

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7250

Petition of Deerfield Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Public Good)
authorizing it to construct up to a 45 MW wind generation facility,)
and associated transmission and interconnection facilities,)
comprised of between 15 and 24 wind turbines on approximately 80)
acres in the Green Mountain National Forest, located in Searsburg)
and Readsboro, with turbines to be placed both on the east side of)
Route 8 on the same ridgeline as the existing GMP Searsburg wind)
facility Eastern Project Area), and along the ridgeline to the west of)
Route 8 in a northwesterly orientation (Western Project Area))

**PREFILED SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
STEVEN K. PELLETIER and WALLACE P. ERICKSON**

ON BEHALF OF DEERFIELD WIND, LLC

July 30, 2007

Summary:

Messrs. Pelletier and Erickson testify regarding 10 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5). They discuss their review of the revised project layout, and its effect, if any, on their original assessment of potential impacts to migrating birds, raptors, and migrating and resident bats.

1 **Q. Please state your names, addresses, and occupations.**

2 Response. Steven K. Pelletier, Vice President, Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. (Woodlot),
3 30 Park Drive, Topsham, Maine 04086. My occupation is as a Wildlife Biologist,
4 Professional Wetland Scientist (SWS), and Certified (SAF) Forester. I am registered
5 by The Wildlife Society as a Certified Wildlife Biologist.

6 Wallace P. Erickson, Western EcoSystems Technology Inc. (WEST), 2003
7 Central Ave., Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82001. My occupation is as a wildlife statistician.

8

9 **Q. Have you previously submitted direct testimony in this matter?**

10 Response by Mr. Erickson. Yes I have.

11 Response by Mr. Pelletier. I have not. Robert Roy, formerly employed by Woodlot,
12 filed the original direct testimony with Mr. Erickson. Given Mr. Roy's departure
13 from Woodlot, I am replacing him as Woodlot's witness.

14

15 **Q. Mr. Pelletier, are you familiar with Mr. Roy's work on this project and have**
16 **you reviewed his reports and testimony? Please explain.**

17 Response. Yes I am. I have provided oversight to the various surveys conducted
18 on-site since 2004. I am also familiar with the methods used for each survey as well
19 as the results of those surveys from 2004 to 2006. I also understand that this is one
20 of the only projects in the northeast that has completed four seasons of radar surveys
21 and bat surveys, as well as a spring and fall season of raptor migration surveys.

22

23 **Q. Mr. Pelletier, are you adopting his testimony and exhibits?**

1 Response. Yes I am.

2

3 **Q. Mr. Pelletier, please briefly describe your background and experience.**

4 Response. I am a certified wildlife biologist, professional wetland scientist, and

5 licensed/certified professional forester with over 24 years of experience, including

6 both Federal (US Forest Service) and State (Maine) professional biological service.

7 As vice president and co-founder of Woodlot, I primarily specialize in wildlife

8 ecology, including landscape level and habitat-specific natural community

9 assessments. I hold an A.S. in Forest Management Technology (1978) and a B.S. in

10 Wildlife Management and Forestry (1980), both from the University of Maine at

11 Orono. I have authored and co-authored a variety of ecological papers, including

12 *Biodiversity in the Forests of Maine: Guidelines for Land Management*, published by the

13 University of Maine Cooperative Extension. I am an active member of the Society

14 of Wetland Scientists, Society of American Foresters, Forest Guild and The Wildlife

15 Society, and am co-founder and a past President of the Maine Association of

16 Wetland Scientists. I have also been directly involved with a variety of State agency-

17 sponsored resource collaborations as well as the Maine Wildlife Windpower

18 Advisory Committee, which was recently sponsored by Maine Audubon and Maine

19 Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW).

20 I first began conducting ecological assessments of resources associated with

21 wind developments in the early 1990s. As Principal-in-Charge of wind projects at

22 Woodlot, I have since overseen or directly taken part in approximately three dozen

23 seasonal wildlife assessments for proposed wind farm projects extending from

1 northern Maine south to West Virginia, and westerly to western New York. These
2 projects have been in a variety of landscape settings, including high linear ridgelines,
3 individual mountain tops, the Great Lakes Plain, and rolling agricultural landscapes.
4 Many of these studies have utilized marine radar to monitor the movements of
5 nighttime migrations while others have also used alternative methods to investigate
6 movements and habitat use of birds and bats, including acoustic recording devices,
7 ceilometers, night-vision equipment, thermal imaging cameras, and NEXRAD radar.
8 These studies also include field-based breeding bird surveys, morning and daytime
9 migration stopover surveys, and raptor migration surveys. My resume is attached as
10 ***Exhibit DFLD-SP/WE-1***

11

12 **Q. Mr. Pelletier, have you previously provided testimony to the Public Service**
13 **Board or in other administrative or legal proceedings?**

14 Response. Yes I have. I previously provided testimony in March 2005 on behalf of
15 the East Haven Windfarm. I have also previously provided testimony relating to
16 other natural resource investigations in Maine before State Boards and Commissions.

17

18 **Q. What is the purpose of your combined supplemental testimony?**

19 Response. Our testimony reviews the revised project layout in terms of its potential
20 impacts on migrating birds, raptors, and migrating and resident bats.

21

22 **Q. Have you reviewed the revised project layout, consisting of 17 turbines (10 on**
23 **the western string and 7 on the eastern string)?**

1 Response. Yes we have.

2

3 **Q. Is the revised project layout within the Project area that you originally**
4 **investigated?**

5 Response. Yes, the revised project layout is still within the area we originally
6 investigated.

7

8 **Q. How, if at all, is the revised layout different from the layout that you assessed**
9 **in your original testimony and report, in terms of potential impacts to**
10 **migrating birds, raptors, and migrating and resident bats?**

11 Response. Because the revised layout falls within the area previously investigated,
12 the potential impacts to migrating birds, raptors, and migrating and resident bats
13 remains the same.

14

15 **Q. Do the revisions to the layout alter your original conclusion that the Project**
16 **will not have an undue adverse effect on migrating birds, raptors, and**
17 **migrating and resident bats? Please explain.**

18 Response. The revisions to the project layout do not alter our original conclusion
19 that the Project will not have an undue adverse effect on migrating birds, raptors,
20 and resident bats. On the contrary, the revised layout of 17 turbines has fewer
21 turbines than the maximum prior proposed buildout of 24 turbines, and thus should
22 have an even smaller impact than previously estimated.

23

1 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony at this time?**

2 Response. Yes, it does.