

From: Stearns, Alan
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 11:25 AM
To: Todd, Fred; Horn-Olsen, Samantha; Timpano, Steve; Demers, Sarah; Rocque, David; Schaeffer, Thomas; Bard, Richard; Burr, Gregory; Tannenbaum, Mitchell; Stancampiano, Robin; Mohney, Kirk; Puser, Jennifer; 'econdevbus@yahoo.com'; 'eaduerr@midmaine.com'; 'mark_mccollough@fws.gov'; 'lori_nordstrom@fws.gov'; Hopeck, John T; 'manager@washingtoncountymaine.com'; 'kshorey@roadrunner.com'; 'director@portofeastport.org'; 'clerk@washingtoncountymaine.com'; 'ut@washingtoncountymaine.com'; 'jay.l.clement@nae02.usace.army.mil'; Kerry, John; Cassida, James
Cc: Carroll, Catherine M.; Lapointe, Jeannine; Horn-Olsen, Samantha
Subject: RE: Kossuth Township expedited area expansion rulemaking REMINDER FOR ANY COMMENTS

BPL offers no comment on the rulemaking, but notes that jurisdictional impacts to BPL properties may merit review during the permit stages.

Thanks, Alan

From: Timpano, Steve
Sent: Tuesday, September 07, 2010 5:11 PM
To: Horn-Olsen, Samantha
Cc: Caron, Mark; Starr, Allen; Kramer, Gordon; Schaeffer, Thomas
Subject: RE: Kossuth Township expedited area expansion rulemaking

Samantha;

MDIFW staff have not identified any special fisheries or wildlife concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the wind power expedited area in Kossuth Township. No records of Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern species or their habitats, no other significant wildlife habitats mapped on our habitat consultation database, nor any recommendations for additional fisheries or wildlife surveys at this time. No known specific management concerns, no objections to the expansion as proposed. We would address project-specific survey needs if and when a project was proposed for development within this area.

Based upon this evaluation we do not perceive a need for MDIFW staff to attend the public hearing on the 22nd. Please call me if you would like to discuss?

Steve T.

Steven A. Timpano
Environmental Coordinator
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
41 SHS, 284 State Street
Augusta, ME 04333

Tel . (207) 287-5258
Fax (207) 287-6395
e-mail : Steve.Timpano@maine.gov

From: Demers, Sarah
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2010 2:37 PM
To: Horn-Olsen, Samantha
Cc: Docherty, Molly; Timpano, Steve
Subject: RE: Kossuth Township expedited area expansion rulemaking
Samantha,

In response to your request below, just wanted to let you know that after reviewing Champlain Wind LLC's petition to expand the expedited wind power permitting area to Kossuth Twp, we did not find any reason to provide comments to the LURC Commissioners.

Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah Demers
Environmental Review Coordinator
Maine Natural Areas Program
93 SHS
Augusta, Maine 04333
207.287.8670



STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

JACK CASHMAN
CHAIRMAN

VENDEAN V. VAFIADES
DAVID P. LITTELL
COMMISSIONERS

September 20, 2010

Samantha Horn Olsen
Manager, Planning Division
Land Use Regulation Commission
Maine Department of Conservation
18 Elkins Lane / Harlow Building, 4th floor
State House Station 22
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Re: Maine Public Utilities Commission Review Comments on Champlain Wind, LLC's Petition
for Rulemaking to Add to the Windpower Expedited Permitting Area

Dear Samantha:

On May 18, 2010, Champlain Wind, LLC ("Champlain Wind") submitted to the Land Use Regulation Commission ("LURC") a Petition to Initiate Commission Rulemaking to Add Portions of the Kossuth Township to the Windpower Expedited Permitting Area. Champlain Wind submitted a revised petition on May 26, 2010. In its Guidelines for the Review of Petitions for the Addition of Lands to the Expedited Permitting Area for Wind Energy Development (adopted March 3, 2010), LURC states that it will seek the expert opinion of the Maine Public Utilities Commission ("MPUC") on approval criteria that are within the MPUC's expertise. These approval criteria are:

- The progress the State has made in achieving the wind power goals established in 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3404;
- The project's potential for energy generation; and
- The viability of the proposed project, including the availability of transmission lines to transfer the generated electricity.

The MPUC is pleased to provide review comments in its area of expertise.

State Wind Power Goals

Title 35-A, section 3404(2) establishes the following goals for wind energy development in the State:

- At least 2000 MW of installed capacity by 2015;
- At least 3000 MW of installed capacity by 2020; and
- At least 8000 MW of installed capacity by 2030 (including 5000 MW from generation facilities located in coastal waters).

At the current time, the amount of installed and planned wind power capacity in the State is substantially below the Legislatively-established goals.

When TransCanada's Kibby Wind Power Project ("Kibby Project") is in full operation, Maine will have in the range of 265 MW of wind power in commercial operation. In addition, there are projects representing approximately 356 MW of wind power that have either been permitted or are in the permitting process. Clearly, Maine is far short from reaching its statutory wind power goals.

Champlain Wind has proposed a rule change to expand the expedited permitting area to include portions of the Kossuth Township ("Kossuth") to facilitate the development of the Bowers Mountain Wind Project ("Bowers Project"). The Bowers Project will be located in the Carroll Plantation and the Kossuth Township approximately eight miles from the Stetson Wind Project. The Bowers Project is expected to include 57 MW of installed capacity, approximately 16 MW of which would be located in the Proposed Addition in Kossuth. Fifty-seven megawatts of wind power alone may not have a huge impact on the State meeting its wind power goals. However, if the State is to meet its goals, it will have to permit a relatively large number of projects of varying sizes throughout the State.

Thus, in the MPUC's view, the expansion of the expedited permitting area to accommodate 57 MW of wind power should be considered as important for meeting the State's goals for wind power development.

Potential for Energy Generation

Grid scale wind project are generally considered to have a "capacity factor" in the range of 30%. A capacity factor generally refers to the amount of electricity that is generated by a particular plant relative to the amount of electricity that would be generated if the facility continuously operated at its full capacity. A 57 MW wind facility operating at a 30% capacity factor would generate in the range of 150,000 MWhs per year. Although this generation output is much lower than a typically larger natural gas or coal plant (e.g., in the 500 MW range), it is not insignificant in that 150,000 MWhs is enough energy to serve the electricity needs of approximately 23,500 residential Maine households. In addition, the energy is from a renewable resource and, when operating, would tend to displace fossil fuel generation.

Project Viability

The MPUC has not conducted an analysis of the viability of Champlain Wind's proposed Bowers Project. However, the proposed Project is proximate to the Stetson Wind Project, and would be developed and operated by an affiliate of the same parent company, First Wind. As such, we would expect its viability to be comparable in many respects to that of Stetson, which has been operational since early 2009. In addition, the proposed project should be able to utilize the transmission line that has been constructed to connect the Stetson Project to the regional grid. Finally, as indicated by Champlain Wind's financial and technical ability to develop the Bowers Project, as well as the three wind power projects already developed by First Wind affiliates and operating in Maine, it is reasonably likely that the proposed project is viable.

Please let me know if the MPUC can provide further assistance as the LURC considers Champlain Wind's request for an expansion of the expedited wind permitting area.

Sincerely,

Mitchell M. Tannenbaum
Deputy General Counsel

MMT/lp