

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) has been prepared for the proposed Jericho Rise Wind Farm (the Project). Jericho Rise Wind Farm LLC (the Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of EDP Renewables (EDPR), is proposing to construct a wind energy generation facility (and associated necessary Project infrastructure) in the Towns of Chateaugay and Bellmont in Franklin County, New York (see Figure 1). The potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project are being reviewed under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) with the Towns of Chateaugay and Bellmont serving as Co-Lead Agencies.

The SEQRA review of the Project began in 2007. This SEIS has been prepared to build upon the information and analysis presented in the 2008 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that was previously prepared for the Project. This SEIS addresses all changes to the proposed action that have occurred subsequent to the release of the DEIS, and includes additional studies and analyses. In general, the SEIS does not reiterate information from the previous DEIS that remains accurate and unchanged. In addition, the SEIS is not a comprehensive response to public/agency comments received on the DEIS; however, the SEIS does address substantive issues that were raised in these comments. A comprehensive responsiveness summary, which will specifically respond to all substantive comments received on both the DEIS and SEIS, will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Jericho Rise Wind Farm. The FEIS will be prepared and published for public review subsequent to the issuance of this SEIS.

Project Description

The revised Project will consist of up to 37 wind turbine generators (WTG) each with a nameplate capacity of 2.1 megawatts (MW), for a total anticipated nameplate generating capacity of 77.7 MW. However, to allow for flexibility on final site selection, the Applicant is also evaluating and seeking approval for six alternate turbine sites, for a total of up to 43 sites being assessed in this SEIS. The total project size is limited by the interconnection request approved by the New York Independent Systems Operator at 77.7 MW. The WTGs that will ultimately be constructed for the Project have not been determined. However, the largest WTGs presently being considered for the Project are the Gamesa G114-2.1 WTGs. For the purpose of presenting a conservative analysis, the assessment of potential environmental impacts throughout this SEIS assumes that the Project will use Gamesa G114-2.1 WTGs.

The current Project Site is very similar to the Project Site previously identified in the original wind energy permit applications to the Towns and in the DEIS. There is significant overlap between the areas studied/identified in the DEIS as compared with the Project layout described in this SEIS. For example, 18 of the 43 proposed wind turbine

locations are within 500 feet of the wind turbine locations proposed in the DEIS and 32 of the 43 proposed locations are within 1,000 feet of the wind turbine locations proposed in the DEIS.

However, there are some differences between the current Project layout and the DEIS layout. Generally, the changes in the Project since the DEIS relate to the deletion of turbines and the removal of the northeastern area of the Project. Layout changes have been made primarily to accommodate the larger Gamesa G114 2.1 MW wind turbine, but also to accommodate study results and agency and landowner feedback.

Regulatory Process

The regulatory process for the Jericho Rise Project is still generally the same as described in the DEIS. This SEIS has been prepared by Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) of Syracuse, New York. The SEIS is intended to document changes in the proposed Project since the DEIS. The documentation in the SEIS includes changes in the project design and its potential impacts and benefits in order to provide a basis for informed public comment and decision-making, and to facilitate the Project's environmental review process in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA.

Purpose, Need, and Benefit

The purpose, need and benefit of the Jericho Rise Project are still generally the same as described in the DEIS. This information has been updated relative to the discussion presented in the DEIS due to significant legislative and policy initiatives that have occurred subsequent to the publication of the DEIS in 2008 that further encourage renewable energy projects such as the Jericho Rise Wind Farm. The 2015 State Energy Plan identifies aggressive renewable energy targets, including a 40% reduction in emissions by the energy sector by 2030 and an 80% reduction by 2050. The Plan also sets a target of 50% of all electricity generation to come from renewable sources, and identifies wind power as one of the major renewable energy sources that will help achieve this goal.

Additional mandates for renewable energy are included in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for New York. Unlike other states with an RPS, in New York, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is responsible for obtaining the targets established in the RPS through competitive bidding and contract procurements. As of the date of this SEIS, NYSERDA has conducted 10 Main Tier (larger, utility scale resources) solicitations in pursuit of the RPS target. From the nine completed solicitations, NYSERDA currently has contracts with electricity generators for 65 large-scale projects, including the Jericho Rise Wind Farm Project (NYSERDA, 2015). These projects will add more than 2,035 MWs of new renewable capacity to the State's energy mix. However, as of December 2014, the State, through NYSERDA, has only procured enough renewable energy to meet 56% of the RPS

targets. (NYSERDA, 2015). Policy directives for renewable energy are clear, and the Project will help New York achieve these goals.

Summary of Potential Impacts

In accordance with requirements of the SEQRA process, potential impacts arising from the proposed action were evaluated in the DEIS with respect to an array of environmental and cultural resources. The identified and analyzed potential impacts discussed in detail in the DEIS are very similar for, and still relevant to, the revised Project described in this SEIS.

Construction of the Project will result in disturbance of up to 383 acres of soil and 550 acres of vegetation, most of which is forest land or active agriculture. In addition, approximately 4.33 acres of wetland could be disturbed by Project construction. However, the majority of these impacts will be temporary. A total of up to about 58 acres (including up to 21 acres of forest, 0.18 acres of wetlands, and 33 acres of active agriculture) will be converted to built facilities including turbines and turbine pads, access roads, an expansion of an existing substation, and a meteorological tower. Project construction will also result in some level of temporary disturbance and congestion on area roadways. Most impacts from the revised Project are anticipated to be generally less than those described in the DEIS because only 37 turbines will be constructed instead of the 53 turbines originally proposed.

Project operation is expected to result in some level of avian and bat collision mortality, although impacts to threatened and endangered species are not anticipated. The turbines will be visible from many locations within the surrounding area, particularly in agricultural areas with wide open fields, but will also be fully or partially screened from viewers in many locations (e.g., in forested areas and developed settings). Only very minor changes in land use within the Project area are anticipated as a result of Project implementation. The region has several existing wind energy generation facilities, so development of the Project is consistent with current regional land use. The Project is expected to generate consistent revenue in PILOT payments to local taxing jurisdictions, while requiring very little in terms of municipal services.

Summary of Mitigation Measures

Various measures will be taken to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate potential environmental impacts. The identified mitigation measures discussed in detail in the DEIS are very similar for, and still relevant to, the revised project described in this SEIS.

Specific measures designed to mitigate or avoid adverse potential environmental impacts during Project construction or operation include:

- Siting the Project away from population centers and areas of substantial residential development.
- Siting turbines and access roads so as to avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands and streams.
- Using the routing of existing logging roads and farm lanes for turbine access whenever possible to minimize disturbance to forest and agricultural land.
- Siting turbines a minimum of 1000 feet from residences in Belmont and a minimum of 1320 feet from residences in Chateaugay that do not directly receive Project benefits, as outlined in the local laws for the Towns, to minimize noise and visual impacts.
- Utilizing 'best practice' construction techniques that minimize disturbance to vegetation, streams, and wetlands.
- Implementing agricultural protection measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on agricultural land and farm operations.
- Limiting turbine lighting to the minimum allowed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to reduce nighttime visual impacts, and following lighting guidelines to reduce the potential for bird collisions.
- Entering into a PILOT agreement with the local taxing jurisdictions to provide a significant predictable level of funding for the town, county, and school districts for the operational life of the Project.
- Close coordination with local first responders and other relevant community support services.

Alternatives

Alternatives to the proposed Project that were considered and evaluated include alternative Project area, alternative Project design/layout, alternative project size, alternative technologies, alternative construction phasing, and no action. The identified alternatives discussed in detail in the DEIS are very similar for, and still relevant to, the revised project described in this SEIS.

Since the preparation of the DEIS, the Applicant has revised the wind turbine model being considered for the Project from the Vestas V-82 to the Gamesa G114-2.1. This SEIS assumes that the Project will use Gamesa G114-2.1 WTGs. The Gamesa G114-2.1 is larger wind turbine than the Vestas V-82 with respect to hub height, rotor diameter, and total height. Assuming use of the Gamesa G114-2.1 turbine, the anticipated tower height for the Project, or "hub height" (height from foundation to the rotor hub), is approximately 93 meters (305 feet). The Gamesa G114-2.1 has a rotor diameter of 114 meters (374 feet), resulting in a total height of 150 meters (492 feet). The Gamesa G114-2.1 also has a higher production capacity than the Vestas V-82. Fewer turbines are proposed in the current layout as a result of the

increased nameplate capacities of the larger wind turbine. Taller turbines can create the potential for impacts due to increased visibility and higher rotor swept zones. However, when compared to a larger number of shorter turbines, the overall benefits associated with the energy production at the taller height and the net reduction of impacts due to fewer turbines outweigh the relatively minor differences in potential environmental impacts associated with the increased wind turbine dimensions.

Effects on Use and Conservation of Energy Resources

The proposed Project will have significant, long-term beneficial effects on the use and conservation of energy resources. The identified effects on the use and conservation of energy resources discussed in detail in the DEIS are very similar for, and still relevant to, the revised project described in this SEIS. Energy will be expended during the construction phases of the Project, as well as for the maintenance of the wind turbines and support facilities on-site. However, the operating Project will possess a maximum of 77.7 MW of electricity generation capacity without consuming water or producing toxic emissions on an ongoing basis. This greatly exceeds the energy required to construct and operate the Project. Assuming that the Project generates approximately 32% of its nameplate generating capacity, this is enough power to support between approximately 30,000 average homes in New York State (based on the New York and national averages).

The Project will add to and diversify the state's sources of power generation, accommodate future growth in power demand through the use of a renewable resource (wind), and over the long term will displace some of the state's older, less efficient, and less environmentally sustainable sources of power and/or the amount of energy imported into the state.