

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7628

Joint Petition of Green Mountain Power Corporation,)
Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Vermont)
Electric Power Company, Inc. for a certificate of public)
good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248, to construct up)
to a 63 MW wind electric generation facility and)
associated facilities on Lowell Mountain in Lowell,)
Vermont, and the installation or upgrade of)
approximately 16.9 miles of transmission line and)
associated substations in Lowell, Westfield and Jay,)
Vermont)

Order entered: 5/23/2014

PROCEDURAL ORDER RE REPLY COMMENTS

On May 14, 2014, the Department of Public Service ("Department") filed with the Public Service Board ("Board") a proposal for a one-year program of continuous sound monitoring at Green Mountain Power Corporation's ("GMP") wind electric generation facility in Lowell, Vermont (the "Project").

Also on May 14, 2014, GMP filed a letter with the Board in which it stated its agreement with the Department's monitoring proposal.

On May 22, 2014, Lowell Mountains Group, Inc., the Town of Albany and Kevin McGrath (collectively, the "Neighbors") filed comments in opposition to the Department's proposal stating that the proposal is technically flawed and that the consultant chosen by the Department to perform the monitoring is not reliable.

In today's Order we establish a deadline for reply comments to the Neighbors' May 22 filing, as well as a deadline for response comments to any reply comments that are filed.

The Board is particularly interested in the Department's position with respect to the following issues raised by the Neighbors in their opposition to the Department's proposal:

1. How effective and accurate is Method 3 for determining background sound? Explain to what degree it is possible for turbine-generated sound to contaminate the

background sound levels recorded by the background monitor when using this method. Please identify whether there are other potentially available methods for establishing background sound levels and describe their accuracy and effectiveness. Has the Department considered utilizing any such methods instead of Method 3?

2. Describe any obstacles to using real-time data to determine whether the Project is operating in compliance with the applicable sound standards, and to take steps to bring the Project into compliance if a violation is identified.
3. Please respond to the Neighbors' assertion that the Department's consultant cannot be relied upon to perform an objective program of monitoring.
4. Please clarify the following statement in the Department's May 14 cover letter referring to Mr. Ambrose and Mr. Rand: "DPS has offered to consider involving these gentlemen in its monitoring program and remains willing to do so, whether or not they are retained by the PSB." How would the Department involve Mr. Ambrose and Mr. Rand if the Board decides not to retain them?
5. Will primary and background monitor data be "summarized" into 10-minute intervals, as has been done for GMP's quarterly monitoring reports, or will data be reported on a more granular level? If it will be reported on a more granular level, please explain.
6. Will all monitoring data be made publicly available at the time that monthly reports are filed?

Reply comments shall be filed no later than close of business on June 4, 2014. Responses to reply comments shall be filed no later than close of business on June 11, 2014.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 23rd day of May, 2014.

<u>s/James Volz</u>	)	
	)	PUBLIC SERVICE
	)	
<u>s/John D. Burke</u>	)	BOARD
	)	
	)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/Margaret Cheney</u>	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: May 23, 2014

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)