

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Case No. 17-2571-INV

Investigation pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 30 and 209 into whether Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC operated its wind electric generation facility in Georgia, Vermont during icing conditions on January 3, 2017	
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Order entered: 3/10/2017

**ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION
AND NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

I. INTRODUCTION

On January 9, 2017, the Vermont Public Service Board (“Board”) received a complaint from Scott and Melodie McLane alleging that the Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC (“GMCW”) wind turbines (the “Project”) were operating with ice on the turbine blades on the morning of January 3, 2017, in violation of GMCW’s winter operating protocol.

By procedural order issued January 13, 2017, the Board directed GMCW to respond to the McLanes’ complaint, and established a date for the Vermont Department of Public Service (the “Department”) and the Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”) to reply to both the McLanes’ complaint and GMCW’s response.

On January 27, 2017, GMCW filed its response describing the weather conditions present at the site at the time of the complaint, and suggesting the possibility that a thin layer of frost may have been present on some turbine blades for some period of time. GMCW also submitted a proposed supplement to its winter operating protocol to better ensure future compliance with its obligations under that protocol.

On February 6, 2017, the Department filed its reply recommending that the Board: 1) open an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the operation of the Project at the time of the complaint, and 2) provide an opportunity for discovery and comments from any interested individual or group prior to the Board’s consideration of the proposed supplement to the winter operating protocol.

In today's Order, the Board is initiating an investigation to determine whether GMCW operated its turbines on the morning of January 3, 2017, in violation of its winter operating protocol and the Board's order of January 13, 2012, approving that protocol. As part of that investigation, the Board will consider whether the proposed supplement to the winter operating protocol is necessary, appropriate, and consistent with the requirements of GMCW's certificate of public good.

II. ORDER

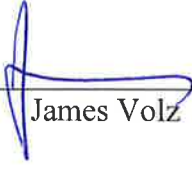
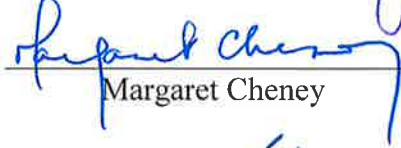
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Service Board ("Board") of the State of Vermont that:

1. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 30 and 209, an investigation is opened into whether Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC ("GMCW") operated its turbines on January 3, 2017, in violation of its winter operating protocol and the Board's order of January 13, 2012, approving that protocol. As part of the investigation, the Board will consider GMCW's proposed supplement to the winter operating protocol.

2. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8, John Cotter, Staff Attorney, is appointed to serve as the Hearing Officer to conduct the proceedings in this matter.

3. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 10, a prehearing conference will be held before the Hearing Officer on March 24, 2017 commencing at 9:30 A.M., in the Susan M. Hudson Hearing Room located on the 3rd floor of the People's United Bank Building, 112 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this 10th day of March, 2017.

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James Volz	)	PUBLIC SERVICE
	)	
	)	
Margaret Cheney	)	BOARD
	)	
	)	
Sarah Hofmann	)	OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: March 10, 2017

Attest: Judith C. Whitney
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) or any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@vermont.gov)

PSB Case No. 17-2571-INV - SERVICE LIST

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*Notice of appearance to be filed.

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