

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7508

Petition of Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC,)
for a Certificate of Public Good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A.)
Section 248, authorizing the construction and operation)
of a 5-wind turbine electric generation facility, with)
associated electric and interconnection facilities, on)
Georgia Mountain in the Towns of Milton and Georgia,)
Vermont, to be known as the "Georgia Mountain)
Community Wind Project")

Order entered: 1/13/2012

ORDER RE: APPROVAL OF WINTER OPERATING PROTOCOL

On May 31, 2011, the Public Service Board ("Board") issued an *Order Re: Setback Requirements*. In that Order, the Board imposed certain conditions on Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC ("GMCW") related to public health and safety, including the following condition related to operations during potential icing periods:

(3) GMCW shall prepare a winter operating protocol, subject to review by the parties and approval by the Board prior to commencement of construction, which shall require that the proposed turbines be placed in pause mode under any of the following circumstances: (a) installed ice monitoring device(s) or heated wind sensors (installation subject to reliability testing) detect if unsafe conditions are present due to icing conditions; (b) ice accretion is recognized by the remote or on-site operator; (c) air temperature, relative humidity and other meteorological conditions at the site are conducive to ice formation; (d) air temperature is several degrees above 0 degrees Celsius after icing conditions; and (e) any other weather conditions that may result in the unsafe operation of the turbines.

On October 4, 2011, GMCW filed a Winter Operating Protocol ("Protocol"). The Protocol provides, in relevant part:¹

B. Control Methodologies:

1. The Winter Operating Protocol will curtail the operation of wind turbines in the event of icing and when extreme weather conditions present unsafe conditions for the general public.

1. Section A of the Protocol, titled Purpose, reiterates the Board's condition requiring GMCW to file the Protocol.

2. The wind turbines will be monitored via the facility's Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system 24 hours per day, seven days a week throughout the year. The turbines shall be subject to shutdown under the following conditions ("Icing Conditions"):

- a. The installed ice monitoring device(s) and heated wind sensors (installation and continued operations subject to reliability testing) detect that unsafe conditions are present due to icing conditions;
- b. Ice accretion is recognized by the site operator;
- c. Air temperature, relative humidity and other meteorological conditions at the site are conducive to ice formation;
- d. Air temperature is several degrees above zero degrees Celsius after icing conditions; or
- e. Other weather conditions at the project site create an unsafe operating environment.

3. A remote start-up procedure will be implemented after the turbine operation has been curtailed due to Icing Conditions. The turbines will not automatically be restarted until the operator performs a pre-startup inspection of the ice monitoring device(s) and other climatic conditions and/or visual inspection to ensure safe operating condition[s] are present.

4. As an additional safeguard, GMCW will gate access roads and post signs warning of the potential for dangerous icing conditions in the vicinity of the turbines.

C. Safety of Personnel at the Project Site:

1. All personnel at the project site shall adhere to the site specific safety requirements required by the turbine manufacturer or operator before approaching the turbines during Icing Conditions.

D. Evaluation and Update:

1. On-site and remote monitoring will take place on a weekly basis during months when Icing Conditions may occur to evaluate effectiveness of the Winter Operating Protocol compared with recorded weather conditions at the project site.

2. This Winter Operating Protocol shall be subject to modification, upon Board approval, as necessary to ensure that unsafe conditions are minimized at the project site and that shut down of the turbines shall occur under the appropriate climatic conditions.

No comments were filed regarding the Protocol.

We conclude that the Protocol filed on October 4, 2011, complies with Condition 3 of our May 31 *Order Re: Setback Requirements* and approve the Protocol.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 13th day of January, 2012.

<u>s/ James Volz</u>	)	
	)	PUBLIC SERVICE
	)	
<u>s/ David C. Coen</u>	)	BOARD
	)	
	)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/ John D. Burke</u>	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: January 13, 2012

ATTEST: s/ Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)