

13.0 VISUAL ASSESSMENT

This section contains a Maine DEP Visual Evaluation Field Survey Checklist, which was completed by Terrence J. DeWan & Associates, Inc. They conducted a visual assessment of the proposed Project and prepared a full report, which was filed with the Maine DEP as part of the Site Location of Development Act permit application for the Project.

**APPENDIX A - MDEP VISUAL EVALUATION
FIELD SURVEY CHECKLIST**
(Natural Resources Protection Act, 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 480 A - Z)

Name of applicant: Canton Mountain Wind, LLC **Phone:** 617-890-0600

Application Type: NRPA/SLODA

Activity Type: Installation of an 8 turbine wind power project

Activity Location: Canton **County:** Oxford

GIS Coordinates, if known: See project information from Tetra Tech, EC

Date of Survey: 1/26, 1/31, 10/7, and 10/21, 2011

Observers: Terry DeWan/Amy Segal **Phone:** 207-846-0757

| Visibility | Distance Between the Proposed Activity and Resource (in Miles) | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 0-1/4 | 1/4 –1 | 1+ |
| 1. Would the activity be visible from: | | | |
| A. A National Natural Landmark or other outstanding natural feature? None | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B. A State or National Wildlife Refuge, Sanctuary, or Preserve or a State Game Refuge? None | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C. A state or federal trail? None | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Project will not be visible from any state or federal trails. The closest state-designated trail is the Maine Central Railroad trail in Canton (ITS 89), which is 3.6 miles to the closest turbine. Most of the trail is in the woods with little visibility outside its corridor. | | | |
| D. A public site or structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Two historic structures will have views of the Project: 1) the North Jay Grange Store in North Jay, where viewers at the rear of the building will have partially filtered views of up to 8 turbines during leaf off season at a distance of 3.6± miles, and 2) the Jay-Niles Memorial Library in North Jay, which will have filtered views of 8 turbines during leaf-off season at a distance of 3.7 miles. The Project will be visible from the original front entrance, which is no longer in use. Four other structures on the National Register – Goodspeed Memorial Library and Bass Boarding House in Wilton, the Holmes-Crafts Homestead (Jay Historical Society) in Jay, and the Nelson Family Farmstead in Livermore are within eight miles of the project; however, none will have views of the turbines due to intervening topography and vegetation. | | | |
| E. A National or State Park? None | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| F. 1) A municipal park or public open space? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Canton Heritage Park on Route 108 in the village of Canton contains a gazebo, benches, walkways, and plantings. A few turbines may be visible looking north through vegetation during the leaf off months at a distance of 4.5 to 5.4 miles. | | | |

Portions of 8 turbines may be visible from Kineowatha Park on the east side of Wilson Pond in Wilton at a distance 6.0 to 7.1 miles. The Project will not be visible from Bass Park or the walkway and swimming beach on Wilson Pond.

2) ***A publicly owned land visited, in part, for the use, observation, enjoyment and appreciation of natural or man-made visual qualities? None. See above.***

There are a number of publicly owned properties within the viewshed of the Project. However, none will have views of the turbines or associated facilities due to topography and intervening vegetation. These include the state owned Dash Parcel on the Androscoggin River in Canton, an IF&W public access site; an IF&W boat launch on Round Pond in Livermore; and the Holmes Craft Homestead in Jay, used by the Jay Historical Society.

3) ***A public resource, such as the Atlantic Ocean, a great pond or a navigable river?***

The Project will be visible from several great ponds within the 8-mile viewshed:

Forest Pond (45 acres). Turbines will be visible over approximately 75% of the lake at 3.8 to 4.6 miles. This is the only waterbody within the study area where turbines will be visible that has been rated "Significant" for scenic resources by the Maine Finest Lake Study.

Lake Anasagunticook (Canton Lake) (568 acres) in Canton/Hartford. Turbines will be visible over approximately 80% of the lake, with the closest turbine at 4.8 miles.

Round Pond (161 acres) in Livermore. Turbines will be visible over approximately 40% of the pond, with the closest turbine at 6.5 miles.

Long Pond (208 acres) in Livermore. Turbines will be visible over approximately 60% of the pond, with the closest turbine at 6.8 miles.

Worthley Pond (375 acres) in Peru. Turbines will be visible over approximately 60% of the pond, with the closest turbine at 4.6 miles.

Wilson Pond (563 acres) in Wilton. Turbines will be visible over approximately 20% of the pond, with the closest turbine at 6.5 miles.

Due to intervening topography and vegetation within the 8-mile viewshed, the Project will not be visible from Nelson Pond or Parker Pond in Jay, Pease Pond in Wilton, or Podunk Pond in Carthage.

The Androscoggin River flows through the middle of the study area in Dixfield, Peru, Canton, Jay, Livermore, and Livermore Falls. As seen on the Viewshed Map, most of the views of the Project from the river will occur south of the Project where turbines will be visible at 2.0 to 3.5 miles. To someone on the river, turbines will be visible from the west at distances of 5 to 6 miles. Turbines will also be visible on the east side of the project at 2.5 to 5.2 miles; however, at this point recreational boaters will most likely be traveling downstream and will not be aware of the Project.

This section of the river has not been identified as having unique or outstanding scenic attributes in the Maine Rivers Study.

2. **What is the closest estimated distance to a similar activity?**

The closest existing project is Spruce Mountain Wind Project in Woodstock 13.2 miles to the southwest. The closest approved project is Saddleback Ridge Wind Project in Carthage, 6.8 miles to the northwest.

3. What is the closest distance to a public facility intended for a similar use? N/A
4. Is the visibility of the activity seasonal? (i.e., screened by summer foliage, but visible during other seasons) Yes No
5. Are any of the resources checked in question 1 used by the public during the time of year during which the activity will be visible? Yes No