

Wellfleet Wind Turbine Project - Status Update

Wellfleet Board of Selectmen

3/30/10

Status and Schedule Overview

1. Insurance DOES cover weather related damage and loss, for example, from lightning or high winds.
2. The Town has decided to proceed with road access from Ocean View Drive East, and electrical connection from the turbine site west to the NSTAR powerline easement. Including the “cut-and-fill” required for this road, the disturbed area will probably exceed five acres. It does not appear that this will change the NHESP review period of 60 days after completion of the assessment.
3. The target date for completion of the NHESP-required assessment activities is November 1, 2010. This would give a target date of January 3, 2011 for NHESP approval.
4. The target date for completion of the Special Permit process is also January 3, 2011.
5. The target date for obtaining bids for procurement and construction is October 1, 2010.
6. The target date for requesting approval for borrowing for procurement and construction is the Special Town Meeting anticipated for October, 2010.

Status of the Project According to our Categories of Evaluation

Regulatory Evaluation

1. Town Counsel has provided an opinion to the Town that it is legal for the Town to undertake the project.
2. NSTAR has advised the Town that the Town is eligible for net-metering according to the interconnect application filed with NSTAR on 12/1/09.

Financial Evaluation

1. NSTAR has advised the Town that it will pay the Town by monthly check for the net-metered credits.
2. NSTAR has advised the Town that the facility qualifies for the “G-1” (i.e., the highest) rate of reimbursement.
3. Virtually all of the components of the financial projection (“pro forma budget”) are now based on “firm” cost and revenue information, except the total cost of access road construction which is still based on a “rough estimate”.
4. The Town’s pro forma budget and assumptions concerning future energy rates is currently under review by a third-party firm experienced in the Massachusetts electric and renewable energy fields. Results of that are expected to be presented at the April 10 informational meeting.

Environmental Evaluation

1. An environmental assessment is set to begin this week and to cover a complete “migration season”. The contractor will be in communication with the NHESP and the CCNS during the process. Interim reports are expected in July and September, and a final report in November.
2. Comments received from George Price, Superintendent of the CCNS, were received recently concerning the acoustic analysis performed for the Town, and in general on acoustic issues as they may affect wildlife. The comments relating to wildlife acoustic impacts were referred to the environmental assessment team.
3. The environmental assessment team will collaborate with the NHESP and CCNS to address all issues. The team will be available April 10 to answer questions and present an overview of the assessment plan.

Human Health and Safety Evaluation

1. The acoustic study completed for the Vestas V90 turbine indicates that the turbine is well within the requirements of the state and, therefore, the special permit, in terms of acoustic impact.
2. Other acoustic issues have recently been raised:
 - A. “Wind turbine syndrome”: an MD in upstate New York, Dr. Nina Pierpont, studied 10 cases of people living near *aggregations of wind* turbines, i.e., wind *farms*. The smallest number of turbines cited in the wind farms giving rise to the symptoms she documents is **eight** wind turbines. Currently, the WEC does not believe that the symptoms cited by Dr. Pierpont would be an issues for the *single-turbine* proposal for Wellfleet. However, Paul Sieloff has written Dr. Pierpont concerning her recommendations about how her

results would apply to a facility of much smaller scale than the wind farms she documents.

- B. Other acoustic impacts that might not be reflected in the “dbA” measurements that are used in the state (and local) standard. This is a potentially complex issue, and, again, it is unclear if this would apply to a single turbine facility or only to facilities of multiple turbines.
- C. It is our plan to issue a request for proposals to examine the CCNS comments relating to the acoustic study, and also to address other acoustic issues not covered by the state acoustic standards.

Capacity of Wind Farms Showing “Wind Turbine Syndrome”
Total Megawatts

