

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

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

Docket No. ____

**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF
RICHARD W. HEAPS**

**ON BEHALF OF
GEORGIA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY WIND, LLC**

March 26, 2009

The purpose of the prefiled testimony of Mr. Heaps is to demonstrate that the proposed Georgia Mountain Community Wind Project will result in an economic benefit to the state and its residents pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(4).

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit Petitioner RWH-1	Resumé of Richard Heaps
Exhibit Petitioner RWH-2	Economic Benefit Analysis

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1 **1. Introduction**

2 Q1. Please state your name, business address and employment.

3 A1. My name is Richard Heaps, and I am Vice-President of Northern Economic
4 Consulting, Inc., an economic consulting and analysis firm located in Westford,
5 Vermont. My full resumé is provided as Exhibit Petitioner RWH-1.

6

7 Q2. Please describe your educational background and professional experience.

8 A2. I received a master’s degree in economics from the University of Illinois in 1977.
9 I continued my education at the University of Illinois, finishing all course work
10 and examinations necessary for a doctorate by 1979. From 1980 through 1998, I
11 taught economics at the University of Vermont, St. Michael’s College, and
12 Middlebury College. In 1985, I began Northern Economic Consulting with two

1 other economists. Since 1998, I have worked full time for Northern Economic
2 Consulting.

3
4 With Northern Economic Consulting, I undertake a range of economic studies for
5 private and public clients. This includes economic- and fiscal-impact analyses of
6 proposed projects for Act 250, economic-impact analyses of existing institutions
7 for public relations and other internal needs and economic-impact analyses of
8 legislative proposals. Recent research projects have examined issues such as
9 Vermont's economic competitiveness, the impacts of sales-tax differentials on
10 Connecticut River border towns, the impact of slowing population growth on
11 State of Vermont's budgets and the impact of an electric-utility rate increase on
12 low-income residents. I also prepare business valuations and litigation support in
13 the area of forensic economics.

14
15 In addition, my firm has published the *Vermont Economy Newsletter* since 1991.
16 This monthly newsletter examines issues such as prospects for economic growth,
17 job creation, income growth, the outlook for retail sales, tourism, housing prices
18 and trends in State government spending and revenue. I write articles on a
19 monthly basis examining these and similar economic developments and trends in
20 Vermont.

1 Also, each January since 1992, the *Vermont Economy Newsletter* has hosted the
2 Vermont Economic Outlook Conference. This annual event provides an
3 opportunity for area economists, policymakers, business people and other
4 interested Vermonters to explore Vermont's economic outlook in relation to the
5 national and global economic environment.

6

7 Q3. What is the purpose of your testimony?

8 A3. The purpose of my testimony is to demonstrate that the Georgia Mountain
9 Community Wind Project (“GMCW Project” or “Project”) satisfies the
10 requirements of 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(4). Section 248(b)(4) provides, in pertinent
11 part, that a generation or transmission facility should provide an economic benefit
12 to the state and its residents.

13

14 **2. Summary of Assessment and Conclusion**

15 Q4. Based upon your evaluation and analyses, will the Project provide an economic
16 benefit to the state of Vermont and its residents?

17 A4. Yes. My analysis is included in my report, Exhibit Petitioner RWH-2.

18

19 Q5. Does this conclude your testimony?

20 A5. Yes.