

State Environmental Quality Review  
Positive Declaration  
Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS  
Determination of Significance

May 21, 2008

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below may have a significant impact on the environment and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be prepared.

Name of Action.

Hounsfield Wind Farm

SEQR Status.

Type I

Scoping.

DEC will conduct formal scoping for this action. A draft scoping document, dated May 14, 2008, has been prepared by the project sponsor. A public scoping session will be conducted on June 17, 2008 at the following location:

Town of Hounsfield Court Building  
411 W. Washington  
Sackets Harbor, New York

Scoping sessions will be held 3 pm and 7 pm.

DEC will accept comments on the draft scope until close of business, June 30, 2008. Comments can be delivered by hand, or sent by regular mail, commercial delivery service, fax transmittal or email, to the DEC contact person listed at the end of this notice.

The draft scope is available for public review at the DEC office listed above, and is also available online at DEC's website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6061.html>

Description of Action.

Upstate NY Power Corp (Upstate Power) proposes to construct the Hounsfield Wind Farm, a wind-powered electric generating facility on Galloo Island in the Town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County, New York (Proposed Action or Project). The Proposed Action will consist of the installation and operation of up to 90 wind turbine generators (WTG) for the purpose of generating 268.8 Megawatts (MW) or less of electricity in the Town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County.

The proposed project includes:

- Construction and Operation of up to 90 WTG. The proposed WTG will be a 3.0 MW generator with a 90 meter blade rotor diameter and a hub height of 80 meters, for a total maximum height of 125 m (410 feet) from blade tip to ground.
- Construction of a 34.5 KV electrical collection system (ECS) connecting all WTG to an on-island electrical substation. ECS will be installed both under and above ground based on site conditions.
- Construction of (up to 32 ft wide) access roads to each WTG.
- Construction of an inlet slip docking facility to allow for equipment delivery.
- Construction of an operation and maintenance facility building.
- Construction of a temporary rock crushing facility and concrete batch plant.
- Construction of temporary housing facilities to house up to 200 construction workers.
- Construction of two 12-unit permanent housing facilities for operation and maintenance staff.
- Construction of a potable and fire protection lake water intake system.
- Construction of a potable water treatment system and a sewage treatment system.
- Construction of a closed loop geothermal heating and cooling system for a permanent facilities with the closed loop system placed along the Lake Ontario/Galloo Island Shoreline.

Additionally, the transmission lines and related facilities will include construction and operation of an approximately 51.5-mile transmission line (9 miles under Lake Ontario, 42.5 miles across the mainland), together with interconnection facilities and other related facilities. The submarine portion of the transmission line will consist of a single 230 kV cable that will be installed using a combination of methods, including water jet blasting and/or hydro-plowing. It is anticipated that the cable will have three cores and will be buried at a depth of up to 6 feet. A sea bed survey will be conducted to determine the appropriate methods of cable installation and cable depth. The construction and operation of the 51.5-mile transmission line, and the substations (one on Galloo Island and one in Parish, New York) is subject to the exclusive review jurisdiction of the New York State Department of Public Service (NYDPS) under Public Service Law Article VII. As such it is a Type II action under SEQRA (6 NYCRR §617.5[c][35] and therefore not subject to SEQRA review (6 NYCRR §617.5[a]).

#### Location.

Galloo Island, Lake Ontario, approximately 12 miles west of Sacketts Harbor, in the Town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County.

#### Reasons Supporting this Determination.

Potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action were identified in the Full Environmental Assessment Form. These impacts, which may be reasonably expected to result from the Project, have been compared to the criteria for determining significance identified in 6 NYCRR

§ 617.7(c)(1) and in accordance with 6 NYCRR § 617.7(c)(2) and (3). The Project may result in one or more significant impacts on the environment, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to address those potential impacts.

#### Air quality.

A substantial permanent adverse change in air quality is not anticipated as a result of the project, however temporary facilities related to construction operations on the island may result in short-term adverse air quality impacts. These would include concrete batch plant operations and electrical generation facilities to provide power for construction activities and housing for construction workers. Operation of the project will result in electrical generation that emits no air pollutants; therefore the project has the potential to result in a positive impact to air quality by displacing sources of electrical generation that emit air pollutants.

#### Wetlands, surface and groundwater quality.

There are significant areas of wetlands and surface waters on and surrounding Galloo Island under regulatory jurisdiction of either DEC or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The proposed development includes construction on approximately 77 acres within the 2,000 acre parcel under the control of the project sponsor. The proposed construction has the potential to result in adverse impacts to wetlands under DEC and/or ACOE jurisdiction due to construction project components. Wetland impacts require permit approval from either the DEC or USACE. Construction of temporary facilities to accommodate up to 200 construction workers, permanent residential facilities for approximately 12 permanent personnel, an operations & maintenance (O&M) facility, water supply and waste treatment facilities, may result in adverse impacts to surface or ground water quality and will require permits from the NYS Department of Health and DEC. Surface water impacts can also result from anticipated construction activities and require a protection of waters permit from the DEC. The project must also comply with terms of the SPDES Stormwater General Permit for Construction Activities.

#### Vegetation and wildlife.

The project will result in the removal or destruction of a significant area of vegetation. Potential impacts from project construction include the loss of significant habitat area, potential impacts to threatened or endangered species of animals or plants or the habitat of such a species. Potential impacts from project operation include collision mortality and avoidance or displacement impacts to birds and bats that use and fly through the project area.

#### Land use.

The project development area has a zoning classification of MR-Marine, and requires site plan review and approval from the Town of Hounsfield Planning Board. Development of PILOT and/or Host Community agreements will include discussion with the Jefferson County IDA, Jefferson County, the Town of Hounsfield Town Board, and the Sackets Harbor Central School District. Additionally, the New York State Open Space Plan has identified Galloo Island as part of the Great

Lakes Shorelines and Niagara River priority conservation project area in DEC Regions 6, 7, 8 and 9. The area includes spawning and nursery habitat for various fish species including threatened and endangered species such as the lake sturgeon, and nesting, feeding and resting habitat for waterfowl.

Historic and archeological resources.

One property adjacent to the project development area, the Galloo Island Lighthouse, is listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places. Several listed properties are located within 10 miles of the project development area, including the Getman farmhouse, Angell Farm, Lance Farm, the Union Hall and the United Methodist Church, all located in the Town of Lyme. The New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has established recommendations for the assessment of historic and cultural resources associated with the development of wind farm projects in New York State, including a survey of historic buildings within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) established by state and federal agencies involved in the project, and a Phase I Archaeological Survey. The DEIS will include a visual resource assessment conducted in accordance with DEC and SHPO guidelines.

Cumulative impacts.

The DEIS will include a cumulative impact analysis of the proposed action together with other wind energy projects currently operational or under consideration in the region. The cumulative analysis will focus on impacts related to bird/bat mortality/avoidance, terrestrial species and habitat, and visual/historical/cultural impacts.

For further information, contact:

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A copy of this notice must be sent to:

Chief Executive Officer, Town of Hounsfield  
Any person requesting a copy  
All involved agencies  
Environmental Notice Bulletin, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233