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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION  
22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0022

WALTER E. WHITCOMB  
COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS D. LIVESAY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Commission Members

**From:** Billie J. MacLean, Regional Representative, Ashland Regional Office

**Date:** December 1, 2015

**Re:** Request for Site Law Certification SLC-7; Number Nine Wind Farm LLC, T10 R3 WELS, T9 R3 WELS, T8 R3 WELS, E Twp., TD R2 WELS, St. Croix Twp., TC R2 WELS, Town of Hammond, TA R2 WELS, Forkstown Twp, Aroostook County

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On July 21, 2015, the Commission received request for certification from Number Nine Wind Farm LLC for an approximately 250 megawatt (MW) grid-scale wind energy development project to be located in Southern Aroostook County. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) is the lead permitting agency on grid-scale wind energy development but the Commission must certify that the use is allowed in the Subdistrict(s) in which it is located and that the project meets the Commission's standards that are not reviewed by the MDEP. At this time, the staff would like familiarize you with this project. Attached is the presentation for the December 9, 2015 meeting.

Enclosures:

# **Site Law Certification SLC-7 Number Nine Wind Project**

**Applicant:**

**Number Nine Wind Farm, LLC**

Commission Meeting  
December 9, 2015  
Billie MacLean

# Project Location

## Aroostook County

T10 R3 WELS

T9 R3 WELS

T8 R3 WELS

E Twp.

TD R2 WELS

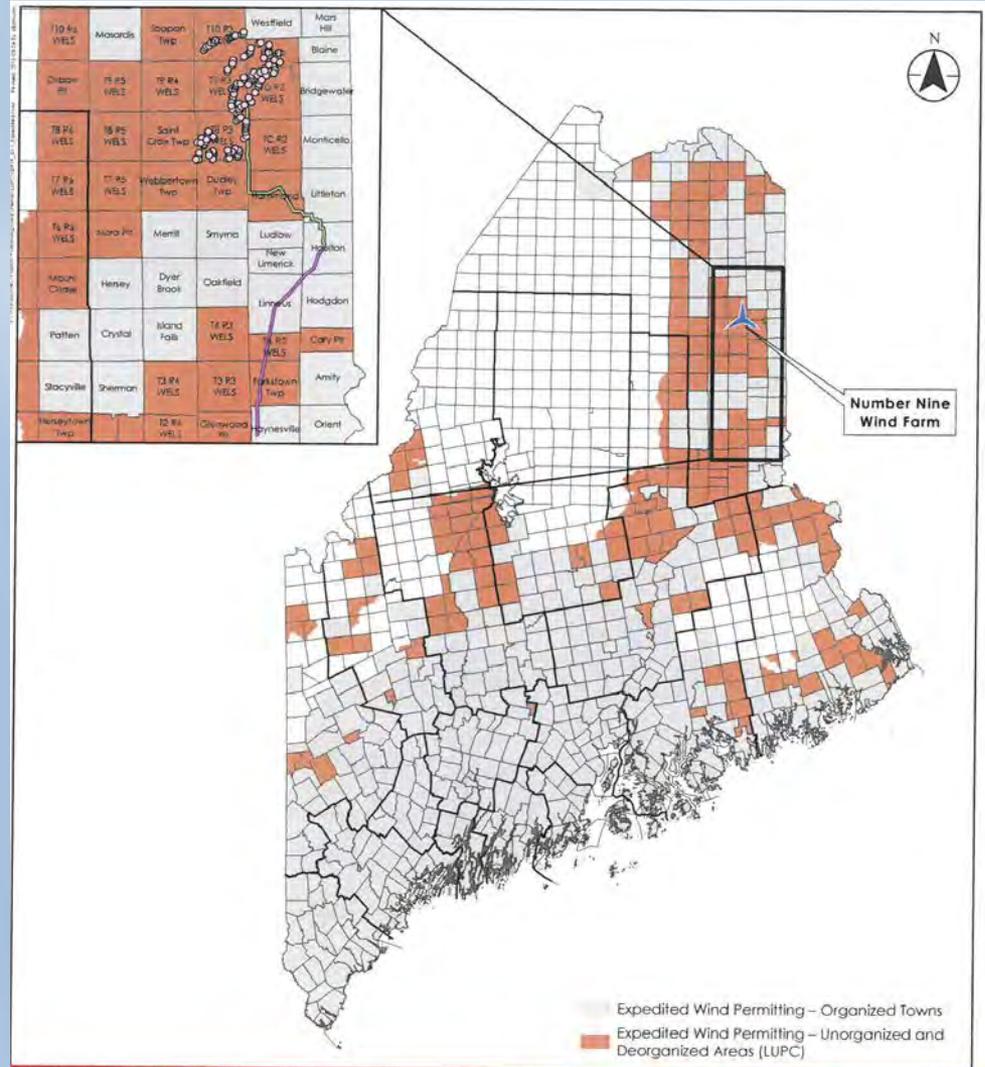
St. Croix Twp.

TC R2 WELS

Town of Hammond

TA R2 WELS

Forkstown Twp.



# Proposal

## Up to 250 Megawatt (MW) Grid-scale Wind Energy Development

- ▣ **119 turbines:** Each 2.0 or 2.1 MW
  - in T10 R3 WELS, T9 R3 WELS, T8 R3 WELS, E Twp., TD R2 WELS, and St. Croix Twp.
  - 492 ft. tall at upward turned tip of blade
- ▣ **Roads**
  - 50 miles of new roads
  - 15 miles of existing roads to be upgraded
  - 74 miles of existing roads used for the Project but not upgraded will be maintained
- ▣ **34.5 kV collector line:** Largely along Project roads
  - 64 miles above-ground
  - 64 miles underground

# Proposal

## ▣ **Buildings:**

- Operations & Maintenance building,
- Garage
- Substation

## ▣ **Met towers:**

- Up to 4 permanent towers (305 ft. tall)
- Up to 4 temporary tower

## ▣ **Temporary office and storage trailers**

## ▣ **Temporary concrete batch plants:**

- Up to 3 sites, affecting a total of 21 acres.
- Sites will be converted to permanent equipment storage.

## ▣ **Temporary lay-down areas:**

- Up to 4 sites

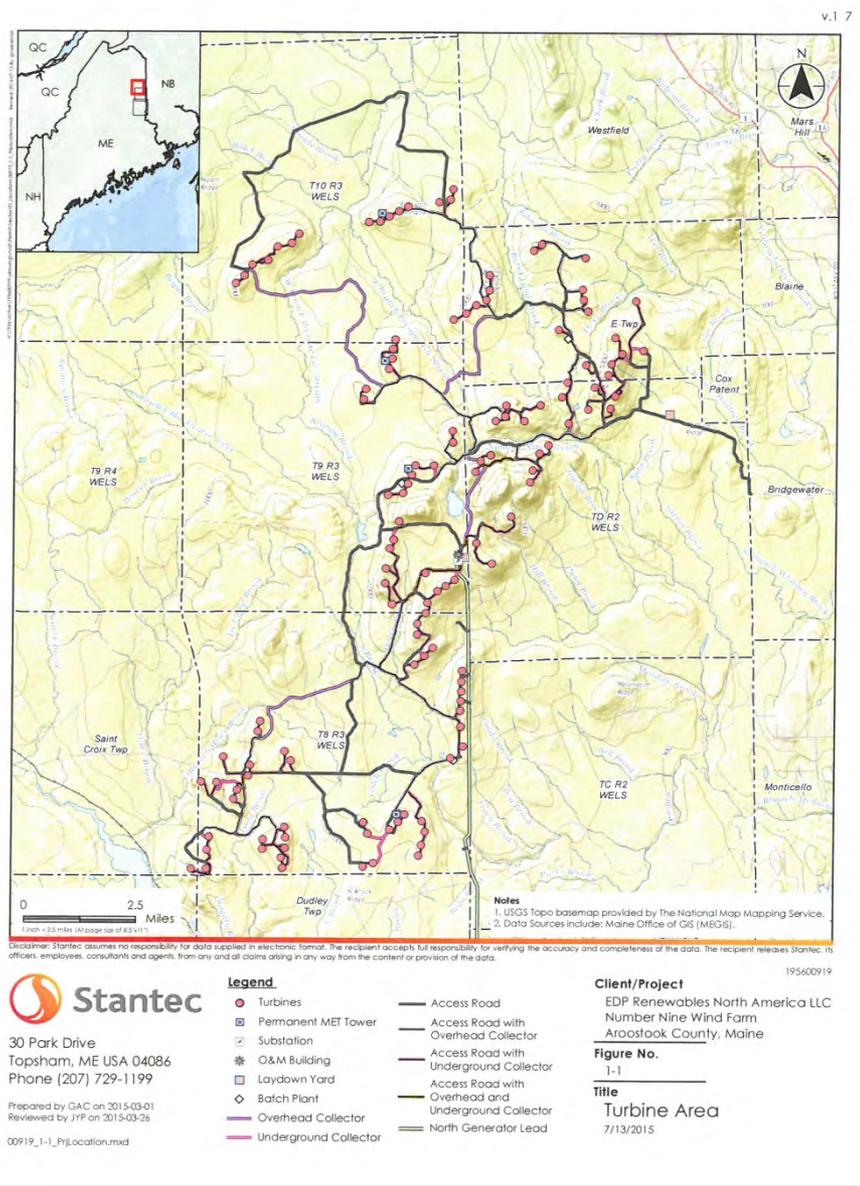
# Proposal

## 345 kV Generator Lead Line: 52 miles

- North generator lead line: from project substation to Houlton
  - New 150 ft. wide ROW
- South generator lead line (*i.e.*, “Bridal Path”): From Houlton to Interconnection Switchyard in Haynesville
  - 150 ft. wide, within existing pre-Commission 225 ft. wide ROW
  - Previously partially cleared but not developed
  - Switchyard is being permitted separately by DEP

# Site Location Maps

## Number Nine Wind Project



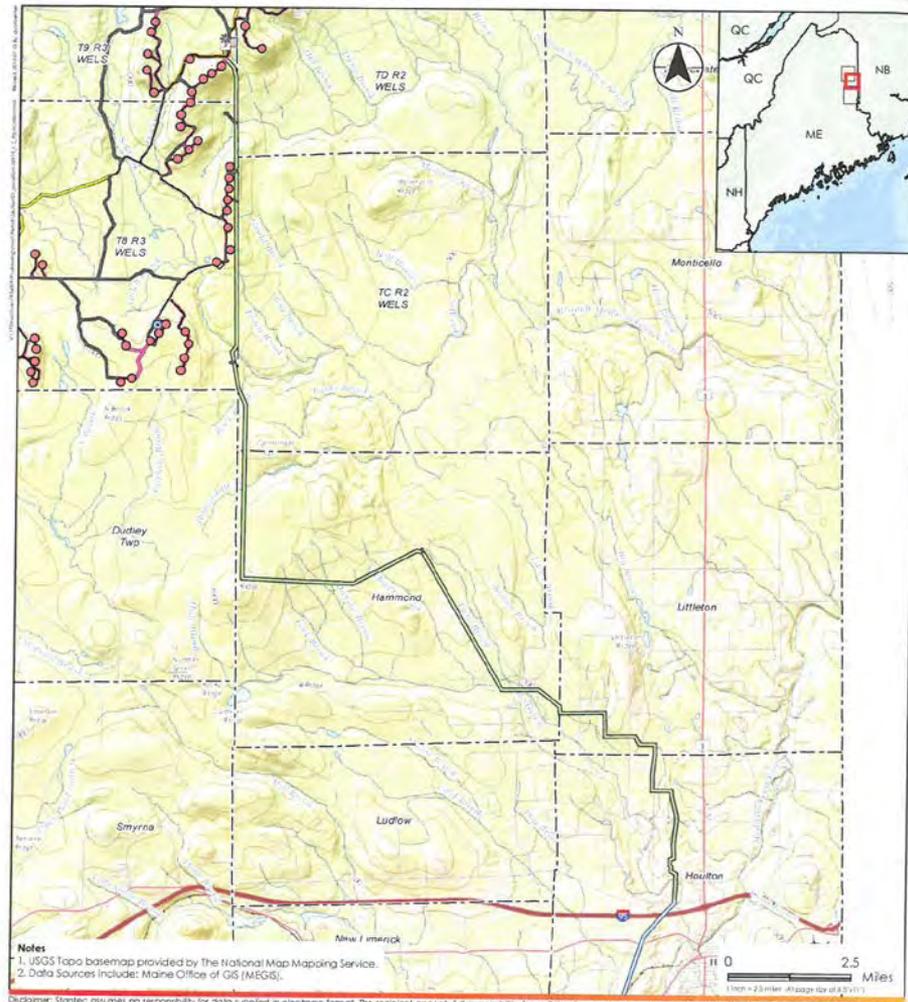
**Stantec**  
30 Park Drive  
Topsham, ME USA 04086  
Phone (207) 729-1199

Prepared by GAC on 2015-03-01  
Reviewed by JYP on 2015-03-26

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# Site Location Maps

## Number Nine Wind Project



**Notes**  
 1. USGS Topo basemap provided by The National Map Mapping Service.  
 2. Data Sources Include: Maine Office of GIS (MEGIS).

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 Phone (207) 729-1199

Prepared by GAC on 2015-03-01  
 Reviewed by JYP on 2015-03-26

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- Legend**
- Turbines
  - Permanent MET Tower
  - Substation
  - O&M Building
  - Laydown Yard
  - Batch Plant
  - North Generator Lead
  - Bridal Path Generator Lead
  - Overhead Collector
  - Underground Collector
  - Access Road
  - Access Road with Overhead Collector
  - Access Road with Underground Collector
  - Access Road with Overhead and Underground Collector

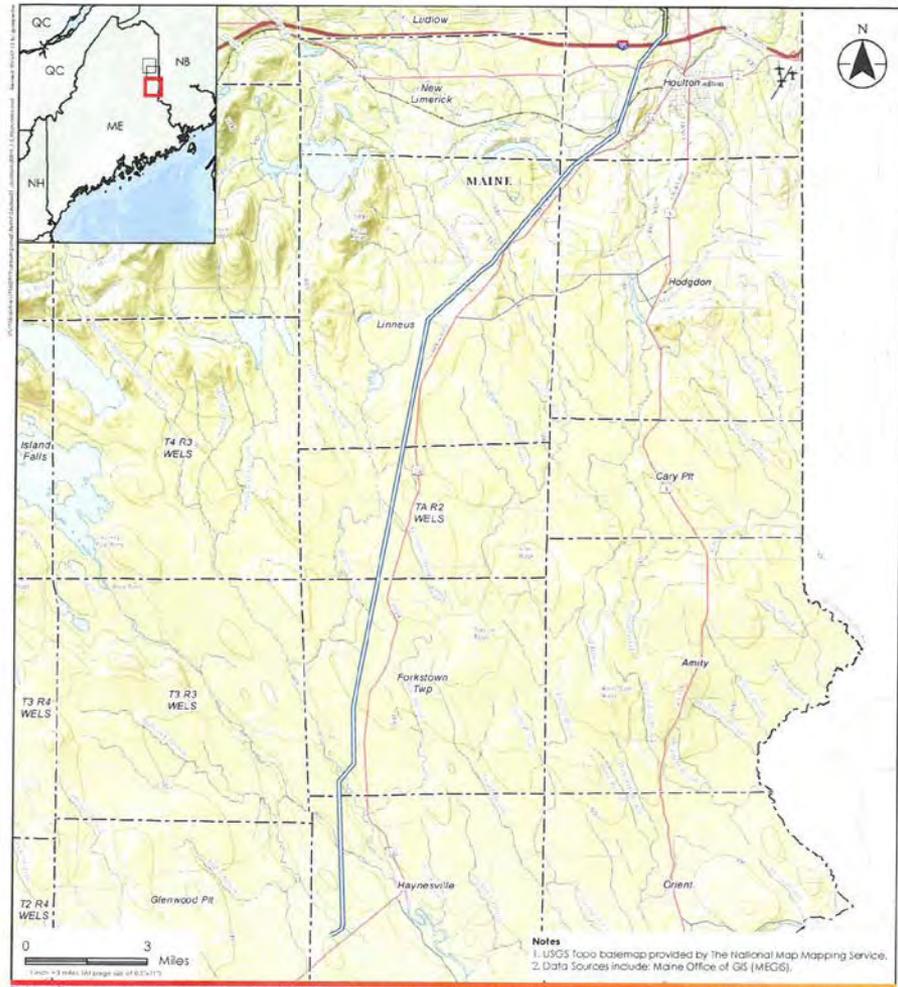
**Client/Project**  
 EDP Renewables North America LLC  
 Number Nine Wind Farm  
 Aroostook County, Maine

**Figure No.**  
 1-2

**Title**  
 North Generator Lead  
 7/13/2015

# Site Location Maps

## Number Nine Wind Project



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 30 Park Drive  
 Topsham, ME USA 04086  
 Phone (207) 729-1199  
 Prepared by GAC on 2015-03-01  
 Reviewed by JJP on 2015-03-26  
 00919\_1-3\_PrfjLocation.mxd

**Legend**  
 — North Generator Lead  
 — Bridal Path Generator Lead

**Client/Project**  
 EDP Renewables North America LLC  
 Number Nine Wind Farm  
 Arrostook County, Maine

**Figure No.**  
 1-3  
**Title**  
 Bridal Path Generator Lead  
 7/13/2015

# Allowed Use

- ▣ **Project area** is in the expedited permitting area for wind energy development. By law, wind energy development is an allowed use in all subdistricts.
- ▣ **Subdistricts affected:** M-GN General Management Subdistrict, P-SL Shoreland Protection Subdistrict, P-WL Wetland Protection Subdistrict, P-FP Flood Prone Area Protection Subdistrict
- ▣ **July 21, 2015:** Certification request submitted to LUPC
- ▣ **August 6, 2015:** Determination of allowed use issued to MDEP

# Land Use Standards

## Standards the Commission applies to wind energy projects

- ▣ Vehicular circulation, access and parking, §10.25,D
- ▣ Lighting, §10.25,F,2
- ▣ Land division history, §10.25,Q
- ▣ Activities in flood prone areas, §10.25,T
- ▣ Minimum dimensional requirements, §10.26
- ▣ Vegetation clearing, §10.27,B
- ▣ Signs, §10.27,J

# Land Use Standards

## Standards considered by the DEP

### Examples:

- ▣ Noise
- ▣ Scenic character (visual impact)
- ▣ Erosion and sedimentation control
- ▣ Wildlife and fisheries
- ▣ Wetlands
- ▣ Tangible benefits
- ▣ Decommissioning

# Project Status

- **Oct. 19, 2015** – LUPC sent a request to the applicant for more details/clarification of various items. Still awaiting responses.
- **November 24, 2015** – LUPC was informed that the applicant is going to file an Amendment with MDEP. Re-orienting some of the roads.