## Appendix K

Visual Outreach Letter



March 3, 2017

Municipal Planning Representatives Per Attached Distribution List

RE: North Ridge Wind Project Identification of Sensitive Resources Official Request for Information

Dear Municipal Planning Representative:

As you may be aware Atlantic Wind LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables, is proposing to construct a 100 megawatt (MW) wind power facility ("the Facility") in the Towns of Hopkinton and Parishville. (see attached Figures 1 and 2). The proposed Facility is subject to the rules for siting a major electric generating facility under Article 10 of the New York State Public Service Law. In accordance with the Article 10 regulations, Atlantic Wind published a Public Involvement Program ("PIP") plan for this project in May 2016 and is currently preparing a Preliminary Scoping Statement ("PSS"), which is anticipated to be published in early 2017. The PIP is available on the project's website at <a href="http://www.avangridrenewables.us/northridge/index.html">http://www.avangridrenewables.us/northridge/index.html</a>. Please refer to the PIP for additional details regarding the proposed Facility.

Atlantic Wind is currently undertaking studies to assist in evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Facility. One such study is a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA), which will be included as Exhibit 24 of the Article 10 application. An important component of the VIA is the "identification of sensitive resources", as defined in the Article 10 regulations. The information presented in this letter and its enclosures is intended to provide you with sufficient context and information to assist with the identification of these sensitive resources and the selection of important and/or representative viewpoints to be used for impact evaluation.

#### Feedback Request

In accordance with the requirements of Article 10, Exhibit 24, Part 1001.24(b)(4), Atlantic Wind is formally requesting feedback from municipal planning, and state agency representatives in the identification of locally important or representative viewpoints within the 5-mile study area of the Facility. Please review the inventory of sensitive resources included as Table 1 and depicted on Figures 3 and 4. Atlantic Wind believes that the list of aesthetic resources included herein represents a comprehensive inventory of the significant sensitive resources in the study area of the proposed Facility. Please consider whether there are any additional significant sensitive sites that are not included in the inventory, and if so please provide Atlantic Wind with:

- 1) The name and location of additional sensitive resources (not identified in Table 1) that you feel should be included in the inventory of aesthetic resources and subsequent evaluation of potential visual impacts.
- 2) Your recommendations for viewpoints that you feel would be strong candidates for the development of visual simulations, with an explanation of why you feel that view or location is important to consider.

Please provide this information by Monday April 3, 2017 to, Atlantic Wind:

- Via email at <u>NorthRidgeWind@avangrid.com</u>
   Please type "North Ridge Wind Project Visual Resources" in the subject line. or
- Via written letter to: Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. Attn: Matthew Robinson
   217 Montgomery Street, Suite 1000
   Syracuse, New York 13202

We sincerely appreciate your assistance helping us to identify significant sensitive sites and areas.

### Visual Study Area

Per the requirements set forth in 16 NYCRR § 1000.2(ar), the visual study area to be used for analysis of major electric generating facilities is defined as "an area generally related to the nature of the technology and the setting of the proposed site. For large facilities or wind power facilities with components spread across a rural landscape, the study area shall generally include the area within a radius of at least five miles from all generating facility components, interconnections and related facilities and alternative location sites. For facilities in areas of significant resource concerns, the size of a study area shall be configured to address specific features or resource issues."

For the purposes of this consultation, sensitive resources of statewide significance have been identified within 10 miles of the proposed Project boundary and locally significant resources out to 5 miles. In general terms, a 5-mile radius study area for a VIA is typically considered adequate for wind projects. The 5-mile and 10-mile visual study area boundaries for the Project are depicted on Figures 3 and 4.

It is anticipated that the project may be visible from named peaks, summits, trails, fire towers, and/or other recreational resources within the Adirondack Park that are located outside of the 10-mile study area. Additional research and assessment of potential project visibility will be concluded at selected locations outside the 10-mile study area, where appropriate.

### Sensitive Resources

Aesthetic resources of statewide significance are formally defined by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in the Program Policy entitled Assessing and Mitigating Visual Impacts<sup>1</sup> (the "DEC Visual Policy"). The requirements of Article 10, Exhibit 24, part 1001.24 (b)(4)(ii) identify additional categories of sensitive resources. Together, these two sources identify the following sensitive resources:

- Properties listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- State Parks and Historic Sites.
- Urban Cultural Parks (now referred to as New York State designated Heritage Areas).
- The State Forest Preserve (i.e., the Adirondack or Catskill Parks).
- National Wildlife Refuges, State Game Refuges, and State Wildlife Management Areas.
- National Natural Landmarks.
- National Parks, Recreation Areas, Seashores, or Forests.
- Rivers designated as Wild, Scenic or Recreational Rivers, by the state or federal government
- A site, district, lake, reservoir, or highway designated or eligible for designation as scenic.
- Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance.
- A local, state or federally designated trail, or one proposed for designation.
- Adirondack Park Scenic Vistas.
- State Nature and Historic Preserve Areas.
- Palisades Park lands
- Bond Act Properties purchased under Exceptional Scenic Beauty or Open Space category.
- Landmark Natural Sites.
- Conservation and Scenic Easement Lands.
- Locally designated scenic areas and overlooks.
- High use public areas

Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) conducted a desktop inventory of sensitive resources of potential statewide significance within 10 miles of the proposed Facility. Identified resources within the 5-mile and 10-mile radius study areas are listed in the attached Table 1, and their locations depicted on Figures 3 and 4. This letter seeks input on Local Resources that have been identified as significant through Town Plans, websites, and publications, or have a cultural relevance to local residents. This could include, but is not limited to, local trails, parks, overlooks and locally designated historic properties.

### Selection of Viewpoints for Preparation of Visual Simulations

The VIA will also include a field review (site visit) to evaluate potential project visibility and obtain photographs for subsequent use in the development of photographic simulations of the proposed facility. Photographs will be taken from representative viewpoints within the study area, including sensitive resources identified by local stakeholders in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The DEC Program Policy Assessing and Mitigating Visual Impacts was issued on July 31, 2000 and can be reviewed here: <u>http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits\_ej\_operations\_pdf/visual2000.pdf</u>.

response to this letter. Photographs taken from each viewpoint during field review will be used to document potential visibility of the proposed Facility from various distances and visual settings within the study area.

A subset of the viewpoints photographed during the field review effort will be selected for the development of visual simulations. It is not anticipated that simulations will be prepared from every sensitive resource or area of concern identified by local stakeholders, or from every area with potential Facility visibility within the study area. Instead, it is anticipated that a subset of representative viewpoints will be selected that will provide a set of simulations that illustrate the appearance of the Facility from a range of distances and representative visual settings within the study area.

Thank you for your feedback,

MRos

Matthew Robinson Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. On behalf of Atlantic Wind

## List of Enclosures:

- Table 1. Sensitive Resources
- Figure 1. Regional Facility Location
- Figure 2. Facility Area
- Figure 3. Sensitive Resources and Viewshed Analysis: 5-mile Study Area
- Figure 4. Sensitive Resources and Viewshed Analysis: 10-mile Study Area



## memorandum

То:	Jenny Briot Atlantic Wind LLC	EDR Project No:	15128
From:	Matthew Robinson		
Date:	March 3, 2017		
Reference:	North Ridge Wind Project Visual Outreach Letter – Distribution List		

Comments:

Sherry Smith, Town Supervisor Town of Dickinson 563 State Route 11B Dickinson Center, NY 12930

Kimberly White, Town Historian Town of Dickinson 339 Aiken Road Dickinson Center, NY 12930

Susan Wood, Town Supervisor Town of Hopkinton 7 Church Street Hopkinton, NY 12965

Mary Converse, Town Historian Town of Hopkinton 2893 State Route 11B Hopkinton, NY 12965

Francis Barney, Planning Board Chairman Town of Hopkinton 7 Church Street Hopkinton, NY 12965

Donald J. Villnave, Town Supervisor Town of Lawrence 11403 US Hwy 11 North Lawrence, NY 12967

Cynthia Merrick, Town Historian Town of Lawrence 11403 US Hwy 11 North Lawrence, NY 12967

Town of Lawrence Planning Board Town of Lawrence 11403 US Hwy 11 North Lawrence, NY 12967

Rodney Votra, Town Supervisor Town of Parishville PO Box 155 Parishville,NY 13672

Joseph McGill, Town Historian Town of Parishville 3584 George Street Parishville, NY 13672

Frederick Wilhelm, Planning Board Chairman Town of Parishville PO Box 155 Parishville, NY 13672

Rollin Beattie, Town Supervisor Town of Potsdam 18 Elm Street Potsdam, NY 13676

Miriam VanDeusen, Town Historian Town of Potsdam PO Box 5168 Potsdam, NY 13676 North Ridge Wind Project – Visual Outreach Letter Distribution List March 3, 2017

Larry Averill, Planning Board Chairman Town of Potsdam 18 Elm Street Potsdam, NY 13676

Clark Decker, Town Supervisor Town of Stockholm PO Box 206 Winthrop, NY 13697

Carlton Stickney, Town Historian Town of Stockholm 2959 CR 49 Norwood, NY 13668

Steven Thompson, Planning Board Member Town of Stockholm 371 McIntyre Road Winthrop, NY 13697

Chad Rivers, Town Supervisor Town of Waverly PO Box 289 St. Regis Falls, NY 12980

Judy Wever, Town Historian Town of Waverly 60 North Main Street St. Regis Falls, NY 12980

Town of Waverly Planning Board Town of Waverly PO Box 289 St. Regis Falls, NY 12980

Donna Kissane, Manager Franklin County 355 West Main Street Malone, NY 12953

Russ Kinyon, Director Franklin County Economic Development & Planning Department 355 West Main Street Malone, NY 12953 Franklin County Historical and Museum Society Franklin County 51 Milwaukee Street Malone, NY 12953

Keith Zimmerman, Director St. Lawrence County Planning Office 49 ½ Court Street Canton, NY 13617-1169

Susanne Longshore, Historian St. Lawrence County Historical Association 3 East Main Street Canton, NY 13617

Bob Zimmerman, Chairman St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council 49 ½ Court Street Canton, NY 13617-1169

Diana Carter, Director of Planning NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Resource and Facility Planning Bureau 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12238

Director, Thousand Islands Region NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation 45165 NYS Route 12 Alexandria Bay, NY 13601

John Bonafide, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Peebles Island State Park PO Box 189 Waterford, NY 12188

Andy Davis, Utility Supervisor NYS Department of Public Service Empire State Plaza Agency Building 3 Albany, NY 12223 North Ridge Wind Project – Visual Outreach Letter Distribution List March 3, 2017

Judy Drabicki, Region 6 Director New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 317 Washington Street Watertown, NY 13601

Stephen Tomasik, Project Manager NYSDEC Division of Environmental Permits 625 Broadway 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Albany, NY 12233 Sherman Craig, Chairman NYS Adirondack Park Agency P.O. Box 99 1133 NYS Route 86 Ray Brook, NY 12977

Tribal Council Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe 412 State Route 37 Akwesasne, NY 13655

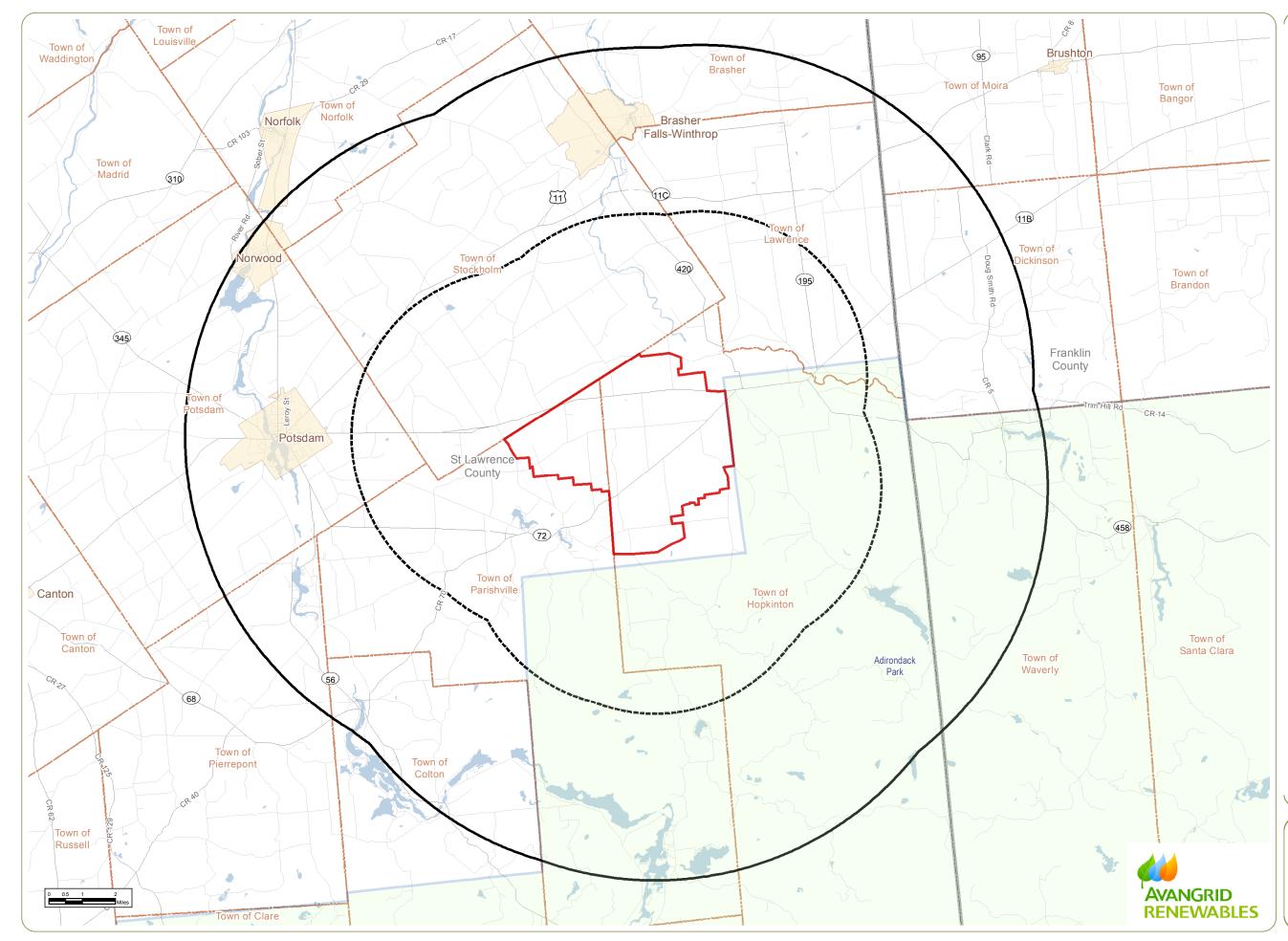
	Looo	tion	Di	atanaa
	Location		Distance	
Visually Sensitive Resource	Town	County	Within 5-mile Study Area	Within 5-10 mile Study Area
1. Properties Listed on the National or State	Register of Historic Place	, ,	, ,	,
Hopkinton Green Historic District	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Brown, Luke, House	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
West Stockholm Historic District	Stockholm	St. Lawrence	×	
Watkins-Sisson House	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Clarkson-Knowles Cottage	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
US Post OfficePotsdam	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Market Street Historic District	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Trinity Episcopal Church	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Wallace, Jonathan, House	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Bayside Cemetery and Gatehouse	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Clarkson Office Building	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Parmeter, Nathaniel, House	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Cox, Gardner, House	Pierrepont	St. Lawrence		×
Dr. Buck-Stevens House	Brasher	St. Lawrence		×
Zion Episcopal Church and Rectory	Colton	St. Lawrence		×
Hastings Farmstead	Dickinson	Franklin		×
Hepburn Library of Colton	Colton	St. Lawrence		×
Baldwin, Benjamin Gordon, House	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Norwood Methodist Church & Parsonage	Potsdam	St. Lawrence		×
Properties Eligible for Listing on the National or	State Register of Historic F	Places		
Richael Property - 3025 NY 11B	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Residence - 1260 NY 11B	Stockholm	St. Lawrence	×	
Post Office - 6 Port Kent Rd	Lawrence	St. Lawrence	×	
BIN 2259250	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
BIN 1029570	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
BIN 3366590	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
BIN 3341150	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Chapel Hill Cemetery - 1239 NY 72	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
Former Wesleyan Methodist Church - 1035a				
NY 72	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
960 NY 72	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
2. State Parks				
None in Study Area				
3. Urban Cultural Parks/Heritage Areas				
None in Study Area				
4. State Forest Preserves				
Adirondack Park	Lawrence, Dickinson, Parishville, Pierrepont, Colton, Hopkinton, Waverly	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	

	Location		Distance	
Visually Sensitive Resource	Town	County	Within 5-mile Study Area	Within 5-10 mile Study Area
	Parishville, Colton,		<b>,</b>	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
White HIII Wild Forest	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Debar Mtn. Wild Forest	Hopkinton, Waverly	Franklin, St. Lawrence		×
5. National Wildlife Refuges, State Game Ref	uges and State Wildlife N	Management Areas		
None in Study Area				
6. National Natural Landmarks				
None in Study Area				
7. National Parks, Recreation Areas, Seasho	res and/or Forests			
None in Study Area				
8. National or State Designated Wild, Scenic	, or Recreational Rivers			
	Lawrence, Dickinson, Brasher, Stockholm,			
St. Regis River	Hopkinton, Waverly Parishville, Stockholm,	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
St. Regis River, West Branch	Hopkinton, Waverly	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
West Branch St. Regis River	Parishville, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
	Lawrence, Dickinson,		~	
Deer River	Brasher	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	~
St. Regis River	Dickinson, Waverly	Franklin		×
9. Sites, Areas, Lakes, Reservoirs or Highwa	ys designated of Eligible			
None in Study Area				
10. Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance				
None in Study Area				
11. State and Federally Designated Trails	Lawrence, Potsdam,			
Bike Route 11	Stockholm, Moira	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
12. Adirondack Park Scenic Vistas				
None in Study Area				
13. State Nature and Historic Preserve Areas				
None in Study Area				
14. Palisades Park				
None in Study Area				
15. Bond Act Properties for Exceptional Bea	uty or Open Space			
None in Study Area				
Locally Important Resources				
Areas of Intensive Land Use (City, Village, H	amlet)			
Fort Jackson	Lawrence, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Hopkinton	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Nicholville	Lawrence, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Parishville	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
Parishville Center	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	

	Location		Distance	
		2004.001		
Visually Sensitive Resource	Town	County	Within 5-mile Study Area	Within 5-10 mile Study Area
Lawrence	Lawrence	St. Lawrence	×	
West Stockholm	Stockholm	St. Lawrence	×	
Major Transportation Corridors				
SR 11b	Lawrence, Dickinson, Parishville, Potsdam, Stockholm, Moira, Hopkinton, Waverly	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
	Parishville, Potsdam,			
SR 72	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
CR 49	Lawrence, Stockholm, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
CR 55	Lawrence	St. Lawrence	×	
SR 458	Hopkinton, Waverly	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
US 11	Stockholm, Moira	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
SR 11c	Stockholm	St. Lawrence	~	×
Recreation Resources	SIUCKIIUIIII	SI. LAWIEIILE		~
Local Parks and Playgrounds				
Parishville Park	Dorichville	Ct. Louropoo	×	
Lakes and Rivers	Parishville	St. Lawrence	^	
	Daviah, illa Haultintan	Ch Laumanaa	×	
Dan Wright Brook Rosenbarker Brook	Parishville, Hopkinton Hopkinton	St. Lawrence St. Lawrence	×	
		St. Lawrence	×	
Big Hollow Brook	Hopkinton Stockholm		×	
Trout Brook		St. Lawrence	×	
St Regis Lake	Lawrence, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence		
St Regis River	Stockholm, Hopkinton	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
Hopkinton Brook	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
West Branch St Regis River	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Lyde Brook	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Sucker Brook	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Miller Brook	Lawrence, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Barton Brook	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
Allen Falls Reservoir	Parishville	St. Lawrence		
Cold Hill Brook	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Alder Meadow Brook	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
Allen Brook		St. Lawrence	×	
Benham Brook	Lawrence, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Parkhurst Brook	Parishville, Potsdam	St. Lawrence	×	
Slough Pond	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Deer Lake	Lawrence	St. Lawrence	×	
Deer River	Lawrence, Dickinson	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
Blind Pond	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	

		Ale a	D	
	Location		Distance	
Visually Sensitive Resource	Town	County	Within 5-mile Study Area	Within 5-10 mile Study Area
Tucker Brook	Potsdam, Stockholm	St. Lawrence	×	
Fenner Meadow Brook	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Lake Ozonia Outlet	Waverly	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
Garfield Brook	Parishville, Potsdam	St. Lawrence	×	
Mud Pond Outlet	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
	•		×	
Kingston Brook Trails	Lawrence, Dickinson	Franklin, St. Lawrence	~	
Whiskey Flats State Forest - Hemlock Access			••	
Trail	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association Snowmobile Trail	Lawrence, Parishville, Brasher, Stockholm, Colton, Hopkinton, Waverly	Franklin, St. Lawrence	×	
Whiskey Flats State Forest - Sams Trail	Parishville, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Whiskey Flats State Forest - Pond Access	T ansimile, hopkinton	St. Lawrence	~	
Trail	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Whiskey Flats State Forest - Larch Access				
Trail	Parishville	St. Lawrence	<b>X</b>	
Whiskey Flats State Forest - Jack Pine Trail	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	<b>X</b>	
Whiskey Flats State Forest - County Trail	Parishville, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	<b>X</b>	
Whiskey Flats State Forest - By-Pass Trail	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Whiskey Flats State Forest - Kingsley Trail Whiskey Flats State Forest - Kingsley-Fletcher	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Trail	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Catherineville State Forest - Firewood Trail	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Whiskey Flats State Forest - Smith Trail	Parishville, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	<b>X</b>	
Southville State Forest - River Hill Ski Trail	Stockholm	St. Lawrence	×	
High Flats State Forest - Pine Ridge Access				
Trail	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
West Parishville State Forest - Pumpkin Hill			••	
Trail	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
High Flats State Forest - East Trail	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
High Flats State Forest - Waite Trail	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
High Flats State Forest - South Trail NYSDEC Lands	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	
			•	
Catherineville State Forest	Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	<b>X</b>	
Whiskey Flats State Forest	Parishville, Hopkinton	St. Lawrence	×	
Fort Jackson State Forest	Stockholm	St. Lawrence	×	
Southville State Forest	Stockholm	St. Lawrence	×	
Buckton State Forest	Stockholm	St. Lawrence	×	
High Flats State Forest	Parishville, Colton	St. Lawrence	×	
West Parishville State Forest	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	

	Location		Distance	
Visually Sensitive Resource	Town	County	Within 5-mile Study Area	Within 5-10 mile Study Area
Schools and Colleges				
Parishville-Hopkinton Central School	Parishville	St. Lawrence	×	



## North Ridge Wind Farm

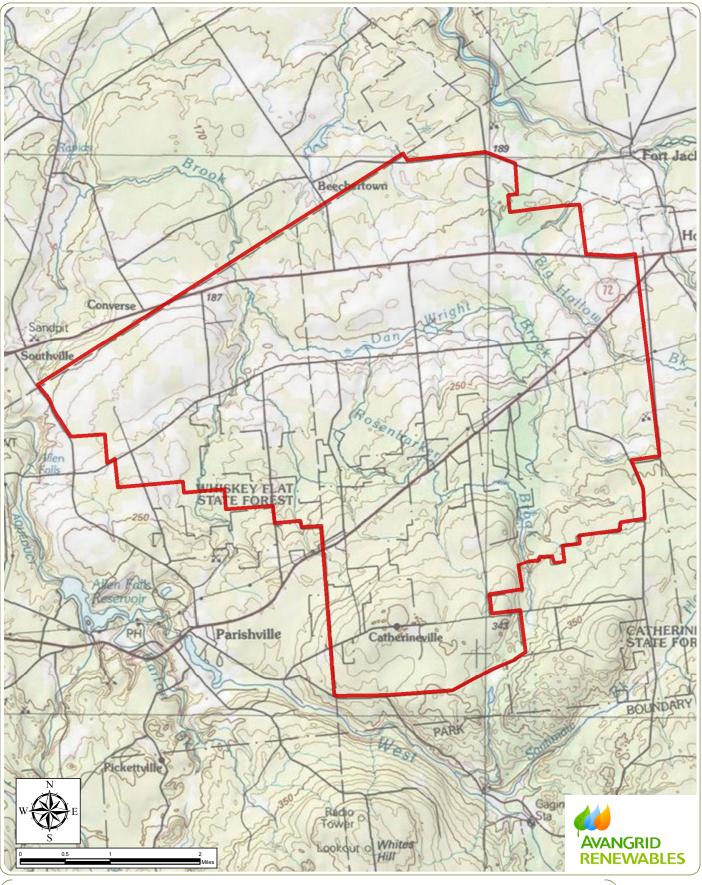
Towns of Hopkinton and Parishville, St. Lawrence County, New York

# Figure 1: Regional Project Location

Facility Area 5-Mile Study Area 10-Mile Study Area Adirondack Park Boundary County Boundary Town Boundary City/Village Boundary

#### Notes:

 Basemap: ESRI StreetMap North America, 2008.
 This map was generated in ArcMap on March 3, 2017.
 This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.



## North Ridge Wind Farm Towns of Hopkinton and Parishville,

St. Lawrence County, New York

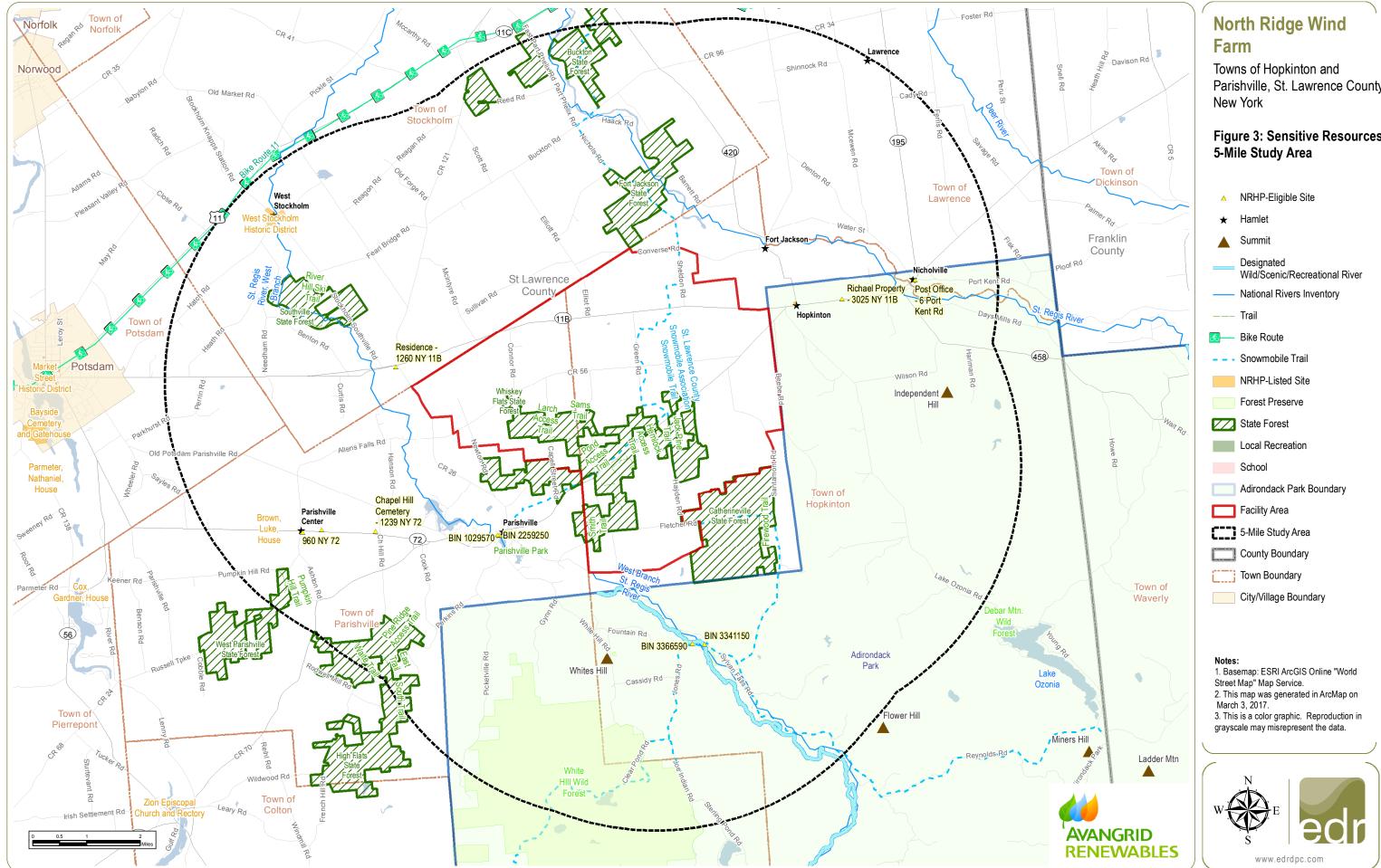
Figure 2: Facility Area





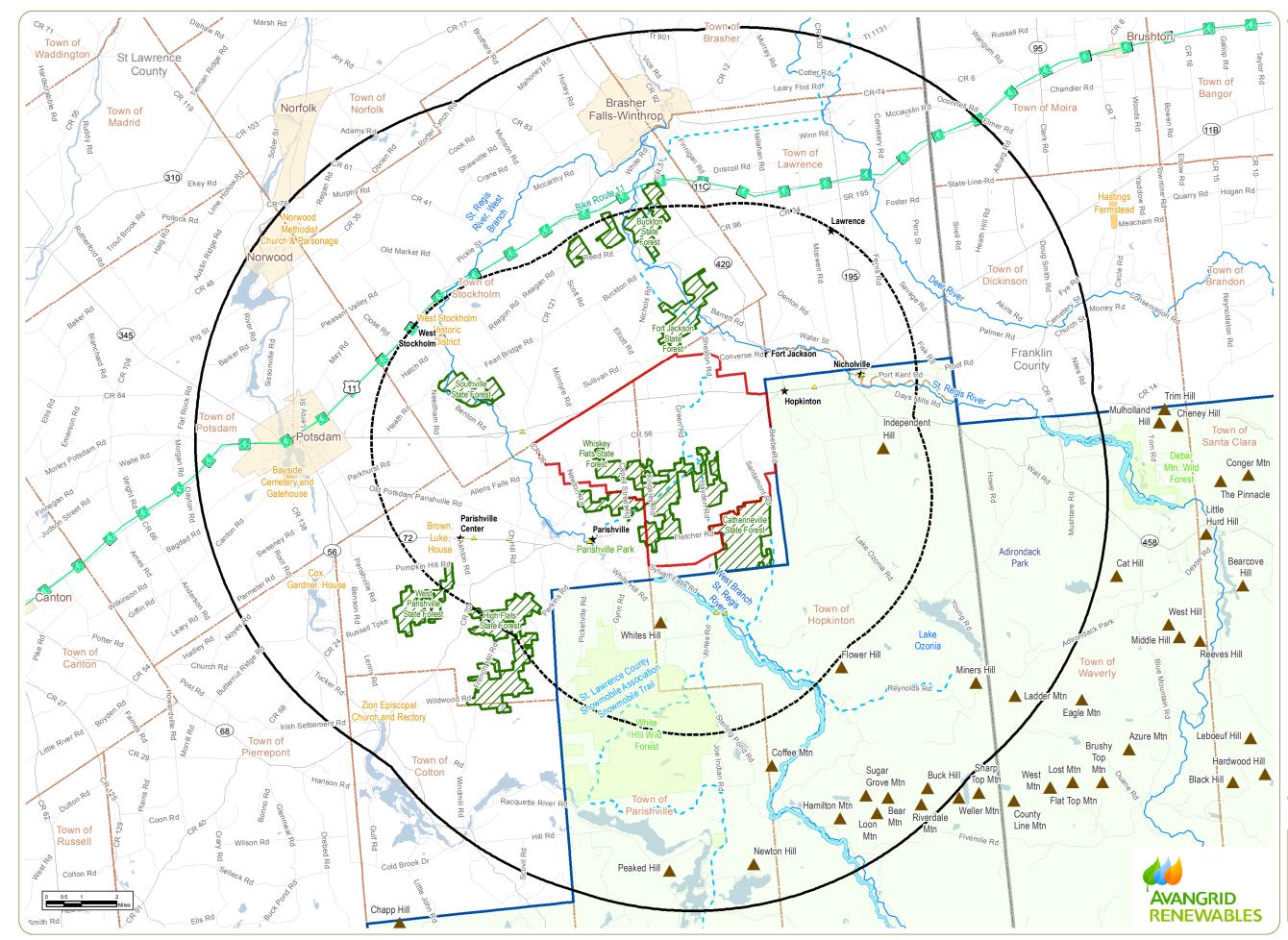
Notes: 1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "USA Topo Maps" map service.

This map was generated in ArcMap on March 3, 2017.
 This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.



Parishville, St. Lawrence County,

## Figure 3: Sensitive Resources:



# North Ridge Wind Farm

Towns of Hopkinton and Parishville, St. Lawrence County, New York

## Figure 4: Sensitive Resources: 10-Mile Study Area

<b>A</b>	NRHP-Eligible Site
*	Hamlet
	Summit
	Designated Wild/Scenic/Recreational River
	National Rivers Inventory
	Trail
<u></u>	Bike Route
	Snowmobile Trail
	NRHP-Listed Site
	Forest Preserve
	State Forest
	Local Recreation
	School
	Adirondack Park Boundary
	Facility Area
<u> </u>	5-Mile Study Area
	10-Mile Study Area
CT3	Town Boundary
	County Boundary
	City/Village Boundary

#### Notes:

 Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Street Map" Map Service.
 This map was generated in ArcMap on March 3, 2017.
 This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.

