

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Docket 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)	
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Order entered: 03/06/2023

ORDER RE: BIRD AND BAT MONITORING COMPLIANCE

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”).

Condition 16 of the Amended CPG requires that the CPG Holder review bird and bat mortality data. The CPG Holder must develop an adaptive management plan if the data indicates an undue adverse impact. The Commission has final review and approval authority regarding implementation of any adaptive management plan.

On February 28, 2023, the CPG Holder filed the final study report regarding bird and bat mortality monitoring with the Commission. The CPG Holder concurrently provided the report to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”) and the United States Forest Service (“USFS”). In a letter to the Commission dated November 18, 2022, the CPG Holder stated, “Following completion of the third year of monitoring, Deerfield will consult with ANR and the USFS (pursuant to the federal Record of Decision for the Project) to engage in a cooperative team-based process to review the [Post-Construction Monitoring Plan] data and determine

whether adaptive management measures are necessary.”¹ Further, the CPG Holder committed to submitting any proposal for adaptive management to the Commission.

Once the CPG Holder—in consultation with ANR and USFS—has reached a conclusion regarding whether an adaptive management plan is needed for the Project, the CPG Holder must file an update with the Commission explaining that (1) an adaptive management plan is not needed and, thus, the CPG Holder has satisfied Condition 16 of the CPG, or, alternatively (2) an adaptive management plan is needed, and an estimate of when a proposed adaptive management plan will be filed with the Commission.

SO ORDERED.

¹ Letter from Geoffrey H. Hand, Esq., Dunkiel Saunders Elliott Raubvogel & Hand, PLLC on behalf of Deerfield, to Holly Anderson, Clerk of the Commission, dated November 18, 2022.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 6th day of March, 2023.



Steph Hoffman
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: March 6, 2023

Attest: 
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)

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