

Governor's Office of Policy and Management

Executive Department

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To: Daniel Courtemanch, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
From: Amanda Rector, State Economist
Date: June 17, 2013
Subject: Bingham Wind Project Review

Pursuant and subject to 38 M.R.S.A. §484, sub-§10, I am providing review comments regarding tangible benefits on the Bingham Wind Project application. This is not a legal opinion. Below are my comments based on review of the "tangible benefits" provisions from M.R.S.A. 35-A, Ch. 34-A.

Any permit application for an expedited wind energy development is required to include documentation of the following information:

1. Estimated jobs to be created statewide and in the host community or communities, as a result of construction, maintenance and operations of the project;
2. Estimated annual generation of wind energy;
3. Projected property tax payments;
4. A descriptions of the community benefits package, including but not limited to community benefit agreement payments, valued at no less than \$4,000 per year per wind turbine, averaged over a 20-year period; and
5. Any other tangible benefits to be provided by the project.

The application submitted by Blue Sky West, LLC and Blue Sky West II, LLC, wholly owned subsidiaries of First Wind Energy, LLC, regarding the Bingham Wind Project does address each of these required pieces of information.

The tangible benefits described in the Bingham Wind Project application appear to meet the criteria established in 35-A M.R.S.A. §3454. The community benefits package exceeds the minimum statutory requirements.