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A Review of the Potential for Cumulative Impacts Resulting from the Antrim Wind Project

The comprehensive visual assessment (VA) conducted by LandWorks concluded that there would be no cumulative visual impact (combined, successive, or sequential) resulting from the Project. There are a limited number of potential locations (scenic or recreational) from where a viewer could potentially see both the Lempster and proposed Antrim Wind projects. Of the ten sensitive resources that were evaluated for overall visual effect in the LandWorks VA, seven emerged with low to moderate visual effect, and only one, Willard Pond, with a moderate-high visual effect. Willard Pond has no views of Lempster Mountain or the wind project on it. Bald Mountain, another resource on the sensitive resource list, also does not have views of Lempster Mountain.

The view from Pitcher Mountain, a regional resource where both projects would be visible, does not include the two projects within the same viewing arc and thus the projects cannot be seen simultaneously. Additionally, the sheer breadth of the 360 degree view from this resource, the distance of the two projects from the viewing location (over 6 miles and 9 miles each), and the fact that there are more compelling views, which do not include the two projects (westerly, to the southern Green Mountains, and southerly, to Mount Monadnock), diminishes any sense that these two wind projects are overly prominent or have a material cumulative visual effect when considered together. This is also true of high points to the east of the Project site on the list of 10 sensitive resources such as Crotched Mountain and Clark Summit. Taking into consideration that (a) the distance of these resources from Lempster (Crotched Mountain at 21 miles and Clark Summit at 18 miles), (b) the fact that the Lempster project is not within the same viewing arc as the Antrim Project from either of these locations, and (c) the existing Lempster project was not readily visible during our site visits, we conclude that the Antrim Project will not result in any material cumulative effect.

The ponds and lakes within the 10-mile radius of the Antrim Wind Project do not appear to have views of the Lempster project. This conclusion is based both on topography and extensive field study and site visits. Of the 55 public lakes and ponds identified within the study area, only 7 have potential visibility of the Antrim Project, and only 1 is considered sensitive. None of these have views of the Lempster project. Even from ponds within Antrim's 10-mile radius that may have some limited visibility of Lempster, such as ponds in Washington (e.g. Ashuelot Pond or Millen Lake), the Antrim Project will not be visible from these locations. Therefore, there will not be any cumulative effect at these ponds and lakes.

Also there will not be views of more than one wind project at any given point as a person travels along roads throughout the region due to the local terrain and the extensive roadside vegetation. Given the nature of the landscape, views of either project also do not appear repeatedly as one travels around, as established in viewshed mapping and field study. The state scenic byway that runs through this region will also have no visibility of either project.



In conclusion, the topography of the area and extensive vegetation limit views of either project. This is supported by the viewshed mapping and extensive field study completed during the preparation of the VA. Due to the topography and vegetation, there will not be sequential or successive views of the projects as one visits scenic and recreational resources throughout the area, or as one travels around on the roadways. Even from the few high points that might have views of both projects, neither project will be seen in the same viewing arc, and the distance of the resources from either project will diminish any combined impact. Therefore, we conclude that there will be no material cumulative impacts in the Project viewshed affecting aesthetics or scenic beauty.

