

4906-17-04 Project Area Analyses

(A) SITE SELECTION STUDY

(1) General

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(a) Siting Criteria

No text changes have occurred in this section (Sections (a)(i) through (a)(iv)) of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(b) Relevant Factors in the Site Selection Process

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(i) Wind Resource

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(ii) Available Land and Land Use Constraints

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(iii) Environmental or Ecological Considerations

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

a) Avian and Wildlife

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following:

- A bat acoustic monitoring report was submitted to the OPSB in February 2010. The report covers the complete Project area, including the eight amendment turbines.

b) Aeronautical Study

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following:

- The Applicant submitted FAA 7460 forms to the Federal Aviation Administration on March 10, 2011 for the eight additional turbines. Appendix I provides more information.

c) Communication/Electromagnetic Interference

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

d) Cultural Resources

No text changes from the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following:

- A cultural resource report was submitted to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) with a copy to the OPSB Staff in February 2010.
- The Applicant has performed additional cultural resource investigations for the eight additional turbines and support components during March 2011. No archeological artifacts were recovered during the survey. Therefore, no historic properties, as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l), will be impacted by the proposed project in the Amendment areas. A revised survey report will be submitted to the OPSB upon completion of the investigation and coordination with the OHPO.

e) Geotechnical

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following:

- The Applicant submitted the results of turbine-specific geotechnical studies conducted in spring 2010 and the final geotechnical report to the OPSB in July 2010. Appendix L provides additional analysis conducted for the eight additional turbines.

f) Wetlands

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following, which should be added after the second sentence of the first paragraph [Application, 4-11]:

- The Applicant performed additional wetland delineations for the eight additional turbines and support components during March 2011. A Revised Wetland Delineation Report will be submitted to the OPSB upon completion of the investigation and coordination with the USACE and OEPA. It is the intent of the Applicant to keep total “Waters of the U.S.” impacts per location to less than 0.1 acre, so under the USACE Nationwide permit program the Facility can be authorized without a mitigation requirement.

g) Noise

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following at the end of the discussion [Application, 4-12]:

- The expected operational Project noise levels from 160 Gamesa G90 turbines and associated substations are anticipated to be less than 50 dBA (A-weighted scale) at individual receptors. The Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010 identified 30 dBA to 50 dBA. Appendix T presents the findings of the noise assessment.

h) Visual

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, except the following to be added at the end of the discussion [Application, 4-13]:

- A revised shadow flicker analysis was performed in March 2011 for the eight additional turbines (assuming G-90 wind turbines on 328-foot [100-meter] tall towers) to evaluate the extent of potential shadow flicker experienced at each residence and primary transportation corridor in the Project area. The revised shadow flicker analysis resulted in predicted shadow flicker effects over 30 hours per year at 11 residences in the entire Project area. The Applicant plans to use a number of mitigation measures relating to the April 2010 Visual Impact Assessment (VIA), as described in the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010, to reduce projected shadow flicker impacts to these affected residences. Appendix K provides the results of the additional shadow flicker analysis.

(iv) Site Accessibility

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(v) Community Support

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.

(2) Constraint Map

No text changes from the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010 have occurred in this section, except that Figure 4-1 has been modified to show the additional eight turbines and associated facilities.

(B) SUMMARY TABLE OF EVALUATED SITES

No text changes have occurred in this section of the Blue Creek Application approved by OPSB for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on August 23, 2010.