast/southwest oriented and range in peak elevation from 1,850 to 2,300 feet.

Each Gamesa G87 wind 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 wind turbine is proposed to be approximately 399 feet. 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.

In addition, the Applicant originally proposed to construct a 34.5 kV electrical collection system, and a collection switchyard. The Applicant originally proposed to interconnect the Facility to the Beebe River Substation owned by Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH). The Applicant originally intended to deliver the

Facility's output via the existing distribution system consisting of 13 miles of distribution lines within existing right of ways from the switchyard at the proposed site to the Beebe River Substation.

A public information hearing was held in Plymouth on June 28, 2010. Adjudicatory hearings were held from November 1, 2010 through November 5, 2010 and, thereafter, suspended. On December 14, 2010, the Subcommittee voted to suspend deliberations in this docket until April 26, 2011, in order to allow the parties to address changing circumstances.

Shortly before the commencement of the adjudicatory hearings, the Subcommittee was advised that the Applicant was considering an alternative route for the transmission line that would deliver power from the project area in Groton to the Beebe River Substation. The Subcommittee also was advised that, contrary to the original Application, the interconnection with the substation will be required to be at 115 kV. This will necessitate the construction of voltage step-up facilities that were not contemplated in the original Application. On December 30, 2010, the Subcommittee was advised by the Applicant that the voltage step-up facilities would be constructed in the Town of Holderness in Grafton County.

The Location and Nature Of The Voltage Step-Up Facilities

The voltage step-up facilities are proposed to be constructed on privately owned land in Holderness New Hampshire. The site for the step-up facilities consists of 5 acres and is within the district of Holderness that has been zoned for commercial use. The site for the voltage step-up facilities is currently used as a sand mining operation, for timber processing, and for the storage of various machinery and equipment. The parcel abuts an industrial metal plating facility. The parcel is located along Route 175 in Holderness adjacent to a parcel of land known as the Prescott parcel and within the right-of-way of a 115 kV Northeast Utilities transmission line. In addition to the construction of the voltage step-up facilities, this portion of the project would require the installation of a 34.5 kV electrical line that is proposed to be overbuilt on existing New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Facilities and the installation of additional 34.5 kV utility poles on the Prescott parcel eventually connecting with the voltage step-up facilities.

Public Inspection of Documents

The Application and other documents that have been filed with the Subcommittee describe the nature and the location of the transmission line and the voltage step-up facilities in greater detail. The Application and other documents filed with the Subcommittee contained a series of site plans, maps, figures, photographs and drawings that detail the nature and location of various aspects of the proposed Facility, as well as the transmission line and step-up facilities. The Application and all other documents, correspondence, records, exhibits, and other information pertaining to the Facility, the transmission line, and the step-up facility are available for inspection at the office of the Chairman of the Site Evaluation Committee:

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

Pursuant to RSA 541-A: 39, notice is hereby given to the Town of Holderness of the proceedings in the above referenced docket. The Subcommittee will accept all data, views, or comments with respect to these proceedings from the Town of Holderness throughout the pendency of these proceedings. If the Town of Holderness wishes to participate as an intervenor in these proceedings, it shall file an appearance and motion to intervene on or before February 1, 2011.

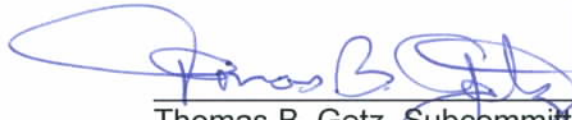
Based on the foregoing, it is hereby:

ORDERED, that the Applicant will cause a copy of this notice to be served via certified mail by January 24, 2011 to the following officials of the Town of Holderness: Ellen King, Town Clerk; Walter Johnson, Town Administrator; Peter Webster, Chair Board of Selectmen; Christopher Devine, Selectman; John W. Laverack, Jr., Selectman; Suzanne Peoples, Selectman; Shelagh Connelly, Selectman; all at the Holderness Town offices; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Applicant shall cause a true and correct copy of the Application, all testimony, and all pleadings and orders in this docket to be delivered to the Town of Holderness at the address listed above on or before January 24, 2011; and, it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Applicant shall file an affidavit of compliance with this order with the Subcommittee on or before January 26, 2011.

SO ORDERED this eighteenth day of January, 2011.



Thomas B. Getz, Subcommittee Chair
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee