



**Stantec**

August 2, 2013

Daniel Courtemanch  
Division of Land Resource Regulation  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

**Subject: Response to Comments of John Hopeck, Ph.D., Division of Environmental Assessment, Bingham Wind Project, Somerset and Piscataquis Counties, Maine L-25973-24-A-N**

Dear Dan:

In response to the Review Memorandum by John Hopeck, Ph.D., on July 12, 2013, for the Bingham Wind Project (L-25973-24-A-N), we are providing the following responses in italics below.

- 1) Section 15.6.1 states that, prior to operation, an operational Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan will be completed "and filed with the MDEP upon completion". This plan must be submitted for review and approval prior to operation of the facility.

*A draft SPCC plan has been submitted for review as part of the MDEP application. The applicant understands that once turbine selection has been made and site construction is complete, the SPCC plan will be revised and submitted to MDEP for approval prior to operation of the facility.*

- 2) The information received for review does not include test pit logs or other records of subsurface explorations at the site in the soils information presented, with the exception of the four test pit logs shown on the HHE-200 form included in the wastewater section of the application. The material received for Exhibit 11 does not indicate that the logs are to be found in any other sections of the application.

*All test pit logs and other available subsurface information has been submitted for review by MDEP.*

- 3) The proposed wastewater disposal system for the operations and maintenance building is shown on acceptable soils. The design flow appears to be high, however, compared to other facilities of this type. The applicant should clarify whether the 23 staff and visitors cited in the HHE-200 form are expected to be at the site every day, or only periodically, and how this figure of 23 staff and visitors was arrived at.

*The full time staff present on site is expected to be 6-10 employees. The subsurface wastewater design was purposely proposed with a conservative design flow to accommodate temporary increases in wastewater flows. These may be associated with additional people present for project maintenance, site tours, or public events. The system construction and increased disposal capability is a relatively insignificant*

*cost. We thought this a sound approach to designing the wastewater disposal system.*

- 4) The construction SPCC plan specifies setbacks from water supply wells and sand and gravel aquifers for storage and transfer of petroleum. It appears from Section 15.1 that surveys were conducted only for public water supply wells. Inspection of the site confirms that at this time there do not appear to be any public or private water supply wells along the turbine strings, but it is less clear that this will be case along some sections of the generator lead in Abbot and Parkman. The applicant should identify all locations of private wells, springs, or other sources of drinking water within 200 feet of any construction area, and mark setback from such sources, if any. Any refueling and petroleum storage activities during right-of-way maintenance must follow these same setbacks; the existing vegetation management plan does not appear to specifically include these setbacks to address possible activities during maintenance.

*This will be completed prior to the initiation of construction.*

- 5) Locations of sources for dust-control water should be stable under the anticipated truck traffic; possible sites would include concrete or asphalt boat ramps, bridges, or similar locations.

*The applicant agrees.*

- 6) Section 20 of the application states that a geotechnical investigation of the turbine sites will be submitted prior to construction; this report must be submitted for review and approval. It is not anticipated that large volumes of sulfide-bearing rock will be encountered in the area of the proposed project, although smaller bodies may occur.


*The applicant agrees.*

- 7) The proposed blasting plan is generally consistent with Department requirements.

*The applicant agrees.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,  
**STANTEC CONSULTING**

  
Dale F. Knapp  
Director, Water Resources Division

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