

**Marble River**  
Wind Farm



## **Marble River Wind Farm: Contact Information**

For more information on the Marble River Wind Farm, please contact the project developers at [www.horizonwind.com](http://www.horizonwind.com), [www.acciona.es](http://www.acciona.es) or [www.aes.com](http://www.aes.com).

Our current Marble River office is located at the Adirondack Motel in Ellenburg. To reach Marble River's Ellenburg office, please call (518) 594-7424.

You can also reach our team at our toll-free Marble River phone number at (888) 216-WIND (9463).



## Exhibit 15

### Decommissioning and Complaint Resolution Plans

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#### Decommissioning Plan

##### Anticipated Life of Wind Turbines

Megawatt-scale wind turbine generators available on the market today have a life expectancy of more than 20 years. The tubular steel towers supporting the generators are of simple design and with basic routine maintenance will serve many years beyond that of the generators.

As the generators approach the end of their expected life, technological advances should make available more efficient and cost-effective generators that will economically drive the replacement of the existing generators.

##### Estimated Cost of Decommissioning

The cost of decommissioning the wind turbines is offset by the salvage value of the towers and the turbine components.

- Decommissioning cost per tower (in current dollars):

Removal of a Tower:

200 man-hours x \$65/hour	\$13,000
Crane, 5 days use x \$2,900/day	\$14,500

Removal of concrete to 36" below grade:

100 man-hours x \$50/hour	\$5,000
Equipment, 3 days use x \$1,500/day	\$4,500

Removal of access roads (average of 1986 feet/turbine):

100 man-hours x \$65/hour	\$6,500
Equipment, 6 days use x \$1,500/day	\$9,000

Seeding and re-vegetation:

80 man-hours x \$30/hour	\$2,400
	<b>\$54,900</b>

- Salvage value of a turbine (based on Gamesa G90):

Scrap value of tower steel (200 tons x \$200/ton):	\$40,000
Scrap value of generator components:	\$5,000
	<b>\$45,000</b>

- Estimated cost of decommissioning, minus salvage value: **\$9,900**

##### Ensuring Decommissioning and Site Restoration Funds

The Applicant will continuously maintain a surety bond or equivalent financial security instrument payable to the Town for the removal of non-functioning turbines and appurtenant facilities, in a form and amount approved by the Town Board for the period of the life of the facility. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the Applicant will, in writing, request approval of a proposed surety bond or financial security instrument in a proposed amount not less than \$200,000 for the

removal of non-functioning turbines and associated facilities. The Applicant will fully fund the approved bond or financial instrument prior to issuance of a building permit for the Marble River Wind Farm. The Applicant recognizes that the Town may include a condition in any approval of the Project that prohibits transfer of the Project permits/approvals unless the Town Board reasonably approves a decommissioning bond or financial security instrument for the prospective Transferee.

The costs associated with decommissioning and restoration will be studied by an independent licensed engineer retained by the town and paid by the applicant on a cycle beginning after the operations date of the wind farm and every two years thereafter for the life of the wind farm. A report of each study will be submitted to the Town Board. Any adjustment in the security value recommended by the engineer's report will be made within 60 days of delivery of the report to the Town Board.

#### Decommissioning Process Description

All decommissioning and restoration activities will adhere to the requirements of appropriate governing authorities, and will be in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local permits.

The decommissioning and restoration process comprises removal of above-ground structures; removal of below-ground structures to a depth of 36 inches or greater; removal of access roads if required by the landowner; restoration of topsoil, re-vegetation and seeding; and a two year monitoring and remediation period.

Above-ground structures include the turbines, transformers, overhead collection lines, wind farm-owned portions of the substation, maintenance buildings, and access gates. Below-ground structures include turbine foundations, collection system conduits, drainage structures, and access road sub-base material.

The process of removing structures involves evaluating and categorizing all components and materials into categories of recondition and reuse, salvage, recycling, and disposal. In the interest of increased efficiency and minimal transportation impacts, components and material may be stored on-site in a pre-approved location until the bulk of similar components or materials are ready for transport. The components and material will be transported to the appropriate facilities for reconditioning, salvage, recycling, or disposal.

**Turbine removal.** Access roads to turbines will be widened to sufficient width to accommodate movement of appropriately sized cranes or other machinery required for the disassembly and removal of the turbines. Control cabinets, electronic components, and internal cables will be removed. The blades, hub and nacelle will be lowered to grade for disassembly. The tower sections will be lowered to the ground where they will be further disassembled into transportable sections. The blades, hub, nacelle, and tower sections will either be transported whole for reconditioning and reuse or dissembled into salvageable, recyclable, or disposable components.

**Turbine foundation removal.** Topsoil will be removed from an area surrounding the foundation and stored for later replacement. Turbine foundations will be excavated to a depth sufficient to remove all anchor bolts, rebar, conduits, cable, and concrete to a depth of 36 inches below grade. The remaining excavation will be filled with clean sub-grade material of quality comparable to the immediate surrounding area. The sub-grade material will be compacted to a density similar to surrounding sub-grade material. All unexcavated areas compacted by equipment used in decommissioning shall be de-compacted in a manner to adequately restore the topsoil and sub-grade material to the proper density consistent and compatible with the surrounding area.

**Underground collection cables.** The cables and conduits contain no materials known to be harmful to the environment and will be cut back to a depth greater than 36 inches. All cable and conduit buried greater than 36 inches will be left in place and abandoned.

**Overhead collection lines.** The conductors will be removed and stored in a pre-approved location. The supporting poles will be removed and the holes filled in with compatible sub-grade material. In areas where environmental damage from complete removal may outweigh the benefits, the poles will be sawed flush with the surrounding grade (determined by appropriate governing authority). The poles will be stored in a pre-approved location. Stored conductors and poles will be later removed and transported to appropriate facilities for salvage or disposal.

**Substation.** Disassembly of the substation will include only the areas owned by the Applicant (any System Upgrades made by the Applicant and conveyed to the New York Power Authority or any improvements made to the local NYSEG distribution system will remain in place). Steel, conductors, switches, transformers, etc. will be reconditioned and reused, sold as scrap, recycled, or disposed of appropriately depending upon market value. Foundations and underground components will be removed to a depth of 36 inches and the excavation filled, contoured, and re-vegetated.

**Access roads and construction pads.** After decommissioning activities of a turbine site are completed, access road and construction pad removal shall commence. Gravel will be removed from access roads and construction pads and transported to a pre-approved disposal location. Drainage structures integrated with the access road or construction pad will be removed and backfilled with sub-grade material, the topsoil replaced, and the surface contoured and re-vegetated.

Access gates shall remain operational until completion of decommissioning, at which time they will be removed unless requested by the landowner that they remain. Ditch crossings connecting access roads to public roads will be removed unless requested that they remain by the landowner.

Improvements to Town and County roads that were not removed after construction at the request of the Town or County will likely remain in place.

#### Site Restoration Process Description

Topsoil will be removed prior to removal of structures from all work areas and stockpiled, clearly designated, and separate from other excavated material. Prior to topsoil replacement, all rocks 4 inches or greater will be removed from the surface of the subsoil. The topsoil will be de-compacted to match the density and consistency of the immediate surrounding area. The topsoil will be replaced to original depth, and original surface contours reestablished where possible. All rocks 4 inches or larger will be removed from the surface of the topsoil. Any topsoil deficiency and trench settling shall be mitigated with imported topsoil consistent with the quality of the affected site.

In accordance with guidelines provided by New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, topsoil de-compaction and replacement will be avoided after October 1, unless approved by the landowner in consultation with Ag. and Markets since areas restored after October 1<sup>st</sup> may not obtain sufficient growth to prevent erosion over the winter months. If areas are restored after October 1<sup>st</sup>, provision will be made to restore any eroded areas in the springtime to establish proper growth.

Following decommissioning activities, the sub-grade material and topsoil from all affected agricultural areas will be de-compacted and restored to a density and depth consistent with the surrounding fields or to a depth of 18 inches. The affected areas will be inspected, thoroughly cleaned, and all debris removed.

All disturbed soil surfaces within agricultural fields will be seeded with a seed mix agreed upon with the landowner in order to maintain consistency with the surrounding agricultural uses. All other disturbed areas will be restored to a condition and forage density reasonably similar to original condition. In all areas restoration shall include, as reasonably required, leveling, terracing, mulching, and other necessary steps to prevent soil erosion, to ensure establishment of suitable grasses and forbs, and to control noxious weeds and pests.

In accordance with the guidelines of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, a monitoring and remediation period of two years immediately following the completion of any decommissioning and restoration activities will be provided. The two-year period allows for the effects of climatic cycles such as frost action, precipitation and growing seasons to occur from which various monitoring determinations can be made. Any remaining agriculture impacts can be identified during this period and follow-up restoration efforts will be implemented.

## **Community Relations and Complaint Resolution Plan**

### Mission

The Applicant's mission is to deliver clean, renewable, home-produced energy. In doing so, our goal is to improve the environment; to bring economic development; and to be a good neighbor. Our development and construction methods are designed in the first place to avoid any cause for complaints, and secondly to have an efficient process in place to resolve any complaints that do come up to the satisfaction of all.

The Applicant intends to comply fully with the Laws of the Town and with all conditions of the authorizing permits.

### Community Relations

We believe that many complaints can be avoided by communicating widely and often with the community. If the community is made aware ahead of time of activities that could cause disruption (such as construction noise or slow vehicles) and therefore can make plans to avoid the disruption, the number of complaints will be lessened. During the development and construction process, the Applicant will communicate with participating landowners (Landowners) and the community at large through the following methods:

- Regular newsletters;
- Presentations to the Town Boards;
- Open houses;
- Visits to existing wind farms operated by affiliates of the Applicant (Madison and Maple Ridge) to observe construction methods and turbine operation and to meet with landowners;
- Regular public notices in the Town Halls and the local press detailing any construction activities to alert local residents of potential disruption.

### Construction

During development and engineering, and immediately prior to construction in any one area, the Applicant will meet with Landowners, neighbors and Town officials, particularly Highway Superintendents, to discuss the precise details of the siting of improvements, transportation and construction plans and the schedule as it impacts Town roads, neighbors or Landowners.

The Applicant has found that neighbors are most concerned about traffic, safety, dust and construction noise while the project is being built. The Applicant will hire a Community Relations Manager who is familiar with the locality and whose primary function is to proactively communicate planned activities so as to minimize disruption to neighboring residents and Landowners and the community at large.

At the mobilization of the construction crews which will occur upon receipt of all permits and approvals, the Applicant will hold briefing meetings with the management and supervision staff of all major contractors. Presentations will be given during these briefings by the permitting agencies and by the Applicant, advising the contractors of the sensitive nature of wind farm construction and the standards expected during construction. Safety and environmental compliance will be critical elements of these briefings.

During construction, speed limits will be imposed and enforced on construction traffic. Dust control will be utilized. Transport of components and other activities with the potential to disrupt neighbors will be coordinated with local authorities. The Applicant and its contractors will employ safety officers to ensure the safety of the public and of the construction crews. The Applicant

intends to comply fully with all conditions of the authorizing permits applying to construction, and environment/permit compliance officers will be employed by both the Applicant and its contractors. Safety, community relations and environmental compliance issues will be discussed in the daily planning meetings.

### Operations

The Applicant intends to comply fully with Town law and all conditions of the authorizing permits during the operation of the project, including all noise requirements. The Applicant will carry out project operations from an Operation & Maintenance building sited near the center of the project. The building will be fully staffed during office hours and a responsible manager will be on call on a twenty-four-hour basis. Each WECS will be maintained in operational condition at times, subject to reasonable maintenance and outage conditions. Each WECS will be equipped with manual and automatic controls to limit the speed of the rotor blade to within design limits. Appropriate warning signs of high voltage or electrical shock will be posted at the base of each tower. The Applicant will work with the Towns, the Landowners and local snowmobile clubs to ensure that snowmobiles in the area are aware of the potential hazards and are directed away from the towers.

Neighboring residents are generally more concerned about potential noise, shadow flicker or potential electromagnetic interference with TV or other signals. The Applicant will conduct and submit to the Town noise analyses and studies on potential shadow flicker, and will take measures to eliminate or mitigate potential problems. The Applicant will conduct before-and-after studies of off-air TV reception, radio stations and microwave paths, and will propose the most appropriate and cost-effective solution in the event that neighboring residents experience deterioration in their reception of off-air TV or other signals due to the Wind Energy Facility.

(a) Sound: In the event of a complaint about turbine noise that exceeds the existing sound standards at sensitive receptor locations (e.g., neighboring residences), the Applicant shall conduct site-specific sound studies at such locations. If a problem is found to exist, the Applicant shall determine which sound component is problematic and will develop recommendations for correcting the problem. The Applicant shall utilize a wide scope of effective responses to resolve the identified problem, ranging from equipment modifications that reduce the noise to the securing of noise easements from affected parties if permitted under applicable laws and regulations.

(b) Shadow Flicker: In the event of a complaint about turbine shadow flicker, the Applicant shall conduct site-specific studies at such locations. If a problem is found to exist, the Applicant shall determine which flicker source is problematic and will develop recommendations for correcting the problem. The Applicant shall utilize a wide scope in proposing effective responses to resolve the identified problem as permitted under applicable laws and regulations.

(c) Electromagnetic Interference: In the event of a complaint about turbine interference with microwave, radio or television reception at affected locations (e.g., residences, businesses or public agencies), the Applicant shall conduct site-specific and spectrum-specific studies at such locations. If a problem is found to exist, the Applicant shall investigate potential sources and will develop recommendations for correcting the problem. The Applicant shall have wide scope in proposing effective responses that will resolve the identified problem, ranging from wind farm equipment modifications that reduce the interference, to the installation of re-routing signal path equipment; the replacement of antennae or receiving equipment; the substitution of cable, satellite or other signal-securing equipment for the affected party; or the securing of electronic interference easements from affected parties if permitted under applicable laws and regulations.

### Complaint Resolution Process

Prior to construction, the Applicant will communicate to neighboring residents, the Towns and permitting agencies the contact name and address of our Community Relations Manager and our Construction Manager (and, prior to the end of construction, our Operations Manager). The Applicant will also publish to the community its 1-800 number that will be accessed within 24 hours by constructions or operations personnel.

Complaints by neighboring residents or others may be made through the following channels:

1. By calling the local or 1-800 number and speaking directly with construction and operations personnel in the field;
2. By writing to the Applicant at its local address or at its principal place of business; or
3. By making the complaint in person at the Applicant's construction or operations building.

In the event that the Town receives complaints directly about unanticipated effects of operations of the wind facility following completion of the environmental review and the securing of all permits, the Town shall notify the Applicant within 5 days in writing of the details of such complaint.

A log will be kept locally of the name and contact details of the complainant and the actions taken to resolve the complaint. This log will be available to the Town Board for inspection upon request.

In the event that the Applicant receives complaints, the Applicant will promptly investigate such complaints. A report of each investigation shall be made available to the Town Board. In the event that the investigation determines that the complaint has identified a problem attributable to the construction, operation or maintenance of the Applicant's Wind Farm, the Applicant will promptly work directly with the complainant and, in appropriate circumstances, the Town to resolve the identified problem. In the event that the identified problem is not resolved, or that a plan to resolve the problem is not under development within 30 days of the determination that a problem exists, the complainant may refer the matter to the Town Board. In such event the Town Board may by majority vote determine that no further measures are necessary or may require the Applicant and complainant to proceed with non-binding mediation with a mutually acceptable mediator. The Applicant will make every reasonable effort to resolve the complaint.

Once a resolution to an identified problem is determined, the Town Board in appropriate circumstance may incorporate such resolution by reference in the underlying permit as a condition of operations.

The Applicant shall implement the resolution actions whether or not such actions are incorporated as permit terms.

In addition to the complaint resolution process outlined above, the Applicant shall prepare, prior to construction, an extensive environmental monitoring plan. The plan shall contain the conditions of all permit approvals, licenses and agreements. The plan will be managed by the Applicant's environmental compliance officers and shall contain a stepped level of complaints and responses.