STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Docket No. 2012-01

Re: Application of Antrim Wind Energy, LLC for a Certificate of Site and Facility for a Renewable Energy Facility Proposed to be Located in Antrim, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire

September 13, 2012

ORDER ON MOTIONS TO CONTINUE AND FURTHER PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On January 31, 2012, Antrim Wind Energy, 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 and operate a renewable energy facility in the Town of Antrim, Hillsborough County, consisting of not more than 10 wind turbines each having a nameplate capacity of not more than 3 megawatts (MW) for a total nameplate capacity of 30 MW (Facility). The Vice-Chair of the Committee accepted the Application as administratively complete on March 5, 2012, and a Subcommittee was appointed to review the Application as provided in RSA 162-H: 6-a, III and RSA 162-H: 4, V (Subcommittee). On August 15, 2012, a duly appointed Subcommittee of the Site Evaluation Committee (Subcommittee) issued an Order and Notice of Hearing scheduling a final prehearing conference in the above referenced docket for September 7, 2012, and a final adjudicative hearing commencing on September 10, 2012.

On August 27, 2012, Industrial Wind Action Group, an intervenor in this matter, filed a motion to postpone the adjudicative hearing and enlarge the time for issuing or denying a Certificate. On August 28, 2012, Counsel for the Public filed a motion to continue the adjudicative hearing, extend deadlines, and to hold a scheduling conference. On August 29, 2012, the Applicant responded to Counsel for the Public's motion. In its response the Applicant indicates that it does not object to a postponement of the commencement of the adjudicative hearing until at least October 15, 2012, so long as the deadline for all parties' supplemental filings and the date of the final prehearing conference are extended beyond the originally set dates of September 5, 2012 and September 7, 2012, and so long as the deadline for the Subcommittee's decision is not delayed beyond November 30, 2012. No other party who responded to Counsel for the Public's request for assent objected to the postponement.

On September 6, 2012, the Subcommittee convened for the purpose of hearing oral argument on the authority of the Site Evaluation Committee to grant a subdivision as part of its authority to grant or deny a certificate of site and facility. After the subdivision oral argument the Committee voted to take additional procedural steps to review the Antrim subdivision regulations to determine whether the Antrim Planning Board retained residual authority pertaining to the proposed subdivision. Those steps include the need to schedule an additional day of hearings.

After reviewing the motions to continue the adjudicative proceedings and in the light of the Subcommittee's determination regarding the need for additional hearing dates, I find that it is in the public interest to temporarily suspend the proceedings before the Subcommittee and to enlarge the time frame to issue or deny a certificate of site and facility.

In support of this ruling I find that the public interest requires a thorough review of all aspects of the Application as filed and the issues that arise as part of the Application. In order to facilitate that review the parties require additional time to review discovery information and to prepare for additional hearings necessitated by the subdivision determination. In addition the adjudicative proceeding will include a day for presentation of witnesses regarding the Antrim subdivision regulations and what residual powers may remain with the Antrim Planning Board. The Subcommittee may deliberate on the issue at the close of the hearing, or as part of the remainder of the adjudicative hearing process.

After consultation between the parties and counsel for the Committee regarding scheduling, I hereby order that the proceedings are temporarily suspended and the statutory time-frame for the issuance of a decision is extended consistent with the following Procedural Schedule:

September 17, 2012	Deadline: Data requests from Counsel for the Public and Intervenors to the Applicant regarding the supplemental pre-filed testimony of Ruben Segura-Coto.
September 21, 2012	Counsel for the Public expects receipt of the "Deloitte Report."
September 28, 2012	Deadline: All parties to file memoranda regarding the Antrim subdivision regulations and addressing which regulations should remain within the residual authority of the Antrim Planning Board.
October 1, 2012	Deadline: Answers to Data requests from Counsel for the Public and Intervenors to the Applicant regarding the supplemental prefiled testimony of Ruben Segura-Coto are due.
October 4, 2012	Technical Session No. 3 (if necessary): Addressing the supplemental pre-filed testimony of Ruben Segura-Coto. (Time and place to be determined.)
October 11, 2012	Deadline: Filing of supplemental pre-filed testimony by any party.
October 25, 2012 (Thursday)	Final Pre-Hearing Conference and marking of exhibits. (If necessary a final tech session may follow the Pre-Hearing Conference.) 10:00 A.M. NH Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord N.H.

October 26, 2012

Adjudicative hearing regarding Antrim subdivision regulations.

9:00 A.M. Department of Environmental Services

29 Hazen Drive, Concord N.H. (Please note location.)

October 29, 2012 -

Adjudicative hearings.

November 2, 2012

9:00 A.M. NH Public Utilities Commission

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord N.H.

By Order of the Site Evaluation Committee this thirteenth day of September, 2012.

Amy L. Ignatius, Presiding Officer/Vice Chairman

Site Evaluation Committee