

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Docket No. 7250

Amended Petition of Deerfield Wind, LLC, for a certificate)
of public good authorizing it to construct and operate a 15-)
turbine, 30 MW wind generation facility, and associated)
transmission and interconnection facilities, on)
approximately 80 acres in the Green Mountain National)
Forest, located in Searsburg and Readsboro, Vermont, with)
7 turbines to be placed on the east side of Route 8 on the)
same ridgeline as the existing GMP Searsburg wind facility)
(Eastern Project Area), and 8 turbines along the ridgeline to)
the west of Route 8 in the northwesterly orientation)
(Western Project Area)

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMENTS DETAILING
COMPLIANCE WITH COMMISSION ORDER**

On April 25, 2019, the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) issued an order granting the motion by the Department of Public Service (“Department”) to modify the sound monitoring protocol (“Protocol”) for the spring 2019 sound monitoring campaign, and deferring decision on a motion for outdoor/indoor noise reduction testing. The Commission made further requests regarding both the fall 2018 and spring 2019 sound monitoring campaigns, which are detailed below.¹ As requested on a telephone status conference held on October 1, 2019, the Department details its compliance with those requests.

I. Site C-Alt

The Commission granted the Department’s request to include an additional monitoring site, Site C-alt, and specifically requested:

In addition to the incorporation of an additional monitoring site, Site C-alt, the recommendations made by Deerfield and the Department are to be included in the spring monitoring approach. The Department’s recommendation of installing the

¹ *Petition of Deerfield Wind*, Docket 7250, Order of 4/25/2019 at 6.

microphone at Site C-alt on a separate support structure than the barn should be followed if feasible. The report must explain whether this was feasible, and if not, provide a clear description of how potential interference of the barn structure has been addressed in the monitoring and data analysis.²

Sections 3.1.2 and 3.2.2 of the Spring 2019 report provide information on Site C-alt. Figure 9 shows the Site C-alt microphone location, Table 1 provides GPS coordinates and additional information, and Figures 12 and 13 provide photographs of the site. As stated in Section 3.1.2, and in accordance with the modified Protocol, Site C-alt was located “in close proximity to Site C, and [was] flush-mounted on the outer wall of a building on the west side facing away from the Searsburg wind turbines.” Because the data from Site C-alt were not used in the analysis and did not contribute to the report’s findings, no further discussion was included in the report.

II. Revised Fall 2018 Report

The Commission next requested that the Department’s consultant “file a revised fall monitoring report that normalizes all reported times to the same time standard, with annotations explaining any changes from the initial fall monitoring report.” The Department is filing a revised Fall 2018 report with this filing. The Department is also submitting revised Appendices H and I for the Spring 2019 report. The Department identified minor errors in these appendices that did not affect the overall conclusions.

² *Id.*

III. Evidence and Documentation of Compliance with Turbine On/Off Requirements

The Commission's third and final request was that the Department and Deerfield, "ensure that implementation of the spring monitoring complies with the specified Deerfield turbine on/off requirements, and that the report provides clear evidence and documentation of such compliance, or discussion of any deviations and the implications for the conclusions drawn from the monitoring."

Section 3.2.4 of the Spring 2019 report describes the curtailment process followed to achieve the turbine-on/turbine-off periods required by the Protocol. Table 2 provides a list of each attempted curtailment and Appendix E provides 10-minute interval power-output data for all turbines throughout the measurement program. The turbine-off periods indicated in Table 2 may be verified by cross-referencing the power-output data in Appendix E and also the sound measurement data in Appendix I. During the data analysis process, several issues in the Appendix E turbine data with the potential to affect the sound monitoring results were identified. Each of these issues, along with its resolution, is discussed in Section 3.3.5.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 23rd day of October, 2019.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

By: Allison Bates Wannop
Allison Bates Wannop, Special Counsel
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620
(802) 828-5543
allison.wannop@vermont.gov