

# BCRC Regional Energy Committee

## MINUTES

October 5, 2018 - 12:00 PM  
BCRC Offices – 111 South Street, Bennington

Present: Wayn Goodman, Chair, Judy Boehlert, Bhima Nitta, Hal Wilkins  
Jim Sullivan (BCRC Staff)  
Jason Day ( Star Wind Turbines)

1. Introductions
2. Review proposal for a 90 kW wind energy project in Sandgate

Review preliminary application materials for a CPG for 3 30 kW wind turbines, manufactured by Star Wind Turbines of East Dorset, to be located in Sandgate near Lake Madeleine. Jason Day presented background on the project, noting the generation will replace a similar amount of generation from an abandoned hydro turbine at the lake. The Star machines use six turbines and are very quiet, meeting all Vermont noise standards.

There will be minimal disturbance to vegetation (about 0.83 acres of clearing), limited road building as an existing logging road will be used from the lake. The committee discussed ANR's somewhat vague notion of what constitutes an unacceptable break in "forest connectivity." A complete site plan with erosion control plans will be submitted with the application.

The committee reviewed the wind energy resource maps from the regional energy plan and noted that there are no apparent "level 1" or "known" constraints and the wind resources is reasonable good at the site. If the Town of Sandgate weighs in with concerns about visual impacts, the BCRC will acknowledge those local issues.

State agency review is ongoing. Some concern expressed by the committee over review criteria being considered by the State Historic/Archeological office regarding visual impacts from Skyline Drive. The committee wanted to be sure that seeing the facility from that road is not considered as an undue adverse impact since much of the county is visible from that road and rejecting a site because of an impact on a viewshed from that location would set an unacceptable precedent – especially since it is not only energy related development that is visible from the road or the summit of the mountain. The committee also noted that the fact that a wind project is visible from off-site locations should not be seen as a negative in all, or most, cases. It is significant when a town has identified a particular viewshed as being particularly important to that community.

The committee felt that the project, as planned, is consistent with the regional plan – noting that any local input from the Town of Sandgate would weigh on the consistency issue.

3. Other Business and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.