

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

McLane complaint re: Georgia Mountain	)	
Community Wind, LLC wind electric generation	)	
facility in Georgia, Vermont, turbine operation	)	Case No. 18-1040-INV
in icing conditions on April 15, 2018	)	

**RESPONSE OF MELODIE AND SCOTT MCLANE TO RESPONSE OF
GEORGIA MOUNTAIN WIND TO MCLANE ICING COMPLAINT**

On April 15, 2018, Melodie McLane filed a complaint with the Public Utility Commission about high noise levels caused by Georgia Mountain Wind¹ (GMW) operating the turbines under icing conditions.

On April 25, 2018, GMW, through its attorney, responded to the complaint, and included a letter from Matthew Murphy, Vice President of Fleet Management at Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company. The McLanes hereby respond to the new project owner's response to their complaint.

The power graph on page 9 of GMW's response shows that the power output started to decline at 3:30, which is when Melodie McLane called to report icing conditions. That decline documents the beginning of the ice formation, and the data itself shows that the turbines should have been shut down at that time.

The McLanes question if the met tower is the only source of weather data. If so, it is obviously not enough. On the day the turbines started to form ice, freezing rain conditions were forecast for most, if not all, of Vermont. Icing should have been expected on that day.

¹ We refer to the wind project as Georgia Mountain Wind (GMW) because there is not now and never has been any "community" in how this project has treated its neighbors.

Regarding the claim that there was no ice on the turbine blades for all the periods GMW is claiming the Winter Operating Protocol (WOP) is overly conservative, how do they know? Without cameras, what evidence do they have other than the obviously inadequate met tower weather data.

The McLanes also wish to point out that GMW violated the last PUC order on icing, which required GMW to respond to a complaint within an hour. GMW did not respond to the McLanes at all, and have made it clear that the turbines were not shut down because of the McLanes' phone call reporting the icing conditions.

In their response, the new owners of GMW are offering to meet with the McLanes. The McLanes have made it clear before numerous times and will repeat: they have no capacity to deal with the wind turbines or its problems. They want the project to be a good neighbor and do not want to have it dominate their lives. They are willing to engage in email communication with the new owners but have no time for anything else due to pressing demands in their lives at this time.

The record of GMW at the PUC is that the project has been a bad neighbor. The McLanes have been consistent in their efforts to take themselves out of the loop as enforcers and have gotten nowhere, either with the project's owners or with the PUC as regulators. These are their requests, which they believe are reasonable:

1. Install cameras or other optical devices that are typically used at wind turbine operations that experience winter weather. See the information in the PUC's Investigation of Objects Falling from Wind Turbines about the Winterwind conference held annually in Sweden and the numerous technologies available to the industry to detect icing on turbine blades. Based on what the McLanes have

read, there is really no excuse for subjecting neighbors to the noise and dangers associated with ice throw that GMW has been doing. It is not the neighbors' job to police this operation. Please require the installation of technology to enable GMW to shut down the turbines during icing conditions. It is in the company's best interest to do so because ice build-up changes the balance of the blades and degrades the wind turbines more rapidly, reducing their life span. If GMW is so concerned about money, technology to show ice build-up in a timely manner will benefit the company long-term.

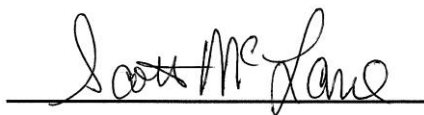
2. Install continuous sound monitoring. The high noise levels are how the McLanes identify icing conditions. It is not the ice that is the McLanes' issue, it is the noise. The McLanes believe that every complaint they have filed should have been taken up as a noise complaint in addition to the icing complaint, as they are being subjected to very high noise levels well over the standard established by the CPG. By failing to investigate and enforce the noise levels, the PUC has allowed GMW to avoid paying fines that might have created an incentive to instead install continuous sound monitoring at the site. The McLanes remind the PUC that while they are the ones complaining, there are other neighbors that they know if in their area who are just as bothered, but people see what little benefit the McLanes have received by complaining so they don't see any point. Continuous sound monitoring equipment costs about \$25,000, and once it is put in place it can be monitored remotely and has video and audio capability so that the project operator can watch the sound data alongside the SCADA data and listen and look when high noise levels occur. The McLanes do not understand why this is being

- fought by the company. The McLanes would gladly see the WOP's requirements reduced so that the project did not need to curtail as much under conditions where it is not necessary, in exchange for continuous sound monitoring that would assure compliance with the conditions of the CPG and take the McLanes out of the enforcement role.
3. The McLanes remind GMW and the PUC that their position has consistently been that the wind turbine noise is not bad all the time. Certain conditions make it intolerable, such that they do not enjoy sitting on their porch or being outside. They have given up having a vegetable garden because of the wind turbines. Sometimes they cannot sleep because of the wind turbines, especially the low frequency noise that vibrates inside their home. If GMW wants to be a good neighbor, it would agree to shut down the turbines whenever the McLanes let them know that the noise is offensive. With continuous sound monitoring the company would be able to correlate what the McLanes are experiencing with the conditions that are causing the problems. Instead of being at war with the wind turbines, the McLanes would like them to cooperate and help them live their lives as they did prior to the wind project going into operation. The McLanes are reasonable people with whom GMW could work, if the company was willing.
 4. At certain times of year and certain hours of the day, the wind turbines put shadow flicker onto our property and into the McLanes' home. Shadow flicker is trespassing onto private property without consent. Regardless of what the CPG conditions allow, nobody should have to experience shadow flicker on their lawn or in their home. It is a horrible thing to have to live with. If GMW wants to be a

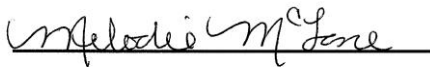
good neighbor, the McLanes request that GMW agrees to curtail the wind turbines during the periods of time when shadow flicker is on their property or in their home. Again, the McLanes would gladly exchange whatever is unnecessarily causing curtailment due to the WOP for an agreement that respects their rights as neighbors to peacefully enjoy their property.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to GMW's response to the McLanes' complaint, and for the chance to open a dialogue with the new owners so they understand the McLanes' position as neighbors of their project. The last five years have been awful, and the PUC's process has made it feel like the McLanes are the ones on trial, not the wind project. The McLanes' goal is to have nothing to do with the PUC or GMW or its owners. If the proper technology and protocols are put in place, the McLanes see no reason why that should not be possible.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of May, 2018 by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott McLane", written over a horizontal line.

Scott McLane

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melodie McLane", written over a horizontal line.

Melodie McLane

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