

STATE OF MAINE
LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF DEVELOPMENT)	Pre-Filed Rebuttal Testimony of
APPLICATION DP 4889)	Patrick Graham, Janine Murchison, and
CHAMPLAIN WIND, LLC)	Jodi O’Neal on behalf of
BOWERS WIND PROJECT)	Champlain Wind, LLC

On behalf of Champlain Wind, LLC (“Champlain”), Patrick Graham, Janine Murchison, and Jodi O’Neal are submitting this pre-filed rebuttal testimony in support of DP 4889 for the Bowers Wind Project and in response to testimony filed by David Corrigan.

I. SURFACE WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Mr. Corrigan has asked about the impacts of construction of the Project on surface water flows and, ultimately, surface water quality in the Project area. As discussed in Section 10 and Exhibit 10A of the Application, potential surface water impacts will be minimized through the use of appropriate (and proven) stormwater management practices, such as culverts with riprap outlet protection and level spreaders. Champlain will also incorporate “rock sandwiches” and other construction designs techniques as needed to maintain the surface and groundwater hydrology.

In addition, the erosion and sedimentation control plan has been reviewed by both Dave Rocque, the State Soil Scientist, and Dave Waddell from Maine DEP. Champlain has responded to these comments and incorporated many of Mr. Rocque’s and Mr. Waddell’s comments and recommendations. See May 25, 2011 Champlain Response to Agency Comments, Attachments 5 and 6. Construction details have been revised to reflect their comments and Champlain will continue to work with Mr. Rocque and Mr. Waddell to incorporate any further suggestions or comments into the final construction plans.

Finally, Champlain’s construction techniques and stormwater BMPs are similar to those that have been used successfully in the construction of five other grid-scale wind energy projects in Maine. For these reasons we respectfully disagree with Mr. Corrigan that there is any significant risk of adverse impacts to surface waters associated with construction of the Project.

II. GROUNDWATER

Mr. Corrigan has also asked whether the construction of the Project will result in adverse groundwater impacts or the “warming” of waters that might feed lakes and ponds in the Project area. Specifically, Mr. Corrigan suggests that the blasting associated with the turbine foundations may result in “irreparable damage” to groundwater supplies. As an initial matter it is important to note that in Maine blasting is a common aspect of many residential and commercial developments. Significant amounts of ledge often require blasting for road construction and other projects. This activity is carried out as necessary and in accordance with proven techniques to minimize impacts to abutting properties and groundwater hydrology.

For this Project, and based on designs of other similar wind power projects, it is expected that the larger concrete foundations will be approximately 50 x 50 feet at the base and, on average, 6-8 feet deep. Depending upon the type of foundation, the volume of concrete for each turbine pad is approximately the same as one to three average sized homes. As a result, the total amount of concrete is not going to exceed that which is used in two or three average sized municipal subdivisions—hardly the “massive quantities” suggested by Mr. Corrigan.

In addition, at these shallow depths, even if blasting is necessary, the foundation excavations are not likely to have any significant impact on bedrock aquifers. Nor are there any bedrock wells drilled on Bowers Mountain, so-called South Peak, or Dill Hill. Bedrock wells are located on Route 6 and Getchell Mountain, the closest of which is 0.75 miles from the turbines.

Given the elevation of turbine pads, the shallow depth of the foundation excavation, and the distance to the closest well, the construction of the turbine pads is not likely to have an adverse impact on bedrock aquifers, groundwater flows, or bedrock wells.

III. CONTAMINANTS

Finally, Mr. Corrigan has suggested that installation of the turbine foundations will result in the leaching of mercury or other “contaminants” into the groundwater. First and foremost, the concrete used in the turbine foundations is largely the same material used to pour house foundations, including foundations located in close proximity to residential drinking wells. In addition, although concrete may contain up to 2% of chemical admixtures, when concrete cures it becomes an inert material.

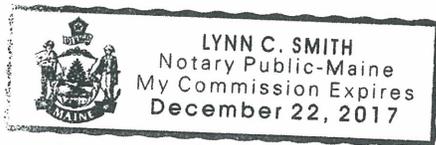
Date: June 17, 2011


Patrick Graham

STATE OF MAINE
County of Penobscot

Date: June 17, 2011

Personally appeared before me the above named Patrick Graham, who, being duly sworn, did testify that the foregoing testimony was true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.



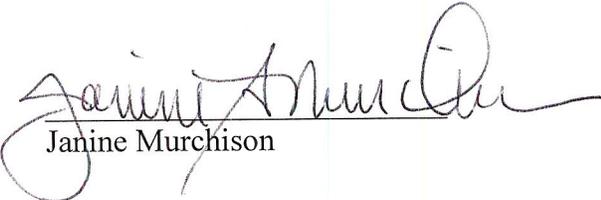
Before me,


Notary Public

My commission expires: Dec. 22, 2017



Date: 06/17/11


Janine Murchison

STATE OF MAINE
County of Aroostook

Date: 6/17/2011

Personally appeared before me the above named Janine Murchison, who, being duly sworn, did testify that the foregoing testimony was true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.



Before me,

Notary Public
My commission expires: 4/11/2014

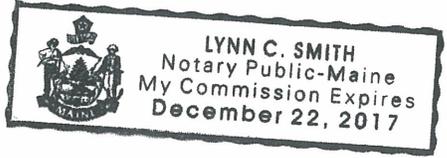
Date: 6/17/2011

Jodi O'Neal
Jodi O'Neal

STATE OF MAINE
County of Penobscot

Date: 6/17/2011

Personally appeared before me the above named Jodi O'Neal, who, being duly sworn, did testify that the foregoing testimony was true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.



Before me,
Lynn C. Smith
Notary Public
My commission expires: Dec. 22, 2017

