



NEW HAMPSHIRE NATURAL HERITAGE BUREAU

DRED - DIVISION OF FORESTS & LANDS

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To: Site Evaluation Committee

From: Melissa Coppola, NHB-Environmental Information Specialist

Date: July 2, 2012

Subject: **Progress Report: Site Evaluation Committee #2012-01**
Application for Antrim Wind Energy, LLC

The Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB), under the auspices of the NH Native Plant Protection Act of 1987 (RSA 217-A), has reviewed the application materials for Groton Wind, LLC. Based on the information provided in the application, and the extensive coordination the applicant has had with NHB throughout the pre-application process, NHB's only further request is a final site visit during the growing season this summer (July or August).

The applicant contacted NHB for a standard database check for known locations of rare species and exemplary natural communities on 22 March 2010 (NHB10-0644). There were no known records of rare plant or exemplary natural communities documented on the property of the proposed project. However, like much of the state, this area had likely never been surveyed for rare plant species, so a negative result (no record in the NHB database) does not mean that a sensitive species is not present. All of our review memos explain this limitation, and explain that an on-site survey would provide better information on what species and communities are present. TRC followed-up on this recommendation and coordinated with NHB in the development of protocols for both natural community and rare plant surveys.

After the natural community mapping surveys and mapping were completed in June 2011, TRC sent draft copies to NHB for comment and NHB then provided a memo with a list of potential rare species to help target survey efforts within various natural community types. No rare species were found and no uncommon natural community types or exemplary examples of natural communities were documented.

NHB walked a portion of the site on 13 December 2011. However for a complete review of the application, NHB requests one final walk through during the growing season when herbaceous species are visible. If any rare plant species are found, NHB will provide the applicant with recommendations on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate for potential impacts and a copy of the recommendations will be provided to the SEC.