

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Docket No. SEC 2015-02

APPLICATION OF ANTRIM WIND ENERGY, LLC
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY

SUPPLEMENTAL PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ROBERT D. O'NEAL
ON BEHALF OF ANTRIM WIND ENERGY, LLC

1 **I. Compliance with Newly Adopted SEC Rules**

2 **Q. Have you reviewed the Pre-Filed Testimony of Lisa Linowes?**

3 A. Yes.

4 **Q. In her Pre-Filed Testimony, Ms. Linowes asserts that the Sound Study**
5 **developed by Epsilon Associates does not comply with the SEC's new rules. Do you agree**
6 **with this assertion.**

7 A. No I do not. The NH SEC rules were followed in the February 17, 2016 Antrim
8 Wind Sound Level Assessment Report (the "Sound Report"). A detailed discussion of certain
9 comments will follow below.

10 **Q. Have you reviewed the Pre-Filed Testimony of Richard James?**

11 A. Yes.

12 **Q. Mr. James concludes that due to alleged flaws in the Epsilon model, the**
13 **Sound Report developed is unreliable and unsuitable for making decisions under the SEC**
14 **Rules. Do you agree with Mr. James' characterization of the Sound Report?**

15 A. No, I disagree with Mr. James. The Sound Report followed the new SEC rules.
16 Moreover, the prediction techniques used by Epsilon Associates here have been used in other
17 cases as well where post-construction measurements confirmed their accuracy, including at a
18 previously approved project in New Hampshire which holds an SEC Certificate.

19 **Q. NH Site 301.18 governs sound study methodology. Did Epsilon follow the**
20 **newly adopted rules when developing the Sound Report for this Project?**

21 A. Yes, the newly adopted SEC rules were followed. Some specific points, which
22 were raised in the testimony filed by Ms. Linowes or Mr. James, are discussed below:

- 1 • 301.18(b)(8) of the rules requires A-weighted and C-weighted sound levels for
2 L10, Leq, and L90 as part of the pre-construction measurement program. Tables
3 5-2, 5-3, and 5-4 in the Sound Report provide the required data. Since sound
4 levels are not constant, it is useful to provide various indicators of each level
5 (minimum; maximum; average for example) to better describe how sound levels
6 vary over time at each location.
- 7 • On October 2, 2015 AWE filed their Application with the SEC. The Sound Study
8 report as part of that Application was dated June 8, 2015. There were five (5)
9 fewer receptors analyzed in the 2016 Sound Report as compared to the 2015 Sound
10 Study report. Four of the properties (both Whittemore properties, the Micheli
11 property and the Ott property) are participating landowners that have agreements
12 with AWE with respect to both sound and flicker and the fifth property, Mr.
13 Courturier, is a dilapidated hunting camp with no running water or electricity and
14 SEC rules do not require that it be evaluated for sound or flicker impacts. In any
15 event, all five of these locations are shown to be less than 40 dBA at any time of
16 the day or night, and thus meet the SEC nighttime sound standard.

17 **Q. In her Pre-Filed Testimony, Ms. Linowes asserts that the Shadow Flicker**
18 **Study developed by Epsilon Associates does not comply with the SEC’s new rules. Do you**
19 **agree with this assertion.**

20 A. No I do not. The NH SEC rules were followed in the February 17, 2016 (revised)
21 Antrim Wind Shadow Flicker Analysis report (the “Flicker Report”). A detailed discussion of
22 certain comments will follow below.

23 **II. Compliance with ISO Standards**

1 **Q. Ms. Linowes asserts that the Sound Report does not properly follow the ISO**
2 **9613-2 standards as required pursuant to the NH SEC regulations. Do you agree with this**
3 **assessment?**

4
5 A. No. The ISO 9613-2 standard is implemented through the use of a commercial
6 software package (Cadna/A) which incorporates the sound propagation equations presented in
7 the standard. Additional points are discussed below.

8 **Q. Ms. Linowes asserts on Page 6 of her Pre-Filed Testimony that the Report**
9 **omits the +/- 3 dBA correction included in Clause 9 of ISO 9613-2. Is that correct? If so,**
10 **why was it omitted?**

11 A. Ms. Linowes’ assertion fails to accurately describe Clause 9 of ISO 9613-2.
12 Clause 9 of the ISO 9613-2 standard discusses “Accuracy and limitations of the method.” It is
13 not a “correction” factor, therefore it is not necessary to add it to the sound level results. In fact,
14 it would be wrong and improper to apply these accuracy levels to a wind energy project for the
15 following reason. The ISO 9613-2 standard states, for receivers at a distance between 100
16 meters (328 feet) and 1,000 meters (3,280 feet) from a source AND ranging from 0 to 30 meters
17 (98 feet) high, the model results are estimated to be accurate to +/- 3 dBA. Hub heights of the
18 wind turbines range from 79.5 m (261 feet) to 92.5 m (303 feet) which is well above the 98 foot
19 limit in the accuracy clause. Therefore, this accuracy clause is not applicable. There is no +/- 3
20 dBA “correction.” The Sound Report correctly followed the ISO 9613-2 standard.

21 **Q. Does Epsilon’s decision not to apply the +/- 3 dBA “correction” result in non-**
22 **compliance with the standard?**

23 A. No. The Project has followed the ISO 9613-2 standard, and there is no +/- 3 dBA
24 “correction” required by the standard. For reasons detailed above, the +/- 3 dBA item mentioned

1 by Ms. Linowes is an estimated accuracy parameter which does not apply to the sources in this
2 Project.

3 **Q. Ms. Linowes asserts on Page 6 of her Pre-Filed Testimony that the predicted**
4 **sound levels only apply under wind speeds less than 2 m/s. Is this true?**

5 A. No. Clause 5 of the ISO 9613-2 standard states that downwind conditions for this
6 method apply when “wind speed is between approximately 1 m/s and 5 m/s, measured at a height
7 of 3 m to 11 m above the ground.”

8 **Q. On Page 9 of his Pre-Filed Testimony Mr. James asserts that the model used**
9 **by Epsilon does not include adjustments to account for ISO confidence limits. Is this**
10 **correct?**

11 A. No. It is unclear what Mr. James is referring to in his comment. The ISO 9613-2
12 standard does not contain any discussion of confidence limits. As noted by Mr. James, the
13 measurement uncertainty in the sound power levels of the turbines (as provided by the
14 manufacturer Siemens) was included in the modeling as required by 301.18(c)(2).

15 **Q. In his assessment of the Wallace paper Mr. James notes that +2 dBA must be**
16 **added to account for uncertainty and +3 dBA must be added to reflect mathematical**
17 **limitations inherent in ISO 9613-2. Was this done in the Sound Report? If not, why not?**

18 A. The manufacturer’s uncertainty was included in the Sound Report. However, as
19 noted on Page 7-1 of the Sound Study, it is +1.5 dBA, not +2 dBA as mistakenly reported by Mr.
20 James. In addition, as discussed above, there is no +/- 3 dBA “correction” required by the ISO
21 9613-2 standard. The +/- 3 dBA term is an “accuracy” estimate. Significantly, it does not apply
22 to this Project for reasons mentioned above. More importantly, a careful reading of the Wallace
23 et al. paper confirms the SEC methodology as used by Epsilon. The Stetson Mountain I wind

1 farm mentioned in the Wallace paper is a ridgeline wind farm. Antrim Wind is also a ridgeline
 2 wind farm. Figure 16 of that paper compares the modeled pre-construction and measured post-
 3 construction sound levels at a nearby residence under strong wind shear conditions. At the
 4 highest sound power level, the highest measured Leq (A-weighted) was 4 dBA LESS than the
 5 modeled Leq (A-weighted). The modeling had assumed the 2 dBA manufacturer's uncertainty
 6 plus an additional 3 dBA for a total of a 5 dBA margin. Thus the modeling over predicted reality
 7 by 4 dBA. The 2 dBA uncertainty from the manufacturer was more than enough to make the
 8 model prediction overly conservative. Even if the preconstruction sound modeling for Stetson
 9 had not included the additional 3 dBA, it still would have over predicted the actual measured
 10 sound levels by 1 dBA. These facts confirm that the ISO 9613-2 standard as implemented by
 11 Epsilon in this study yields reliable, realistic results. The values cited above from the Wallace
 12 Study are summarized below in Table 1. The values if that study had not added an additional 3
 13 dBA to the modeling are summarized below in Table 2.

Table 1 Summary of Wallace paper results (CP-4 at Stetson Mountain I)

Scenario	Sound level (dBA)
Pre-construction model without any adjustment	45.5
Turbine manufacturer's uncertainty	+/- 2
Accuracy estimate	+/- 3
Total pre-construction model with uncertainty & accuracy estimate	50.5
Post-construction measurement	46.5
Amount of over estimation by model	4.0

Table 2 Summary with 3 dBA accuracy removed

Scenario	Sound level (dBA)
Pre-construction model without any adjustment	45.5
Turbine manufacturer's uncertainty	+/- 2
Accuracy estimate	--
Total pre-construction model with uncertainty & accuracy estimate	47.5
Post-construction measurement	46.5
Amount of over estimation by model	1.0

1 There are more examples of actual, measured sound levels from operating wind farms that
2 confirm adding an additional 3 dBA is not appropriate to accurately predict sound levels in the
3 real world. For example, post-construction sound level measurements at Groton Wind, a New
4 Hampshire ridgeline site, found that the predicted sound levels from pre-construction modeling
5 were conservative (higher) than post-construction measurements.¹ In addition, data from a
6 recent acoustical research study found using the manufacturer's uncertainty yielded similar
7 results between pre-construction modeling and post-construction measurement.² None of these
8 studies added an additional 3 dBA as suggested by Mr. James.

9
10 **Q. Please explain the ISO standard for the ground factor. Do you agree with**
11 **Mr. James' evaluation of ground factor on Page 17 of his Pre-Filed Testimony? Why did**
12 **Epsilon choose to use a ground factor of 0.5?**

13 A. No, I disagree with Mr. James' evaluation of the ground factor and I believe his
14 assertions are inconsistent with the ISO standard. The ISO standard is very clear on the type of
15 ground (porous; mixed; hard), and values for each, which were followed in the Sound Report. In
16 addition, post-construction sound level measurements at many operating wind farms have
17 confirmed that Epsilon's ground factor is valid.

18 The ground effect is one of several attenuation terms in the ISO 9613-2 standard (Section
19 7.3). As part of the ground effect attenuation, a "ground factor" or "G" factor is part of the
20 equation. The acoustical properties of the ground between the source and receiver are taken into
21 account through this G factor, which can range from 0 to 1. A G=0 is for hard ground including
22 paving, water, ice, concrete, and all other ground surfaces having a low porosity. A G=1 is for

¹ http://www.nhsec.nh.gov/projects/2010-01/documents/140723sound_report.pdf

² RSG et al, "Massachusetts Study on Wind Turbine Acoustics," Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, 2016.

1 porous ground, which includes ground covered by grass, trees or other vegetation, and all other
2 ground surfaces suitable for the growth of vegetation. The area around the Antrim Wind Project
3 is almost exclusively “porous” ground, however, to be conservative, “mixed ground” with a
4 $G=0.5$ was used in the sound modeling.

5 The Wallace et al paper cited earlier used a $G=0.5$ (mixed ground) and found that the
6 actual sound levels were 4 dBA LOWER than the modeled sound levels. This was for a
7 ridgeline wind farm largely surrounded by woods and vegetation very similar to the Antrim
8 Project.

9 **Q. On Page 11 of his Pre-Filed Testimony Mr. James makes some comments**
10 **about the conservative modeling assumptions used by Epsilon. Are these correct?**

11 A. No. None of Mr. James’ comments are supported by the ISO 9613-2 standard.
12 Mr. James makes the claims that Epsilon’s report is not conservative because:

- 13 1. wind turbine noise source exceeds the height above the receiver permitted for the
14 model,
- 15 2. receivers are more than 1 km from the wind turbines, and
- 16 3. that the meteorological conditions defined for use of the ISO standard within the
17 +/- 3dB tolerance assume wind turbines are operating in calm winds....

18 These unsupported claims are responded to as follows:

- 19 1. There is no “limit” on the height above receiver in the model. This applies to the
20 accuracy estimate in Section 9 of the standard as previously discussed. And as
21 demonstrated by post construction studies, the ISO 9613-2 standard for wind
22 turbine modeling has proven to be conservative, when used with the settings used
23 by Epsilon in this study.

- 1 2. Most receivers are more than 1 km (3,280 feet) from a wind turbine (which is why
2 the sound levels are all quite low). However, once again, Mr. James has
3 incorrectly suggested that the ISO 9613-2 standard is not valid. This 1 km limit
4 only applies to the accuracy discussion in Section 9 of the standard as previously
5 discussed, and as demonstrated, using the ISO 9613-2 standard for wind turbine
6 modeling with the settings used by Epsilon in this study, has proven to be quite
7 accurate.
- 8 3. Finally, as demonstrated earlier, Section 5 of ISO 9613-2 states the model is valid
9 for wind speeds of 1 m/s to 5 m/s as measured at a height of 3 to 11 meters above
10 the ground. These are not “calm” winds as Mr. James claims.

11 **III. Methodology for the Sound Report and Shadow Flicker Report**

12 **Q. On Page 3 of his Pre-Filed Testimony, Mr. James suggests a number of**
13 **deficiencies in the methodology used in the Sound Report developed by Epsilon Associates,**
14 **please comment on Mr. James assessment.**

15 A. Mr. James is wrong in his suggestion that the Sound Study is deficient for the
16 following reasons.

17 With regard to the selection of the background measurement locations, ANSI S12.9-
18 1992/Part 2 (R2013) is clear in Section 5.1.1 that “deterministic spatial sampling,” the method
19 used by Epsilon, is perfectly valid. This allow sites to be selected as representative of the sound
20 levels in the total area. These sites were selected to represent the closest residential areas in each
21 direction around the wind farm, as well as residences on a busy road (NH Route 9), less traveled
22 roads (Salmon Brook Rd; Reed Carr Rd; Loveren Mill Rd), and a recreation area (Gregg Lake).
23 In addition, Section 7.2 of ANSI S12.9-1992/Part 2 clearly directs that measurement of the total

1 ambient sound in an area is desired, and “all noises at a site are included in the measurement.”
2 By its very definition, the L90 statistic is used to remove all transient sounds (see ANSI S12.9-
3 2013/Part 3 Section 6.6(3) which states “use of the L-90 will automatically remove transient
4 background sounds from the result.”). The L90 background sound level was measured at each
5 site and these results are in the Sound Study.

6 Mr. James is also incorrect regarding his assertion that the sound propagation modeling is
7 only valid during “calm” winds. The SEC regulations require the use of the ISO 9613-2
8 propagation standard to conduct the predictive sound modeling and that is what Epsilon used.
9 Furthermore, the ISO 9613-2 standard is very clear in Section 5 that the model is valid for “wind
10 speed between approximately 1 m/s and 5 m/s, measured at a height of 3m to 11m above the
11 ground.”

12 Finally, the Sound Study used the manufacturer’s Leq sound levels, and their associated
13 uncertainty, in accordance with the IEC 61400 Part 11 standard, and the SEC regulations. Mr.
14 James’ suggestion that different wind turbine data should have been used in the modeling is not
15 supported by the rules or common professional practice.

16 **Q. On Page 3, Mr. James asserts that the background sound study used**
17 **improper locations for test instruments and that testing protocols were used that do not**
18 **meet the New Hampshire SEC regulatory requirements. Do you agree with this**
19 **assessment? How were locations chosen?**

20 A. No. Please see the answer provided above.

21 **Q. Mr. James asserts on Page 4 that the sound propagation modeling used**
22 **under-estimates the sound levels that will be received. Has the modeling used for this**
23 **Project been used for other projects?**

1 A. Yes.

2 **Q. Has the accuracy of this modeling methodology been tested?**

3 A. Yes it has, and the examples discussed earlier in my testimony concerning the
4 Stetson I and Groton wind farms confirm that post-construction testing has found that actual
5 sound levels, post-construction, are lower than the pre-construction model predictions.

6 **Q. Mr. James concludes his Pre-Filed Testimony by asserting that the Sound**
7 **Report developed by Epsilon is unreliable because of flaws in the methodology. Do you**
8 **agree with Mr. James' characterization?**

9 A. No I do not. The methodology is not "flawed" but rather follows the SEC rules
10 and applicable ISO and ANSI standards, which have proven reliable as shown by actual results at
11 many other wind farms including Groton Wind, a NH ridgeline wind farm approved by the SEC.

12 **Q. Mr. James asserts on Page 18 of his Pre-Filed Testimony that 18 receptors**
13 **will experience noise levels at 43 dBA. Do you agree with Mr. James assessment and**
14 **evaluation? What accounts for the difference between the Epsilon assessment and Mr.**
15 **James' prediction?**

16 A. No, I disagree with Mr. James. As an initial matter, the June 2015 report has been
17 replaced by the updated February 17, 2016 Sound Report so Mr. James's comments pertain to
18 the wrong report. The updated Sound Report shows maximum predicted sound levels at a
19 residence will be 38 dBA, not 43 dBA. Mr. James has erroneously added an additional
20 "accuracy" factor of 3 dBA, plus an additional 3 dBA to change the ground attenuation factor,
21 for a total of an additional 6 dBA on top of the manufacturer's uncertainty level. Neither of
22 these "adjustments" are valid for reasons discussed earlier in this testimony. The addition of an
23 extra 6 dBA is not supported by the science or the rules. To take the Stetson I example again, if

1 that preconstruction study had included his additional 6 dBA, the model would have over
2 predicted actual measured results by 7 dBA. This is the equivalent of expecting the sound levels
3 to be more than 5X higher than they actually were. There is no rational basis for this. Therefore,
4 no residential locations in the study will experience sound levels of 43 dBA, rather the model
5 shows that the maximum will be 38 dBA and this is highly likely to be a conservative estimate,
6 given the results of post construction studies that have been performed on other ridgeline wind
7 projects in New England that have employed similar preconstruction modeling methodologies.

8 **Q. Mr. James notes in his testimony that “One paper provides a historical**
9 **review of other types of noise sources with similar sound emission characteristics to wind**
10 **turbines that have known adverse health effects on people exposed to their sound.” Can**
11 **you comment on this assertion?**

12 A. I am not a health expert. However, through many years of extensive experience
13 working in this field, I am aware of many peer-reviewed publications that have been published
14 worldwide examining the relationship between wind turbines and possible human health impacts.
15 These studies have concluded that there is no causal relationship between wind turbines and any
16 adverse health effects. Examples of some studies include:

- 17
- 18 • Health Canada. Wind Turbine Noise and Health. The Government of Canada. 2014.
19 Available online: [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/noise-bruit/turbine-
20 eoliennes/summary-resume-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/noise-bruit/turbine-
20 eoliennes/summary-resume-eng.php)
 - 21 • Michaud, DS. 2015. Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study: Summary of Results. 6th
22 International Meeting on Wind Turbine Noise, Glasgow.

- 1 • Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Public
2 Health. Wind Turbine Health Impact Study: Report on Independent Expert Panel.
3 Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Public Health (2012).
- 4 • Merlin T, Newton S, Ellery B, Milverton J, Farah C. Systematic Review of the Human
5 Health Effects of Wind Farms. Canberra, ACT: Australia National Health and Medical
6 Research Council (2014).
- 7 • McCunney, Robert J., K. Mundt, W. D. Colby, R. Dobie, K. Kaliski, and M. Blais.
8 “Wind Turbines and Health: A Critical Review of the Scientific Literature.” Journal of
9 Occupational and Environmental Medicine 56 (11), November 2014.

10 **Q. In his Testimony, Mr. James’ claims that certain requirements in the ANSI**
11 **standard were not met by the Epsilon Sound Study, can you comment on this assertion?**

12 A. Yes, Mr. James’ claims are incorrect for the reasons outlined below, which
13 highlight Mr. James’ assertions, the actual requirements in the ANSI standard, and how Epsilon
14 met them:

- 15 a. Mr. James claims, testing sites should be in “people’s back yards.” The ANSI S12.9-
16 1992/Part 2 (R2013) standard has no such requirement. Rather the standard states
17 “...these sites to be representative of the sound levels in the total area from which the
18 sites are selected.” Mr. James mistakenly assumes that all residents who live along a
19 busy road such as NH Route 9 do not experience the sound currently generated by traffic
20 noise at their houses, and somehow this noise should not “count.” This is incorrect.
- 21 b. Mr. James claims that Epsilon did not meet ANSI requirements because “test locations
22 were near reflecting objects, trees, shrubs and other vegetation.” The ANSI S12.9-
23 2013/Part 3 standard requires microphones be at least 7.5 meters from a reflecting surface
24

1 such as a house – all equipment met this requirement. The standard states that reflecting
2 objects with small dimensions (trees, posts, bushes, etc) should not be within 1.5 meters
3 of the microphone – all equipment met this requirement.

4 c. Mr. James claims, transient noise was not excluded from sounds collected during the
5 monitoring period. Section 7.2 of ANSI S12.9-1992/Part 2 clearly directs that
6 measurement of the total ambient sound in an area is desired, and “all noises at a site are
7 included in the measurement.” By its very definition, the L90 statistic is used to remove
8 all transient sounds (see ANSI S12.9-2013/Part 3 Section 6.6(3) which states “use of the
9 L-90 will automatically remove transient background sounds from the result.”). The L90
10 background sound level was measured at each site and these results are in the Sound
11 Study.

12 d. Mr. James claims on Page 5 of his Pre-Filed Testimony, inclusion of extraneous data (L
13 A90) is misleading. Section 301.18(b)(8) of the SEC rules requires A-weighted and C-
14 weighted sound levels for L10, Leq, and L90 as part of the pre-construction measurement
15 program. Tables 5-2, 5-3, and 5-4 in the Sound Report provide the required data. Since
16 sound levels are not constant, it is useful to provide various indicators of each level
17 (minimum; maximum; average for example) to better describe how sound levels vary
18 over time at each location. The inclusion of additional data in the report does not make it
19 misleading or inappropriate.

20 e. In his Pre-Filed Testimony, Mr. James provides a list of selected items from several parts
21 of ANSI standards with the assertion that the Epsilon Sound study did not meet these
22 requirements. This is not correct as all the selected items noted by Mr. James were

1 properly accounted for and Mr. James' list has no bearing on how the Antrim Wind
2 background sound testing was conducted. For example:

- 3 • Transient sounds were removed (see L90 data),
- 4 • Microphones were more than 7.5 m from a reflecting surface, and more than 1.5
5 m from trees, and there were no leaves on the trees in January.
- 6 • Any data collected during periods of precipitation were excluded
- 7 • Any data collected during periods of 5 m/s winds (ANSI limit) or 4 m/s winds
8 (SEC limit) were excluded
- 9 • Proper windscreens were used over each microphone.

10 **Q. Mr. James' state in his Pre-Filed Testimony that, "It is a myth that wind**
11 **induced noise will mask the noise of wind turbines in high wind conditions." Do you have**
12 **any comments on this statement?**

13 A. There is no requirement in the SEC rules to discuss or analyze whether a wind
14 turbine will be audible or not at a residence. The NH SEC sound level standard is 45 dBA
15 during the day, and 40 dBA at night at residential structures. The Sound Study has analyzed
16 Antrim Wind with respect to that standard. For perspective, the World Health Organization
17 (WHO) Community Noise Guidelines recommend an 8-hour nighttime sound level (Leq) of 45
18 dBA outside a home to prevent sleep disturbance. The SEC nighttime limit of 40 dBA is
19 significantly less than the WHO sleep disturbance guideline, and the Antrim Project will meet
20 the stricter SEC standard.

21 **Q. On Page 7 of her Pre-Filed Testimony Ms. Linowes claims, "a separate model**
22 **for predicted sound emissions from the substation was omitted from the 2016 report." Do**

1 **you agree with this statement? If so, why were sound emissions from the substation**
2 **omitted?**

3 A. The SEC rules do not require a separate model for sound emissions from the
4 substation. Information on sound levels from the substation was included in the model and is
5 discussed in Section 7.2 of the Sound Study filed initially with the Application and the updated
6 Sound Study filed with the Committee on February 19, 2016. Sound levels from the proposed
7 substation are included in the total modeling results in the Sound Report.

8 **Q. Ms. Linowes asserts that Epsilon “failed to appropriately account for a pure**
9 **tone emanating from the substation,” and “given the likelihood of pure tone sound**
10 **emissions, the substation may be subject to noise penalties required in Site 301.18(h).” Do**
11 **you agree with her assertions?**

12 A. No. The SEC rules in Site 301.18(h) do discuss pure tone sounds, however this
13 discussion is in the context of post construction sound measurements. The rule specifically
14 states, “Noise emissions shall be free of audible tones, and if the presence of a pure tone
15 frequency is detected, a 5 dB penalty shall be added to the measured dBA sound level”
16 (emphasis added). The rule is clear that pure tone sounds are to be addressed in post
17 construction sound measurements and not in preconstruction sound modeling. Epsilon’s
18 modeling is consistent with all of the requirements of the SEC rules, including with respect to
19 substation sound and pure tone sounds.

20 **Q. Ms. Linowes makes a number of assertions about alleged inaccuracies or**
21 **errors in the shadow flicker study, can you address those concerns?**

22 A. Yes. Ms. Linowes raises these issues in Section 8 of her Pre-Filed Testimony,
23 and I will address them in order.

- 1 • Section 8.a of her testimony references five properties that were removed from the 2016
2 updated shadow flicker study that had been previously included in the 2015 version of the
3 study. These five properties were removed from the flicker report for the same reasons as
4 the Sound Study. Four of the properties (both Whittemore properties, the Micheli
5 property and the Ott property) are participating landowners that have agreements with
6 AWE with respect to both sound and flicker and the fifth property, Mr. Courturier, is a
7 dilapidated hunting camp with no running water or electricity and is not required to be
8 evaluated for sound or flicker impacts by the SEC rules.
- 9 • Section 8.b. of her testimony claims that the Epsilon study “does not establish that the
10 “rotor-plane of the turbine is always perpendicular to the sun” with respect to the
11 definition of astronomical maximum. In Epsilon’s study, astronomical maximum
12 calculations are performed where the rotor plane of the turbine is always perpendicular to
13 the line between the sun and the receiver.
- 14 • Section 8.c. of her testimony takes issue with limiting shadow flicker calculations to 1
15 mile. Ms. Linowes’ real issue here seems to be with the language of the SEC rules rather
16 than Epsilon’s study. The Epsilon Flicker study analyzed potential flicker impacts at all
17 locations out to one mile in accordance with SEC rules. Ms. Linowes’ argument that she
18 can “demonstrate” that shadow flicker will occur beyond 1 mile by comparing the 2016
19 results to the original 2015 results is baseless. In the 2015 study, Epsilon calculated
20 shadow flicker effects out to 10 times the rotor diameter, in accordance with industry
21 standards. In order to comply with the new SEC rules to increase the evaluation out to 1
22 mile, Epsilon is essentially telling the model to show shadow flicker effects at all
23 locations out to 1 mile at any time there is a line of sight between a receptor and the

1 turbine/sun. This artifact of the model does not mean that actual shadow flicker will
2 occur. Epsilon's study meets all requirements in the SEC rules.

3 **Q. Are there any other comments you would like to make in response to any**
4 **intervenor's testimony in this Docket?**

5 A. Yes. Given the technical nature of the sound and flicker studies performed by
6 Epsilon and to avoid any confusion relating to assertions made by Ms. Linowes and Mr. James in
7 their Pre-Filed Testimony, I would like to briefly summarize my responses below:

- 8 • The preconstruction sound study and shadow flicker study were performed in accordance
9 with all SEC rules and all applicable ISO/ANSI standards;
- 10 • All of the model inputs used in the sound and flicker models are typical of those used for
11 wind projects in forested hilly terrain such as this;
- 12 • The results generated by utilizing the Epsilon sound and flicker methodology are highly
13 reliable and have been found to be conservative in other circumstances and are expected
14 to be conservative here;
- 15 • Finally, as an added layer of protection and certainty, the SEC rules require post
16 construction sound testing to ensure compliance with the SEC rules. Thus in the highly
17 unlikely event that any exceedance of sound limits occurs, Antrim Wind will be required
18 to cure the issue. AWE is confident in the results of its modeling and has no issue with a
19 condition of its Certificate requiring that sounds not exceed 45 dBA day/40 dBA night as
20 the rules require.

21 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

22 A. Yes.