



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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January 5, 2016

Mr. Jim R. Beyer & Ms. Jessica Damon
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
106 Hogan Road, Suite 6
Bangor, Maine
04401

Subject: **Site Location of Development and Natural Resources Protection Act Permit applications, Number Nine Wind Farm LLC
DEP #L-26502-2F-G-N, #L-26502-24-H-N, #L-26502-IW-I-N, #L-26502-L6-J-N,
#L-26502-VP-K-N, #L-26502-TH-L-N**

Dear Sir & Madam,

Further to the October 13, 2015 submission of the State of Maine, Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology (SOM) and the Department of Homeland Security - Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the matter of the above subject applications of the Number Nine Wind Farm LLC and the "Microwave Study Number Nine Wind Farm" dated November 3, 2015 prepared by Comsearch on behalf of Number Nine Windfarm LLC and submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection on December 17, 2015, the following presents the response and further submissions of SOM and CBP.

The submitted "Microwave Study Number Nine Wind Farm" is based on "Comsearch's proprietary microwave database, which contains all non-government licensed, proposed and applied paths from 0.9 - 23 GHz", as such the Study is incomplete as it excludes federal government microwave systems. Details with respect to CBP's microwave systems operating in the vicinity of the Number Nine Windfarm LLC project were provided in the SOM and CBP's submission of November 3, 2015. SOM and CBP respectfully request that the Comsearch study be expanded to include these systems. Further SOM and CBP recommend that the study be expanded to include any other federal government microwave systems operating in the vicinity.

The submitted "Microwave Study Number Nine Wind Farm" indicates that for the microwave paths studied and the planned turbine locations "Two turbines were found to intersect the two dimensional Fresnel Zones of one microwave path. Based on the cross sectional analysis, it was determined that the blades pass below the beam path and neither are expected to cause signal obstruction". No undertaking has been provided by Number Nine Windfarm LLC that any changes in construction plans (including turbine location details) will be coordinated with the pre-existing microwave paths. The SOM and CBP respectfully request that Department of Environmental Protection establish criteria (exclusion zones) to protect the physical operation of the pre-existing microwave systems and further that the Department of Environmental Protection

require that Number Nine Windfarm LLC not construct turbines in locations that obstruct pre-existing microwave systems and that they be required to take mitigating action should such a situation arise.

The SOM and CBP re-iterate their October 13, 2015 request “that for future wind farm project assessments that the Department of Environmental Protection require project proponents ensure wind turbines and associated project structures will not cause problems to existing communications systems as part of the environmental impact assessment and that the process include notification to the operators of these pre-existing communications systems.”

If you have any questions on this submission please contact the undersigned at 207 624 9986.

Sincerely;



John E. Richards
State of Maine
Director, OIT Radio Operations

CC: Greg McNeal