## In Re:

SEC DOCKET NO. 2014-15: PETITION FOR JURISDICTION over a renewable energy facility by antrim wind, LLC

## DAY 1 - AFTERNOON SESSION ONLY July 6, 2015

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

July 6, 2015-1:04 p.m. Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street Concord, New Hampshire

IN RE: SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE: DOCKET NO. 2014-05: Petition for Jurisdiction Over a Renewable Energy Facility by Antrim Wind, LLC and Others.

PRESENT:
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
Chrmn. Martin P. Honigberg
Public Utilities Comm. (Presiding as Chairman of SEC)
Cmsr. Robert R. Scott Public Utilities Comm. Dir. Eugene Forbes, Designee Cmsr. Jeffrey Rose

Dir. Elizabeth Muzzey
Patricia Weathersby Roger Hawk

DES - Water Division
Dept. of Resources \& Economic Dev.
Div. Of Historical

Resources
Public Member
Public Member

COUNSEL TO THE COMMITTEE: Michael Iacopino, Esq.

COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, N.H. LCR No. 44

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Antrim Wind, LLC: Barry Needleman, Esq. (McLane, Graf) Patrick Taylor, Esq. (McLane, Graf)
Jack Kenworthy (Antrim Wind)
Henry Weitzner (Walden Green Energy)
David Raphael (LandWorks)

Reptg. Counsel for the Public: Mary Maloney, Esquire Senior Asst. Atty. General
N.H. Atty. Gen. Office

Jean Vissering
Reptg. Antrim Board of Selectmen:
Justin Richardson, Esq. (Upton \& Michael Genest, Chairman Hatfield)
John Robertson, Selectman
Gordon Webber, Selectman
Reptg. Antrim Planning Board:
Christopher Condon, Chairman
Reptg. Harris Center for Conservation Education:
James Newsom
Reptg. Audubon Society of N.H.:
David M. Howe, Esq.
Carol Foss
Reptg. the Wind Action Group:
Lisa Linowes
Reptg. the Schaefer Family
(Abutters Group):
Brenda Schaefer, pro se
Reptg. Loranne C. Block and Richard Block
(Non-Abutters Group) :
Loranne Carey Block, pro se Richard Block, pro se


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## AFTERNOON SESSION

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. I think we're ready to pick back up again, and Ms. Maloney has the floor.

MS. MALONEY: Okay. Thank you.
CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. Good afternoon.
A. (Kenworthy/Raphael) Good afternoon.
Q. I guess I'm going to start with following up on Mr. Richardson's questions in referencing the Committee's Order on pending motions, dated September 10, 2013, which I guess is AWE4. Do you have that in front of you? And you testified that, based on -- and correct me if I misstate it -- based upon this Order, that you, rather than take an appeal, you decided to file a new application using essentially the same proposal that you proposed at the close of these proceedings. Is that correct?
A. (Kenworthy) I don't think that the proposal that we're making today is essentially the same proposal necessarily as the proposal that we
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made in 2012 for the Motion for Rehearing. I think there are certainly differences. I certainly did say that this Order and other information that we got in the 2012-01 docket led us to file a new application with changes that addressed the concerns that were identified rather than to pursue a lengthy and expensive and uncertain appeal.
Q. Well, do you believe that you got a full and fair hearing before the Committee?
A. (Kenworthy) I believe that we had a full hearing. I think it was -- whether I agree or disagree with the outcome of it, it was a fair hearing, and there was certainly a process. And I don't know, as a legal matter, that $I$ can answer that question. But $I$ also am aware that the changes that were proposed here were specifically to address concerns that were identified in that docket. And, again, we feel like it was pretty clearly laid out to us that changes of that nature were too substantial to be heard in a rehearing and that they could be reheard in a de novo application.
Q. Okay. So you do believe you got a full and fair hearing before the Committee --
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A. (Kenworthy) For a ten --
Q. -- on the 2012 docket.
A. (Kenworthy) Excuse me. Yeah, for a 10-turbine project.
Q. You believe you got a full and fair hearing.
A. (Kenworthy) I believe so.
Q. Okay. And you do believe you had a right to appeal that determination to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.
A. (Kenworthy) I do believe we had that right.
Q. Okay. So, do you understand that this decision from the SEC is a final decision on the merits?
A. (Kenworthy) With respect to the project that we proposed in 2012?
Q. Yes.
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, I think that's my understanding.
Q. Okay. Well, let me just ask you some of the differences between what you proposed then and what you are proposing now.

After the decision issued by the SEC, by the Committee, you filed your Motion for Rehearing and to reopen the record; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) That's correct.
Q. After they issued a decision denying your
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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | application; correct? |  |
| 2 | A. | (Kenworthy) It was after they deliberated and |  |
| 3 |  | voted on that decision, yes. Yup. |  |
| 4 | Q. | And at the time you were proposing eliminating |  |
| 5 |  | Turbine 10; correct? |  |
| 6 | A. | (Kenworthy) That's correct. |  |
| 7 | 2. | And you were proposing, I believe it was 900 -- |  |
| 8 |  | your mitigation plan, I think, included |  |
| 9 |  | 800 acres of conservation easements? |  |
| 10 | A. | (Kenworthy) I'm sorry. Are you asking in our |  |
| 11 |  | Motion for Rehearing or when they issued their |  |
| 12 |  | denial? |  |
| 13 | Q. | The Motion for Rehearing. |  |
| 14 | A. | (Kenworthy) In our Motion for Rehearing we had |  |
| 15 |  | also proposed to include an additional hundred |  |
| 16 |  | acres of permanent conservation land. |  |
| 17 | Q. | Which is -- is that the same as you're |  |
| 18 |  | proposing today? |  |
| 19 | A. | (Kenworthy) Nine hundred and eight acres. |  |
| 20 | Q. | And you also raised the additional 40,000 that |  |
| 21 |  | you were going to provide to the Town of Antrim |  |
| 22 |  | to use at their own discretion; correct? |  |
| 23 | A. | (Kenworthy) That's correct. |  |
| 24 | Q. | And all the remaining turbines would remain the |  |
| 25 |  | same height. |  |

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A. (Kenworthy) That's correct. In 2012, there were no changes to Turbines 1 through 9.
Q. And in your current proposal, the only changes in 1 through 9 is a 45-foot reduction in Turbine 9; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) No. No, they are all different turbines.
Q. I understand that. And that's my next question. When you filed the petition, you were not using the Siemens turbines; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) When we filed the petition, it was not concluded that we were going to use the Siemens turbines. So we had a range of potential heights and a range of potential capacities back in November when we filed this Petition.
Q. Right. And since the time you filed that petition, you've decided to go with Siemens turbines.
A. (Kenworthy) Correct.
Q. And 1 through 8 is about 3 feet smaller than what you had previously proposed; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) They are about, I think it's right about 3 feet less tall. They're also smaller in many other dimensions. They've got a
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3-meter -- the rotor diameter is 3 meters shorter, and I think the tower width at the base and the top is roughly 12 to 13 percent thinner, $I$ think, and the nacelle is about 20 percent shorter.
Q. Well, but when you were asked during the technical session, $I$ believe you indicated that, with regard to 1 through 8, they don't materially change the impact on aesthetics.
A. (Kenworthy) That's probably true. I think Turbines 1 through 8 are fairly similar to what they were in 2012.
Q. Okay. So, going back to the Committee's decision, you interpreted the Committee's -the language in that decision saying that the new proposal that was filed after they had already deliberated and issued a decision, you decided that the language said that they would materially change the original application and require the Subcommittee to conduct an extensive re-review of the entire application. You interpreted that as an invitation to submit the same proposal in a new application.
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, I think that's correct. That, and in other instances during the deliberations
where it was noted that the Committee thought that those changes were better suited to a new application than a Motion for Rehearing.
Q. Now, what -- your application is more than just the aesthetics reports study; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes.
Q. What other components are part of your application?
A. (Kenworthy) It's a complete application. So it will have numerous volumes that consist of various expert reports on issues such as sound, shadow flicker, visual assessment, economic impacts, property value impacts. We have reports on the cultural resources, on both archeological and architectural resources. We have full civil engineering and electrical design plans for the Project. It's a comprehensive, complete application for review by the Committee. I don't know if I hit every single category that's included in our application.
Q. So the entire application is fairly comprehensive and fairly extensive.
A. (Kenworthy) Yes.
Q. Did you take a look at the transcript of the
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deliberations on your Motion for Rehearing and to reopen the record?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, I have read that transcript before.
Q. Okay. So you're not -- did you read Dr. Boisvert's comments, that when they look at the change in removing one of the turbines, it raised in his mind questions about the financial viability because now we're talking about a project with 10 percent less generation capacity? Did you read that comment?
A. (Kenworthy) I did.
Q. And did you read -- so, in terms of -- the financial capability, I think, is one of the aspects that remained an open question.
A. (Kenworthy) Yes. And I think shortly after Dr. Boisvert's comment there's a clarifying comment by Attorney Iacopino that -- I think a comment was made with respect to a letter that was submitted by a bank in support of the financing of the Project and that that letter was submitted with respect to a 27 -megawatt turbine project. So it was addressing a nine-turbine project at the time.
Q. So you're pretty familiar with the
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deliberations, then.
A. (Kenworthy) I'm familiar with that component of it, yes.
Q. I didn't remember that.

But my point is that the -- in terms of what the Committee meant, you've interpreted that to mean to file the same application again. The Committee actually was talking about the entire application -- in other words, the change that your new proposal would have on other components of that application. Do you agree?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes. I think -- I guess, if I'm understanding you correctly, I think I agree.

I think what I mean to say is that our interpretation was that the changes that we had proposed to deal -- to address aesthetic concerns, we heard the Committee to say would require re-review of other elements of the Application, such as perhaps financial capability, and other issues such as noise or other matters. And so, for those reasons it was not appropriate to take it up on a Motion for Rehearing and Reconsideration. So a new application that addressed all of the ways that
other aspects of the Project may be impacted by those changes should be submitted, and that's what we have prepared.
Q. Okay. And similarly, did you look at the SEC decision? I'm sure you have. I guess that's AWE3, the decision denying the Application for Certificate of Site and Facility on April 25th, 2013.
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, I have that here.
Q. And take a look at Page 53. And here the Committee is addressing the proposed mitigation that you offered. Do you see that bottom paragraph where it starts with "Similarly"?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes.
Q. And do you understand that what they were saying there was, while an offer of 800 acres of conservation was a generous offer, in this case the dedication of lands to a conservation easement in this case would not suitably mitigate the impact? Do you see that?
A. (Kenworthy) I do see that.
Q. And while additional conserved lands would be of value to wildlife and habitat, they would not mitigate the imposing visual impact that the facility would have on the valuable
viewsheds. Do you see that as well?
A. (Kenworthy) I do.
Q. So you knew that when you made the new proposal including the additional hundred acres of conservation land that this Committee had already made a determination, a finding that additional conservation lands does not mitigate against aesthetic impacts; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) I guess I don't know if $I$ would agree entirely that the Committee has ruled that land conservation can't be a useful form of mitigation for aesthetic impacts.
Q. Well, it says what it says; does it not?
A. (Kenworthy) It says the dedication of lands to a conservation easement in this case would not suitably mitigate the impact. And it goes on to say that additional conservation lands would be of value --
Q. To wildlife habitat.
A. (Kenworthy) Yeah.
Q. They would not mitigate the imposing visual impact that the facility would have on valuable viewsheds.

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Mr. Chair, I'll
object. It speaks for itself, and it's also
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speaking to a 10-turbine project, not to the proposed project here. So the Committee can read the language and reach its own conclusion.

MS. MALONEY: Well, he testified that this was a new project, and he testified that there were changes.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Didn't you actually get him to agree with you already about what it says?

MS . MALONEY: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: That's what I thought.

MS. MALONEY: Well --
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I wasn't sure how the last question differed from the one before.

MS. MALONEY: Oh, okay. Fine.
I'll just move on.
BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. Now, the Committee contemplated in this Order that they had looked at the recommendations that Ms. Vissering has made, but they were reluctant because they were concerned about how it would impact the rest of the Application; correct?
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A. (Kenworthy) I believe that's correct.
Q. And the Committee also found that the reduction in scale suggested by Ms. Vissering may substantially mitigate the unreasonable adverse impact on aesthetics, but would likely change the dynamics of the Project to such a degree that it would be unable to confidently assess the consequences. Isn't that what they said?
A. (Kenworthy) I'm sorry. Where is that?
Q. Page 54, at the top.
(Witness reviews document.)
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, I see that.
Q. Okay. And so I think, contrary to what you testified on direct, the Committee did consider Ms. Vissering's recommendations as proposed mitigation, but they were concerned about the overall impact on the proposal.
A. (Kenworthy) I don't think I stated that they did not consider Ms. Vissering's recommendations. I think what $I$ stated is they did not adopt Ms. Vissering's recommendations wholesale. So there was no prescription -- for example: I think a question was asked of me by Attorney Richardson, why we didn't just do exactly everything Ms. Vissering had
recommended, and my comment was in response to that question. So, certainly we recognize that they took Ms. Vissering's opinions into consideration. And obviously, as stated here, as you point out, those recommendations may substantially mitigate those effects. They also recognize that the proposed changes we made in our Motion for Rehearing were intended to and would in fact address some of their concerns, but that they weren't suited to be taken up in a Motion for Rehearing and should come in a new application.
Q. And why didn't you adopt Ms. Vissering's recommendations?
A. (Kenworthy) Again, I think we have addressed all of those recommendations in some fashion. I think there was no -- it's not our belief, and it didn't appear it was the Committee's belief, that Ms. Vissering's recommendations were the definitive recommendations that needed to be followed in order to make a project satisfactory to the Committee with respect to aesthetic impacts.
Q. Well, you're already aware that the Committee doesn't consider conservation easements as
mitigation of aesthetic impacts. I mean, they've said that; correct?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: I'm going to object to that question.

MR. RICHARDSON: Same objection. CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sustained.

BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. You were present in the technical session when Ms. Vissering testified; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, I was.
Q. And you're aware that Ms. Vissering testified that the impacts that will -- that part of her recommendation that would have the most impact are the changes to the turbines themselves; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) I've heard Ms. Vissering testify on numerous occasions that each of her recommendations should be taken with equal weight.
Q. I didn't ask you that. I asked you if you looked at -- if you were here present during the technical session and you heard her testimony, and she said the changes to the turbines themselves would have the most impact.
A. (Kenworthy) I don't recall that.
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Q. You don't. Well, do you think they would?
A. (Kenworthy) I'm sorry. Can you repeat the question?
Q. Do you think they would, the changes to the turbines themselves, do you think they would have the most impact?
A. (Kenworthy) Out of all the recommendations that were made by Ms. Vissering?
Q. Yes.
A. (Kenworthy) I guess it's hard for me to put a strict numeric value on it. I think the recommendations that she included were: Elimination of Turbines 9 and 10, reduction in size of those turbines. And certainly I think, as we've stated, we've tried to make adjustments to address both of those concerns. And then we made additional changes that we think are perhaps in the aggregate as important. It's hard for me to necessarily weigh exactly which ones are most important. But I think clearly with respect to Willard Pond, Turbines 9 and 10 are the most significant, and that was clearly identified as a sensitive resource. And the changes we've made have clearly eliminated Turbine 10 and
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visually eliminated Turbine 9 from Willard Pond's -- from having visibility from Willard Pond. But there's a whole suite of other changes I think that taken together also are very important to consider.
Q. But you were aware that the Committee was concerned about more than just Willard Pond.
A. Sure.
Q. I mean, they discussed the value of the entire dePierrefeu Wildlife Sanctuary; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, of which the vast majority has zero visibility.
Q. And they -- okay. And it's not just about visibility. We'll agree with that; right?
A. (Kenworthy) I'm sorry. What's not just about visibility?
Q. Aesthetic impacts.
A. (Kenworthy) No, but it needs to be visible in order for it to have aesthetic impacts.
Q. Okay. And the experience of going to a wildlife sanctuary, just that experience cannot be measured aesthetically?
A. (Kenworthy) I'm not sure I understand the question.
Q. Well, just the experience of going to a
wildlife sanctuary, the value of that can't be measured aesthetically? That has nothing to do with aesthetic impacts?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: I'll object. I don't understand the question.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: The question is whether the witness understands the question. Do you understand the question?

THE WITNESS: I don't think I really do.

BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. Well, you said it was just about visibility.
A. (Kenworthy) No. No, I didn't say that. I think I said when we talk about -- I think David testified to this earlier, that when we're evaluating aesthetic impacts, if there is no visibility from a particular area -- and David, please correct me if I'm wrong -- it can't have -- there can't be an aesthetic impact there because there is no visibility to start.
Q. Okay. And you're saying for most of the wilderness sanctuary they're not visible.
A. (Kenworthy) The vast majority.
Q. But they are visible from Goodhue Hill, and
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they are visible from Bald Mountain; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, they're visible from Goodhue Hill and from Bald Mountain at certain locations.
Q. And the Committee found that they had significant impacts to those two locations; correct?
A. (Kenworthy) I don't recall if that's what they found or not. Is that in here?
Q. Well, why don't you turn to Page 50. Why don't you start with the first full paragraph.
A. (Kenworthy) Would you like me to read it?
Q. No. Yeah, why don't you go midway down. Do you see, "There are significant qualitative impacts" --
A. (Kenworthy) I do see that.
Q. -- "on Willard Pond, Bald Mountain, Goodhue Hill and Gregg Lake"? Correct? Is that what it says?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, it is.
Q. So the Committee found significant impacts on those areas. And they're part of -- well, Goodhue Hill and Bald Mountain, that would be considered part of that sanctuary?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes.
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Q. Okay. And the Committee also found "moderate" impacts on additional locations, including Robb Reservoir, Island Pond, Highland Lake,

Nubanusit Pond, Black Pond, Franklin Pierce Lake, Meadow Marsh and Pitcher Mountain; correct?
A. Yes, I see that here.
Q. And your proposed changes of eliminating Turbine 10 and 9 really don't address those additional issues, with the exception, $I$ believe, of Nubanusit Lake; is that correct?
A. (Kenworthy) No, I would not agree with that. I think, again, that the changes in totality that we've made to the Project need to be re-evaluated in the context of that new project proposal, which is what David and Landworks have done. And that comes down to, I think, a substantive discussion on the merits of whether or not there is still an unreasonable adverse affect on aesthetics in the eyes of the Committee. But certainly there are reduced impacts to all of these resources.
Q. But Mr. Raphael found only one property that had sensitive impacts, that being Willard Pond; correct? I mean, when he did his whole
analysis, it came down to one property. So he disagreed with the Committee on its findings of qualitative -- "significant qualitative impacts" to the properties that the Committee identified.

MR. NEEDLEMAN: I'll object. I
don't think that's a proper characterization of his testimony. And Mr. Raphael is sitting right here, so you could ask him, I suppose, rather than asking Mr. Kenworthy to characterize his testimony.

MS. MALONEY: Well, I'm talking about his Visual Assessment.

BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. You're familiar with the Visual Assessment.
A. (Kenworthy) I am.
Q. And he identified just the one property. After he did his whole analysis, he came down with one property, Willard Pond.
A. (Kenworthy) What do you mean, "came down to one property"?
Q. Well, he looked at 300 properties and then went through his analysis. And as he went through the analysis, the important properties got reduced, the sensitivity of those properties,
the effect on the view, and the one that he considered for the effect on the viewer was Willard Pond. Are you -- do you disagree with that?
A. (Kenworthy) You know, I think I would want to go back through and read through the entire methodology on what the findings were relating to Robb Reservoir, Island Pond, Nubanusit Lake, all these other resources, or even just the ones inside the sanctuary, being Goodhue and Bald, before I'd agree with that statement.
Q. Okay. I'll direct some of those questions to Mr. Raphael, then, because we don't have time to have you read through it again.

I'm going to ask you some of the same questions $I$ asked at the technical hearing, partly because I'm not sure we've gotten full answers, but also because that wasn't under oath and wasn't part of the record.

I wanted to ask you about the type of -now, you indicated that the roads that are going to be built start out at 32 feet wide; is that correct?
A. (Kenworthy) Thirty-four feet wide for crane roads and 16 feet wide for access roads. So it
would 16 feet wide from the entrance off Route 9 up to Turbine 1 and then 32 feet wide for the remainder of the access road to the ridge and along the ridgeline -- sorry -- 34 feet wide until reduced post-construction back to 16 feet.
Q. So I think one of the things that I asked you about in the technical hearing was whether or not there was a catastrophic failure to one of the turbines, if you would then have to expand that road that you just reduced. Have you given any additional consideration to that? Because I believe at the time of the tech hearing you said you intended to revegetate it.
A. (Kenworthy) That's right.
Q. And so if you had a catastrophic failure, the plan is still to go and cut down all that vegetation again and then bring your crane in and fix the turbine and...
A. (Kenworthy) Well, I think -- so there's the first step post-construction is that you will use a soil that is taken from the site during excavation of road construction, as well as chipped stumps and other organic materials taken from the site and use that as a base to
re-establish seeding along the roadside on the shoulders. And a New Hampshire native seed mix will be used to re-establish growth on those shoulders. The road bed will remain intact so that the actual infrastructure for the road won't be compromised. And on those shoulders woody vegetation won't be allowed to grow, for the most part.
Q. Won't be allowed to grow.
A. (Kenworthy) Right.
Q. You also testified -- well, there was testimony, and I believe it was Mr. Raphael's. But I think I need to ask you about this, that you wouldn't be able to see the roads from -that roads would have no impact. I believe that was Mr. Raphael's testimony. And it was based, I understood, upon a landscape plan that was being prepared. And I think we requested it. And we received a landscape plan, but it was just for the operations facilities. Do you know anything about any work that's going to be done on the roads to keep them from being visible?
A. (Kenworthy) Well, yes, I know that what we have kind of committed to do in our application is
that we will essentially be revegetating all of the road shoulders and cut-fill slopes for the Project site immediately post-construction, except for bare rock face cut slopes. They can't be revegetated. And that that will then, in many cases, be allowed to continue to revegetate with natural vegetation, which would include woody vegetation, except in areas that we need to maintain clear, for example, along road shoulders that we may need to clear again if we have to bring a crane back in, or directly underneath overhead electrical lines where we need to make sure we don't have interference with tree growth under those electrical lines.

So, yes, we have agreed to revegetate all of the areas that are disturbed post-construction, except for the actual footprint of the facilities themselves, and in that manner.
Q. Okay. And how do you intend to do that?
A. (Kenworthy) How?
Q. Yes.
A. (Kenworthy) That will be part of the scope of work for our balance-of-plan contractor.
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Q. So you don't have a -- you're going to wait until you get that scope of work in to determine how it's going to be done?
A. I don't think it's particularly -- it's not unique work. I think it involves, as I mentioned, the utilization of soils from the site that are stockpiled when the site is cleared initially for construction, together with woody material that's cleared and chipped to create an organic mulch with materials from the site. And those soils and mulch are to be spread on the road shoulders and on cut-and-fill slopes and then seeded with the native New Hampshire seed mix.
Q. Okay. And finally, I think I'd like to ask you about the payment to the Town of Antrim for the enhancement of recreation and activities and aesthetic experience at Gregg Lake. And you said that -- now, is there any -- is that a written agreement?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes.
Q. And you said the Town was to use it at its own discretion?
A. (Kenworthy) That's right.
Q. So there's no constraints placed on the use of
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that money?
A. (Kenworthy) No, other than the letter agreement that we have between Antrim Wind Energy and the Town of Antrim that stipulates what the funds are for. The ultimate use of those funds is at the discretion of the Town of Antrim.
Q. Okay. Now, the Town disagreed -- I believe they testified at the technical hearing that they disagreed with the Committee's decision on aesthetics. So I'm wondering: So what safeguards are in place to make sure this money is used for aesthetic value?
A. Town of Antrim has a very engaged citizenry that I'm sure will be involved in any decisions the Town makes on how to disburse those funds. I think the letter represents what the Town intends to do with them. I think the specific process -- I don't know how they would go through that process to make, you know, a detailed decision as to what they ultimately will do.
Q. Isn't this similar to, you know, providing additional lands for conservation easements? I'm not sure how money can improve an aesthetic impact. I mean, you must have contemplated
this when you made the offer.
A. (Kenworthy) Well, I think that there are a number of things that are generally accepted as mitigation for a variety of different impacts that may be directly or indirectly related to what those impacts are in the first place. So I think there's pretty broad agreement among conservation organizations that land conservation is in fact a viable tool to be used for mitigating aesthetic impacts from a project. I think many New Hampshire conservation organizations agree with that assessment. I think there's also been a precedent in the past where -- and I'm having trouble remembering the reference right now, but it may have been the Groton case -- where Public Counsel sought payment that would pay for, I think it was a kiosk, an informational kiosk to help mitigate aesthetic impacts in that particular case. So I think that there is precedent for both land conservation and funds to be used in ways that are to mitigate for aesthetic impacts associated with projects.
Q. Okay. But the Committee in this particular case found that conservation easements don't
mitigate against aesthetic impacts.
A. (Kenworthy) They did find that in 2012-01.
Q. Okay. I guess I just have some questions for Mr. Raphael.

You agree that you submitted testimony in this case; correct?
A. (Raphael) Yes, I did.
Q. And would you agree that the testimony that you gave was not directed towards the entire visual impact but just the differences between this project and the 2012?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. But your testimony was obviously informed by your Visual Assessment.
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. And the Visual Assessment concluded that this project would not have an unreasonable adverse impact on the region.
A. (Raphael) That's correct.
Q. And you didn't agree with Ms. Vissering's conclusions that the Project did have an unreasonable visual impact -- that the 2012 project had an unreasonable adverse impact; correct?
A. (Raphael) Well, again, I did not, you know,
conduct a visual analysis of that particular project. But it would be hard to agree with her conclusions because the methodology was incomplete.
Q. And you did say that earlier. And how is it not complete?
A. (Raphael) Well, first of all, I don't believe she analyzed or looked at all the resources in the $10-\mathrm{mile}$ radius. I believe she's on record as saying she relied on the Applicant's listing. I don't see any consistent methodology in her previous analysis that is -that one is able to follow an if-then type of process, where she goes through a systematic assessment of a number of different criterion, or criteria that is typically used in that kind of an assessment. I think, you know, the methodology -- I don't know that she visited many of the resources. I don't have a clear sense of where she went and where she didn't. That's not -- that doesn't come through. So I don't have a full sense of how, you know, comprehensive her fieldwork was. She relied on others for visual simulations, I believe, to produce -- I believe she had SC Group produce
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her visual simulations.
So I think, you know, there were certain things that were certainly done differently and incomplete. And so, therefore, on that basis alone, I could not concur with those findings because they lack a certain level of detail that $I$ believe now really needs to be in a visual assessment.
Q. Well, you would agree that the different aesthetic experts use different methodologies; correct?
A. (Raphael) Actually, I'm finding that more and more aesthetic experts are agreeing on a very similar methodology and deal with the same questions. Sometimes the language is a bit different, sometimes the steps are a bit different, but, you know, I think most of us would agree that we're all trying to assess the visual characteristics of the Project and determine what the effect of those visual characteristics are, not only on the landscape but on the different types of users in that landscape. And so I think there's a process that's been very consistently used in Vermont. Ms. Vissering is certainly aware of that.
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There's a process that's consistently used in Maine that has many of the same attributes as the process we used. So I can't agree with that statement that you made at the outset.
Q. You can't agree that different aesthetic experts are using different methodologies.
A. (Raphael) Well, it depends on the project. For example: We used a slightly different methodology if we're evaluating transmission lines. We use a different methodology for --
Q. No, no. I understand.
A. You know, so no one visual analysis is going to be exactly the same. But there is consistent characteristics and analysis that is conducted, you know, regardless of who that expert is.
Q. Okay. And I noticed some similarities in your Visual Assessment to the Bureau of Land

Management's methodology for assessing aesthetics. Did I get that correct?
A. (Raphael) Yes, we draw from their scenery classification system.
Q. Okay. But obviously, that was designed for the western part of the country; correct?
A. (Raphael) Yes, it was.
Q. Where the landscape is quite different.
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A. (Raphael) Right. And we've adapted it for the eastern part of the country. We made some subtle changes to ensure that it applies.
Q. And I'm not going to get into detail on that because... but can I just ask you some questions generally about categories because I think we're looking at this in a vacuum. I think it would help inform the Committee a little bit about your process.
A. (Raphael) Sure. Do my best to answer them.
Q. So, looking at your Visual Assessment --

MS. MALONEY: Was that marked as an exhibit?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Not yet. Would you like us to do that?

MS. MALONEY: Just for identification.

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Sure. Do you want to use my copy?

MS. MALONEY: For your witness, fine. I've got one.

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Do you want
others to have them or not?
MS. MALONEY: It's up to -- I'm not going into detail. I'm just asking him if
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I - -
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: It really depends -- I'll leave it up to you. Do you feel like the questions you're going to ask, we're going to look at you dumbly? Then maybe you need to give us copies.

MS. MALONEY: I think so, maybe just for context. I just think we've been talking about it here --

MR. NEEDLEMAN: I will circulate them.
(Attorney Needleman distributes document.)
(Discussion off the record)
(Exhibit AWE 6 for identification.)
BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. So, just generally speaking, the entire report consists of an executive summary; correct?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. And then there's a description of your methodology?
A. (Raphael) That's correct.
Q. And then you discuss the background of the area for a few pages; correct?
A. (Raphael) Yes, I do.
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Q. And then the project area landscape for a few pages?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. And then we actually get into, I think at Page 47, the actual Visual Assessment?
A. (Raphael) Correct.
Q. And that's somewhere between 47 and 89. And then you have your conclusion; correct?
A. (Raphael) Correct.
Q. And I think it's your first step in the process, you do an inventory of the project area. I mean, you spoke about that.
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. And this is where you identified 290 properties that --
A. (Raphael) Resources.
Q. -- resources that are public resources and not private resources; correct?
A. (Raphael) Well, they may be private, nonprofit resources or conserved lands, which are often private.
Q. And they deal with scenic and recreational areas and locations. I think that's what you indicated.
A. (Raphael) Yes.
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Q. And then --
A. (Raphael) Excuse me. I'm sorry. And cultural as well.
Q. Okay. So that's -- I'm not sure if that's your first step or if that's part of your first step. But then you determine whether there is visibility from that particular resource; correct?
A. (Raphael) Correct. We start with the viewshed analysis to determine which resources might have visibility and which don't.
Q. Okay. So you started out somewhere in the neighborhood of 290; correct?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. And then you determined, after your analysis, that about 30 had potential visibility?
A. (Raphael) That's right.
Q. And then your next step, $I$ guess, is identification of sensitive scenic resources?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. And that's where you get into cultural designation --
A. (Raphael) And scenic qualities.
Q. Right. You rate these "low," "moderate," "high"; is that correct?
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A. Correct. Yes.
Q. And so your cutoff, I guess, is "moderate to high" of potential sensitivity; correct?
A. (Raphael) Right. "Moderate to high," or "high."
Q. Right. So if it doesn't hit that "moderate," then it doesn't move on to the next stage; correct?
A. (Raphael) Typically, no.
Q. Okay. And the next stage is determining -- and each of these stages, how important are they to your methodology?
A. (Raphael) They're all integral.
Q. So they're all equally important?
A. (Raphael) I wouldn't necessarily say they're all equally important. They're all equally valuable in assessing -- in conducting the process.
Q. Okay. So can you skip over any of these stages?
A. (Raphael) No. They're part of the comprehensive methodology.
Q. All right. And the next step, then, I guess is determination of visual effect from a sensitive scenic resource.
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A. (Raphael) Correct.
Q. And with respect to that, you looked at just 10 properties. So I guess from the identification of sensitive scenic resources, only 10 resources made the cut.
A. (Raphael) Because of the combination of analyses, in terms of scenic quality and cultural designation. If they didn't rise to a "high" level of sensitivity in those two criteria, then we did not move forward with the analysis.
Q. Okay. So, for the fourth step of determining visual effect, you looked at 10 resources; correct?
A. (Raphael) Correct.
Q. And then you used a number of criteria to whittle that down further.
A. (Raphael) Well, we used two steps. Again, we used six criteria for assessing visual effect, and then we have four criteria for identifying what the effect will be on the viewer or user of the resource.
Q. Okay. It seems sort of common sense, but is it essential to determine whether a resource has potential sensitivity? Is that essential to

conclusion as to whether the potential overall visual effect on the resource.
A. (Raphael) Yes. I mean, there is one final step after going through these criteria, which is to kind of -- you know, kind of a cumulative assessment where I go back and really revisit all the elements of the analysis and kind of, you know, do a check and then factor in any number of other considerations as to whether the project would have an unreasonable versus -- an unreasonable adverse effect versus just an adverse effect.
Q. That was part of your Conclusion section, wasn't it?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. As a result of going through this analysis, and on this fifth step, you determined that just Willard Pond had a "moderate" impact; is that correct?
A. (Raphael) We found Willard Pond to rise to a level of sensitivity that warranted a complete, full analysis through all steps of the process.
Q. And why did you separate Willard Pond out from the rest of the sanctuary?
A. (Raphael) Because impacts were different
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depending -- or effects were different depending on where in the sanctuary you were. I mean, as Mr. Kenworthy pointed out, there are places in the sanctuary where you won't ever see the Project. It won't affect your use or your understanding of the landscape at all. There are also resources where you can see the Project, such as Bald Mountain, as I referred to earlier, where, again, the effect on the viewer is not one that rises to a level of being "high" for, again, the reasons that $I$ cited on the record.
Q. Okay.
A. (Raphael) So we looked at individual resources within the sanctuary as a whole, but also spent some time as we hiked the trail system up to Goodhue Hill and walked around the area that we did get a sense of the sanctuary as a landscape and as a conserved area.
Q. Isn't that -- I mean, you're going through all this trouble with all this methodology and rating systems. Isn't that sort of a
subjective decision to isolate Willard Pond from the rest of the sanctuary?
A. (Raphael) Not at all. I mean, again, it's sort
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of discounting or disregarding the process that we just -- that you painstakingly took me through that really is a systemic way of trying to understand how you get to the point where only Willard Pond emerges as a final resource to analyze in great detail.
Q. But couldn't you have looked at the entire sanctuary as a resource with multiple components?
A. (Raphael) You mean -- are you asking -- I don't quite understand what the question is.
Q. Couldn't you have looked at the entire sanctuary as one resource with multiple components? The water component --
A. (Raphael) We did.
Q. But then you isolated it.
A. (Raphael) Well, we isolated the components where there would be a potential visual effect.
Q. Okay. Not going to get too much in the weeds here, but $I$ just want to go and look at the 10 projects that you identified as having a visual effect from a sense of significant resource.

You looked at Pitcher Mountain?
A. (Raphael) Yes, I did.
Q. And Pitcher is one of those sites that already
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has a view of the Lempster wind farm; correct?
A. (Raphael) Correct.
Q. But you determined it didn't create a cumulative impact because the two projects are not in the same viewing arc?
A. (Raphael) There are a number of reasons why it didn't create a cumulative impact. That might be one of them. In other words, you didn't see the projects together in one view. One is in a northerly direction and the other is in an easterly direction. The scale of the projects from Pitcher Mountain is diminished substantially by distance. There's an incredible amount of things to look at from that view because it's 360. And so there are many other factors which diminished the potential, if not eliminated the potential for cumulative impact.
Q. Well, did you review the SEC decision?
A. (Raphael) I did.
Q. Okay. So you're aware that the SEC already had determined that Pitcher Mountain -- they were concerned about the cumulative impacts at Pitcher Mountain.
A. (Raphael) I was aware of that, in fact.
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Q. Goodhue Hill, that was one of the other areas; correct?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. And you indicated that --
A. (Raphael) Excuse me. Back up. One of the other areas that what? I'm sorry. Before I answer that so quickly --
Q. It was one of your top 10 --
A. (Raphael) Oh, okay. I'm sorry. Yes. Forgive me.
Q. And you determined that a typical hiker would be surprised as to how inconsequential the Goodhue Hill experience is; correct?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. You found that the hike or the view wasn't terribly impressive?
A. (Raphael) Well, a couple things. One is when $I$ got to the -- first $I$ visited the sanctuary and wanted to find Goodhue Hill, there were trail maps in a little kiosk by the parking area. Goodhue Hill Trail wasn't even on the trail map, No. 1. No. 2, I couldn't find the trailhead initially, finally, going up sort of the wrong way initially around Woods Road and to -- and started the hike that way, eventually
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coming back to the trailhead, that I guess was the correct trailhead. But $I$ was quite surprised, actually, that the hike up Goodhue Hill was not only underwhelming, but I was really surprised to see the logging and the condition of the roads in a so-called sanctuary. So that experience right away led me to believe that the sanctuary, at least that area around Goodhue Hill, A, wasn't precious; B, was not intact; and C, scenically was diminished by the logging and management activities that is ongoing there.

Finally, getting to the top, I think anyone who's an avid hiker and hikes these areas, you know, there's a pleasing view. Is it the most dramatic view in the region? No way. Is it, you know, a place that you would want to linger? There's no place to really sit down unless you want to sit on the ground. The trees are growing up. You know, I mean, there's no log or rock outcrop or natural place to kind of end your hike and have a picnic, if you will. I also noticed that the woods and the clearing, which I understand was created for wildlife management and not for scenic
purposes, indeed will have to be cut again because it's growing up to block the view. So there weren't a lot of places you could get a good view. The most pleasing part of the hike, actually, was before I got to the summit, where there's sort of a nice little kind of wooded area just before you come to the open area.
Q. Okay. You do -- you are aware, however, that the Committee did find that there were significant qualitative impacts --
A. (Raphael) Well, I wonder how the Committee -Q. -- to Goodhue Hill.
A. (Raphael) I mean, it left me wondering whether the Committee had hiked to Goodhue Hill and had that similar experience that I had had, and had the same information that was available to me. So, yes, I was aware of that. Based on my experience in the field and our analysis, I came to a different conclusion.
Q. So clearly you disagree.

Similarly, Bald Mountain, you indicated that -- this is where you discussed you had to creep down the ledge to see --
A. (Raphael) Yeah.
Q. -- to get a view of the turbines.
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A. (Raphael) Yeah.
Q. But likewise, you're also aware that the Committee did determine there was significant impacts to Bald Hill.
A. (Raphael) Yes, I guess. But, again, the same answer applies, that from my experience when I went up to Bald Mountain, again, when you're looking at visual effect or viewer effect, you can hike that trail, you can go to the summit, you can have a wonderful day and never even know the wind project is there unless someone's told you to go down that ridge and look for it. And so those are things that weigh into, you know, our analysis and which led me to the conclusion that, you know, the view from Bald Mountain did not rise to the level of being unreasonable.
Q. And I guess Gregg Lake was on that list as well. You disagreed with the Committee and their determination that there was significant qualitative impact.
A. (Raphael) I came to my conclusions again based on fieldwork analysis, time spent on the lake, you know, reviewing all the information that was available about the resource itself, the
development of the resource. You know, again a number -- and then obviously walking through the methodology that you outlined previously. Those properties I just talked about -- Goodhue Hill, Bald Mountain, Gregg Lake -- they didn't even make your Top 10 List here. So was that a determination of visual effect?
A. (Raphael) I'd have to look at the list. I think --
Q. Bald Mountain did, I guess.
A. (Raphael) Yeah, I was going to say Bald Mountain is on the list.

MR. IACOPINO: What page is that?
MS. MALONEY: I think Page 71 of his...

BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. That's where the analysis starts; is that right?
A. (Raphael) Goodhue Hill did not make that list. Right.
Q. Right. Okay. Yeah, the pictures are there, and I think the list... so, okay. Moving on. I guess we'll get to Willard Pond. Rather, let me go back.

The SEC also determined that there are
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"moderate" impacts to other locations, including Robb Reservoir, Island Pond, Highland Lake, Nubanusit Pond, Black Pond, Franklin Pierce Lake, Meadow Marsh and Pitcher Mountain. We've already discussed Pitcher Mountain. You disagreed with their determination that there were "moderate" impacts to those --
A. (Raphael) Well, I guess it depends how you define "moderate." You know, if there's visibility, then, you know, there'll be a change in visual effect. And it varies from resource to resource. But the ones that you listed, the -- again, I evaluated a nine-turbine project. And based on my conclusions of that project, the effect did not rise to the level of being "moderate to high," or "high."
Q. Okay. You only included one where your overall rating system found that only Willard Pond merited a viewer-effect impact rating; correct?
A. (Raphael) Correct.
Q. Okay. I just want to go over -- since you said that you reviewed their decision, I just wanted -- I wanted to know what your impression was of their determination, of what the

Committee determined about Willard Pond. The Committee stated that the Audubon's wildlife sanctuary is an area to which the state and federal funds have been designated. Regardless of the definition used to identify an area as being, quote, of statewide significance, it's clear the facility would have a significant impact on the areas that are of significant value for their viewshed in the Town of Antrim and surrounding region. Do you disagree with that?
A. (Raphael) You know, I don't really don't want to comment on that. That was a decision made in a different docket that $I$ was not involved in, and I really -- you know, I can't -because $I$ was not present during the hearings and did not witness all the presentations or the testimony, I think I do not feel comfortable answering what the Committee was thinking at the time and how they arrived at their decision.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Don't say anything, Ms. Maloney.

That wasn't the question. The
question was: Do you agree with that
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statement?
THE WITNESS: You know, again, I can't agree with it or disagree with it out of the context that it's being provided to me.

BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. But $I$ believe you testified this morning that this analysis is not based upon a change in turbines. I think that was your testimony this morning. You said you looked at -- whether it was 10 or 9 , the value that you placed on the properties was not based upon the change in turbines. I believe that was your testimony this morning.
A. (Raphael) I don't believe that's quite right. I think that the value of the properties and the resources and their sensitivity is certainly independent of whether it's a 9- or 10-turbine project.
Q. You said it's not about the changes in the turbines, but the values of the property itself. So $I$ was asking if you disagreed with that. And you -- I believe your answer said it had to do with a different docket.
A. (Raphael) Well, because, again, as I stated this morning, I probably would have come to a
different decision or conclusion, if you will, on my own accord in my analysis in the first docket. But I did not go through a comprehensive analysis of that project. This is a different project. This is what we analyzed. And you have before you, you know, our thinking and our conclusions in that regard.
Q. You analyzed the properties, though. You didn't --
A. (Raphael) Yes, that's true. We analyzed all the same properties we most likely, I'm sure, would have analyzed in a previous docket for this project.

MR. RICHARDSON: Let me raise an objection as to relevance. And the reason I ask is I just don't see the connection between whether he would have reached the same decision in the prior proceeding when he wasn't there, when the issue before the Committee is whether or not these changes are material or substantial or different by whatever standard this Committee chooses to apply and whether to establish jurisdiction. I don't see the connection to his review of what might have happened in the prior
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proceeding.
MS. MALONEY: I want to find out whether he disagrees or agrees with the SEC, partly because I believe that they're bound by these factual determinations that SEC has made in the prior docket.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is the -does it matter whether he agrees or disagrees? Does that define whether we're bound by prior findings?

MS. MALONEY: I'm not sure if he does agree or disagree with some of the evaluations. So I just wanted to go over the wildlife sanctuary, how the Committee addressed the wildlife sanctuary, because if he agrees, then fine; if he doesn't agree, then it's something I'll be discussing in our memorandum.

MR. RICHARDSON: I hope it's clear to the Committee, though, based on the memorandum we filed, which I think is the correct reading of the law and the cases, if he's testifying, as he has, that the changes are substantial and material, then the prior reading, the prior determination is effectively gone, and this becomes a new project that's
entitled to review.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: It's very clear that there's going to be a disagreement about what the law requires and doesn't require. I think that's abundantly clear. I'm still -- I guess I'm not sure I understand what it is you want to get from the witnesses that will help you in that argument.

MS. MALONEY: Just simply if he agreed or disagreed with what the Committee determined the value of the wildlife sanctuary is.

MR. NEEDLEMAN: And I want to object to that characterization because I don't believe the Committee made the same sorts of determinations about the value of the sanctuary that Mr. Raphael does. The Committee certainly said in its Order that certain of these resources had an importance to them. And the record speaks for itself on the importance that the Committee stated. I think that's very different from the way in which Mr. Raphael is employing his characterization and his methodology. And I think to conflate the two really mischaracterizes what he's doing here.
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You know, we're not questioning what the Committee decided in a prior docket.

MS. MALONEY: I disagree to a certain extent, but $I$ think I'm entitled to ask him since he did an evaluation of the wildlife sanctuary. I just wanted to go over the various findings that they made and ask him if he agreed or disagreed.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And I think you can ask him that. I think you need to focus on what they found and ask him if he agrees. And if he has -- if he doesn't or he feels like he can't, he'll explain. He's very capable of explaining his answers. But I think you can ask him if he agrees with findings of the Committee, but focus on that.

MS. MALONEY: That's what I was trying to do. And I will move on.

BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. Do you agree with the finding by the Committee that the Willard Pond and the wildlife sanctuary are popular locations that are enjoyed by numerous visitors; environmental education programs, fishing, bird and wildlife viewing, the solitude, all appear to generate
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visitors to the pond and wildlife sanctuary?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. Do you agree with the finding of the Committee that the pond and wildlife sanctuary are part of a larger tract of concerned land consisting of approximately 30,000 acres and known as the "Super Sanctuary"? Do you agree with that finding?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you agree with the finding by the Committee that public funds have been dedicated to the dePierrefeu Wildlife Sanctuary and surrounding conservation lands through a conservation program known as the Forest Legacy Program? The federal government has invested 3.5 million to conserve lands within and directly adjacent to the wildlife sanctuary. Do you agree with that finding?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. Okay. Understanding that you determined that only Willard Pond had ultimately -- and correct me if I'm using the wrong terminology -- but a "moderate" effect on the viewer, correct, not just one single resource? Is that --
A. (Raphael) I'd have to go check that.
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Q. Well, your fifth step, what the effect of the viewer would be, you determined that Willard Pond was the only property that fit that category --
A. (Raphael) "Moderate to high." There was some "high."
Q. There was one "high," but you said "moderate."
A. Yup.
Q. I mean, understanding that was your determination, I'm trying to get a sense of what you would determine to be an unreasonable adverse impact. If you had determined that, as the Committee did, that there were significant adverse impacts to Willard Pond, the dePierrefeu Sanctuary, Goodhue Hill, Bald Mountain, Gregg Lake, and "moderate" impacts to Robb Reservoir, Island Pond, Highland Lake, Nubanusit Pond, Black Pond, Franklin Pierce Lake, Meadow Marsh and Pitcher Mountain, would that rise to the level of unreasonable adverse impact?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: I'll object. I think it's asking the witness to speculate.

MS. MALONEY: It's a
hypothetical. He's an expert.
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CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And assuming everything else is just as you had it, if at the end of your process you had concluded that all of those things were "moderate" or "high," what would your overall conclusion have been?

THE WITNESS: Well, again, in the analysis we did conclude that there was some "moderate" and "moderate to high," and in the case of Willard Pond, a "moderate high" determination. But as I stated earlier, then we take another step to really try to get our arms around what that means in an overall context when you look at some of the other factors. Yes, there might be an impact that's "moderate" or there might be an impact that's potentially "high." Has mitigating factors been put into place which might bring that back from that threshold? You know, were there other determinations about its overall context that might have not led to unreasonable conclusion? So, again, forgive me, and with all due respect, $I$ really am reluctant to come to a conclusion because I don't understand -as I said, I'm not trying to cop out on this. But I was not here for the discussion and what
was presented and the cross and all of that to have a sense for how the Committee reached its decision with regard to "moderate to high." So, to ask me to speculate or make a hypothetical decision based on that is something I'm very uncomfortable doing.

BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. Well, let's just say you did -- your assessment came out and said this is -- these are -- "I did the Visual Assessment." Because I sort of wonder what's the point of doing a visual assessment if you're telling me now that you can go to your Conclusion section, where you don't have any methodology, and you can under -- undo it. So what is the point of doing a visual assessment if you can't rely on it?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: I'll object to the question.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Sustained. MS. MALONEY: I'm sorry. That's argumentative.

BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. What factors did you use in your conclusion? That's what you're talking about; right?
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A. (Raphael) All the work and all the analysis and all the fieldwork, all the research, all the visual analysis using simulations and 3D modeling that led us through this process and brought us to the end. So it wasn't that we tossed away everything else and then just got to Willard Pond. Willard Pond emerged after a very comprehensive and systematic and detailed evaluation and understanding of these resources, how they're being used, and how this project would change the user's impression and desire to use that resource, how this resource would change the visual quality of that resource. And that's what informed our decision-making process. It's not, you know, tossing that all away at the end. It's cumulative, and it builds. And all the work we've done over the last year leads to our conclusion, not one single analysis, not one single criteria.
Q. So your testimony then is, even if you found that the effect on the viewer would have a "high" effect on the viewer for all those properties -- Willard Pond, dePierrefeu Sanctuary, Bald Hill, Goodhue Hill, Gregg

Lake -- and "moderate" impacts on all the other properties -- Robb Reservoir, Island Pond, Highland Lake, Nubanusit Pond, Black Pond, Franklin Pierce Lake, Meadow Marsh and Pitcher Mountain -- that you still might conclude that there was not an unreasonable adverse impact.
A. (Raphael) You know, again, you're asking me to speculate. And again, I don't have -- every project that I take on, that our office analyzes, is different. And there's subtleties and, you know, circumstances and conditions that inform our overall sense of the Project, as well as, you know, the effect on individual resources. So I'm really reluctant to, you know, agree to that sort of sweeping statement in isolation.
Q. But my question was that you could still come to those conclusions and conclude --
A. (Raphael) Maybe I can help you. I am sure there are projects that we could find have an unreasonable adverse impact on scenic resources, depending on the characteristics that are present in the landscape. One thing we do before I get involved in a project is determine what my conclusions might be for the
project, just in initial stages, so that I have an understanding of what the parameters of that project might be.
Q. So you've never testified in any case or offered an opinion in any case, public opinion, that the wind farm would have an unreasonable adverse impact on aesthetics.
A. (Raphael) Oh, yes, I have.
Q. Which case?
A. (Raphael) On several cases. I think in Searsburg we had concerns until, you know, mitigation measures were put in place and satisfied. I was at -- some of those projects never get past my desk. I was asked to analyze, $I$ think, a project in Lincoln, Vermont, that Ms. Vissering might have been involved in, actually. And I think I was asked by the attorney for the applicants who wanted to build the wind turbine to assist them in the case, and I took a look at the case and said I can't help you.
Q. But that wasn't testimony.
A. (Raphael) That wasn't testimony.
Q. And this, the methodology you used in this case, you've used before.
A. (Raphael) The general methodology, yes, we have. We have spent the last couple of years refining it in a sort of very detailed manner, just in terms of language. But this approach we've been using for probably five or six years, anyway, because it is based, in part, on the Maine Wind Energy Act. It has many of the same attributes as that act. It's different, certainly, in the way we've set it up and how we've evolved it. And that has been an iterative process in Maine, both with our clients and -- also, I've worked for the state as well, and discussed with other experts that process. So, over the time that I've been working on the Maine project and now this, there have been subtle refinements in framework that we have continued to work on.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Maloney, how much more do you have for this witness? MS. MALONEY: I don't have anything more of this witness.

MR. RICHARDSON: May I ask
procedural question? Based upon that recent response, there was a reference to a project in Vermont and then discussion about an attorney
who requested an opinion. And I immediately thought: Jeez, that sounds an awful lot like a work-product privilege that that attorney's client may hold. But we've kind of let the cat out of the bag without that person knowing, when they might ordinarily have wanted to assert that. Is there -- I don't know what to do in this situation.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: My immediate reaction is: It's neither my cat nor my bag. [Laughter] I think that Mr. Raphael has an understanding of what his obligations are to his clients. He's an experienced businessman and knows what he can and can't say about his work. If there's something else that needs to be brought to our attention regarding the testimony that he's given, we'll deal with it.

Do Committee members have questions for the witnesses? I know Commissioner Scott has questions. Mr. Scott.

INTERROGATORIES BY CMSR. SCOTT:
Q. Good afternoon.
A. (Kenworthy/Raphael) Good afternoon.
Q. Again -- well, not again. I've never said this to you all. But whoever feels best to answer,
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or both, is fine.
(Court Reporter interrupts.)
CMSR. SCOTT: I merely advised the panel, whoever is best to answer the question may do so.

BY CMSR. SCOTT:
Q. So to the extent that the SEC taking jurisdiction is predicated on this potential -this Application being different than the last, we obviously have an outline, if you will, of what will be different. Do you expect the Application, when it comes in, if it comes in, would be markedly different? Is it going to be exactly the same? Can you give me some idea of what the Application will look like compared to what was submitted?
A. (Kenworthy) Sure. I'd be happy to answer that question. I think the changes that we've characterized at a "high" level in the Petition, and more accurately in my testimony, are going to be reflected accurately in a new application. So, in other words, the kind of substantive changes to the physical components of the Project are as we represented: Turbine 10 will be gone; Turbine 9 will be 45 feet or
so lower; Turbines 1 through 8 will have a slightly smaller rotor, be slightly shorter, different manufacturer, different turbine dimensions. The kind of characteristics of those turbines is obviously all new information in the Application. These are manufactured by Siemens rather than by Acciona. So all of the information about the manufacturer's experience, the operational life of that turbine, its sound level performance, Siemens also, as the turbine O\&M, will be responsible for providing service and maintenance to those turbines. So they'll be providing testimony to this Committee which is new and different. Previously we had Acciona as the turbine manufacturer doing that.

We have updated noise and flicker and visual reports that are essentially de novo. Those are kind of done from scratch, even though some of the underlying elements are similar. We've started from scratch to produce them new with this information that we have that's different. The environmental work that's been done on the Project is largely the same. So we had kind of a documented agency
consultant consultation process back in 2010 and '11 that led to a series of on-site studies that were done in those years. We've kind of sought to get additional input from relevant agencies, both federal and here in the state of New Hampshire, to kind of update any of the representations that we're making in our application along the lines of environmental impacts. But for the most part, those studies are all the same.

Obviously, things like construction schedule is different. There's new ownership associated with the Project now, so there's a lot of things like that that are very different as well.
Q. So, again, on the physical characteristics of the Project, as outlined in your filing, at a minimum those things -- more of a better word would be "locked in". For instance, towers would not be any taller. That type of characteristic won't change; is that correct?
A. (Kenworthy) Yeah, that's correct. Our application is essentially complete, and we're nearly ready to file it if the Committee decides to accept jurisdiction.
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So the turbines are the turbines. Their locations are there, their heights are there. We've gotten the site certified by Siemens for those turbine heights. So those changes are there.

I think I may have referenced earlier that the new civil design plan includes a landscape plan that was performed by LandWorks for screening of the substation facility, which is different than what we had last time. And then there's some additional, kind of non-physical components as well. But $I$ think in terms of the physical components, yes, those things are locked in.
Q. And the locations are the same as the original project?
A. (Kenworthy) For Turbines 1 through 9, yes.
Q. Thank you. What happens if the Committee does not decide to take jurisdiction in this case? Will you be proceeding with the Town?
A. (Kenworthy) I don't have a definitive answer for that. I think these are -- you know, we've been working hard on this project for a long time. I think we have -- we believe that we have addressed the concerns that this Committee
identified the first time around. So we hope we have an opportunity to be heard here. I think if for some reason the Committee does not decide to take jurisdiction, we'll have to evaluate at that time what our options are and make a decision then about what the best course of action will be.
Q. Thank you. That's all $I$ have for now.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Do other members of the Committee have questions? Yes, Director Muzzey.

INTERROGATORIES BY DIR. MUZZEY:
Q. I have a question for each of you, beginning with Mr. Kenworthy.

You just mentioned that there's some non-physical aspects to the Project that may be different with a potential new filing. Could you describe what those would be?
A. (Kenworthy) Sure. I mentioned a couple of them in passing. But I guess I'd group them into a couple of categories: The ones that pertain to aesthetics and then those that don't. So I think part of what we sought to address in our new application with respect to changes to the Project to deal with aesthetic concerns were
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both physical and non-physical. The physical changes we've described in an effort to reduce aesthetic impacts, and then we've kind of increased mitigation on the mitigation side. So those elements include, I guess just to kind of categorize them all, because these were not part of what the Committee had in front of them when they ruled in the 2012 docket in February of 2013, but the agreement with the Town of Antrim for funds to enhance the kind of recreational and aesthetic experience around Gregg Lake; the additional 100 acres of conservation land on the ridgeline which now preserves 100 percent of the Project ridgeline. This was something that we heard in Ms.

Vissering's testimony in 2012 was important, that 100 percent of the Project ridgeline be addressed by conservation. We were able to accommodate that by adding two new easements from when we originally filed in January 2012. So we now have 100 percent of the ridgeline permanently conserved; so that's 908 acres. We also added $a$-- we entered into an agreement, a land conservation funding agreement with the New England Forestry

Foundation, where Antrim Wind has committed to fund $\$ 100,000$ to NEFF. That would be used for acquiring additional conservation lands in Southern New Hampshire. That agreement we will be providing together with our application. It essentially sets forth the terms. But among them are the requirement that we would fund that payment within, $I$ believe, 30 days of operations and that they would be allowed to use them either co-mingled with other funds or on their own to acquire new conservation lands which would need to be permanent, would need to extinguish all development rights, but would allow for sustainable forestry moving forward, and would prioritize lands with additional aesthetic and recreational values in the general vicinity of the Project. So that NEFF land conservation funding agreement is another one.

We have entered into a recent scholarship funding agreement with the Town of Antrim as well. I don't think that's something that we're considering as mitigation for aesthetic impacts, but it's something new that we'll be presenting in this Application, where the

Project will fund a $\$ 5000-a-y e a r$ contribution to the Antrim Scholarship Committee.

Other non-physical changes to the Application are going to be more things like I mentioned. We have new ownership in the Project. That will be described in the Application as it relates to the Applicant's financial, technical, managerial capability. The new turbine manufacturer has some physical and some non-physical components that are related to it. I think that captures most of them.
Q. Okay. Thank you.
A. (Kenworthy) Thank you.
Q. And a question on the visual analysis product that we just have started to take a look at. One of the final steps in your methodology is to determine the effect on the viewer from sensitive scenic resources. And within that, with my quick read, it seems like there are four criteria.
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. Activities, extent of view, duration of view and remoteness.
A. (Raphael) Correct.
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Q. Could you explain why you picked those to apply to scenic or cultural resources?
A. (Raphael) Again, those types of considerations are plugged in to several other evaluation structures for wind energy. Again, most notably, the Maine Wind Energy Act asks for the extent of the view, duration of the view, even includes language such as "willingness to return" and "use of resource post-construction." So, trying to understand what the actual effect will be on the typical user is achieved by taking those kinds of analytical steps.
Q. My question in particular is this concept of remoteness.
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. Because certainly there are many parts of Maine where remoteness would be a very obvious, important part of the landscape. We're in Southern New Hampshire with this project.
A. (Raphael) Right.
Q. Did you find that to be something that you needed to, say, tweak, given expectations of public use of some of the properties within the 10-mile area of potential effect?
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A. (Raphael) You know, certainly what would be Considered remote in Southern New Hampshire might be slightly different from what would be considered remote in Maine, as you point out. So that's somewhat what $I$ was alluding to as well in sort of the overall evaluation process is those types of considerations in the Project context: What does the region look like? Does the region in fact have, you know, remote experience? Well, there are a couple places that might be considered more remote than others and less encumbered by, you know, human interaction or human impact, even in Southern New Hampshire. I think, you know, one or two places where that might be the case. Would they be as far from a road or as truly remote, you know, as they might be in a northern Maine situation? No. So I think, you know, we might evaluate remoteness. And again, there's some discussion of how we do that in that section, you know, based on a number of factors that go into that relative remoteness. Similar to, you know, scarcity and uniqueness, you know, a pond like Willard might be unique in some other part of the world, but in New Hampshire there are
many ponds that are similar in size and affect to Willard Pond, that have a boat launch on them and are in conserved properties or wildlife sanctuaries. So there is a determination of the context that does have an influence on the analysis.
Q. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Are there
other Committee members with questions?
Mr. Scott.
INTERROGATORIES BY CMSR. SCOTT:
Q. Thank you. Mr. Kenworthy, we talked a moment ago about a potential application. You indicated, if I remember correctly, that it was basically done, or almost done. If we were as a Committee to grant -- take jurisdiction, can you give me a rough time frame when we could expect to see an application?
A. (Kenworthy) Sure. I think it's within a couple weeks. I mean, I think the earliest possible could be end of this week, frankly. We're basically just dotting Is and crossing Ts. So I think it's about printing it and producing it and getting it delivered. But if this process were to conclude this week, I think we would be
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prepared, you know, within a couple weeks certainly to file a complete application.
Q. Slightly different circumstances. If my memory serves, when we originally took jurisdiction, we did not have an application in front of us either at that point, and we put a time frame. So we took jurisdiction as long as the Application was received by $x$ point. Does that sound familiar?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, it does.
Q. Thank you.
questions from Committee members? Attorney Iacopino.

INTERROGATORIES BY ATTORNEY IACOPINO:
Q. Thank you. First, one thing I want to clear up, Mr. Kenworthy. You mentioned when you were talking about the road widths that they were going to be 16 feet wide up until the -- I don't know if it's Turbine 1 or -- but the first turbine?
A. (Kenworthy) Right.
Q. Is that even during construction, or is that -don't cranes have to go up that initial part of the road as well?
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A. (Kenworthy) No, they'll be delivered by truck. They'll actually be delivered by truck to Turbine 9, where it will be assembled and will crawl back to Turbine 1 and be disassembled.
Q. Okay. Mr. Raphael, you indicated during your testimony today that the rotor -- the visual impact of the rotors on the turbines tend to be diminished in relationship to the balance of the structure of the tower.
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. And I think that Mr. Block almost asked you the question $I$ wanted to ask, so I'm going to ask. We hear in these hearings a lot that movement is what attracts the eye. And I guess I just want to give you an opportunity to address the fact that with Turbine 9, as proposed in this new configuration, will the rotor movement above the tree line be seen from the Willard Pond area?
A. (Raphael) From portions of Willard Pond, yes.
Q. And what is your opinion as to what the effect on the viewer would be from that?
A. (Raphael) You know, having seen the various similar circumstances with built projects, including Lempster from the water, there's no
question. I will not deny the fact that a moving object, as Mr. Block inferred, does draw the eye, will attract the attention. But I think any object above the tree line will tend to draw the user's eye. You know, there's no disguising a wind turbine certainly in that circumstance.

What I found, interestingly enough, and actually, it was a surprise to me as well, because I've taken the time to evaluate projects after construction, whether I've been hiking or paddling or the like, and if you're out on a pond and you're paddling, for example, yes, your eye will be drawn to a moving object. But there are lots of other things that are moving around you, most notably the water. And once you understand that those are there, that there's a turbine or turbines that are moving in the distance, and depending on the wind, you know, those turbines are not moving, you know, crazily fast, they're moving in a very systematic, sort of measured manner, you get used to them, and they begin to become part of the overall whole. And in fact, as with the turbines themselves, the task -- or the
activity at hand often will supplant your focus on those turbines. So, like if you're paddling on Willard Pond, you can't paddle -- I don't know if you're a paddler or not, but maybe you would concur with this: You can't paddle for great distances with your eye fixed on one element. You know, your eye's drawn to the immediate water, to the shoreline, to other things. So the effect of that moving element in the landscape begins to diminish with that experience and with time in the resource.
Q. I guess what $I$ hear you saying is that people who use Willard Pond will get used to this movement.
A. (Raphael) I think, you know, there's some people who will never get used to that movement. And my finding also is that, if you understand wind energy, and perhaps you understand why we are designing and building wind energy projects, you will tend to have a more benign view and a less disturbing sensibility from seeing it.
Q. I understand the psychology issues. But I'm just trying to talk from your perspective, being somebody who does a visual assessment,
what's the impact on the viewer. And I guess you like to use paddling. What if you're bird watching?
A. (Raphael) Well, I mean, it depends where you're bird watching, $I$ guess.
Q. From the Willard Pond area. So you're looking for hawks.
A. (Raphael) Okay. Well, one of the places I did that was at the end of Willard Pond, near to where the loons were nesting. And, you know, there certainly was bird life. And I was able to appreciate that and observe that in a manner that would never have involved a view of the wind turbines. So there are plenty of places on that pond if you're bird watcher and don't want to be distracted by a turbine or seeing a turbine where you can have that same experience.
Q. So the answer, then, is you can move.
A. (Raphael) You can move.

But I want to go back to your question a moment ago. Yes, I think people do get used to it. And I heard that several times with regard to Lempster. I visited Lempster and the state park, and I asked the state park ranger. I
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said, "Do people, you know, make mention of the project, or are they concerned? Do you have people come and make comments?"

And she said, "No, we don't get any comments because people are used to it."
Q. You've read the decision from 2012; correct?
A. (Raphael) Sometime ago now, yes.
Q. In that decision, one of the things that the Subcommittee at the time indicated was that the relationship between the size of the towers and the elevation of the ridgeline, at least to the Committee at that time, appeared to be out of scale; is that correct?
A. (Raphael) Yes.
Q. In the present configuration of the Project, you have diminished the height of some of -well, of the eight turbines, leaving No. 9 out of the scenario for the time being. Will those turbines still be 25 to 35 percent of the overall elevation?
A. (Raphael) It varies with the turbine. We actually did an analysis of that and the scale relationship of those turbines to Willard Pond, and the viewpoint from Willard Pond is very similar to the same relationship you see in

Lempster. So there's no --
Q. I guess that's not my question.
A. (Raphael) Yeah.
Q. My question was: It's still between 25 and 35 percent as found by the Subcommittee that heard the original Application?
A. (Raphael) Forgive me. Twenty-five to 35 percent?
Q. Of the elevation. At Page 50 of the original -- I'm sorry -- Page 49, I guess it is of the original decision, the Subcommittee laid out the elevation of each wind turbine and then determined that it didn't do it for each, but said overall these turbines will be between 25 percent and 35 percent of the elevation of the ridgeline.

And I guess my question is: With this change you're proposing, is that fact still true, at least for Turbines 1 through 8 ?
A. (Raphael) It very well may be. Again, depending -- is this from Willard Pond that that analysis was made?
Q. No, this is just an analysis, as I understand it, about the size of the turbines, height of the turbines, compared to the elevation of the
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ridgeline where they're located.
A. (Raphael) That sounds still valid.
Q. Mr. Kenworthy, you've talked a little bit about a change in some of the financial circumstances. I'm sure you recall that the Committee did not really reach a conclusion one way or another in the prior project with respect to financials. Is there a PPA at this point in time?
A. (Kenworthy) No.
Q. You did mention new ownership. I assume that affects the financing of the Project, which was a concern to the Committee last time. Can you please give us more detail on what that involves?
A. (Kenworthy) Sure. So in 2012, Antrim Wind Energy was a project LLC that was owned by Eolian Renewable Energy and Westerly Wind. Westerly at the time was a portfolio company of U.S. Renewables Group. Westerly sold their membership interest to Eolian in 2014. And earlier this year, after about a year of work together, prior to entering into a definitive agreement, we sold a controlling membership interest in the Project to Walden Green Energy,
which is a privately held, global development firm out of New York. Walden is, in turn, backed by RWE, which we get into more detail in our application. But the principal investment arm of RWE is a German utility company, one of Europe's top five electricity and gas utilities.
Q. And will the business model for the Project -if you get to file an application, will the business model you're going to present be dependent upon a Power Purchase Agreement?
A. (Kenworthy) Certainly we would expect that the Project will require either a PPA or some other form of revenue certainty, like a hedge as we discussed last time, in order to enable debt financing to come in for the Project. I think what the Application will show is that we have financial backing for the Project equity, and we have clearly demonstrated letters of interest from commercial banks to provide the debt for the Project.

But, yes, I think it is our expectation that the Project will require some form of revenue certainty, like a PPA.
Q. I guess the ultimate question with respect to
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the financial management portion of the Application is how is it strong -- I assume you're saying you're stronger this time around financially. Am I correct in that?
A. (Kenworthy) Yes, I believe so.
Q. How? Is it simply by the new equity?
A. (Kenworthy) New equity.
Q. And that equity is richer, so to speak.
A. (Kenworthy) Yes. And U.S. Renewables Group was never stating they would put the construction equity into the Project. They were providing development equity, and then the management team would have sought to raise tax equity and/or debt as necessary.
Q. And that's changed now.
A. (Kenworthy) Right. Exactly. We have a different circumstance with a financial backer who has the equity available for the Project, obviously subject to all the conditions precedent that are necessary for releasing all that equity and debt into the Project.
Q. All right. Nobody's asked this question, but I'm going to ask it, and I'm just going to ask it generally because -- and I hope you'll be honest with us, in terms of you've come here
and told us, okay, we now have made these changes, and we want -- obviously, you must consider it to be a better project, one that is more apt to get approval from the Committee. That must be why you're here. Is there anything that changed for the worse? And when I say that, I mean in terms of the considerations that the Site Evaluation Committee has: Your financial, technical, managerial experience; whether there will be an undue impact on the regional development; whether there's unreasonable adverse impacts on aesthetic, historic sites, air and water quality, natural environment or public health and safety.
A. (Kenworthy) No, I don't think so. I think, really, all of the impacts associated with the Project have been reduced, and I think that the benefits have only increased. I think we've been able to find a somewhat smaller, and in the Turbine 9 case, lower and quieter turbine that is manufactured by one of the top turbine manufacturers and kind of industrial conglomerates in the world, who will provide service and maintenance for this facility for
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us with a great degree of competence and experience. We have added additional mitigation to the Project, additional benefits from the Project. Even though we've eliminated 10 percent of the turbines, we haven't lost a corresponding 10 percent of generation. These turbines are rated at 3.2 megawatts instead of 3.0 megawatts. We'll be able to take advantage of that. So, no, I don't think anything has gotten worse. I think this is improvements.
Q. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Any other
questions from this end of the room?
(No verbal response)
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Scott.
INTERROGATORIES BY CMSR. SCOTT:
Q. Quickly following up on Attorney Iacopino's questioning line just now, how about the production tax credit federally? Has that changed the dynamic at all compared to your earlier submission?
A. (Kenworthy) You know, interestingly, I think we were in a similar position at that time with the production tax credit. So, no, I don't think it really changes our position. It's an
incentive that, if available, we will take advantage of, and if not available, we believe the Project can ultimately be built, you know, in any event. And I think we'll get into more details about kind of our views as to how that works in our application. But, you know, again, we were in a similar type of position the last time we filed, in terms of being around a certain period for the PTC work. There again, now, rather than speculate about whether we think it will be around or not, I would just say if it's there, we would take advantage of it, and if it's not, we would build the Project another way.
Q. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr.
Needleman, do you have questions for your witnesses?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: No redirect.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
I think you gentlemen are done. Thank you very much.

MR. KENWORTHY: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: This will be
a good chance for a break. When we come back,
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we'll be picking up with the Town's witnesses. So we'll take 15 minutes, come back at ten after three.
(Whereupon a recess was taken at 2:51 p.m. and the hearing resumed at 3:12 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
We are back. Mr. Richardson, I believe these are your witnesses.

MR. RICHARDSON: Yes. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Would you
like to have them sworn in?
MR. RICHARDSON: Please.
(WHEREUPON, CHRISTOPHER CONDON, GORDON
WEBBER, JOHN ROBERTSON AND MICHAEL GENEST were duly sworn and cautioned by the Court Reporter.) DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. RICHARDSON:
Q. Good afternoon. Please, each of you, state your names and your positions for the record.
A. (Condon) Chris Condon, Antrim Planning Board Chairman.
A. (Webber) Gordon Webber, Antrim Board of
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Board of Selectmen.
Q. And do each of you adopt that as your testimony in this proceeding? Each of the selectmen.

Excuse me.
A. (Webber) I do.
A. (Robertson) I do.
A. (Genest) I do.
Q. And to each of you again, are there any changes or updates that are required for your testimony?
A. (Webber) There are not.
A. (Robertson) No.
A. (Genest) No.
Q. And you adopt this as your testimony in this proceeding?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So, for
cross-examination, we're going to do a similar order. We're going to, I guess -- make sure we get this right. We're going to start with Antrim Wind, then Harris Center, WindAction, Audubon, the abutting landowners, then the non-abutting landowners and then Counsel for the Public. In terms of scheduling, let's target
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4:15. When we get to a breaking point at or around 4:15, up until about 4:30, then we'll break for the day and come back tomorrow.

So, who's going to be questioning. Mr. Needleman?

MR. NEEDLEMAN: Sure, I can speak on behalf of Antrim Wind. Thank you. We have no questions of this panel.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Newsom.
MR. NEWSOM: No questions.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Linowes.
MS. LINOWES: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I have two exhibits that I would like to use today.
(Exhibits WA 2 and WA 3 marked for identification.)

CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. Good afternoon. I wanted to start first by understanding the Town of Antrim's government and what you have in terms of land use regulations.

The Applicant, or Antrim Wind, and the Town, both of you, have stated you don't really have the technical ability or perhaps the
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necessary ordinances in place to get this project reviewed at the town level. So I would like to just ask you quick questions and get a "Yes" or "No" answer.

Okay. First one is, do you have a board of selectmen?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. Do you have an elected planning board?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. Do you have a conservation commission?
A. (Webber) yes.
Q. Do you have a zoning board of adjustment?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. Do you have site plan review?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. Do you have a zoning ordinance?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And your zoning ordinance does have a small wind provision?
A. (Condon) A small wind provision, yes.
Q. And do you have a master plan?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And the information I have -- and please correct me -- I have that the Master Plan is current as of June 2010. Has it been updated
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since that time?
A. (Condon) No. We're in the process.
Q. And is there anything else --
A. (Condon) No.
Q. -- that I might be missing? Okay.

So in the other question $I$ had for you with regard to that, earlier today I'd asked Mr. Kenworthy if he was aware that planning boards are by statute under fairly strict schedules for approving applications that come before them. Are you aware of that?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. Okay. So you're not -- if I were to go down the list, once an application has been received by the Planning Board for site plan review and accepted by the Planning Board as complete, you're aware that you have to act on that within 65 days?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And you're aware that you could ask for a 30-day extension from the Board of Selectmen?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And having not acted on that -- or if you failed to act within that 30 -day period, within 40 days the Board of Selectmen could certify
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A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. Now, during the technical session, I had asked Mr. Webber -- and I believe any one of you can answer this -- but how many agreements were in place between Antrim Wind and the Town. And at the time, Mr. Webber, you had stated the planning -- excuse me -- the PILOT agreement, the letter of intent for the conservation lands -- and I believe that would be for the hundred acres on the ridgeline -- the letter of intent for $\$ 40,000$ for visual impacts at Gregg Lake and the operating agreement; is that correct?
A. (Webber) I believe so.
Q. Are there any that I'm missing?
A. (Webber) Did you mention the PILOT?
Q. Yes.
A. (Webber) Okay.
Q. So the PILOT, the letter of intent for the 100 acres of conservation land, letter of intent of $\$ 40,000$ and the visual impact at Gregg Lake and the operating agreement?
A. (Webber) I believe that's correct.
Q. Okay. And in the case of the letter of intent for the conservation lands, I believe you had
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said, but perhaps you could explain it better, this was for the Town to act as the second easement holder on that property, or the first -- maybe the primary?
A. (Webber) I believe it's the primary.
Q. Okay. Now, and in those two cases, in terms of the letter of intent with the conservation land and the letter of intent of $\$ 40,000$, does that also have to go before a town vote, or is the Board of Selectmen in a position to authorize both of those?
A. (Webber) We held public hearings and then voted on it.
Q. So they're in place?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. Okay. So you have spent a fair amount of time as a Board of Selectmen evaluating -- working with Antrim Wind.
A. (Webber) Whatever "a fair amount" means, yes.
Q. Over the last five years, six years?
A. (Webber) Well, we've been dealing with them for probably six years.
Q. Okay. So the first met tower was erected, I think we said earlier, in November of 2009; is that correct?
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A. (Webber) That sounds about right.
Q. Okay. Okay. So, also -- bear with me for a second.

Okay. During the technical session, also, I had asked you if any of the agreements that were signed between Antrim Wind and the Select board required you to publicly -- required the Select board to publicly support the Project, and you said "Yes." Is that correct?
A. (Webber) I believe -- I'll have to check. It could be the operating contract.
Q. Yes, that is a copy of that operating agreement that's in front of you. That would be WA2.
A. (Genest) Yeah. When you say "publicly support the Project," what do you mean? I mean, we're signing the agreements with them.
Q. Thank you for that question. That's how I -- I will read from the transcript. And perhaps maybe that question is better answered by Mr. Webber. What I had -- what the transcript says, and this is on Page 223 -- and I could bring this to you in a second -- "Do any of these agreements that have been signed between the Board of Selectmen and Antrim Wind require or encourage the Board of Selectmen to publicly

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A. (Webber) I am not anymore. I was until March of this year. I was last year. Mr. Genest is now.
Q. Okay. So is Mr. Genest also obligated -- it's the entire Board of Selectmen that's obligated to that commitment?
A. (Webber) Correct.
Q. And is it your sense that that obligation makes it difficult for you to be impartial while you sit on the Planning Board?
A. (Webber) Who are you asking?
Q. Well, since Mr. Genest is sitting on the Planning Board, I'm asking him.
A. (Genest) No.
Q. You can be -- if you're obligated to publicly support the Project, you can still be impartial about the Project?
A. (Genest) I can still ask questions that concern me and concern the board.
Q. Can you vote?
A. (Genest) Yes.
Q. Okay.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Can we go
off the record for just one second?
(Discussion off the record)
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CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We can go back on the record.

MS. LINOWES: Thank you.
BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. Okay. And then, just to complete that line of questions, Mr. Webber, did you vote on the Planning Board regarding anything pertaining to the wind project?
A. (Webber) Yes, I voted to support seeking jurisdiction from the SEC.
Q. Now, one of the other points that has been made is clearly made in Mr. Condon's testimony, and it's been made, I believe, in your testimony. I won't repeat verbatim. But the concern is that the Town does not have an ordinance that pertains to large wind. Is that true?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And I had asked Mr. Kenworthy earlier today if -- you know, I'll preface it by saying, if the Site Evaluation Committee does not assert jurisdiction, there is still an avenue for a project to go through the approval process in the Town, regardless of whether or not there's a wind, a large wind ordinance?
A. (Condon) Yes.
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Q. And he had said at that time that a couple of variances may be required in site plan review. Were you here when he stated that?
A. (Condon) Yes, that sounds correct.
Q. Okay. And again we've established that you have all of the mechanisms in place: The CVA, the Planning Board, a process for those to happen; correct?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And when all is said and done, Antrim Wind will get that project approved in 150 days, at least for site plan review; is that correct?
A. (Condon) I guess that depends on how they would actually send in that application. I don't know if each tower site, for example, would need individual site plan review; in which case, I think you're talking about a number of meetings, because it certainly takes us a whole meeting to go through one site plan review. So you could imagine potentially 10 meetings for 10 sites or 9, I guess, in this particular case. I don't know if they would do that as one or as a bunch of separate ones, because they are separate sites.
Q. Under the current statute governing the Site

Evaluation Committee, 365 days $I$ believe is the limit for the Committee. So, certainly longer under the Committee.
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. Okay. Now, the other concern was that you did not really have anything governing noise, setbacks or the kinds of issues that arise when a wind project is considered. Is that -- so I wanted to draw your attention to the operating agreement that was signed between Antrim Wind and the Town. And this is WA2.
A. (Condon) Okay.
Q. And I would like you to look at, I believe it is No. 11. This would be on Page 10 of 15. (Witness reviews document.)
A. (Condon) I see that.
Q. So you've established at least an agreement with Antrim Wind as to how to handle noise. Would you agree with that, that there is a noise limit?
A. (Condon) Well, there's an agreement with the Select board. But that's not an ordinance, so... I mean, I don't know if the Planning Board is bound by that or not.
Q. I understand that. But what I'm saying is that
the Town, at least the Board of Selectmen, when it negotiated this agreement, established what would be reasonable standards --
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. -- for approving a project. So, under site plan review --

MR. RICHARDSON: Objection. That's a mischaracterization of what the agreement says. It doesn't obligate the Town to any standard for review by the Planning Board. This, I believe, governs the Site Evaluation Committee process.

MS. LINOWES: Well, and I appreciate that comment.

BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. But the fact is this is a starting point that the Planning Board could use in the absence of actually fixed zoning pertaining to siting a wind project. Is that not reasonable?
A. (Condon) I suppose, except that really when it comes to site plan review, and I try to make this very clear at the start of our hearings, is that we are pretty much bound by our ordinances, and anything else is entirely subjective. And we try not to consider
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anything that is not in the ordinances because that just opens us up to appeals and lawsuits. And I appreciate that. But the statute gives a planning board a fair amount of latitude, I should say --

MR. RICHARDSON: Objection. I'm not aware of any statute. I'd like the witness to see one, if there is one.

MS. LINOWES: Okay.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Linowes?
MS. LINOWES: Yes, I will cite that. It would be 674:44. RSA 674:44.
A. (Condon) If you could read that?
Q. I don't have it, but I can show you. But I could read from it. But it does allow the --

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Linowes, rather than -- since it looks like you're going to try to look it up on your phone, why don't you focus on one thing at a time.

MS. LINOWES: Okay.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: No, you can do that, just --

MS. LINOWES: Actually, it provides for -- the latitude I'm talking about, the statute looks to provide for the safe and
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attractive development of change and guard against such conditions as would involve danger or injury to the health, safety or prosperity. MR. RICHARDSON: And I'd like to maybe clarify, now that we know which statute we're referring to, why this line of questioning is I think leading us nowhere. 677:44 is called "Site Plan Review Regulations," and it's the state-enabling statute that says what the regulations have to say. If the regulations don't say it, then the law is pretty clear -and we cite it in our memorandum -- that the board can't do it. In other words, it says the site plan review regulations which the Planning Board adopts -- this is Section 2 -- say "may." When you go down to Section 3, there's specific things that are required, and it says they "shall." And 3A says, "provide the procedures which the board shall follow." 3B, "define the purpose of site plan review." And 3C, and this is critical, "specify the general standards and requirements." So, under New Hampshire law -and if you ask, any municipal attorney will tell you this -- you have to put your standards in your rules; otherwise, you don't have standards.

And you can't apply standards that you don't have.

MS. LINOWES: Okay. Thank you for that.

MS. MALONEY: Can we find out if the witnesses can answer the question? Because I sort of feel like we're in the middle of a question and then we got testimony from counsel, and it influences their answer. And I just want to know their awareness of their own laws and authority.

MR. RICHARDSON: And I believe the witness already answered that he could only follow those rules or they'd get sued.

MS. LINOWES: You did say --
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Hang on, Ms.
Linowes. Rather than argue with Mr. Richardson through his witnesses, ask them questions about what they know. That might help.

MS. LINOWES: Thank you.
BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. So you do have site plan review, however; correct?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And you have -- do you know what the purpose of
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| 1 |  | project. You may prefer the State assert |
| 2 |  | jurisdiction. But you do have the mechanisms |
| 3 |  | to review this project; isn't that true? |
| 4 | A. | (Condon) We have -- yes. |
| 5 | $Q$. | Okay. Thank you. You have also stated -- or |
| 6 |  | at least it was stated a number of times that |
| 7 |  | there's support for the Project in the |
| 8 |  | community; is that correct? |
| 9 | A. | (Condon) It's been indicated, yes. |
| 10 | Q. | And I would like to read from the -- this would |
| 11 |  | be the Committee's Order when it disapproved |
| 12 |  | the Project, and this is on Page 41. It's just |
| 13 |  | one sentence, bottom of the page. It says, |
| 14 |  | "While the Applicant, the various boards and |
| 15 |  | other intervenors vehemently disagree about how |
| 16 |  | the votes at town meetings should be |
| 17 |  | interpreted, it was clear to the Subcommittee |
| 18 |  | that those votes generally indicated that the |
| 19 |  | townspeople who voted generally supported the |
| 20 |  | development of the proposed facility." Is that |
| 21 |  | your sense as well? |
| 22 | A. | (Condon) Yes. |
| 23 | Q. | So they would -- so you have mechanisms in |
| 24 |  | place. You have support within the community. |
| 25 |  | You have the ability to assert -- have your own |

jurisdiction over this project; isn't that true?
A. (Condon) We have the mechanisms in place. I don't... my concern in the site plan review process, without a large-scale wind ordinance, is that anything we do is going to open us up to appeals and lawsuits because we can't, without any level of specificity, regulate those things.
Q. And I think that's been stated multiple times, that concern. I think Mr. Kenworthy raised it as well; although, I think from his perspective, it's more about delay of the Project. From your perspective, it's not that?
A. (Condon) It's more about the Town being sued and the expense and time associated with that.
Q. Now, you've also said that the Town doesn't have the technical expertise to take on this project. Is that an accurate statement, or is that not the case?
A. (Condon) I'd say that's an accurate statement.
Q. Now, are you aware that there is a statute -let me just get the site.

MS. LINOWES: Excuse me, Mr.

A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. Now, Mr. Condon, you had stated in your testimony, this is one page, that the Planning Board for the Town of Antrim does not have the technical expertise or resources to address a project of this magnitude, nor has a site plan review list been updated to accommodate it. Now, that site plan review list that you're talking about, that's really just an administrative checklist, isn't it?
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. Okay. So it's not something that would take, since you already have an operating agreement that identifies quite a few things, would not take much to update it?
A. (Condon) Well, $I$ don't know that. The site plan review list, depending on the sort of project proposed, if I recall properly, not only goes through, for example, whether the Application itself is complete, but whether various setback requirements and other things in our ordinances have also been adhered to; and if not, is there an exception or waiver associated with it.

So, in regards to that statement, there's
nothing in there, in that checklist, that has to do with wind energy.
Q. Okay.
A. (Genest) I'd like to add that the agreement is between the Board of Selectmen and Antrim Wind, not the Planning Board and Antrim Wind. I think you're referring to the agreement?
Q. That's true. I am using that as a guide for producing the checklist.
A. (Condon) We can't use that as a guide for the checklist because it's not an ordinance.
Q. Just in terms of identifying topics is what I'm saying.
A. (Condon) It's not in the checklist, again.
Q. Okay. Now, when you talk about all the delays and the legal challenges that you're concerned about, is it your sense that -- I mean, how many lawsuits have there been?
A. (Condon) I don't know the history prior to my being on the Planning Board.
Q. So, then, perhaps Mr. Webber can answer this question. Is it your sense that those lawsuits were frivolous?
A. (Webber) I don't know if I would call them "frivolous." I guess that's for someone else
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to decide. We've had two lawsuits so far that were in relation to the wind project.
Q. Can you explain what those were?
A. (Webber) One was the ruling on the met tower, and another one was meetings with the Town and Antrim Wind drafting the original PILOT agreement.
Q. Okay. So when you say "rulings on the met tower," you're saying there was a challenge to ZBA or the Planning Board?
A. (Webber) Yes, it was appealed, and the ZBA, you know --
A. (Genest) Denied it.
A. (Webber) -- denied the appeal, and then it was taken to court.
Q. Okay. And then the other was a Right-To-Know case?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. And how was that ruled?
A. (Webber) The judge ruled that the Town violated -- the Town followed counsel's advice. But the judge ruled that Town counsel's advice was wrong and that the selectmen did not knowingly violate it, but they in fact had. So he voided the original PILOT.
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Q. So the lawsuit -- okay. So lawsuit, in one case there was residents presumably that had objected to how the ZBA had -- the approval of the met tower?
A. (Webber) Correct.
Q. And then in the second case it was concern that the Select board was holding meetings in violation of the Right-To-Know Law?
A. (Webber) Correct.
Q. Okay. So, because of those two cases, is your concern that the future holds nothing but lawsuits? Is that...
A. (Webber) I didn't say that.
Q. Okay. Well, I know you didn't use those words. But you did --

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All the
lawyers in the room chuckled, Ms. Linowes. BY MS. LINOWES:
Q. You suggested that that's going to be a problem in the future?
A. (Webber) It had that potential.
Q. So it's a worry, but it's not -- you don't really know.
A. (Webber) I don't really know.
Q. Okay. Now, has Antrim Wind bothered to obtain
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a variance for the Project?
A. (Webber) No --
Q. Has it --
A. (Webber) -- They haven't. I don't know if -when you say if they "bothered to," I don't know if that's really the appropriate phrase to use.
Q. I'm sorry. I'm being very casual there.

Has Antrim Wind submitted at any time an application to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a variance, either a use variance or a height variance?
A. (Webber) No.
Q. Has Antrim Wind, at any point, submitted a site plan application for the Project before the Planning Board?
A. (Condon) No.

MS. LINOWES: If you could bear with me for one second, I think that covers my questions. And I did not reference WA3. I was going to, and I decided not to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CMSR. HONIGBERG: Okay. Mr.
Howe .
MR. HOWE: I have no questions.
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CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms.
Longgood, welcome.
MS. LONGGOOD: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Do you have any questions for these witnesses?

MS. LONGGOOD: I have one.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Do you have a microphone near you that is on?

MS. LONGGOOD: It is on now, I believe.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MS. LONGGOOD:
Q. I'm just wanting clarification, if any one of the witnesses up there can clarify.

Did the Planning Board, in 2011, submit a large-scale wind ordinance for the public to vote on, or did they work on developing one of those, to your knowledge?
A. (Webber) 2011?
A. (Condon) Yes. That's actually in Wind Action Group's exhibit that is no longer being used.
Q. So the Planning Board, in 2011 , felt they were able to come up with some rules and regulations that would --
A. (Genest) They brought one forward to the Town,

|  | 125 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | and it did not pass. |
| 2 | Q. It did not pass. Okay. Thank you. |
| 3 | CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is that it, |
| 4 | Ms. Longgood? |
| 5 | MS. LONGGOOD: That's it. Thank |
| 6 | you. |
| 7 | CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I think |
| 8 | Mr. Block -- yes, Mr. Block. Do you have any |
| 9 | questions for these witnesses? |
| 10 | MR. BLOCK: Yes, just a few. |
| 11 | CROSS-EXAMINATION |
| 12 | BY MR. BLOCK : |
| 13 | Q. First of all, $I$ don't remember the details, but |
| 14 | my recollection -- and I don't know if anybody |
| 15 | recalls -- but there was a third lawsuit |
| 16 | against the Town, and that one was brought by |
| 17 | Antrim Wind. Does anybody recall that? |
| 18 | A. (Webber) No. Could you refresh our memory? |
| 19 | Q. I do remember -- unfortunately, off the top of |
| 20 | head, I don't remember the details. I just |
| 21 | thought I'd ask -- |
| 22 | A. (Genest) I vaguely remember something to that |
| 23 | effect back in 2011, because the two lawsuits |
| 24 | that came were the complete opposite of each |
| 25 | other -- |
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Q. Exactly.
A. (Genest) -- which made it kind of interesting.
Q. Exactly. That much I remember.

In 2011, there was a docket here in the SEC for jurisdiction back when Antrim Wind first came to town asking the SEC to take jurisdiction on what was originally a smaller project. I believe at that time the Antrim Planning Board was actually advocating that the SEC not take jurisdiction, and they were -their position at that time, the Planning Board said they did have -- they felt they had the expertise to handle such a case if it came before the Town. Does anybody remember that?
A. (Genest) Yes, I do. I believe since then we've gone through three ordinances that have all failed.
Q. So, besides that, is there anything else that has changed? There was no ordinance then. Is there anything that you can see has changed since 2011 to lead the Planning Board now to not believe that you could handle it?
A. (Condon) I believe the membership of the board has changed significantly over that time.
Q. There's a -- looking at the Board of
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Selectmen's prefiled testimony, on Page 4, the very, very top, the Conclusion, "Significantly, Antrim Wind, LLC's project is not an allowed use in the rural conservation district. It is, therefore, uncertain whether wind energy project would be allowed, even if it meets all the Town's site plan requirements, despite the fact that a majority of the town residents support the Project."

My question is: Is it your position, therefore, that even before reviewing any details of a potential application, that you feel that no matter what that application was, you feel a project should automatically be approved?
A. (Webber) Can you repeat that?
Q. My question is: Even before -- it sounds to me like even before reviewing any project, which at this point is hypothetical, came to the town, it seems to me that your question here is -- maybe this would be -- maybe Mike would be more appropriate to answer this because he's been around the time this came up here.

But it seems to me that this is implying that you feel that a project that came to town
must be approved, regardless of what the details were.
A. (Genest) Let me read that.
Q. (Webber) I'm not sure where you're getting that?
A. (Genest) Well, repeat what you were reading from. Page 4?
(Witness reviews document.)
Q. Page 4, the very top, starting at Line No. 1. "Significantly, Antrim Wind, LLC's project is not an allowed use in the rural conservation district. It is, therefore, uncertain whether wind energy project would be allowed even if it meets all of the town site plan requirements." So the question I have is: Is there something -- I guess, rephrasing it, is there something inherently wrong with the Town actually turning down a project if it is inappropriate, or must a project be approved?
A. (Webber) No, certainly not. But our site plan requirements are not suited for this project. They don't address this type of project. They're more suited for, like, a excavation pit or a subdivision, something of that nature. So we don't feel that the site plan requirements
are adequate to address a project like this.
Q. But it is not -- is it out of the question that a major project could come to town, and the Town would be able to find a way to deal with it?
A. (Genest) I guess anything's possible.
Q. Okay. Are you -- anybody up there, I guess. Are any of you aware of any law, any New Hampshire law or regulation that would require a town to have a development-specific ordinance to permit a project, a large project to be heard?
A. (Condon) No.
A. (Webber) No.
Q. Okay. Let me go back to your prefiled testimony now on the bottom of Page 6, starting on Line 18. Under the heading "Promotion of State and Local Renewable Goals," "Both the state and the Town of Antrim in its Master Plan have adopted renewable energy goals that include the construction of new energy facilities. Review by the Committee allows for consideration of the Town and the state renewable energy goals to be considered. It is not clear how these goals would be considered
if the Project were reviewed outside of RSA 162-H."

So my question is: Does our Master Plan specify that our goal for new energy must be wind?
A. (Webber) No.
Q. Are there any other forms that would be -- that would help satisfy that goal?
A. (Webber) I imagine there are.
A. (Genest) I believe it talks about "renewable" in general. I don't have the document in front of me. But I believe from memory -- no, I'm talking about the Master Plan. Right? That's what you're referring to; right?
Q. Is the Town currently involved in a solar project?
A. (Webber) We're leasing property that a private entity is coming in and constructing a solar farm. So, to the extent we are involved in it, we are leasing property, and then we don't have anything else to do with it.
Q. Is the Town benefiting from that?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. In what way?
A. (Webber) We're getting lease payments and
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credits on electric rates.
Q. Okay. I have an article in The Ledger Transcript that described this. And I believe this went to a town vote to agree with it at this year's town meeting; is that correct?
A. (Webber) Correct.
Q. Okay. And the article says that the array would produce 492 kilowatts of energy annually. The Town would be using the majority of that. And that's a quote from Mike.

Doesn't that go a long way towards helping the Town achieve its goal of renewable energy?
A. (Webber) It goes toward the goal.
Q. Do we know how -- hypothetical question: Does anybody know how many other towns have other projects that are doing that?
A. (Webber) Actually quite a few now. In the past few years there's been a lot of them. But I'm not going to -- I can't run them through my --
Q. Okay. I guess the question I have is why you would state it's not clear how these goals would be considered if the Project were reviewed outside of $162-\mathrm{H}$. Seems like we do -are making a good effort at achieving those goals.
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The last -- no, two other things. One other thing $I$ want to ask about is part of this new application is -- and I have the letter in front of me -- there was a proposal to donate $\$ 40,000$ to the town --
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. -- to assist at Gregg Lake. On the question $I$ have, the letter says, "The Board of Selectmen are willing to accept for the Town of Antrim funds from Antrim Wind Energy of a one-time payment of $\$ 40,000$ as acceptable compensation for the perceived visual impacts to the Gregg Lake area."

Is there anybody there who can address how you decided that $\$ 40,000$ was acceptable and sufficient?
A. (Webber) As you know, the Town was already in support of this project and was negotiating with Antrim Wind to further this project. So when we were offered an additional $\$ 40,000$, we thought that was an acceptable offer.
Q. Do you have any idea at this point of what could be done with that amount of money to actually do something towards compensating for visual impact?
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A. (Webber) Well, I believe it's "perceived visual impact" in the letter. It's undetermined how that money will be spent at this point.
Q. So you don't really know if that $\$ 40,000$ might make a difference or not. I understand it's free money, but --
A. (Genest) Well, I think one of the things that was discussed was a kiosk like they have up in Lempster to educate people more about wind energy.
Q. And you think that would change the perception of the visual impact?
A. (Webber) Well, we came up with some other ideas, too. Improving the boat launch, fixing up the boat house --
A. (Robertson) bath house.
A. (Webber) -- the bath house. The picnic tables and barbecue area are in poor shape. But we're not limited to any of those. We threw out some ideas. But at this point we're not limited to any of them.
Q. Okay. The last thing is I would like to ask you about the conservation easement and the letter of intent with the additional 100-acre Bean property.
A. (Webber) Yup.
Q. Now, have the selectmen signed on that letter?
A. (Genest) Letter of intent, I believe.
A. (Webber) The letter of intent, yes, but not the easement itself.
A. (Genest) I think during the public hearings -I don't think. There was a petition presented to the selectmen, and it requested that the vote be for the actual taking of it or not would be done at a town meeting.
Q. That is correct. And as far as $I$ know, it was scheduled for this past spring's town meeting. Did it come up for a vote then?
A. (Genest) No.
A. (Webber) It did not. But I don't know that it was scheduled.
Q. Well, $I$ know it was talked about.
A. (Webber) It was talked about.
Q. It's in the minutes of the Select board saying it would be brought up. But I don't remember seeing it on a warrant article. Do you know what the status of that is now and what the plans are?
A. (Genest) I would assume that if the SEC accepts jurisdiction, and hypothetically if the Project
was to move forward, at that point we would bring it to a town meeting vote. I think that was kind of where we were headed. There wasn't much sense in voting on it if the Project was never going to happen.
Q. Thank you. No more questions. CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Maloney. MS. MALONEY: I really don't have any questions. Oh, actually, just one. CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MS. MALONEY:
Q. Steel Pond Hydro, that's located in Antrim; correct?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. And that was lying dormant for a lot of years, wasn't it?
A. (Webber) A few, yes.
Q. And just this past year got re -- got a new owner and started operating again?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. Does the Town of Antrim benefit from that at all?
A. (Webber) It will. We are in the very early stages of negotiating a PILOT agreement with them.
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Q. So does that add to your renewable energy portfolio?
A. (Webber) Sure.
Q. I don't have anything further.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Do members of the Committee have questions for these witnesses? Commissioner Scott.

CMSR. SCOTT: Thank you.
INTERROGATORIES BY CMSR. SCOTT:
Q. I want to build upon a couple of the questions that Mr. Block asked, I believe.

So, for the Planning Board members. I guess, Mr. Condon, maybe you can help me recollect. Again, $I$ was here for the original decision from the Committee to take jurisdiction. And what I remember at the time is the Board of Selectmen said please take jurisdiction, and the Planning Board -- and here's what I need help with. My recollection was the Planning Board said don't take jurisdiction. Give us some time. We'll get some rules in place or an ordinance in place that we can address this with. Do you have any recollection of that?
A. (Condon) I've only been a member of the
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Planning Board since 2013. But I believe you're historically correct, yes.
Q. Okay. And again, maybe for the Board of Selectmen, you could -- you've already touched on this, but maybe you could help me a little bit more.

On your prefiled testimony on Page 5, on Line 19, under the title of "Potential Benefits That May Be Lost," you have a statement, "If the SEC does not take jurisdiction, Antrim Wind may be unable to obtain a use variance." Can you elaborate on that a little bit? Wouldn't that be under the control of the Town itself whether that variance happens?
A. (Webber) Well, it would be under the ZBA, which is out of the control of the Board of Selectmen.
Q. So can you elaborate? Is there a -- so is there a general concern of how they would act? I'm just trying to understand the dynamic here.
A. (Webber) I don't know. I wouldn't want to predict how any judicial board is going to rule.
Q. Fair enough. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Do other
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members of the Subcommittee have questions for these witnesses? Yes, Ms. Weathersby.

MS. WEATHERSBY: Just real quick.
INTERROGATORIES BY MS. WEATHERSBY:
Q. Is there any large-scale wind ordinance being worked on now by the Town?
A. (Condon) No.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Any other questions? Attorney Iacopino.

MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.
INTERROGATORIES BY MR. IACOPINO:
Q. Mr. Condon, most of these questions are going to be for you. I'll try to go very quickly.

If somebody applies for a variance in Antrim, and they or another party to their request is dissatisfied and they take an appeal, that appeal goes -- does it go directly to the superior court?
A. (Condon) I believe, and I'm not entirely familiar, I believe they send that appeal back to the ZBA, and the ZBA will accept or reject it. If they reject it, then I think they have the option to then send it to superior court.
Q. So you have a layer of appeal within your town then.
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A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And then, if they or any party is dissatisfied with the superior court decision, they of course can appeal to the Supreme Court.
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And does it work the same way with the site plan review in Antrim?
A. (Condon) I honestly don't know.
Q. Okay. So have you ever had somebody appeal your ruling on site plan review, at least while you've been in office?
A. (Condon) Not while I've been, no.
Q. All right. Does your Planning Board have the ability to defer an application? You mentioned during your cross-examination that it might be -- I don't know, however many turbines there are -- might be 10 individual site plans that are submitted for review. Do you have anything within your regulations that permit you to delay when there are too many matters pending before your board?
A. (Condon) Off the top of my head, I don't know.
Q. Okay. And how about for a variance? Do you know?
A. (Condon) A variance would be the ZBA, so I
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wouldn't be involved in that.
Q. But you don't know if they have any ability --
A. (Condon) I don't.
Q. And I guess any of you can answer this question. What do your -- what does your zoning ordinance or your site plan review regulations say about who pays for the consultant? Have you written into your ordinance or your site plan review regulation the ability to bill the consultant's work to the Applicant?
A. (Condon) Yes, we have.
Q. Okay. No further questions. CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Director Muzzey.

INTERROGATORIES BY DIR. MUZZEY:
Q. This is continuing the line of questioning and discussion on the site plan review process. Within your ordinance, do you have a waiver process for applicants at the Planning Board to use?
A. (Condon) I believe so, yes. Or at least individual regulations can be waived. We agreed to that.
Q. Since your time on the board, do you have any
examples where that has happened?
A. (Condon) Not off the top of my head. I'm sure it's come up, but $I$ couldn't cite them from memory.
Q. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Any other questions from members of the Subcommittee?
(No verbal response)
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Seeing none, Attorney Richardson, do you have any further questions for your witnesses?

MR. RICHARDSON: Brief ones.
REDIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. RICHARDSON:
Q. Mr. Condon, you were asked about the 150- or 155-day period for review. But to be clear, what is the effect of the fact that -- well, is Antrim Wind's facility an allowed use?
A. (Condon) No, it is not.
Q. So what does that mean the Planning Board is required to do in the absence of a variance?
A. (Condon) That would be a full site plan review.
Q. But I mean, is a site plan review approvable for a use that's not allowed by the zoning ordinance, do you know?
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A. (Condon) I don't know.
Q. Well, let's say someone wanted to build a cement processing factory in the rural conservation district. Could you approve that?
A. (Condon) No.
Q. No.
A. (Condon) And it's not an approved use.
Q. So now I want to show you a provision, and I believe this was discussed. I don't have copies for an exhibit, so I'll just ask you to read RSA 676:4-I (b). Could you read me the highlighted provision there.
A. (Condon) Okay. "The Planning Board shall specify by regulation what constitutes a completed application sufficient to invoke jurisdiction to obtain approval."
Q. Okay. And am I correct in thinking that your site plan review checklist matches the studies that are required in your regulations?
A. (Condon) Correct. Yes.
Q. So you go through the checklist, and you check off which of the studies required by rule is in the Application.
A. (Condon) Yes.
Q. And what do your site plan regulations require
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for evaluation of wildlife impacts? What studies have to be in an application?
A. (Condon) We don't have them.
Q. What about noise impacts?
A. (Condon) We don't have any.
Q. What about aesthetics?
A. (Condon) Nothing.
Q. Okay. So, could you refuse an application that didn't have those studies in it?
A. (Condon) No.
Q. And what standards do your regulations contain regarding each of those matters?
A. (Condon) Nothing.
Q. So what would you do if one landowner were to recommend a standard of 40 dBA and another recommend 30 ?
A. (Condon) Really, we couldn't rule on that because it's not in our regulations, not in our ordinances.
Q. What are the front-yard setbacks under your zoning ordinance?

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr.
Richardson, you asked questions about that.
MR. RICHARDSON: I have setbacks
written down. I believe it was Ms. Linowes,
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based on where that is in my notes. She was asking about setbacks.

BY MR. RICHARDSON:
Q. So what are your setbacks?
A. (Condon) Off the top of my head, honestly, I'd have to look them up.

MS. LINOWES: Excuse me, Mr.
Chairman. I simply referenced the fact that the agreement that was signed between the Board of Selectmen and Antrim Wind had noted setbacks, noise and other things. I did not get into specifics.

MR. RICHARDSON: And my point is that the -CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: That's all right. The question's been asked and answered. We're good.
A. (Condon) I know it varies by district.

BY MR. RICHARDSON:
Q. Okay. But could you just give me a typical one? And I'm sorry. I forgot what your answer was.
A. (Condon) For example: I think in some areas it's 25 feet. I think it is less in, for example, the lakefront district because the
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houses are very close together. I think it's quite a bit less.
Q. And to what do your setbacks apply? Is that for buildings, structures, or both?
A. (Condon) For buildings and structures, yes.
Q. Has the Antrim Planning Board ever applied a different structure without an agreement from the landowner?
A. (Condon) No.
Q. I want to follow up, and I believe this was in the Board of Selectmen's testimony about the Town's renewable energy goals. But I guess I'll ask this to you, Mr. Webber. You've been on the Planning Board before; right?
A. (Webber) I have.
Q. How many years total?
A. (Webber) Two. No, three. Three.
Q. How does the Town's zoning ordinance take into account the benefits of a wind energy project? Is there any way to balance the benefits with the impacts under the Town's ordinance?
A. (Webber) No.
Q. Okay. And Mr. Condon, would you agree with that?
A. (Condon) Yes, I would agree.
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Q. In fact, how are energy benefits addressed in Antrim Wind's ordinance?
A. (Condon) There is no Antrim Wind ordinance.
Q. I'm sorry. In the Antrim zoning ordinance.
A. (Condon) It's not.
Q. I'd like to ask this question that was not asked on direct but came up earlier in the hearing. So I'll ask the question. If people want to object, I'll ask the witnesses to wait first.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: They all
appreciate the warning. Go ahead.
BY MR. RICHARDSON:
Q. You heard testimony earlier today about whether Antrim Wind would make the $\$ 40,000$ donation and whether the Town could use that on anything it wanted. What's your understanding of what the requirements are?

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: You can
answer. Go ahead.
A. (Webber) Okay. There are no stipulations as to how the money would be spent.
Q. But is it your understanding that a town meeting has authorized the Board of Selectmen to accept gifts up to a certain amount after a
public hearing?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. And is the Town obligated to spend those gifts in accordance with their purposes?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. And I'll refer you to RSA 31:19. Is that the statute you believe governs?
A. (Webber) Yes.
Q. Thank you. No further questions.

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Linowes, what can $I$ do for you?

MS. LINOWES: Mr. Chairman, I
just had one quick follow-up question that related. Would that be okay?

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Probably
not. What's the question?
MS. LINOWES: The question is
Attorney Richardson is raising the issue of no zoning standards for aesthetics, noise, et cetera. And my question is: Why does there have to be any ordinance in order to review the Project?

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I think that's a legal question that the lawyers will probably be writing up extensively. You
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probably will be as well.
MS. LINOWES: Okay. Thank you. CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Is there anything else?

MR. RICHARDSON: It's my hope I
don't have to write that again.
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. Witnesses, thank you for your testimony. You can just stay where you are because we're pretty much going to be done at this point.
(Whereupon the Witness Panel was excused.)

CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We are at
4:20, so we're going to break momentarily.
Let's go off the record for a few minutes.
(Discussion off the record)
CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So, let's go
back on the record. We will adjourn now and come back for 9:00 tomorrow morning, and Ms. Vissering will be testifying at that time. Thank you all very much.
(Whereupon the AFTERNOON SESSION was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE
I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes of these proceedings taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my skill and ability under the conditions present at the time.

I further certify that I am neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action; and further, that $I$ am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.

Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter Registered Professional Reporter N.H. LCR No. 44 (RSA 310-A:173)

DAY 1 - AFTERNOON SESSION ONLY - July 6, 2015 SEC DOCKET NO. 2014-15: PETITION FOR JURISDICTION OVER A RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY BY


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| committed (2) | 17:23;18:16;22:7; | ANTRIM WIND, LLC <br> 83:17;87:15 | contain (1) | create (3) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 29:25;77:1 | 48:23;61:5;87:2; | conflate (1) | 143:11 | 31:10;48:3,7 |
| Committee (74) | 120:16 | 59:24 | CONT'D (1) | created (1) |
| 7:10,25;8:22;12:1, | concerning (1) | conglomerates (1) | 3:1 | 50:24 |
| 19;14:6,8,18;15:11; | 115:5 | 92:24 | contemplated (2) | credit (2) |
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| 11,14;52:3,19;55:1,2, | conclude (4) | conservation (33) | continue (1) | 51:23 |
| 19;57:20,22;58:14, | 64:7;67:5,18;81:25 | 9:9,16;15:17,18; | 30:6 | criteria (9) |
| 19;59:10,15,17,21; | concluded (3) | 16:5,7,11,15,17; | continued (1) | 35:16;43:10,16,19, |
| 60:2,15,20;61:3,10; | 10:12;34:16;64:3 | 19:25;32:23;33:8,9, | 69:17 | 20;45:4;63:11;66:20; |
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| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 14,17;71:23;74:12, } \\ & 13 ; 78: 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 143:3,5,7,10,13,17; } \\ & \text { 144:5,18,23;145:5,9, } \end{aligned}$ | constraints (1) $31: 25$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Court (8) } \\ & 8: 9 ; 71: 2 ; 95: 18 ; \end{aligned}$ | dan |
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| $\begin{gathered} \text { 133:9 } \\ \text { education (1) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { 90:15 } \\ \text { encourage (1) } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ANTRIM WIND, LLC } \\ & \text { erected (1) } \\ & 104: 23 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 117: 25 ; 144: 7 \\ & \text { excused (1) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { eye's (1) } \\ 85: 7 \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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\hline 92:7;93:10 & 100-acre (1) & 27-megawatt (1) & 41 (1) & 56:17 \\
\hline write (1) & 133:24 & 13:22 & 116:12 & 9:00 (1) \\
\hline 148:6 & 10-mile (2) & 290 (2) & 45 (1) & 148:19 \\
\hline writing (1) & 35:9;79:25 & 40:14;41:13 & 71:25 & 900 (1) \\
\hline 147:25 & 10-turbine (3) & & 45-foot (1) & 9:7 \\
\hline written (3) & 8:3;17:1;56:18 & 3 & 10:4 & 908 (1) \\
\hline 31:20;140:8; & 11 (2) & & 47 (2) & 76:22 \\
\hline 143:25 & 73:2;110:14 & 3 (5) & 40:5,7 & \\
\hline wrong (5) & 12 (1) & \[
10: 21,24 ; 11: 1
\] & 49 (1) & \\
\hline 23:18;49:24;61:22; & 11:3 & 98:15;113:16 & 88:10 & \\
\hline 121:23;128:17 & 13 (1) & 3.0 (1) & 492 (1) & \\
\hline & 11:3 & 93:8 & 131:8 & \\
\hline Y & 15 (2) & 3.2 (1) & & \\
\hline & 95:2;110:14 & 93:7 & 5 & \\
\hline 66:18;89:22,22 & 150 (2)
\(101: 8 ; 109: 11\) & 3.5 (1)
\(61: 15\) & 5 (1) & \\
\hline 101:14;102:3,5,6; & 150-(1) & 3:12 (1) & 137:7 & \\
\hline 107:2,2;135:18 & 141:15 & 95:5 & 50 (2) & \\
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\end{tabular}```

