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March 11, 2011

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Lawrence A. Kelly (Of Counsel)

Michael T. Cretella

Via Hand Delivery, and Electronic Mail

NH Site Evaluation Committee c/o Jane Murray, Secretary 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: Petition for Jurisdiction Over Renewable Energy Facility Proposed by Antrim Wind, LLC

Dear Ms. Murray:

Enclosed for filing with the Site Evaluation Committee, please find an original and 18 copies of a Petition for Jurisdiction Over Renewable Energy Facility Proposed by Antrim Wind Energy, LLC. Also enclosed please find an original and 18 copies of an Appearance filed on behalf of Antrim Wind Energy, LLC.

Please contact me if there are any questions about this filing. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Susan S. Geiger

cc: Michael J. Iacopino, Esq. (Electronic Mail)

Enclosures 737707_1.DOC

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

D	ocket	No.	201	1	-	

RE: Antrim Wind Energy, LLC

Appearance

Pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rule Site 202.04, please enter our Appearance as counsel for Antrim Wind Energy, LLC in the above-captioned matter which involves a Petition requesting that the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee assert jurisdiction over a wind energy facility proposed by Antrim Wind Energy, LLC for a site located in Antrim, New Hampshire (in Hillsborough County). Douglas L. Patch, Susan S. Geiger and Rachel Aslin Goldwasser are attorneys licensed to practice law in New Hampshire.

Respectfully submitted,

ORR & RENO, P.A. One Eagle Square P.O. Box 3550

Concord, N.H. 03302-3550

Dated: March 11, 2011

Telephone: (603) 223-9154 Email: sgeiger@orr-reno.com

By:

Telephone: (603) 223-9161 Email: dpatch@orr-reno.com

Rachel Aslin Goldwasser

Telephone: (603) 223-9163 Email: rag@orr-reno.com

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Docket No. 2011-

Re: Antrim Wind Energy, LLC

PETITION FOR JURISDICTION OVER RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY PROPOSED BY ANTRIM WIND ENERY, LLC

NOW COMES Antrim Wind Energy, LLC ("AWE"), by and through its undersigned attorneys, and respectfully petitions the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee ("SEC" or "Committee") to assert jurisdiction over a renewable energy project with a nameplate capacity of less than 30 megawatts proposed by AWE to be constructed in the Town of Antrim (in Hillsborough County), New Hampshire . In support of this Petition, AWE states as follows:

Petitioner/Project Developer Information

- 1. AWE is a Delaware limited liability company that was formed to develop, build, own and operate the Antrim wind energy project ("the Project") which is described below. AWE has two members Eolian Antrim, Inc. and Westerly Antrim, Inc. that are owned respectively by Eolian Renewable Energy, LLC and Westerly Wind, LLC.
- 2. Eolian Renewable Energy, LLC ("Eolian") is a Delaware limited liability company formed in 2009 to manage the development, construction and operation of distributed utility scale wind energy facilities in New England. Eolian is headquartered in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and presently has a development portfolio consisting of

five wind energy projects with a total nameplate capacity of approximately 80 MW in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. Eolian focuses only on developing wind energy projects in the range of 10-25 MW at sites that have superior qualities in terms of their potential for performance and permitting, the presence of existing impacts, and close proximity to existing infrastructure such as roads and transmission resources. The niche Eolian has focused on in distributed, utility scale wind facilities allows for electrical generation to be sited closer to the loads being served, with project sizes that are large enough to make meaningful contributions to New England electric supply and local economic development, but that can be brought online without substantial need for new high voltage transmission resources. Eolian also believes that projects at this scale are a better geographic and cultural fit in the unique New England landscape. Brief biographies of Eolian's four partners (Jack Kenworthy, CEO, John Soininen, Vice President of Development, Drew Kenworthy, Vice President of GIS and Resource Analysis, and Travis Bullard, Senior Development Manager) are attached to this Petition. These individuals bring diverse experience to the utility wind energy development business including energy development, real estate development, construction management, GIS, wind resource analysis, and environmental compliance and permitting.

3. Westerly Wind, LLC ("Westerly") is a Delaware limited liability company that is focused on providing development capital and management expertise to facilitate wind energy generation in the United States and select international markets. Westerly funds high quality wind energy projects in all phases of development and provides creative funding and development structures to meet individual developer and project

requirements. Westerly is primarily focused on the North American wind market and is committed to working with developers, communities, and other stakeholders to make clean wind energy a reality. Westerly's management team has significant experience developing power generation projects, and has been directly involved in the development, financing, construction and operation of over 4,000 MWs of independent power assets, including over 500 MWs of wind energy generation. Brief biographies of Westerly's CEO, Joesph Cofelice, its Vice President of Finance, Peter Mara, and Vice President of Development, Sean McCabe are attached. Westerly was founded in 2010 and is based in Braintree, Massachusetts. Westerly is a portfolio company of US Renewables Group ("USRG"), which is one of the largest private equity firms focused exclusively on investing in renewable power, biofuels and clean technology infrastructure. USRG was founded in 2003 and has mobilized over \$750 million of capital commitments for renewable energy projects. USRG has invested in other renewable development technologies including geothermal, solar thermal, biomass, and energy storage.

Project Description

4. <u>Project Location and Site Information:</u> The Project is proposed to be located in the northwest portion of the town of Antrim and includes property from the east summit of Tuttle Hill to the flank of Willard Mountain to the west. The Project's location within the State of New Hampshire and Town of Antrim is shown on insets contained in the attached map. The Project site is also shown on the attached map. It is located on a mostly contiguous ridgeline running east northeast to west southwest, and nearly parallel to NH Route 9, which is approximately ³/₄ of a mile to the north. The entirety of the Project is located in the sparsely settled rural conservation zoning district

in Antrim on approximately 2,000 acres of private lands leased by AWE from five landowners. Post-construction, the Project will occupy approximately 300 acres, including anticipated setbacks and buffers.

To the north of the proposed turbine string between the ridgeline and Route 9 is a PSNH transmission corridor containing both a 115 kV transmission line and a 34.5 kV distribution circuit, where the Project proposes to interconnect to the grid. This right of way is approximately ½ mile from the Tuttle Hill ridge and runs through property currently leased by AWE. Proposed access to the Project site is from Route 9 coming up the north slope of Tuttle Hill ridge.

- 5. Site Attributes: The Antrim Wind site features a rare combination of compelling attributes that make it well-suited for a wind energy facility. Those attributes include: strong wind speeds with low turbulence coming from a direction predominantly perpendicular to the orientation of the ridgeline and turbine string; close proximity to suitable road access; close proximity to a suitable grid interconnection location; previous site impacts from heavy logging activities; relative absence of critical environmental features that would preclude development activities (subject to verification through studies to be conducted); the absence of conservation restrictions on the parcels in the Project area; and adequate distances from residences and other inhabited structures to minimize the risk of nuisance noise or flicker.
- 6. <u>Project Attributes</u>: The installed nameplate capacity of the Project is anticipated to be greater than 5 MW but less than 30 MW. Although AWE has not made a final decision regarding turbine specifications as of the date of this petition, it is anticipated that the Project will employ 10 turbines in the 2 MW size class. Total turbine

height from foundation to blade tip is expected to be less than 475 feet. AWE is also evaluating whether there is a suitable option for a 3 MW Class 2 turbine for the Project. In addition to the turbines and foundations, the site development will include other infrastructure such as: an underground electrical collection system buried along side the ridge road; pole-mounted electrical lines (anticipated to be 34.5 kV) along the access road from the collector system bus to the point of interconnection; and a small maintenance building. AWE proposes to interconnect to the PSNH 34.5 kV distribution circuit that runs through the right-of-way along the north base of Tuttle Hill. The proposed interconnection is via a direct tap to the existing 3140 X1 line that continues to Jackman substation in Hillsboro. AWE has been working with PSNH to study the capacity of this line to accommodate the additional generation from the Project and also the required upgrades for protection and control purposes. The initial PSNH report, received in November 2010, indicates that capacity is available on the line and the required upgrades are expected to be economically and physically feasible. AWE is preparing to complete the remaining study requirements in the next 9 months and anticipates entering into an interconnection agreement shortly thereafter.

7. Proposed List of Studies/Surveys to be Performed: AWE, with the assistance of its environmental and engineering consultants at TRC Environmental Corporation, has identified several studies to be performed in advance of submitting a completed application for consideration by the SEC. The following Project studies will be undertaken and are commensurate with those which have been conducted for other utility scale wind energy facilities that have been certificated by the SEC: Wetland Delineation; Vernal Pool Survey; Natural Community Detailed Mapping; Rare Plant

Survey; Architectural Survey; Archeological Survey; Acoustic Bat Survey; Raptor Migration Survey; Avian Nocturnal Migration Survey (Radar); Breeding Bird Survey; Noise Survey; and a Visual Impact Study.

Regulatory and Stakeholder Engagement

- 8. AWE has made a concerted effort to reach out early and often with various stakeholders related to the potential Project. These stakeholders include state agencies, conservation organizations, and the Town of Antrim and surrounding communities.
- 9. AWE held an informal initial meeting with Mr. Tim Drew at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services ("DES") as far back as the summer of 2009 to indicate that AWE is interested in developing a commercial wind facility in Antrim and to introduce the Project. More recently, as the Project has become better defined, AWE has made contact with many of the agencies involved in permitting and/or providing guidance in connection with permitting. On January 20, 2011 AWE participated in an initial introductory meeting at DES to discuss the Project and seek guidance and recommendations prior to commencing the permitting study process. Attendees at that meeting included representatives from: the Wetlands Division of DES; New Hampshire Fish and Game Department; New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Representatives from New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development and New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources were also invited but did not attend.
- 10. AWE has also been in discussions with conservation organizations who have an interest in the conservation of natural resources of New Hampshire and particularly

those that operate in the region where the Project is located. Discussions have commenced and are ongoing with the following groups: Antrim Conservation Commission; The Harris Center for Conservation Education; New Hampshire Audubon; The Nature Conservancy; Appalachian Mountain Club; and the Monadnock Conservancy.

11. AWE has also held extensive communications with the Town of Antrim and local communities. AWE initially approached the Town of Antrim in April 2009 to offer a conceptual overview of the Project. In June, 2009, AWE applied for a building permit to erect a single 60 meter temporary meteorological tower on Tuttle Hill which required an area variance. In October 2009, the Town granted the variance and in November 2009, the Town issued the building permit. The meteorological tower was installed in November 2009 and has been gathering wind data since that time. The meteorological tower is currently the subject of pending litigation.¹

Jurisdictional Standard

12. The definition of "renewable energy facility" contained in RSA 162-H:2, XII. includes "electric generating station equipment and associated facilities of 30 megawatts or less nameplate capacity but at least 5 megawatts which the committee determines requires a certificate, consistent with the findings and purposes set forth in RSA 162-H:1, either on its own motion, or by petition of the applicant or 2 or more petitioners as defined in RSA 162:2, XI. "Petitioner" is defined by RSA 162:2, XI. as a person filing a petition meeting, *inter alia*, the following conditions: a petition endorsed by the governing body of the host community and a petition filed by the potential applicant.

¹ See Antrim Wind Energy, LLC v. Town of Antrim, 216-2010-EQ-00245 and 216-2010-CV-00553 (Hillsborough County Superior Court Northern District).

- 13. By letter to SEC Chairman Burack dated February 7, 2011, a copy of which is attached, the Town of Antrim Board of Selectmen petitioned the SEC "to take jurisdiction of the review, approval, monitoring, and enforcement of compliance in the planning, siting, construction and operation of this renewable energy facility if an when an application is made to construct this facility."
- 14. AWE is submitting this petition because it supports the Town's request and intends to submit an application for a certificate of site and facility to the SEC by the end of this calendar year.
- 15. Because the instant petition is supported by the governing body of the host community, i.e. the Antrim Board of Selectmen, and because the information presented below supports a determination by the SEC that the Project requires a certificate, consistent with the findings and purposes set forth in RSA 162-H:1, the SEC should accept jurisdiction over the Project.
- 16. RSA 162-H:1 states the following findings made by the Legislature with respect to construction of new energy facilities:

it is in the public interest to maintain a balance between the environment and the need for new energy facilities in New Hampshire; that undue delay in the construction of needed facilities be avoided and that full and timely consideration of environmental consequences be provided; that all entities planning to construct facilities in the state be required to provide full and complete disclosure to the public of such plans; and that the state ensure that the construction and operation of energy facilities is treated as a significant aspect of land-use planning in which all environmental, economic, and technical issues are resolved in an integrated fashion, all to assure that the state has a adequate and reliable supply of energy in conformance with sound environmental principles.

17. The Project qualifies as a Class I renewable energy source under RSA 362-F:4, I (a) and is therefore "needed" for the purpose of meeting the goals of articulated in RSA 362-F:1, New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Obtaining necessary state permits in the integrated fashion and within the time frames afforded by the SEC process under the provisions of RSA 162-H:6-a is consistent with the findings contained in RSA 162-H:1. The SEC process will ensure that AWE provides full and timely information about the Project to the public and that the Project's impacts on the orderly development of the region, aesthetics, historic sites, air and water quality, the natural environment, and public health and safety are thoroughly reviewed by state agencies with relevant subject matter expertise. In addition, during the course of its prior consideration of three wind energy facility applications, the SEC itself has developed expertise in adjudicating issues relating to the siting of wind energy projects. Thus, it is entirely appropriate that the SEC assert jurisdiction over this Project, especially given that that host community Selectmen have requested that relief.

- 18. Clear precedent exists for granting the relief sought herein: the SEC asserted jurisdiction over the 24 MW Lempster Wind Project, which is very similar (in terms of size and geographic location) to the instant Project.
- 19. AWE needs certainty (sooner rather than later) regarding the regulatory path it must take, i.e. either to file an SEC application and obtain its state permits under the SEC process or follow the individual permitting route and obtain all of its permits through separate processes. AWE believes that the latter alternative is neither practical nor appropriate in light of the portion of RSA 162-H:1, which states that the state should assure that the construction of energy facilities is treated as a significant aspect of landuse planning and that all environmental, economic and technical issues are resolved in an

integrated fashion (e.g. the SEC process). Accordingly, the SEC should grant the within Petition.

20. AWE would be pleased to submit additional written information in support of this petition and/or to appear before the SEC to answer any questions about the Project. If the Committee believes that a hearing should be held on this Petition, AWE respectfully requests that it be scheduled as soon as possible so that AWE can receive timely guidance on the appropriate regulatory process it must pursue for this Project.

Request for Relief

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing, AWE respectfully requests that the SEC issue an order asserting jurisdiction over the Antrim Wind Project and granting such further relief as it deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Antrim Wind Energy, LLC By Its Attorneys Orr & Reno, P.A.

Dated: March 11, 2011

Susan S. Geiger

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BIOGRAPHIES

EOLIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY, LLC

Jack Kenworthy, Chief Executive Officer

Jack is Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Eolian Renewable Energy LLC, a New Hampshire based company developing distributed, utility scale wind energy projects throughout New England. Jack was responsible for the development of Eolian's business model, plan and strategy and since launching Eolian, Jack has been responsible for raising initial seed capital, growth funding and directing the firm's strategic development. He has also spent substantial time on the ground managing individual projects, Antrim Wind in particular. Jack plays a very active role in each project Eolian is developing, focusing particular attention on stakeholder engagement, contract negotiation, deal structuring and overall project risk management and finance.

Prior to launching Eolian, Jack was founder and CEO of Cape Systems, Limited – a clean energy development firm and consultancy based in the Caribbean islands. There he was responsible for developing the first grid-scale photovoltaic systems and the first multi-million gallon commercial waste-oil to biodiesel facility in the region while helping lay the foundation for a new national energy policy with a heavy focus on renewable energy sources for The Bahamas.

Jack graduated from the University of Vermont Summa Cum Laude with a degree in environmental science with a law focus. He has spent his entire professional career focused on renewable energy advancement and development.

John Soininen, Vice President Development

John co-founded Eolian Renewable Energy in 2009. Prior to starting Eolian, Mr. Soininen was the VP Development for Windermere Island North Development, Ltd a real estate development firm focused on sustainable design and development in the Caribbean. Prior to that Mr. Soininen was a Senior Development Manager with Leggat McCall Properties in Boston, MA, where he was responsible for managing the build-out of over \$100M in complex development properties. He has spent his entire professional career in construction management and project development. He has managed the full spectrum of professional consultants to acquire property, permit developments, design complex projects, design renewable energy systems and complete projects of all shapes and sizes. He is a professional development manager and has the experience and knowledge necessary to bring complicated projects from the drawing board to fruition. In addition to executing complex projects John has put together numerous joint ventures and raised equity and debt to enable successful project build-outs. John holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University and an M.S. in Real Estate Development from M.I.T.

Drew Kenworthy, Vice President, GIS and Resource Analysis

Drew is a trained cultural resource specialist with specific experience in the application of geographic information systems technology to complex problems. He has over ten years of experience in professional consulting and has been involved in the management of project compliance for the private, state, and federal sectors throughout the Mid-Atlantic and greater Northeast. Drew's role as a managing partner at Eolian is largely centered on the application of geospatial technologies as they pertain to the company's interest in site acquisition, evaluation, and preliminary design. He is also heavily involved in

the company's wind measurement campaigns as well as the monitoring and projection of energy resources. His role at Eolian is designed to facilitate quick and well-informed decision-making as the company promotes its sites through the wind development process. Drew has a bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont and a Master's degree in Anthropology from UNC Chapel Hill.

Travis Bullard, Senior Development Manager

Travis was born and raised in a small town in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Immersed in timber framing, design, and construction at a very young age he developed a passion for hard work and sustainable design. He has over 15 years of experience in construction management and green building technologies. In 2004 Travis founded Balanced Building a sustainable design and consulting company for international sustainable and educational projects. Trained as an environmental scientist Travis received a BS in Environmental Conservation from the University of New Hampshire. Travis's primary role at Eolian is to drive project development specializing in stakeholder involvement and community outreach. He spends a lot of time personally getting to know communities to better understand the unique complexities of planning, permitting, and constructing successful projects for each area.

WESTERLY WIND, LLC

Joseph Cofelice, CEO

Joe Cofelice is a founding member and CEO of Westerly Wind, LLC. Joe has over 20 years experience growing successful independent power businesses. Prior to joining Westerly, Joe was President of Catamount Energy Company; a Vermont based independent power company focused on wind energy. Catamount successfully permitted projects in the UK and developed and financed over 580 MW of wind projects in the US. Catamount was a portfolio company of New York based Diamond Castle Holdings. Joe left Catamount upon the successful sale of the business to Duke Energy in September 2008. Previously, Joe was CEO of American National Power ("ANP"), the US based independent power subsidiary of London based International Power Plc. Joe spent over 15 years at ANP and was at various times directly responsible for all aspects of the business including project development, project financing and marketing & trading. Joe also served in various accounting, finance and oil and gas marketing roles for Shell Oil Company and Enron Oil & Gas. Joe is a graduate of Northeastern University.

Peter Mara, Vice President Finance

Peter Mara is Vice President of Finance at Westerly Wind. Peter is primarily responsible for originating, structuring, and managing investments at Westerly. Peter has 7 years of relevant industry experience across several disciplines in energy finance, including, mergers and acquisitions, infrastructure and project finance, utility bond research, and portfolio management. Prior to joining Westerly in 2010, Peter was an Associate at US Renewables Group where he assisted in analyzing, structuring and closing of new investments, on-going portfolio management, and fundraising initiatives. Previously, Peter worked for over 3 years in the Infrastructure, Project and Corporate Finance Group at John Hancock Financial Services. At John Hancock, he participated in numerous corporate bond, structured finance, project finance, and private equity transactions in power generation, infrastructure, and regulated utility

sectors. Peter has a degree in Finance and Marketing from Northeastern University, where he graduated summa cum laude.

Sean McCabe, Vice President Development

Sean McCabe is Vice President of Development at Westerly Wind LLC. Sean is responsible for responsible for identifying, advancing and managing development funding opportunities for Westerly. Sean has 7 years experience developing wind energy projects in the US. Prior to joining Westerly, Sean was Managing Director of Development at Duke Energy Renewables, an unregulated independent power subsidiary of Duke Energy Corporation. Sean led the successful development and permitting of Duke's 200 MW "Top of the World" wind project located in Glenrock, WY. Sean began his career in wind at Catamount Energy Company; a Vermont based independent power company focused on wind energy. Duke acquired Catamount Energy in September 2008. Sean has an undergraduate degree from the College of the Holy Cross and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Michigan. Sean is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

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Town of Antrim

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February 7, 2011

Thomas S. Burack, Chairman NH Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Committee Dept. of Environmental Services 29 Hazen Dr., PO Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: Antrim Wind Energy LLC

Dear Chairman Burack:

The Town of Antrim has been approached by Antrim Wind Energy LLC about the feasibility of constructing a wind-powered electric generation facility within the borders of Antrim. The proposed facility will consist of between eight and eleven multi-megawatt wind turbines with a nameplate capacity of between sixteen and twenty-two megawatts. We, the Selectmen of Antrim, petition the SEC to take jurisdiction of the review, approval, monitoring, and enforcement of compliance in the planning, siting, construction, and operation of this renewable energy facility if and when an application is made to construct this facility.

Singerely,

Gordon Webber

Chairman, Board of Selectmen

