

In attendance:

Jim Greenwood, Farley Brown, Mark Whitworth, Robert Croteau, and David Snedeker (Committee Members and Staff); Robert Dostis (Green Mountain Power); Jason Shafer (Lyndon State College); and Chris Braithwaite (Barton Chronicle).

Introductions:

J. Greenwood opened the meeting and provided background information to guests about the purpose of the study committee and information on some topics that have been covered to date.

Robert Dostis (Green Mountain Power, invited guest):

- Provided a handout – *KCW Fact Sheet* – to the committee members and all present. The fact sheet provided answers to common questions that GMP has heard from tours of the facility that they have offered over a 3-month period. *The Fact Sheet is included with these minutes.*
- Explained that a difference between KCW (Lowell) and First Wind (Sheffield) is that KCW is a generation resource built for a customer – Vermont Electric Cooperative. First Wind is a merchant generator.
- KCW developers were out and providing information in the community 16 months before the application was filed for a CPG. The Lowell community voted in favor of the project. There were no other formal votes in surrounding communities.
- Lowell receives municipal tax revenue from the KCW facility. KCW doesn't pay state education tax in manner of residential property owner, but they are required to contribute to the state education fund. KCW also created a mechanism whereby surrounding towns receive payment based upon land mass within 5 miles of the project's center. Community payments are based upon output and will continue for 10 years. There were no objections of methodology from local Selectboards.
- VEC is sold power generated at cost. KCW has upgraded transmission lines to help move power out.
- In response to question, R. Dostis indicated that ISO-New England required a synchronous condenser to lessen curtailment issues. KCW has a rated capacity of 63MW. The capacity was 30MW with curtailment, but now capacity is 50MW because of B-20 (transmission) upgrade. The synchronous condenser should be installed by February 2014 and should solve curtailment issue. The project's capacity factor was listed 33% in their application.
- Integration studies that were required didn't address the issue of curtailment. There were questions about whether the transmission upgrades were elective or not (response?).
- KCW will make its power generation numbers public after one full year of operation. The project cost was \$170 million. Subtract \$40 million for the Production Tax Credit and (some value?) for the sale of the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and this will yield the cost to ratepayers.
- There was a question as to whether KCW would be selling its RECs out of state. VT allows RECs to be sold out of state. (Response?)
- GMP hopes to meet its 2017 SPEED goal of having 20% of its portfolio in renewables. They would consider purchasing additional wind power to meet their portfolio needs.
- GMP agrees with VEC that another wind generation facility in this area has the ability to impact their own project (curtailment).
- StanTec is doing bat studies for GMP.
- After 2 years, there has been no approval of proposed radar-activated lighting by the FAA.
- For impacts on public health, GMP has used peer-reviewed research – *Health Effects – Peer Review of Literature*. *The Health Effects handout is included with these minutes.*
- KCW has conducted 5,400 hours of sound monitoring. Only 4+ hours exceeded the PSB's limit. 99.9% of the time the facility was compliant.
- KCW is aware of no impact on property values, and it is probably too early to tell.
- Asked if GMP was involved in discussions about the B & E wind project in Eden, VT R.Dostis had no knowledge of this.

Jason Shafer (Lyndon State College, invited guest):

Jason is an Associate Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at Lyndon State College in VT.

- J. Shafer provided to the committee a PowerPoint presentation on climatology, wind resources, and local resource data entitled *Wind Energy in Vermont: A Meteorologist's Perspective*. *The presentation is included with these minutes.*
- Industrial wind in the NEK region is not an appropriate resource anywhere below an elevation of 2,000 ft.
- Class 2 – 3 resources (11.5 – 14.5 mph) makes industrial-scale wind generation feasible.
- A minimum of one year's worth of data is necessary for siting a wind generation facility. (R. Dostis noted that GMP had five years' worth of data.)
- Wind direction is important for siting.
- 2012 data from airports in Island Pond, Lyndonville, Newport, and Burlington indicate that Burlington has wind speeds greater than or equal to 11.4 mph for the greatest percentage of time (29.3 % of the time. Newport was second at 17.4%). In Chittenden County, there are good wind resources (Class 2, 11.5 mph) in much of the Shelburne and Charlotte areas.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:40pm.

Next meeting 10/16/13 – 6:30pm.