

DECOMMISSIONING AND SITE RESTORATION PLAN

Introduction: In accordance with the Town of Allegany Wind Energy Regulations (“the Regulations”), adopted August 28, 2007, a Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan is required to guard against the remote possibility that the Project ceases to operate and the facilities are abandoned and not removed by Allegany Wind or its successors or assigns.

Financial Security: Consistent with the Regulations (Regulations §5.25[D]), prior to the issuance of a building permit, Allegany Wind (the “Project Sponsor”) will provide financial security for decommissioning the Project (referred to as the “Decommissioning Security”). The Decommissioning Security will be sufficient to ensure the removal of all transformers, met towers, wind turbines, access roads, drive ways, and foundations, as further described in detail below, and regrading and revegetation of the Project site as required by the Regulations. The Decommissioning Security shall be utilized only if the Project, or part thereof, becomes inoperable or nonfunctional for a continuous period of one (1) year following construction of the Project and thereafter the Project Sponsor refuses to conduct decommissioning and site restoration activities, after a request is made in writing by the Town in accordance with the procedures set forth in Regulations §5.25(J)

Prior to the issuance of a building permit, a NYS Licensed Engineer, selected by the Town Board and paid by the Project Sponsor, shall prepare and submit to the Town Board a Decommissioning Report (Report), which will estimate and certify the cost of decommissioning. The Report will also provide an estimate and certification of the salvage value of wind farm components. For purposes of establishing the Decommissioning Security to be provided by the Project Sponsor for the purpose of adequately performing decommissioning, the estimated and certified decommissioning cost will be reduced by the estimated, and certified salvage value of the wind farm components.

It is expected decommissioning costs at the outset of the project can approach a high estimate of \$3,000,000.00. As noted above the final estimate for decommissioning costs will be certified in the Professional Engineer's Report.

At least every five years after the initial Report, A NYS Licensed Engineer, selected by the Town Board and paid by the Project Sponsor, shall provide a Report recalculating the level of Decommissioning Security based on a recalculation and recertification of the estimates of the decommissioning costs minus salvage values. If such Report determines that the amount of the Decommissioning Security in force is insufficient to cover the removal, disposal, and site restoration costs, the Decommissioning Security shall be increased to the amount necessary to cover such costs within ten (10) days of the Project Sponsor's receipt of such Report.

The Project Sponsor agrees to deliver to the Town, before the issuance of a building permit for the Project, Decommissioning Security in the form approved by the Town Board. The Project Sponsor and its successors or assigns shall maintain the Decommissioning Security in place for the duration of the Special Use Permit.

The Decommissioning Security shall belong to the Town, and, in the case of bankruptcy, shall not be part of the permit holders' bankruptcy estate. No sale or transfer of any facility may occur unless there is full compliance with the permit condition requiring Decommissioning Security.

Decommissioning Plan: Megawatt-scale wind turbine generators typically have a life expectancy of 20 to 25 years. The current trend in the wind energy industry has been to replace or "re-power" older wind energy projects by upgrading older equipment with more efficient turbines. However, if not upgraded the turbines and other Project Components will be decommissioned. In general, decommissioning would consist of the following actions:

- All turbines, including the blades, nacelles and towers will be disassembled, and transported off site for reclamation and sale.
- All of the transformers will also be transported off-site for reuse or reclamation.
- All underground infrastructures at depths at or less than 3.5 feet below finished grade will be removed.

- All underground infrastructures at depths greater than 3.5 feet below finished grade including the subsurface collection conductors, and foundations, will be abandoned in place at the Project Sponsor's discretion.
- Areas where subsurface components are removed will be graded to match adjacent contours, stabilized with an appropriate seed mix, and allowed to re-vegetate naturally.
- Project-related access road materials will remain on-site, or will be removed per landowner requirements (see below for additional detail).
- All town, county or state roads, impacted by Project decommissioning activity, if any, will be restored to original condition upon completion of decommissioning.

The initial Report will provide a more particular estimate and certification of the costs of each of the above specified restoration activities.

During decommissioning activities, the town shall have access to the site, pursuant to reasonable notice, to inspect the results of complete decommissioning. All decommissioning and restoration activities will be in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local permits and requirements and will include the following specific activities:

- **Turbine removal.** Cranes and/or other machinery will be used for the disassembly and removal of the turbines. Electronic components and controls, and internal cables will be removed. The rotor and nacelle will be lowered to the ground for disassembly. The tower sections will be lowered to the ground where they will be further disassembled for transporting. The rotor, nacelle, and tower sections will either be transported whole for reconditioning and reuse or dissembled into salvageable, recyclable, or disposable components.
- **Turbine foundation removal.** Turbine foundations will be removed down to a level 3.5 feet below finished grade. The remaining excavation will be filled with clean sub-grade material, compacted to a density similar to surrounding sub-grade material, and finished with topsoil and revegetated. In the event that the turbine is in an area of agricultural production, the Project Sponsor will adhere to New York State Department of Agriculture & Market Guidelines for Agricultural Mitigation for Wind Power Projects, which will apply to all agricultural lands impacted by the project.

- **Underground collection cables.** All cables buried 3.5 feet or less below finished grade will be removed. All cables buried deeper than 3.5 feet will be kept in place at the discretion of the Project Sponsor.
- **Access roads and crane pads.** At the discretion of the landowner, gravel will be removed from access roads and crane pads and transported to a pre-approved disposal location. Any drainage structures will be removed and backfilled with sub-grade material (if necessary). The ground will be de-compacted (in agricultural areas only), and allowed to re-vegetate naturally.
- **Monitoring.** In accordance with the guidelines of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, a monitoring and remediation period of two years immediately following the completion of any decommissioning and restoration activities in agricultural land will commence. If agriculture impacts are identified during this period, follow-up restoration efforts will be implemented.
- **Substation.** The Project substation is generally valuable to the local transmission owner. As per the interconnection rules of the NYISO, the Project sub-station reverts to the ownership of the transmission owner and thus the Project Sponsor does not intend to decommission the substation.