

**PC 1-22:** Please identify the basis upon which AWE is relying to support its contention that the Project is consistent with the Antrim Master Plan.

**Response:** AWE is relying on several statements contained in various sections of the 2010 Antrim Master Plan, for example, to support its position that the Project is consistent with the Master Plan. The points below, together with the clear support from the Town of Antrim, support AWE's position that its Project is consistent with the Antrim Master Plan.

- Vision Section: The Overall Community Vision found in Section II, page 2 of the 2010 Antrim Master identifies a list of characteristics that Antrim citizens want for their town. The list contains eight characteristics with descriptions, as follows:
  - **Safe** – A place where all people are reasonably free of fear of injury or loss of property. A place where help, when needed, is readily accessible.
  - **Rural** – A community that preserves its small town character through open landscapes and preservation of its historical and cultural resources.
  - **Affordable** – A community where the cost of living allows people of modest means to enjoy a reasonable quality of life.
  - **Community spirit** – A place where neighbors know and care for each other. A place with strong social institutions, citizen participation, and volunteerism.
  - **A diverse economy** – A town with a broad economic base that is not tied to any particular industry or business and with opportunities for earning a living within a supportive, modern infrastructure.
  - **Pride in ownership** – Home and business owners are vested in the long term success of the community. Local ownership of property creates a stable and committed citizenry that is invested in the town's future.
  - **Effective local government** – A town government that listens and is responsive to its citizens and efficiently delivers services.
  - **Sustainable** – Effective planning and wise use of resources will ensure the long term viability of the community. A town whose future is secure.

Consistent with these characteristics, the Antrim Project:

- Will not impair the safety of the citizens of Antrim;
- Will permanently conserve large tracts of open space in Antrim and help maintain large segments of intact forest as open space in perpetuity, while generating significant clean energy for a finite period of time in a manner that allows rural recreation to continue;
- Will become the largest tax payer in Antrim, helping keep Antrim and affordable place to live;
- Will help support the ethic of giving through such initiatives as the annual gift to the Antrim Scholarship Committee which will increase the Committee's capacity to provide scholarship funds by approximately 25%;
- Adds needed diversity to the Antrim economy that will enhance economic stability;
- Will be built upon private property and advances the interests of private property owners in Antrim;
- Is supported by the elected town government officials in Antrim who are acting on behalf of their citizens;

- Enhances sustainability in Antrim by adding significant new clean energy to the New Hampshire and New England power system, displacing fossil fuels, and will create a permanent legacy of nearly 1,000 acres of open space, while also becoming the largest taxpayer in Town for the next 20 years or more.

As noted above, the Antrim Wind Project will not impair, but rather, it will advance the goals identified in the vision section of the Antrim Master Plan.

In addition to the general topics listed above, there are additional specific sections of the Master Plan that the Project does not materially impact or materially advances, such as:

- Chapter III – Natural Resources and Conservation. This chapter of the Master Plan identifies the strong emphasis in Antrim and surrounding communities on open space preservation, particularly in the western and northern parts of Antrim. AWE paid particular attention to this emphasis on preserving open space and commenced efforts very early on to negotiate and execute binding letters of intent with private landowners to permanently conserve over 900 acres of valuable forestland in these desired portions of Antrim. This section of the Master Plan also references the desire to avoid excessive subdivision developments and commercial “big box store” type developments, that could increase traffic patterns in town. The Antrim Wind Project, by permanently conserving these large tracts of land, will prevent any future development, including subdivisions or big box stores in these areas that could otherwise be developed. Additionally, the significant new revenue from the PILOT agreement will reduce pressure to attract other forms of development such as subdivisions or big box stores elsewhere in Town. Further, the Antrim Wind Project will not create new burdens on the Town for municipal services such as schooling, policing, snow plowing, etc, and will not result in any material increase to traffic patterns in Town.
- Chapter IV – Energy Usage and Conservation. AWE believes that this entire chapter is supportive of clean energy projects, such as Antrim Wind. The examples included in this chapter are too numerous to list here. AWE has provided a copy of this chapter of the Master Plan with its Application to the SEC as Appendix 15. This chapter makes clear that Antrim residents support the expansion of clean energy to address the issue of climate change and also to help keep energy costs down.
- Chapter V – Water Resources. Antrim Wind will not negatively impact the water resources in the Town of Antrim and will have a de minimis impact on wetlands, with total impacts of less than ¼ acre. Antrim Wind has also agreed to commit funds to enhancing the recreational facilities at the Gregg Lake Beach area. The Project will also not impair the values identified in the Master Plan for Willard Pond as an excellent coldwater fishery. The Antrim Project will not have any impact on the quality of the fishery at Willard Pond or other waterbodies in Antrim.
- Chapter VI – Earth Excavations – This chapter lists excavation sites in the Town of Antrim. The Antrim Wind Project will be constructed in such a manner as to “balance the site” which means that AWE will create its own aggregate material from construction activities on-site and does not expect to require importation of aggregate from other excavation sites in Town and as such will not impact these facilities.

- Chapters VII & VIII – Current and Future Land Use. The Antrim Wind Project will not alter other current land uses in Town nor inhibit desired future land uses in Town. Additionally the permanent conservation of significant amounts of open space and the creation of significant and stable new tax revenue contribute positively in material ways to future land use goals in Antrim.
- Chapter IX – Population and Housing – The Antrim Wind Project will not materially increase the population in Antrim or alter existing or desired future population and housing trends.
- Chapter X – Community Facilities. The Antrim Wind Project will not have any material impact on Town Facilities mentioned in the Master Plan such as Town Hall, the Police Department, the Fire Department, Ambulance Services, Highways and Roads (turbines and heavy construction equipment will be transported on State Highways and only in significant volumes during construction), Solid Waste Facilities, Water and Sewer Facilities, the Public Water System, The Tuttle Library, Aiken Barn, Memorial Park and Bandstand, or Cemeteries.
- Chapter XI – Historic and Cultural Resources. Antrim Wind has completed the Section 106 process in accordance with Federal laws with the US Army Corps as the lead reviewing agency. US Army Corps has issued letters to the Committee indicating that no further consultation regarding historic resources is necessary.
- Chapter XII – Economic Development. This chapter identifies three important elements that the Antrim Project advances:
  - The opening paragraph states “the lack of a diverse tax base burdens the residential taxpayer.” Antrim Wind will diversify the tax base, becoming the largest taxpayer in town and a net positive economic engine in the Town and region;
  - The increased revenue available to the Town will support continued investments in local infrastructure, an important goal identified in this chapter; and
  - The significant new permanent open space preservation, at no cost to the Town of Antrim, will support the balanced development approach that is articulated in this chapter.
- Chapter XIII – Traffic and Transportation. Because the Antrim Project will be accessed directly off of NH Route 9, all turbine components and heavy equipment can be transported to the site without the need to burden local roads. Virtually all of this traffic will occur over a relatively short period of time during construction and thereafter, the Antrim Project will not have any material impact on local traffic or transportation resources.