## STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION





PATRICIA W. AHO
COMMISSIONER

June 17, 2013

Mr. W. Louis Sidell, Jr. First Assessor, Kingsbury Plantation 1069 Douty Hill Road Sangerville, ME 04479

RE: DEP Project #L-25973-24-A-N/L-25973-TG-B-N
Blue Sky West, LLC and Blue Sky West II, LLC
Bingham, Mayfield Township, Kingsbury Plantation, Parkman and Abbot

Dear Mr. Sidell:

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2013, regarding the above-referenced application for a Site Location of Development and Natural Resources Protection Act permit. Blue Sky West, LLC and Blue Sky West II, LLC have filed an application to construct a 62-turbine wind energy development which also includes access roads, an operations and maintenance building, collector line, transmission line and a substation.

Staff reviewed your letter requesting that the Department hold a public hearing for the proposed project. According to the Department's Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters, 06-096 CMR 2 § 7, "the Department will hold a hearing in those instances where the Department determines there is credible conflicting technical information regarding a licensing criterion and it is likely that a public hearing will assist the decision maker in understanding the evidence." Your letter refers to concerns regarding scenic impacts and noise from the facility. Staff reviewed your letter and advised me that it does not contain credible conflicting technical information regarding licensing criteria to support a public hearing. Therefore the Department has determined that there is insufficient justification to hold a public hearing for the pending application in this instance. Nonetheless, we will continue to welcome and consider any comments submitted during the review of this application.

The Department will be holding two public meetings in the Bingham area to discuss this project. These meetings will be open to everyone and are designed to provide an opportunity for everyone to ask questions and offer their feedback about the project. In addition, if you or the other Assessors in Kingsbury Plantation would like to have a meeting to discuss the project and your concerns regarding it, my staff would be happy to facilitate it.

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions or would like to schedule a meeting, please contact the project manager, Dan Courtemanch at <a href="mainto:BinghamWindProject.DEP@maine.gov">BinghamWindProject.DEP@maine.gov</a>.

Sincerely

Patricia W. Aho Commissioner

cc: Dan Courtemanch, DEP Mark Bergeron, DEP Dale Knapp, Stantec Josh Bagnato, First Wind