



Glenn Normandeau  
Executive Director

## New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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October 26, 2012

Michael J. Iacopino  
Brennan, Caro, Lenehan & Iacopino  
85 Brook Street  
Manchester, NH 03104

RE: Application of Antrim Wind Energy, LLC  
Site Evaluation Committee # 2012-001  
Final Report and Permit Condition Recommendations

Dear SEC Chairman:

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) has completed its' review of the Antrim Wind Energy (AWE) projects', Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP) and we offer the following recommendations:

General ABPP comments:

1) Pg 46 - Tree Clearing: The Department would like to avoid tree clearing until after August 1, in order to effectively avoid mortality of nesting birds and their young. However, the Departments' preference for tree clearing would be during frozen ground conditions as suggested in the ABPP;

2) Pg 46 - Natural Revegetation: The Department would like to receive a copy of the plan or a description of what steps are intended to accomplish the revegetation of the roadways and site after commissioning of the project. Periodic updates evaluating the success of the projects' revegetation status would also be helpful;

3) Pg 64 - Adaptive Management: This section refers to consultation and evaluation of wind data from other wind projects in the region; however, we would like to emphasize that AWE use data from wind projects already established in the Northeast for more comparative information. Although, this may be inferred in the ABPP, we would like it to be clear that data from the other New England States and local projects should be utilized for comparison purposes to the AWE project;

4) Pg 48-68 - The Post Construction Evaluation (7.1 Evaluation Phase field studies), the (9.0) Adaptive Management Strategy and the (9.3) Phased Consultation Process are all dependent on the applicants efforts to consult with the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for determining appropriate actions relative to this project. For example, in 7.1 it is noted that AWE and NHFGD will assist in the establishment of thresholds of mortality that will trigger the adaptive management process.

Although, the Department supports the applicant's efforts to involve the Department in the consultation and decision making process, there is a need for a contingency plan in case the parties cannot come to an agreement. For this reason, the Department suggests that the ABPP and/or project permit include a clause to address this possibility, such as; "if the applicant and the NHFGD cannot achieve consensus on any issue as outlined in the ABPP, then the Department may petition the subcommittee for a final determination", if necessary.

Recommendations for the ABPP regarding the Common Nighthawk:

Since the AWE project is in close proximity to the Lempster wind project, where there has been a recently documented turbine related mortality involving the State-endangered Common Nighthawk, the Department suggests the following recommendations:

5) Pg 38 - Potential Impacts to Birds: A discussion of the potential impacts to the Common Nighthawk should be addressed in this section, including potential efforts by AWE to minimize possible impacts to Common Nighthawks, if discovered.

6) Pg 48-49 - Post Construction Evaluation: The rigorous post construction field evaluations during the Evaluation Phase should include studies and surveys for Common Nighthawk nesting activity on or in the immediate vicinity of the turbine pads and potential mitigative strategies to avoid mortality. At a minimum, an assessment of the potential risk to Common Nighthawks from this type of project should be evaluated.

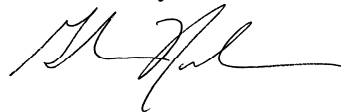
7) Pg 59 - Mitigative Actions for Birds: Operational mitigation may be necessary and should be evaluated to prevent mortality to Common Nighthawks and/or any other Threatened and Endangered species that may be determined to be impacted following the commissioning of this facility

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It should be noted that the applicant did attempt to solicit comments from the Department relative to the content of the ABPP prior to the SEC hearing; however, this was the earliest that the Department could provide the necessary information following the recent incident at the Lempster wind facility. Subsequently, the Departments' Environmental Review Coordinator did discuss (phone conversation on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012) the aforementioned recommendations with the applicants' TRC consultant, Mr. Dana Vailleau, in advance of this submission to the SEC for their review. The NH Fish and Game Department does appreciate the applicants' efforts of involving the agency in the proposed project and we encourage the continuation of these discussions throughout the SEC process.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the Department's Environmental Review Coordinator, Carol Henderson via email at [carol.henderson@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:carol.henderson@wildlife.nh.gov) or by phone at 603-271-3511. Thank you for considering this information during the SEC process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Normandeau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glenn Normandeau  
Executive Director