

William Cundiff

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Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 10:09 PM
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Cc: Vigneau, Douglas
Subject: MEPA Scoping Session and Site Visit: EEA #14647 Douglas Woods Wind Farm

NOTICE OF MEPA SCOPING SESSION AND SITE VISIT

EEA No. 14647: **Douglas Woods Wind Farm**
Douglas, MA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project consists of the construction of a 27.5 megawatt (MW) wind energy facility on a 298-acre site in Douglas. The Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) indicates that the proposal consists of 11 wind turbines affixed to the top of 100-meter towers and powered by three rotating 50-meter wind blades. Each wind turbine has a nameplate capacity of 2.5 MW and the total potential generating capacity of the project is estimated at 27.5 MW. Associated infrastructure will include a 4,800 square foot (sf) control building, underground electric cable lines (or lines direct buried in berms where ledge exists) and a switchyard. Associated off-site work will include preparation of adequate transportation routes for delivery of construction equipment and turbines and upgrading of transmission lines. Access to the site is proposed via Webster Street (Route 16) and the project will include approximately 17,000 linear feet of gravel access roadways.

The project site is predominantly undeveloped forest land and includes several wetland resources areas. Approximately 21 acres of land were altered to construct access roads and erect a meteorological tower which has been collecting data since June 2009. The Town of Webster and existing residences are located along the project's western boundary. The remainder of the site is adjacent the Douglas State Forest, which is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The site has been designated as a Chapter 43D Priority Development Site for the Town of Douglas.

The project is undergoing MEPA review and is subject to preparation of a mandatory Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to 301 CMR 11.03 (1)(a)(1) because it includes state funding and consists of alteration of 50 or more acres of land. The project requires a Heavy Load Permit from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and

Section 72 Approval – Public Convenience and Necessity from the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). Off-site work associated with preparation of one of the identified alternative transportation routes may require review and approval by MassDOT. The project will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Construction Activities from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a Determination of No Hazard from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In addition, the project requires an Order of Conditions from the Douglas Conservation Commission and the Webster Conservation Commission (and a Superseding Order of Conditions in the event a local Order is appealed). In addition, it requires Site Plan Review by the Douglas Planning Board.

DATE/TIME: **Wednesday, October 13 at 10:00 am** – Any members of the public are welcome to attend the Scoping Session and the Site Visit

LOCATION: The Scoping Session will be held at the **Douglas Municipal Center (29 Depot Street in Douglas)** and will be followed by a site visit.

CONTACT FOR PROJECT INFORMATION/COPIES OF THE EENF: Douglas Vigneau, VHB (508) 752-1001 dvigneau@vhb.com

MEPA CONTACT: Deirdre Buckley (617) 626-1044 deirdrebuckley@state.ma.us

MEPA WEBSITE: <http://www.mass.gov/envir/mepa>

The proponent has filed an EENF (<http://www.env.state.ma.us/mepa/mepadocs/2010/092210em/nps/enf/14647.pdf>) with a request for a Waiver of the requirement to prepare an EIR. In the event that the Waiver is not granted, the Proponent requests that the Secretary allow the filing of a Single EIR. The Single EIR request, if granted, would allow the proponent to file a single environmental review document rather than a Draft EIR and a Final EIR. Consistent with this request, the EENF is subject to an extended review period. State agencies, municipal officials and the public are encouraged to comment on the project, potential impacts and whether the project meets the criteria for a Waiver and/or a Single EIR.

COMMENTS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 22, 2010

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