

Mad River Wind Farm

Oswego and Jefferson County, New York

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF PRELIMINARY SCOPING STATEMENT

Atlantic Wind LLC (Applicant), a subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables, LLC (AR), is proposing to submit an Application to construct the Mad River Wind Farm (Facility), a wind-powered major electric generating facility under Article 10 of the Public Service Law (Project). This notice announces that on or about December 29, 2017 the Applicant will file a Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS) pursuant to 16 NYCRR 1000.5, which is designed to gather input from the public and interested participants on the scope and methodology of studies, to be conducted in support of the Application which will be filed at a later date. **The filing will start a 21-day public comment period on the PSS scope and methodology of the studies proposed.**

The Facility is currently proposed to be an approximately 350 megawatt (MW) wind-powered electric generating facility. The Facility components are proposed to include the installation and operation of 88 wind turbines within the Town of Worth, Jefferson County and the Town of Redfield, Oswego County, together with the associated collection lines (below grade and overhead), a project substation to raise the voltage to transmission line levels, access roads, permanent meteorological towers, laydown areas and an operation and maintenance (O&M) facility. The Facility is proposed to be located on leased private land that is rural in nature and used for timber production. The actual footprint of the proposed facilities will be located within the leased land, and will enable landowners to continue existing land uses, such as forest management. To deliver electricity to the New York State power grid, the Applicant is assessing interconnection options and currently has a queue position for interconnection along the Volney – Marcy 345 KV line, the exact location is still under development and will be updated as details are refined. Since the design of the line is proposed to be greater than 100 kilovolts (kV) and the length exceeds 10 miles, this component of the Facility is anticipated to be considered a “Major Utility Transmission Facility” and subject to Article VII of the Public Service Law and reviewed in a separate, albeit related, proceeding at the Public Service Commission. The transmission line will be covered in detail separately in an Article VII Application.

The Facility will result in the generation of electricity from wind, a renewable energy source, avoiding harmful emissions and the use of water resources that are typically associated with energy generation. In addition, the Facility assists the State in meeting the goals of the 2015 State Energy Plan and the goals supporting the Clean Energy Standard which seek to reach 50 percent of energy generation from renewable resources by 2030, and other State policy initiatives consistent with the development of the Facility. Other positive impacts to be discussed in the PSS include employment opportunities, specifically by generating temporary construction employment and full-time jobs, and increased revenues to County and local municipality tax bases, payments to the local hospitality industry, purchase of local supplies and goods, and lease revenues to participating landowners.

The PSS describes and identifies: the environmental setting in the Facility area; potential environmental and health impacts from construction and operation of the Facility; proposed benefits of the Facility; proposed studies (including preconstruction studies and post-construction monitoring); proposed measures to minimize environmental impacts; reasonable alternatives; other required permits/authorizations; and other relevant information to be evaluated and included in the Application. The PSS also provides a preliminary scope of an environmental impact analysis containing a discussion of potentially significant adverse environmental and health impacts to be assessed relating to the construction and operation of the Facility, including potential impacts to: land use in the Facility area; public health and safety; terrestrial ecology, including avian and bat species; wetlands, water resources and aquatic ecology; communications, transportation and utilities; cultural, historic and recreational resources; visual/aesthetic resources, including potential for shadow flicker; sound; electromagnetic fields; and impacts on the statewide electrical system.

Within 21 days after the filing of the PSS, any person, agency or municipality may submit comments on the PSS by serving such comments on the Applicant and filing a copy with the Secretary of the Department of Public Service. The Applicant will prepare a summary of the material comments and its reply thereto within 21 days after the closing of the comment period. The scoping process is overseen and mediated by a Hearing Examiner designated by the DPS. Notice will be provided from the Hearing Examiner for scheduling the participants scoping and intervenor funding conference and dates for filing intervenor funding applications.

No less than 90 days after the filing of the PSS, the Applicant may submit an Article 10 Application. Building on the Scoping process and any stipulations agreed to by the parties, the Application will include the studies developed as part of the Scoping process in support of the Project. The Application will include a description of the Facility, an evaluation of environmental and health impacts, a summary of public involvement activities, an evaluation of reasonable and available alternative locations, if any, a statement of why any local substantive standards should not be applied, if any, an electric interconnection study including general design study and System Reliability Impact Study (SRIS), security and emergency plans, a statement demonstrating compliance with the most recent State Energy Plan, and other information. The Application will also contain the information set forth in 16 NYCRR 1001, Exhibits 1-41 unless otherwise waived by the Siting Board or otherwise not applicable.

Once an Application is filed and determined by the Siting Board to be compliant with the requirements in PSL §164, the Hearing Examiner will schedule a public hearing on the Application. The Hearing Examiner will also issue a notice of availability of application intervenor funds that are available to be used by parties to participate in formal review of the Application. A pre-hearing conference will be scheduled by the Hearing Examiner to identify intervenors, award intervenor funds, identify issues for the hearing and establish a case schedule. Additional hearings regarding the application and project impact assessments will be scheduled by the Hearing Examiner as needed. After hearings, the stakeholders may brief their positions and the Hearing Examiner will issue a recommended decision upon which the Siting Board will base its decision. Article 10 requires that all proceedings on the Application, including a final decision by the Siting Board, must be completed within 12 months after the date on which the Application is determined to be compliant.

Upon the filing of the PSS, the Applicant will provide funding in the amount of \$122,500, as required by Article 10, to be disbursed by the Hearing Examiner to municipalities and other local parties to help pay expenses, including fees for attorneys and consultants, associated with participating in the Article 10 process during the pre-application review phase. Fifty percent (50%) of these intervenor funds are reserved for municipalities. Additional intervenor funds will be available for the Application/Hearing Phases. Following the filing of a PSS, the Hearing Examiner or the Secretary shall issue a notice of availability of pre-application intervenor funds, providing a schedule and related information describing how interested members of the public may apply for pre-application funds. Requests for pre-application funds must be submitted to the Hearing Examiner within thirty (30) days after the issuance of the notice of the availability of pre-application intervenor funds. A pre-application meeting to consider funding requests will be convened within no less than 45 but no more than 60 days after the filing of the PSS.

To obtain information regarding the Project, please contact:

Contact information for Applicant:

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Contact information for DPS Article 10 Coordinator:

James Denn
New York State Public Service Commission
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Information is also available at the public document repositories and on the web. The DPS website is (<http://www.dps.ny.gov/>). To access documents, go to "Search" at the top of the webpage, then search using the Case Number 16-F-0713 or the direct link:

(<http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=16-F-0713>)

or by going to the Project-specific website maintained by the Applicant: <http://www.avangridrenewables.us/madriver/>

File a Request for Notices

Any interested member of the public may file a request with the DPS Secretary to receive copies of all notices concerning the Project, including but not limited to notices regarding any proposed pre-application stipulation. Written requests should be sent to the DPS Secretary at secretary@dps.ny.gov or sent by mail to the following address:

Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223-1350