

State of New Hampshire
Site Evaluation Committee

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Dianne Martin
Chairwoman

Robert R. Scott
Vice-Chair

April 13, 2021

Dear Senator Bradley, Senator Giuda, Senator Ward, and Representative Vose:

This letter is in response to your letter received by the Site Evaluation Committee on February 3, 2021. During the first public meeting of the Committee following receipt of your letter, the Committee discussed your letter and the many issues raised therein. Through this correspondence we are updating you on the actions that the full Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) has taken and we wish to reiterate our commitment to a fair and transparent process in addressing citizen complaints.

On the afternoon of March 25, 2021, the SEC held a remote public meeting to discuss, among other items, noise complaints related to the Antrim Wind Energy project and the concerns raised by members of the public about the November 23, 2020, public meeting of the SEC. Regarding notice of meetings, the SEC decided at its March meeting that an email address list would be created that would include all related service lists from past relevant SEC dockets. It was agreed that while such a listing could very well be too expansive, that the committee would rather err on the side of being too inclusive. This listing will be the basis of notifications for future public meetings that are not part of an open docket. For open dockets, the distribution list for that docket will continue to be used.

Since September 2020, the committee has been without an administrator to evaluate noise complaints, respond to public inquiries, and assess compliance with our administrative rules related to sound measurements and the conditions in the Antrim Wind certificate of site and facility. In the absence of any staff, the multi-member SEC must respond to public inquiries, evaluate complaints, and monitor energy facilities to ensure compliance. No individual member may speak for the SEC or act on behalf of the SEC unless a quorum of the SEC gathers in a public meeting and votes to delegate to that member the authority to do so.

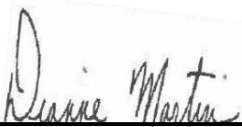
Given these circumstances, the SEC voted to create a subcommittee to investigate each complaint related to Antrim Wind, LLC and to evaluate the proper application of our rules and to make recommendations to the full committee. In order to assist in this effort, the SEC authorized the Chairwoman to retain necessary technical and legal support for the subcommittee's work and directed Antrim Wind Energy LLC to fund that support. It is our hope that this three-person subcommittee will be able to hear and fully evaluate the public's concerns. It will report its recommendations to the full SEC.

Finally, the SEC is requesting your support in funding the SEC administrator position, as a permanent employee or as a consultant as provided for in statute. As you are aware, the application and filing fees can only be used to pay compensation and reimbursements to the public members, state agency members, and Counsel for the Public. All other costs, including the costs of the administrator, costs for statutorily required public meetings, and committee training, must be funded through some other means. The current statute provides for funding of these costs from the General Fund.

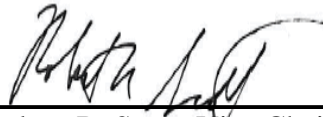
It is important to note that even when new applications are not under review, there is still a requirement that existing projects be evaluated for compliance and that we appropriately respond to complaints and other inquiries. Our experience of late is that there is considerable reluctance at the legislature to fund these activities, while at the same time there has been a consistent push to meet the statutory mandate. We respectfully request your assistance in resolving this dichotomy.

In closing, the SEC is committed to meeting our statutory requirements transparently and in the most effective way possible given available resources. We thank you for your interest in impacts of the Antrim Wind Energy project but also hope you will help us to put in place a lasting and sustainable funding structure to ensure that the needs of the public are responded to in a timely manner and that the siting and compliance of energy projects is managed in a fair and equitable fashion.

Sincerely,



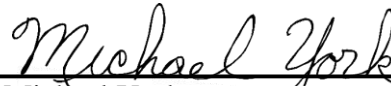
Dianne Martin, Chairwoman



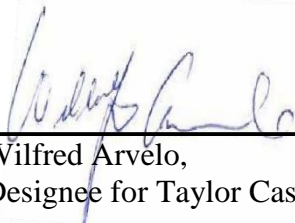
Robert R. Scott, Vice Chairman



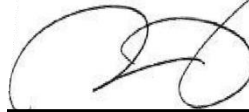
Victoria Sheehan



Michael York,
Designee for Sara Stewart



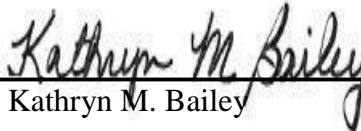
Wilfred Arvelo,
Designee for Taylor Caswell



Susan V. Duprey, Full Public Member



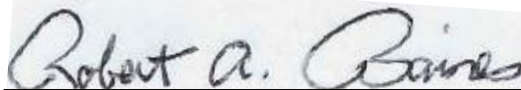
George I. Kassas, Full Public Member



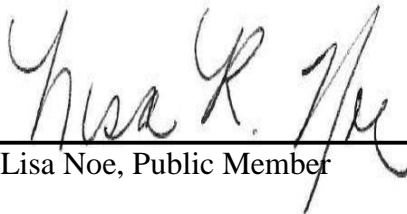
Kathryn M. Bailey



Thomas Eaton, Full Public Member



Robert Baines, Public Member



Lisa Noe, Public Member