

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ **MEPA Office**

ENF

Environmental Notification Form

*For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

EOEA No.: **14513**
MEPA Analyst: **Nick ZAVOLAS**
Phone: 617-626-**1030**

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Minuteman Savoy Wind Project		
Street: Harwood Road		
Municipality: Savoy	Watershed: Deerfield	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Northing: 4718130 Easting: 666442		Latitude: 42° 35' 51.5" N Longitude: 72° 58' 16.3" W
Estimated commencement date: Dec 2010		Estimated completion date: Nov 2011
Approximate cost: \$35 million		Status of project design: 25% %complete
Proponent: Minuteman Wind LLC		
Street: 10 Speen Street		
Municipality: Framingham	State: MA	Zip Code: 01701
Name of contact Person from Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Don McCauley		
Firm/Agency: McCauley Lyman, LLC		Street: 10 Speen Street
Municipality: Framingham	State: MA	Zip Code: 01701
Phone: 508-665-5801	Fax: 978-665-5858	E-mail: don@minuteman.com

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): Predevelopment Loan of \$250,000 from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Savoy Zoning Board of Appeals, Special Permit; Savoy Conservation Commission. Order of Conditions; Federal Aviation Administration, Determination of No Hazard, USEPA NPDES Stormwater Construction General Permit
 Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- Land
- Water
- Energy
- ACEC

- Rare Species
- Wastewater
- Air
- Regulations

- Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
- Transportation
- Solid & Hazardous Waste
- Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection1 Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: * wind turbines & maintenance shed
Total site acreage	293			
New acres of land altered		25.7		
Acres of impervious area	0	0.24	0.24	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		1,153		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
STRUCTURES*				
Gross square footage	0	10,612	10,612	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	425	425	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0	
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation1 treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority

Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may *attach* one additional page, if necessary.)

Minuteman Wind LLC proposes to develop a 12.5 megawatt (MW) wind farm on a 293-acre parcel of private land on West Hill in Savoy Massachusetts (see Figure 1). Minuteman's objective is to develop wind projects that fit in with the landscape and development patterns of New England and benefit local communities. The proposed project will generate enough clean, renewable electricity for 3,500 homes, which is the populations of Savoy, Florida, Hawley, and Windsor combined.

(a) The project site is forest land that has been extensively managed for timber harvesting since 1999. The wind project access road will largely follow existing skid roads cut across the hilltop minimizing cumulative impacts. The project will consist of five Clipper Wind Liberty wind turbines or a similar model. The Clipper Liberty will have a hub height of 262 feet above ground level, and of less than 425 feet to the tip of the blade at its highest point. A single gravel access road will enter the site from Harwood Road to the north and connect to each of the five turbines. The turbines will be anchored to the ground by concrete foundations approximately 50 feet in diameter. A pad mount transformer provides electric circuit conversion for each turbine. Between the turbines, electrical lines will be located underground. North of the turbines, the electrical lines comprised of three-phase circuitry will rise up to be placed on standard electric poles from the site to poles along existing roadways in town to connect to existing three-phase powerlines in the center of town. A small substation located at the base of the ridge at Harwood Road will be the point of interconnection with the local utility distribution electric distribution system.

The large turbine equipment will be delivered to the site by truck. Due to the length of the equipment and required wide turning radii, some roadway improvements, both temporary and permanent will be required. Temporary clearing and grading within the existing roadway right-of-way is expected at three different intersections within the town of Savoy. A temporary gravel road will be constructed on private land secured by the Applicant near the intersection of Chapel and Brier Roads in order to avoid impacting undisturbed riverfront area. Culverts will

also be replaced after construction as necessary. The project will result in improvements to the town's roadway and electrical delivery systems.

(b) A seven turbine array was considered prior to the proposed five turbine array. The seven turbine array would have used 1.5 MW wind turbines. While the proposed 2.5 MW turbines are approximately 80 feet taller than the 1.5 MW type, the proposed alternative will generate more renewable energy while also decreasing the potential visual impact from seven wind turbines to five. The applicant also considered two other roadway options for delivering large equipment through Savoy to the project site: (1) Adams Road and (2) Black Brook Road. The Adams Road route would have rebuilt an existing degraded road through Savoy Mountain State Forest which might have produced some access benefits for recreational users of the state forest. However, this option was abandoned due to potential wetlands impacts associated with the improvements along with lack of community support and potential costs considerations. The Black Brook Road option would require the re-construction of a bridge, a cost that could not be carried by the Project, and therefore would require State Transportation funding. Due to uncertainty of state funding allocation, this alternative was abandoned. In comparison, the proposed transportation route through Savoy will not require any new work in wetlands areas and will have the least amount of disruption to the transportation network while also affording significant upgrades.

(c) None of the alternatives affords special mitigation. Instead, the impacts associated with each alternative are similar and consideration of the alternatives weighs heavily the potential of avoiding and minimizing impacts. The seven turbine alternative would produce less energy and impact more land area with wetland impacts and alteration associated with equipment delivery being unchanged. Comparatively, the five turbine alternative results in taller turbines, but there are fewer of them. The one equipment delivery route alternative that might produce greater wetlands impacts – Adams Road – could provide greater mitigation area, but that is not preferable for the environment or the project.