

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**APPLICATION OF GROTON WIND, LLC
NO. 2010-01**

**PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF WALTER JOHNSON
ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF HOLDERNESS, NH**

March 2, 2011

Qualifications

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Walter Johnson. My business address is Town Hall, P.O. Box 203, Holderness, NH 03245.

Q. Who is your current employer and what position do you hold?

A. I am employed by the Town of Holderness, NH as its Town Administrator.

Q. Please describe your background and qualifications.

A. I have 5 ½ years of service with the Town of Holderness. I also served as Town Administrator for the Town of Lisbon for 8 years and, before that, I served as a Selectman for 10 years. My educational background consists of a Bachelor's Degree in Business.

Q. Please describe your current employment responsibilities.

A. As the Town Administrator, my duties and responsibilities are to manage and coordinate administrative activities for the office of the Board of Selectmen and other departments under the control of the Board of Selectmen. The Town Administrator establishes effective working relationships with and among all Town departments, boards, commissions, and committees.

Q. How do your current responsibilities bear upon the Groton Wind Project?

A. My responsibility is to ensure, to the best of my ability, that the Applicant's proposed construction of the substation or "step-up facility" in the Town does not create an unreasonable impact on public health and safety in the Town.

Purpose of Testimony

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to address the Town's requirements and concerns about the final design of the substation facility, such that I will be in a position to state with confidence to the Committee and to the public that the proposed substation will not create an unreasonable impact on public health and safety in the Town.

Q. Have you met with the Town's land use and governing boards to discuss your collective public health and safety concerns about this proposed project?

A. Yes. I have met with members of the Town's land use and governing boards both before and after the public meeting of March 17, 2011, at which the Applicant met with us to further describe and discuss the proposed substation facility.

Q. Have you and the members of the Town's land use and governing boards discussed the aspects of the design of the proposed substation facility that you would specifically like to see addressed by the Applicant?

A. Yes. We believe that the proposed substation facility must be "dark sky" compliant and result in a minimal amount of light trespass or light pollution from the site, so as to improve nighttime visibility through glare reduction and reduce development impact on nocturnal ecology. In particular, ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2004, establishes minimum requirements for the energy-efficient design of buildings and includes specific

standards for exterior lighting. The Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) is a joint sponsor of the standard. I would further make reference to the light pollution reduction aspects of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) metric promulgated by the U.S. Green Building Council, which incorporates ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2004 and which sets forth the requirements for designing and constructing a building that is “dark sky” compliant.

Q. Have you informed the Applicant’s representatives about this concern?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you received a commitment from the Applicant to design its proposed substation facility in a manner that is “dark sky” compliant or which otherwise addresses your lighting concerns?

A. The Applicant stated in its Answers to the Town’s First Set of Data Requests that “[l]ighting will be provided for normal operations as required by industry standards.” However, we believe that the industry standards referred to by the Applicant may not result in the dark sky design described above and that such industry standards may not be as stringent as the standards described above. As of this date, I believe that the Applicant has indicated its willingness to consider designing the facility in a manner that addresses the Town’s exterior lighting concerns, but no firm commitment has been made.

Q. At this time, are you in a position to reassure either the Committee or the public that the application has addressed the public health and safety issues raised in your testimony today?

A. At present, the Applicant has not fully satisfied our public health and safety concerns.

Q. In your opinion, will the project have an unreasonable impact upon public health and safety if this issue remains unaddressed?

A. Yes, I believe the project will have an unreasonable impact on public health and safety unless the exterior lighting issue described above is addressed to the collective satisfaction of the Town.

Conclusion

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.

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