

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is prepared pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617. This document is preceded by a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The FEIS builds upon the DEIS, providing extensive responses to substantive comments received on the DEIS, and addressing Project changes that occurred after the DEIS was accepted as complete, including changes in response to public input. The DEIS is incorporated by reference into this FEIS, and remains in full effect except where specifically corrected or the Project has been changed. The FEIS thus provides a comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Allegany Wind Power Project, and proposed mitigation measures.

### 1.1 SUMMARY OF SEQRA PROCESS

On August 21, 2008 an application for special use permit and a full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) for the proposed Allegany Wind Power Project was submitted by the Project Sponsor to the Town of Allegany Planning Board pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance. The submittal of this application, which requires discretionary approval, initiated the SEQRA process for the subject action. On September 12, 2008, the Allegany Planning Board forwarded a solicitation of Lead Agency status, along with a copy of the EAF document, to potentially interested/involved SEQRA agencies. No agency objected to the Planning Board assuming the role of Lead Agency. The Town of Allegany Planning Board, as Lead Agency, subsequently issued a Positive Declaration on November 10, 2008, requiring the preparation of a DEIS. The DEIS was accepted as complete on February 24, 2010, and copies of the DEIS were subsequently delivered to involved/interested agencies and individuals, and posted to a website managed by Allegany Wind, LLC ([www.alleganywindfarm.com](http://www.alleganywindfarm.com)). Opportunities for detailed agency and public review were provided during the DEIS public comment period (February 24, 2010 through May 3, 2010), including a public hearing conducted by the Lead Agency on April 21, 2010 at the Allegany Town Senior Center (3790 Birch Run Road, Allegany, NY). A responsiveness summary has been prepared as part of this FEIS (Section 4.0) to address all substantive comments received on the DEIS during the public comment period.

The following are the next steps in the SEQRA process for the Allegany Wind Power Project, starting with issuance of this FEIS by the Lead Agency:

- FEIS issued by Lead Agency (Allegany Planning Board).
- Final notice of completion of FEIS published.
- Distribute FEIS and a copy of the public notice to the agencies listed in Table 4 of the DEIS.
- 10-day minimum period before issuing findings.
- Lead Agency issues Findings Statement, completing the SEQRA process.
- Involved agencies issue Findings Statements and make their permit decisions.

## **1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

The proposed Allegany Wind Power Project consists of 29 wind turbines, each with a maximum (or nameplate) capacity of 2.5 megawatts (MW), resulting in a maximum anticipated generating capacity of approximately 72.5 MW. In addition to the wind turbines, the Project involves construction of associated components including one permanent meteorological tower, a system of gravel access roads, buried electrical interconnect, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building, and a collection station. To deliver power to the New York State power grid, Allegany Wind proposes to construct a buried 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will tie into an existing 115 kV line operated by National Grid. The interconnection facility and a small portion of the 115 kV line are located in the Town of Olean.

The Project would be developed on leased private land, totaling approximately 9,119 acres. Project construction is anticipated to occur in a single phase, starting in spring 2011 and being completed by December 31, 2011. Once built, the wind turbines and associated components will operate in almost completely automated fashion. The Project will, however, employ up to six operations and maintenance personnel. The wind turbine currently proposed is the Nordex N100 (or an equivalent machine), with a minimum wind speed of approximately 3 m/s (6.7 mph) required to generate electricity. This turbine's maximum rotational speed is 15 rpm. Each wind turbine has a computer to control critical functions, monitor wind conditions, and report data.