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March 29, 2011

Thomas Getz, Vice-Chairman
Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Groton Wind, SEC Docket No.2010-01 Closing Statement/Positions

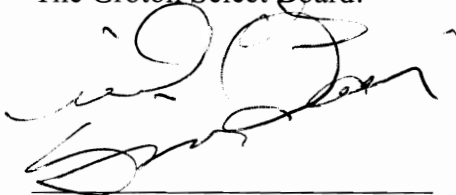
The Town of Groton Select Board has been an active participant in the statutory SEC review process involving the proposed Groton Wind Farm. It is our position that Groton Wind has met its burden with respect to the criteria before the committee, in that there are no ***unreasonable*** adverse impacts known or proven at this time. As with essentially any proposed project, some measure of adverse impacts are inevitable. The reality is that mankind has impacts in almost all that one does, the vast majority of which are adverse towards our environment to some degree. In fact the very homes we live in have had adverse impacts to the environment, to include wildlife and habitat, both locally and from where the materials originated. We believe that any of the adverse impacts and legitimate concerns associated with this project can be adequately mitigated by conditions imposed by the committee on the Certificate for Site and Facility. In order for us as a nation to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and those that produce them, we must accept that there are inherent advantages and disadvantages in the alternatives. Wind farms must be situated where sufficient winds exist. The power generated by these facilities must be transmitted to the electrical grid. In this instance forests must be selectively cleared, roads must be built or upgraded and transmission line right of ways or easements created to support the construction, infrastructure and operation. We must decide if we are truly committed to developing alternative energies or merely espousing sound bites, talking points and lip service. The Town of Groton is ready to embrace and support wind power.

We would now like to state our positions specifically on two issues that were raised during the adjudicatory hearings. The first issue involves the assertion by the Town of Plymouth, through its Fire Chief, that the applicant should be required to purchase certain equipment for the Plymouth and Rumney Fire Departments, claiming that it is necessary to address fire response to the project site. In short, the testimony and information presented by the towns of Groton and Rumney contradicts that of Chief Clogston. Members of the Groton Select Board toured the Lempster Wind Farm via a Greyhound type "coach" bus, traveling up to and under the very turbines themselves. The applicant testified that similar roads are to be constructed encountering similar grades for this project. The Lempster Fire Department has reportedly taken their equipment to the Lempster Wind Farm and there is no foundation for any finding that Plymouth cannot do likewise.

The second issue involves the assertion that the applicant should provide property value guarantees to property owners within a certain area/radius. The Groton Select Board has chosen not to take a direct position on either side of this matter, in order to preserve or respect any rights of Groton property owners that may or may not be affected. We are concerned however about the chilling effect this could have on future development and growth in our state. Can't an argument be made that virtually any commercial or industrial project will negatively affect the value of private or even public property? This then, begs the question of where the line is drawn, and in the event that a commercial or industrial project actually increases property values, are they then entitled to a portion of the proceeds as a matter of fundamental fairness? To the extent that the committee is inclined to require a property value guarantee, the Groton Select Board is of the opinion that it should apply to all property owners within a certain radius, regardless of the municipality wherein it is located. We appreciate your efforts, reflection and consideration of our positions. Thank you.

Respectfully,

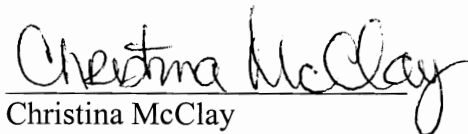
The Groton Select Board:



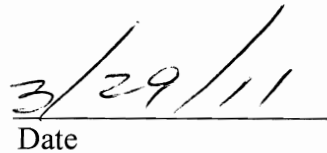
Miles Sinclair (Chairman)



Kyle Andrews



Christina McClay



Date