July 20, 2009

Michael Colwell, Planning Board Chairman
Town of Martinsburg
PO Box 8
Martinsburg, New York 13404

RE: Applicant, Atlantic Wind LLC
Roaring Brook Wind Power Project
Final Environmental Impact Statement Supplemental Information

Dear Mr. Colwell:

Pursuant to the Town of Martinsburg Planning Board's ("Town") request at the regular meeting on July 8, 2009, below please find additional information as it relates to the following Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEIS) responses:

On Page 15, Comment A3:

A detailed construction plan needs to be developed to incorporate stringent containment of construction materials, particularly concrete slurry, machinery fuel and oil, and other chemicals. This may include such practices as the use of watertight forms, silt-stormwater fencing, controlled concrete truck washout areas, and covered storage of equipment and construction chemicals. Engineering specifications to describe these proposed practices need to be detailed in this plan;

Additional A3 Response:

Atlantic Wind LLC ("Atlantic") will conduct safety, environmental compliance and emergency response training of site personnel prior to construction, during construction for new essential employees and prior to operation with the operation team. In each case a sign-in log listing the attendees will be maintained for each training session and will be made available for federal, state and local officials to review. A detailed description of the project ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING PROGRAM that will be used for training has been provided on pages 187-188 of the DEIS.
A specific Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan prepared by the lead site contractor will outline procedures to be implemented to prevent the release of hazardous substances such as fuel oil and hydraulic fluid into the environment during construction. This plan will include established Best Managements Practices such as the requirement that refueling of construction equipment not be allowed within 100 feet of any stream or wetland and a requirement that all contractors keep materials on hand to control and contain a petroleum spill. These materials will include a shovel, tank patch kit, and oil-absorbent materials. Any spills will be reported in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulations. The lead contractor’s Compliance Manager/Inspector will be responsible for ensuring implementation and compliance with this plan and action on the part of construction personnel. The Atlantic Environmental Monitor/Inspector and Permit Manager will also provide oversight in regards to this and other environmental compliance and monitoring requirements.

On Page 98, Comment P1:

The commenter has trouble with his TV reception, and would like help resolving this problem. It has been approximately four years since Maple Ridge was constructed. He believes issues from Maple Ridge should be resolved before the Town approves another wind farm.

Additional P1 Response:

Atlantic is committed to taking steps to minimize any negative impact of its wind farms on the surrounding community. As such, if it is determined that any resident in the vicinity of the Roaring Brook project experiences unforeseen interference with their television signals as a result of the operation of Atlantic's wind turbines within one year of their commencement of operation, Atlantic will promptly work to either correct the problem or otherwise provide a solution acceptable to the resident.

On Page 103, Comment V1:

The commenter owns the Flat Rock Inn at the corner of Centerville and Flat Rock Roads, and is concerned about fire protection. He is worried that a tower fire in a dry year could spread throughout the Tug Hill forests. What provisions has the Town of Martinsburg made to prevent that?
Additional V1 Response:

The Gamesa turbines are operated with a PLC (Programmable Logic Control) unit which is constantly monitoring temperatures and voltages within the turbine. Major components including the gearbox, generator, converter and hydraulic unit have temperature sensors linked to the PLC. If any one component temperature gets too high the turbine will fault, i.e. power will be cut-off at the main uptower breaker. If the temperature of the uptower transformer gets too high, the downtower switchgear (circuit breaker) will open, completely de-energizing the turbine. In addition there is a switchgear trip circuit which monitors the turbine for any signs of fire (arc flash sensors, smoke detector, etc.). If any of these items detects a potential danger, they will send a signal to the downtower switchgear, commanding it to open.

The turbine operating system is also designed to fault (described above) from outside conditions such as grid-under/over frequency, under/over voltage and over current. The power electronics unit (converter) monitors the quality of the power output, and should it fall outside of certain limits, the turbine will trip off-line. Overall, the turbine operating system has been designed with over 100 detection limits for temperature, voltage and other operational conditions in order to prevent fires and equipment damage.

On Pages 103 and 104, Comment V1:

The commenter is concerned that Flat Rock Road will be plowed to provide access to the turbines, and is frustrated that no one will discuss this. Plowing Flat Rock Road would seriously affect his business.

Additional V5 Response:

Atlantic will follow the Town’s procedure if an unforeseen circumstance were to occur requiring access to the site on a snowmobile trail. Atlantic recognizes the value of the trails and the typical weather conditions associated with the area after November 1 and will take reasonable measures not to make a request to disturb the snowmobile trails after November 1 of each calendar year. In the event of the need for emergency response after November 1, we will coordinate access with the Town and Emergency Response Team and develop a plan to access the site, first considering the use of snow trail equipment and if the safety and welfare of site personnel, the public, private landowners or the environment require it, additional methods would be considered such as plowing as a last resort.
In response to your question about onsite inspectors during construction, Atlantic will employ at least one Environmental Monitor/Inspector that will conduct inspections and monitor compliance with all federal, state and local permits and approvals. The Atlantic Wind Permit Manager will oversee the environmental monitoring program and will go to site as necessary to conduct audits. Atlantic will also require its lead site contractor to employ a Compliance Manager/Inspector that will function with the environmental monitor and Permit Manager. The specific roles of the Environmental Monitor/Inspector are discussed in the SDEIS on pages 17-18, 31, 44, 81 and pages 187-188 of the DEIS.

The Town also requested from The Nature Conservancy copies of the studies they reference in their comments. Atlantic would appreciate receiving copies of these studies as well. The Town also indicated they were going to review the Invasive Species Plan again to ensure they did not have any additional requirements or questions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 315.376.4316 or 315.529.3051 with any questions and/or concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration and the opportunity to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Jenny L. Burke

cc: Mark Gebo, Town Attorney