

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Docket 7250

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| 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) |  |
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Order entered:

3/9/2020

**PROCEDURAL ORDER REQUESTING COMMENTS**

This case pertains to the amended certificate of public good (“Amended CPG”) issued by the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) to Deerfield Wind, LLC (“Deerfield”) for construction and operation of a 30 MW wind electric generation facility located in Searsburg and Readsboro, Vermont (the “Project”).

On January 9, 2020, the Commission issued an Order finding the Project in compliance with the sound-level standard of the amended CPG and ordering Deerfield to select the next step in resolving the outside-to-inside noise reduction (“OINR”) testing issue.

In a filing dated January 31, 2020, Deerfield elected an additional round of sound monitoring by Cross-Spectrum Acoustics Inc. (“CSA”) in the fall of 2020.<sup>1</sup> The Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) and the WindAction Group and Tom Shea (“Windaction-Shea”) filed comments on Deerfield’s requests related to the additional sound monitoring.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Andrew N. Raubvogel, Esq. to Judith Whitney, Clerk of the Commission, dated January 31, 2020 at 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Department of Public Service Comments on Fall 2020 Sound Monitoring*, February 20, 2020; *Windaction-Shea Joint Comments in Response to Vermont PUC Order of February 12, 2020*, March 4, 2020.

In its comments, Windaction-Shea allege that “Site B exterior sound levels during the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 monitoring periods qualified for OINR testing.”<sup>3</sup> The Final Sound Monitoring Protocol (“Protocol”) states: Deerfield Wind shall offer OINR testing to homeowners . . . who meet Criterion 2 based upon the first year of post-construction monitoring.”<sup>4</sup> Criterion 2 provides that a “homeowner will be given the option to allow for testing to be conducted to determine the actual [OINR] of the house, if that home meets the following criteri[on]: . . . (2) Sound monitoring (post-construction) shows Deerfield Project sound levels of 40 dBA (L<sub>eq</sub>)(1 hr) or higher at that location.”<sup>5</sup>

I request that the Vermont Department of Public Service and Deerfield file comments by March 23, 2020 regarding whether OINR testing has been triggered at Site B. Additionally, if the criteria for OINR testing has been met at Site B, I request that Deerfield provide an explanation of whether it has offered OINR testing to homeowners pursuant to the Protocol.

**SO ORDERED.**

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<sup>3</sup> *Windaction-Shea Joint Comments in Response to Vermont PUC Order of February 12, 2020*, March 4, 2020, at 1 n.2.

<sup>4</sup> *Corrected Final Sound Monitoring Protocol*, Docket No. 7250, filed January 16, 2018, at 6 § 2.5.

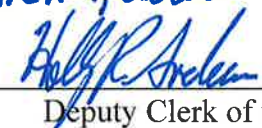
<sup>5</sup> *Corrected Final Sound Monitoring Protocol*, Docket No. 7250, filed January 16, 2018, at 6 § 2.5.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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Steph Hoffman, Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: March 9, 2020

Attest:   
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Deputy Clerk of the Commission

*Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Commission (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: [puc.clerk@vermont.gov](mailto:puc.clerk@vermont.gov))*