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# memorandum

**To:** Kevin Sheen, Tera-Gen **EDR Project No:** 19011  
**From:** Erica Tauzer and Sarah Krisch, EDR  
**Date:** November 04, 2020  
**Reference:** Prattsburgh Wind Live Q&A Report

**Prattsburgh Wind Farm Virtual PIM Live Q&A Session  
 November 04, 2020  
 6:00 to 7:30PM**

**Moderator:** Jane Rice; EDR

**Panelists:** (Partner Team) Jane Rice, EDR; Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen; Ben Brazell, EDR; Jim Muscato, Young Sommer; Jess Costa, Stantec; Lindsay Donahoe, EDR; Mathew Robinson, EDR; Rob O’Neal, Epsilon

*This Q&A Session was part of a series of public engagement events related to the Prattsburgh Wind Public Information Meeting. During this virtual session the project team, including the panelists listed above, delivered a presentation containing information about the Prattsburgh Wind Project. Following the presentation, virtual attendees were able to ask questions, which were answered by the panelists. The questions and responses are listed below. Frequently Asked Questions were also discussed and are listed below. Due to the number of questions extending beyond the time allowed for the Public Meeting, questions and statements that remain unanswered are listed at the end of this report.*

**Question 1**

**Received from Cheryl Bagley**

**Can you explain what public scoping means and entails?**

Answer: (Jim Muscato, Young Sommer) It’s a good question, and I should have explained this earlier. So public scoping is a process that’s mandated as part of SEQR. It’s mandated as part of the article 10 siting process, but it’s not mandatory as part of Section 94-c. What scoping is the identification of issues that must be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. And for typical scoping topics would be the scope of wetland impacts or the scope of sound impacts as, as you’ve heard discussed, a lot of the topics identified tonight would be typically included as part of scoping. But instead in 94-c, 94-c outlines the exhibits and the assessments that must be included as part of the Application. And based upon all the experience in New York, with renewable energy projects, such as this wind project, it assumes that certain impacts, the common impacts the typical impacts would be addressed as part of the Application. And those assessments are already included and required to be provided and in this process.

**Question 2**

**Received from Laura Quattrocchi**

**I don’t know what article 10 is, please explain.**

Answer: (Jim Muscato, Young Sommer) We’ve been living with it for eight years now and I assume sometimes people are familiar with the term because of the number of Article 10 projects that have come through Steuben County on the Baron Wind Project when it went through the Article 10 process Canisteo Wind project went through article 10, and those are two other projects in Stueben County. Article 10 is just the name of the provision in the public service law

( Landscape Architecture • Water/Wastewater Engineering • Civil Engineering • Regulatory Compliance  
 Ecological Resource Management • Cultural Resource Management • Visual Impact Assessment • Community Planning )

that outlines the process by which certain projects, at that time, how they were permitted, are issued certificates by the state Siting Board. So that Article 10 is just the name of the law that governs those projects. That's compared with, in this case, the Section 94-c that I referenced, which is a provision of the executive law, and that's the process for siting wind projects now in the state of New York. And I just wanted to add one other thing, as it occurred to me, going back to that first question very quickly. You know, to the extent that there are topics, or issues that members of the audience would want addressed as part of the Application, or do have questions about, gives me an opportunity to encourage folks to utilize the project website, utilize the project e-mail address, and office phone numbers, and reach out with respect to those questions are those issues that you would hope you would be addressed as part of the Application.

### **Question 3**

**Received from Daniel Dunnigan**

**What are the setback requirements from neighbor's property lines?**

Answer: (Jim Muscato, Young Sommer) The setbacks for projects under Section 94-c, as I mentioned in my discussion about the process, that 94-c has a draft set of uniform standards and conditions, which are proposed to include a number of standards for many of the resource topics that we've talked about today. For setbacks specifically, there is a table that's included as part of the draft regulations that identifies the setbacks for wind turbines to substations, public roads, property lines, non-participating structures, and non-participating residences. For not participating residences, it's 2x as a setback, for non-participating structures it's 1.5x, for property lines it's 1.1x (the same for public roads), and those are right in the stat and the proposed regulations that would be required. Any project would be required to comply with those standards. In addition to the standards in Section 94-c, there's also standards in the local laws for the project. Plattsburgh has a standard of 1.5x to the property boundary. If it's helpful, we will post a chart, this chart that I just mentioned on the website as a part of the answer to this question. We can also provide additional information regarding setbacks on this as well on the website, so that you didn't have to write down all the numbers I just rattled off.

### **Question 4**

**Received from Daniel Dunnigan**

**What, if any, compensation will be given if a neighbor's windmill is not in accordance with any noise level requirements?**

Answer: (Jim Muscato, Young Sommer) It's a hypothetical that's not anticipated to happen, because the project is being designed to meet the requirements in the Uniform Standards and conditions. So in that instance, that just wouldn't be the situation that's contemplated through the Application.

### **Question 5**

**Received from Rebekah Williams**

**please tell me how many other people are in this webinar, and how many of them are from my community of Prattsburgh, New York?**

Answer: (Jane Rice, EDR) We can let you know that we have a total of 43 attendees in attendance of this webinar, that is plus 10 staff, all the panelists who you have heard from. We also want to let you know that, prior to this there were up to 8400 postcards that were mailed to properties within five miles of a proposed turbine. What I don't know, so I can't share it with you, is where everybody is from. We don't have that information at our fingertips right now. We do have 43 community members in attendance in this webinar right now.

### **Question 6**

**Received from Emily Bonk**

**What is a laydown yard?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) A laydown area or laydown yard is something that's used during construction. It is a place where equipment can be stored, it might be a place when tower's, blades, and/or equipment for the wind farm

during construction are brought into site, they're placed in a laydown area. They may be stored there for a few days or a week. And, then components are picked up and brought to the site. Laydown areas are, generally, although there may be some exceptions out there, temporary in nature. They are put down and then once construction finishes the land is restored to what it was previously.

#### **Question 7**

**Received from Daniel Dunnigan**

**Are sound level requirements only to homes, or to property lines? If we recently purchased a property but have not built a house on it, would that not get factored in? Could that effectively render portions of our property unable to put a home on?**

Answer: (Rob O'Neal, Epsilon) Absolutely there are requirements both to homes and to property lines. That is one of the bullets in the slide on sound at the very end. So sound levels will be limited at property lines. If there's no home on the property yet, then obviously there's no home location model, per se. There's no way to estimate what the home level would be. However, there will be very detailed contour lines all over the property. In other words, lines that equal sound level will be mapped on all the parcels within a mile of a turbine. If your properties within a mile of a turbine, then, there'll be a very detailed map in the Application that will show you how the sound level can vary over your property or anybody's property.

#### **Question 8**

**Received from Cheryl Bagley**

**Can you send the reference for the paper that you published on sound? The one that is peer-reviewed.**

Answer: (Rob O'Neal, Epsilon) Absolutely, I can. What I'll do is I will provide an electronic version of that paper to Kevin. And then Kevin can take care of distribution, whether it's on the project website, or however he deems is the best way to get it to you.

#### **Question 9**

**Received from Melissa Marszalek**

**What are the manufacturer's suggested setbacks on these new, large turbines? Is there an engineer's manual available for the models you are considering? Where else in the US have these new super large turbines been sited?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) We're reviewing several different turbine types. We have a better idea of turbines and we've placed as much technical information that we have on them in the application and we can even make that available on our website. I should be able to post some information in the next week or so, on some of the models that we think we'll be using, some of the smaller models. So, I can do that. And then, you know, there will be a complete set of information on the turbines in any Application.

*Updated expanded answer:*Manufacturers do not usually suggest setbacks, however if they do, the manufacturer's suggested setbacks will be considered in the application per the requirements of 94-c, Exhibit 5. During the review of the 8 wind projects that went through Article 10, the state reviewed various setbacks and health and safety studies. These reviews led to recommendations on the siting for each of these projects and formed the basis of the Office of Renewable Energy Siting's draft regulations on setbacks and sound standards. In addition, a complete analysis of health and safety will be included in the 94-c application, which the Office will review. Each wind turbine manufacturer does issue design verification confirming that the wind turbines were designed in accordance with international standards for safety. Generally speaking, all wind turbine manufacturers are producing taller turbines as newer turbine technology allows them to produce taller safer turbines. Locally, the Baron Winds Project is permitted to have 650-foot turbines and a 5MW machine and it will be constructed in 2021. Nordex, for example has approximately 1,000 MWs of 4+MW machines being installed this year at an approximate height of 650 feet. Many of those are commissioned and running. Larger turbines for onshore use are becoming common place.

#### **Question 10**

**Received from Joshua Bisset**

**What will be the legal redress for residence who measure sound above 45 decibels and who would we contact?**

Answer: (Jim Muscato, Young Sommer) I think this is like the question that we talked about earlier. The sounds studies will bear this out, but for the most part, most residences aren't going to be anywhere near the 45. But regardless, the project is being designed to 45, and there's not a situation that's anticipated. That's the reason why the standards are chosen the way. Also, for whatever it's worth, to the extent that helps answer the question, there is post construction monitoring that's conducted. It's required to be included as part of the project design. And there's also a complaint resolution plans that assists in addressing issues that may come up post construction related to sound, and other topics, as well.

#### **Question 11**

**Received from Laura Quattrocchi**

**Why aren't you using zoom so we can see each other?**

Answer: (Jane Rice, EDR) We selected this platform GoTo Webinar because of its very strong security, its ability to handle a large size, and its seamless use from its functionality from the user center. Thank you for that question, they're very similar platforms but GoTo Webinar has been around for a long, long time and is really strong in these kinds of webinars.

#### **Question 12**

**Received from Laura Quattrocchi**

**I heard the turbines in the Cohocton area and the sound level is not acceptable for me. Will they be the same kind with the same kind of sound?**

Answer: (Rob O'Neal, Epsilon) I did not work on the Cohocton project, but my understanding is that those are the old clipper turbines, which that company's long out of business. They had some issues, and they were also permitted, I believe, at a higher sound level. I think their permit limit was 50 decibels, so very different turbines, different sound level. And the turbines for the Prattsburgh Project will be nothing like that. They will be taller, certainly, but as the turbines have gotten taller and larger in electrical capacity, they have not gotten louder. In fact, many of them have gotten quieter due to the different rotation of the blades.

#### **Question 13**

**Received from Saul and Alice Sokolow**

**Which version of WindPro do you use?**

Answer: (Lindsey Donahoe, EDR) We are currently using version 3.4 of WindPro, but I should mention whenever a new version is released by the manufacturer or a developer we do transition over to that version. Currently it's at 3.4, but if something else comes out prior to having an Application, we'll transition to using that model.

#### **Question 14**

**Received from Brenda Remchuk**

**Why do the turbines need to be located so close to homes?**

Answer: (Jim Muscato, Young Sommer) Based on the closeness of it, I don't know that I can really respond to that. Based on the health studies that have been conducted Health Canada, for example and a number of other sound studies, the distances that are being proposed are required as part of Section 94-c have been deemed by health bodies as safe. The Siting Board has issued certificates with setback distances that are protective of human health and the environment. In this case, section 94-c mandates that setbacks be a minimum of 2 times the height of the turbine to non-participating residences. That's facts of the situation and I will leave the subjectivity of others to decide.

### **Question 15**

**Received from Brenda Remchuk**

**What does this do to our property values?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) I think this is another question like the last one that there are several studies out there that have looked at the effects of a wind project on property values. I can cite a few. There was one from Ben Hoen, who is from the Berkeley Labs, which is now where he's associated. We can download those and put some of that on our website. I also realize that that's a big concern of people and they will point themselves to other studies. What I would recommend in terms of learning more about that is you can always speak to people in other towns. Go to Town Board meetings, place like Town of Howard or Eagle-Bliss and speak to the Town Assessor. See what kind of changes have happened. As I said, there's an element of subjectivity to that question and I'm happy to point you to studies related to property values.

### **Question 16**

**Received from Brian Dinitto**

**Are you aware of the Dutch study of painting one turbine blade black to reduce bird loss by 1/3rd? Are you considering using this method?**

Answer: (Jess Costa, Stantec) We have heard of that study where they painted one blade black on turbines at a windfarm on an island in Norway. They did a multi-year study and as the question indicated, they did see a reduction in mortality of about 72%. But that projects located in Norway and on an island, they are getting different species of birds there particularly water birds that are flying by during the day. This is a method that's not really been tested in the US, it's not a method that's currently being used to minimize risk to birds in the US. One of the reasons is the birds in North America that are particularly at risk of collision are nocturnal songbird migrants and they're flying at night. So not really picking up colors on turbines. At this point, the species that are at risk of collision wouldn't necessarily benefit from this type of minimization action considering this method at this time.

### **Question 17**

**Received from Marty Oehlbeck**

**ANSI has guidance on sound modeling error, primarily due to atmospheric conditions. Has this been incorporated? Sound modeling goals were 55dB at properties lines, some towns have 50 dB in local laws limits, please comment. During the Article 10 process for Baron Winds, the Brown Hill area was described as very noisy. As part of that, project changes were made to the substation design and layout. I see part of this project is connecting there, were there any noise measurements taken in this area?**

Answer: (Rob O'Neal, Epsilon) Sure, I'll handle those two sort-of different questions in there. So, in terms of modeling error, or uncertainty, yes, we assume worst-case atmospheric conditions in terms of a temperature inversion. Winds always blowing from the source to someone's home; that has been incorporated. The second part of the question about modeling goals at 55 dB at property lines: Yes, that's going to be the Section 94-c criteria. If local municipalities have different local laws and obviously, you know, we haven't completed our analysis yet, so we have to go through all those. But, if there are some local laws that are applicable, we will have to look at those and, you know, checkout and ensure compliance.

### **Question 18**

**Received from Saul and Alice Sokolow**

**Why isn't the goal of noise control of turbines the same as that of a substation-40dB?**

Answer: (Rob O'Neal, Epsilon) So, that's a good question. Substations by their very nature are usually tonal. Because of the transformers that are associated with them, they generate a tone. Therefore, there's an assumed five decimal penalty on the substations. So, instead of 45, they are limited to 40 decibels.

### **Question 19**

**Received from Brenda Remchuk**

**Were your studies done by outside agencies or were they all conducted by your agency?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) So, the process for a project like this step, yes, as the developer, we do hire third party consultants to do any environmental studies that we do. In the case of, let's just say, our avian impact studies, what we will do is hire third part consultant to do that. The consultant will first work with the US Fish and Wildlife and NYS DEC and they will come up with a work plan. That work plan will include the number of studies to be conducted, the timing of such studies, the duration, and all sorts of aspects of the study. Any results from that study are then handed back to the DEC, and the US Fish and Wildlife. The study is then reviewed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the DEC. There may be other questions that they have, they may ask for more information, they may ask for re-studies. That process is very similar to all the studies for the project. For example, the sound study Rob mentioned, we will present our results of our sound study to both the Office of Renewable Energy Siting, as well as the towns in which the project could be located. The Office of Renewable Energy Siting has their own consultants and their own experts to review what we present. The towns all will have the ability to question and look at those studies through an independent engineer, and as questions come up, or results are questioned, those go back to us, and back to our third-party consultants, and ultimately, you know, a methodology or a response is agreed upon by the agencies or by the town consultants. And that's the give and take of how studies are conducted. I hope that answers it completely.

### **Question 20**

**Received from Cheryl Bagley**

**Is wetland defined as only permanently wet areas? Intermittent wetlands are an important part of aquatic systems and recognized by the federal government as such in 2018.**

Answer: (Ben Brazell, EDR) The answer is no; they are not defined as permanently wet areas. Technically, according to Federal parameters, a wetland is defined as an area that exhibits three different parameters: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and evidence of hydrology. So, you can have evidence of hydrology without being inundated such as a pond.

### **Question 21**

**Received from Marty Oehlbeck**

**Why is there no scale on the PDF project map on your website? Can it be added?**

Answer: (Lindsay Donahoe, EDR) There is a scale on the map on the Project website, in the bottom left-hand corner of the map. It shows increments of a half-mile, one mile, and two miles. So, there is a scale there.

### **Question 22**

**Received from Robin Phenes**

**Please explain "landscape similarity zones." What does that mean?**

Answer: (Matthew Robinson, EDR) Landscape similarity zones are a way for us to be able to break up the visual study area, which 10 miles on each side can be a very large area, so that we can represent those zones through our analysis and through our visual simulations. So, the landscape similarity zones are first based off of land use data collected through GIS. And then we bring that data into the field, and our field review tells us exactly what type of zones we may have. A couple of examples of zones that we've done in the past in this area would be forest, rural valley, rural upland ridge line, waterfront, open water, city, village, hamlet. Those may change, but those are some examples of the types of landscape, similarity zones that we would be looking to represent within our analysis and our simulations.

### **Question 23**

**Received from Robin Phenes**

**Who is the rating panel? Your own employees? Maybe people already impacted by wind turbines should provide input on this "panel"?**

Answer: (Matthew Robinson, EDR) The rating panel is made up of industry experts, who have worked on or been in the world of visual analysis and wind turbines before. Often, we use a few people from EDR that are not involved in the project at all but are usually registered landscape architects that are trained in this type of rating. We also look to use outside experts as well. What we're trying to gain from the rating panel is information on very specific topics of scale, color, size, and interaction with the landscape. So, people that are trained in that type of analysis are really what we're looking for. Other types of information from local people, we would really like. We'd be finding that out from open houses and things like that on there, on what questions and review they may have, but the rating panel itself consists of experts in the field.

#### **Question 24**

**Received from Tammie Woody**

**Can you tell me what a collection line is and what it will look like? Thank you.**

Answer: (Ben Brazell, EDR) So the wind turbines, the wind spins them which generates electricity. That electricity is collected by what are referred to as the electrical collection system. So electrical collection lines run from each turbine, ultimately to the existing electricity grid at the point of interconnection. The collection lines are buried. There may be certain instances, such as if they must cross a ravine, for instance, where they may have to go above ground. So, in terms of what they look like, for the most part you won't see them. If they're above ground, they would typically resemble roadside electrical lines.

#### **Question 25**

**Received from Brian Dinitto**

**Do land mineral rights have anything to do with allowing tower siting on private land?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) No, when we enter into agreement with a landowner, there may or may not be preservation of mineral rights, and that really doesn't have any issue with the placement of the tower.

#### **Question 26**

**Received from Thomas MacAllister**

**In reference to shadow flicker, are you suggesting that an acceptable mitigation for someone whose residence is affected by shadow flicker is blinds or planting vegetation instead of moving the Turbine to a more acceptable location?**

Answer: (Lindsay Donahoe, EDR) The primary purpose of the layout design is to avoid any of these impacts where possible. The use of blinds or planting vegetation is an option. Clearly, we will not force anyone to use blinds or vegetation, and this is something that is required by the Section 94-c regulations to discuss any shading or blocking measures. We would really work with surrounding landowners to come up with an appropriate mitigation strategy.

#### **Question 27**

**Received from Jessica Stevens**

**Turbines have a usable lifespan of 23-25 years if properly maintained. Who is responsible for their disposal (and where) when they die? Not recyclable, usually chopped and buried - where? who pays?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) So there's a few things there. First, there have been turbines in other parts of the world and in the United States that have been usefully running for longer than 25 years. But as part of the permitting process and any permit granted, the state will impose a decommissioning fund that will be held, for lack of a better term, in escrow and the fund will be made available in the case of any sort of decommissioning. There are some components of the turbines that can be recycled or re-used. Unfortunately, the question is correct, there are some components, at this time, that cannot be recycled or re-used. I believe the industry is working hard to try and make more of the components recyclable.

### **Question 28**

**Received from Tony Byington**

**Will the virtual visual impact study be shared with the public?**

Answer: (Jim Muscato, Young Sommer) Absolutely. The visual impact study that's done will be included as part of the Application. Just a reminder, in terms of schedule, it's not something that will be completed, submitted, and made as part of the Application, until after the first of the year. But it's absolutely something that can be shared, and it is public. I know the municipalities are providing some input with respect to resources to be addressed as part of the visual impact study. The visual impact study itself is a very deliberative, interactive document with the public and the host communities, and ensuring that resources concerned are addressed in the study.

### **Question 29**

**Received from: Jessica Meacham**

**How tall are these proposed turbines in relation to what is in the area already?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) First of all, it's important to note that before any turbine is permitted at any height, it must pass through the FAA process. So, there is that part of the process. The turbines we're proposing will be in the 650-foot range. As far as comparison to other projects in the area, those would be larger or taller than Cohocton and Howard. However, Phase one of the Baron Winds Project, which is nearby, and has been approved up to 650 feet. When Baron Wind gets built, the turbines will be of similar size to what we would propose.

### **Question 30**

**Received from Fred Swayze- Council Rep- Carpenters Local 277**

**How much of the construction work force will be hired from the area to construct the wind turbines or will the hire of skilled local workers be considered?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) Terra-Gen has made an agreement, we've signed an MOU with IBW as well as other local labor groups. We will try to use as much local skilled labor as possible. We made agreements with the labor groups and hope to maximize those relationships as it relates to local hiring. In addition, it is important to note, that when we source materials for the project, like the materials for the foundations and the collection systems will be sourced from New York state as well as very locally. Things like roads, gravel roads, and the concrete for the foundations.

### **Question 31**

**Received from Thomas MacAllister**

**This question is for Matthew. The beautiful landscape that is part of the slide is possibly a view of Canandaigua Lake, not in this project but a beautiful view surrounded by high value property with high taxes. Does the Rating Panel that does the visual impact take into consideration that landowners in Prattsburgh though not as affluent as those who have lake property care just as much about their views or is their view considered less valuable?**

Answer: (Matthew Robinson, EDR) Each landowner is considered on the same scale within our evaluation. This is part of the landscape similarity zones as well. We do percentages of what landscape similarity zones that make up the visual study area, and we provide simulations based off those percentages. We also, which I haven't talked about yet, discuss distance zones as well. So, people in the foreground or residences in the foreground distance zone are considered with a little more impact than residences located in the background distance zone. So, we are not looking at all property values or locations of residences, we are really breaking down the landscape into landscape similarity zones and distance zones so that we can represent everybody that lives within the visual study area in the appropriate scale that they should be represented at.

### **Question 32**

**Received from Jessica Stevens**

**There appears to be nothing "green" about the production installation operation, or disposal of these eyesores. What ecological benefits are there really?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) Wind power provides a pollution free source of energy. It is also a very low-cost form of energy, and therefore the effects are immeasurable to climate change and to the environment in which we live.

### **Question 33**

**Received from Fred Schwab**

**How will the turbines impact wildlife in the area, wildlife is the major resource in the area? What is the definition of a participating and non-participating owner? What compensation is available for landowners for property devaluation?**

Answer: (Jess Costa, Stantec) There will be some level of habitat loss and collision fatality for birds and bats. There will be minimization and mitigation measures developed with the agencies to ensure that the impacts are minimized to the extent possible, and that there won't be impacts that will have significant impacts to threatened or endangered species. For other wildlife, wind projects represent a similar impact to current land use in the region, like agricultural land use, including loss or change of habitat, or road disturbances, and developments, homes and small businesses. So, wind is considered similar in terms of impacts to wildlife to current land uses. We do see wildlife, including birds and bats and large mammals, continuing to use the area around wind farms. In some cases, the types of species shift right after a development occurs, and as the site is restored back to more original characteristics, then we see the species composition go back as well.

(Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen): A participating resident or participating landowner is someone that has an agreement with Terra-Gen. A non-participating property owner is someone who doesn't have an agreement with Terra-Gen. There is no compensation for people that are not involved in the project. However, there are benefits that will accrue. Specifically, the project will pay into a PILOT agreement and Host Community Agreement. We expect that to be about 1.2 million dollars in the first year of the project. The Host Community Agreement and PILOT agreement have an escalator on that. So, by the end of that agreement's life, it will have gone up from that 1.2 million dollars. That benefit is split between the town in which the project is located, the county [Steuben], and the school districts in which the turbines will be placed. And that's broken out by formula so that the benefits are accrued to each district and each town. What I will also say is under 94-c, there is a provision in which people in the project area are to receive some sort of credit or rebate on their electric bill. Those details still need to be worked out. I have not seen more of that from the state, but I do know that was an important component of the 94-c legislation.

### **Question 34**

**Received from Joshua Bisset**

**What is the specific community benefit to the Town of Prattsburgh?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) There is a PILOT agreement and a Host Community Agreement generally done in these projects. The PILOT and Host Community Agreement are done based on the rated megawatts installed in a town. That going rate is around \$8,000 per megawatt. So, what will happen is that based on the number of megawatts installed in any of the towns, that number of megawatts will be multiplied times 8,000. That is the total benefit that will be split in the first year. These agreements have a 2% escalator on them yearly, so every year that 8,000 will be compounded by 2%. That amount let's say is \$200,000-- I'm making that number up just for the math -- will then be split between the county, the Town, and the school districts. In addition to the benefits that I just mentioned, from the Host Community Agreement and the PILOT agreement, we would be required to pay our portion of any special use district. Special use districts for the most part in this part of the world, are into the fire department and first responders. So, just as everyone in the Town residence get a portion of the bill for the fire department, the wind project will also get a portion of the bill for the fire department. That is outside of any PILOT money, or anything like that.

### **Question 35**

**Received from Marty Oehlbeck**

**What turbine total heights are being considered?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) Those considered will be 2 megawatts and roughly 500 feet in height; another that is being considered is 3.6 megawatts and 550 feet. The additional turbines to be used will likely be in the 5.5-5.6-megawatt range and will likely be 650 feet, if we get approval from the FAA on those heights.

### **Question 36**

**Received from Unknown**

**How many turbines are currently planned?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen). Currently, Terra-Gen is looking at 6 different turbine models from a few different manufacturers. A final list will be included with the application.

### **Question 37**

**Received from Thomas MacAllister**

**At a Public Hearing, all viewpoints are heard and there is an open comment portion from the public. I know you have until 7:30, Will my questions be addressed or at the least put on the record of this public meeting?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) If we can keep the question section open for a while longer then we can provide written answers to all of those. But we can go through those questions and put them on the website.

(Jane Rice, EDR): This recording will be posted on the project website, then we should be able to get the recording and the transcripts posted within the next couple of days, along with the questions. We can leave this session open, and if you add some more questions into the question panel, please do that. We will not be able to provide your answer during this live session, but we will provide a written answer, and of course the ones that we have not been able to get to. These will be posted on the project website.

### **Question 38**

**Received from Jill Hill**

**What's the service life of each turbine?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) The useable life span of each turbine if properly maintained is approximately 25 years.

Updated expanded answer from Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen: The useful life of a modern wind turbine is expected to be 25-30 years. There are projects currently operating in NY with turbines as old as 20 years.

### **Question 39**

**Received from Brenda Remchuk**

**Where can we visit these wind turbines to see them and listen to them?**

Answer: (Kevin Sheen, Terra-Gen) To see and listen to them, you can go over to the Town of Howard.

### **Questions That Were Not Answered During the Public Meeting:**

### **Question 40**

**Received from Melissa Marszalek**

**Kevin never answered my question on where else in the US these large turbines have been sited on land and where are the health and safety studies?**

Answer: Updated answer from Kevin Sheen, Terra Gen: During the review of the 8 wind projects that completed the Article 10 process safeguarding health and safety was one of the primary goals of the review. Representatives from the State Department of Health reviewed the application materials and other studies relating to wind turbines. These reviews led to recommendations on the siting for each of these projects and formed the basis of the Office of Renewable Energy Siting's draft regulations on setbacks and sound standards. During the review of the Baron Winds and Roaring Brook application taller and larger turbines were presented and a rigorous review conducted. That same process will be used for the 94-c process and will consider the model under study.

More generally, there have been several peer reviewed studies of health and safety aspects of wind projects. While these studies are not likely to be updated for every new turbine model, the same methodology can be applied to the larger and taller turbines as it relates to sound and shadow flicker.

Locally, the Baron Winds Project is permitted to have 650-foot turbines and a 5MW machine and it will be constructed in 2021. Nordex, for example has approximately 1,000 MWs of 4+MW machines being installed this year at an approximate height of 650 feet. Many of those are commissioned and running. I'm certain that other manufacturers have very similar sizes of both installations, MW size and hub heights. The larger turbines for onshore use are becoming common place.

#### **Question 41**

**Received from Bernard Mark**

**Why are you going with taller towers?**

Answer: Updated answer from Kevin Sheen, Terra Gen: Generally speaking in this part of New York wind speed is a function of elevation and therefore a taller tower would lead to higher wind speeds and more energy production.

#### **Question 42**

**Received from Daniel Dunnigan**

**How tall will most of the turbines be?**

Answer: We currently plan on using six Vestas V116 2.0MW turbines which will be roughly 500 feet in height. We also have one Vestas V136 3.6MW turbine that will be approximately 575 feet. The remaining turbines (expected to be 22-24 additional turbines) will be approximately 650 feet. All of this is dependent upon FAA approval.

#### **Question 43**

**Received from Jim Hill**

**How long will an individual turbine be in service before it offsets its cost of manufacture, installation and ongoing maintenance?**

Answer: Projects like this are typically financed over a 15-20 year period and costs for construction, operations and maintenance, payments to local municipalities and landowners, among other costs are factored in. Therefore, it is hard to estimate the payback on a turbine in the way you mention.

#### **Question 44**

**Received from Jim Hill**

**Who on the Wind Farm team lives in the Prattsburgh area?**

Answer: Currently there are no residents of Prattsburgh working on the project.

**Question 45****Received from Mike Arman**

Answer: Do you intend to survey Prattsburgh residents as to their receptivity to this project?

We do not have plans to conduct a survey of this nature, however residents have an opportunity through forum such as this to voice their opinions on the project.

**Question 46****Received from Bernard Mark****How tall will they be?**

Answer: We currently plan on using six Vestas V116 2.0MW turbines which will be roughly 500 feet in height. We also have one Vestas V136 3.6MW turbine that will be approximately 575 feet. The remaining turbines (expected to be 22-24 additional turbines) will be approximately 650 feet if approved by the FAA and ORES.

**Question 47****Received from Brian Dinitto****Are new access roads being built to access these new towers?**

Answer If the project is approved, it will include access roads to the towers. Were possible the project will use existing roads if available.

**Question 48****Received from Fred Schwab****Why has this been going on for years and this is first I have been made aware of it.**

Answer: Prattsburgh Wind started to attend town board meetings in the Town of Prattsburgh in 2019 and held two other open houses for the project. The company has also attended town board meetings in Wheeler, Avoca, and Howard since early 2019.

**Question 49****Received from Marty Oehlbeck****Are there any attempts to enhance rural Internet access as part of this project?**

Answer: Not at this time.

**Question 50****Received from Cheryl Bagley****I am curious about the wind analyses that led to the ridgetops in the Prattsburgh being chosen--are the winds unusually persistent than in other parts of the state? Why are the very exposed ridges around nearby Canandaigua Lake not being considered (or are they)?**

Answer: This area of Steuben County has a good wind profile for a project in NY. It was chosen due to those wind speeds and the access to transmission. I'm not certain if there is any development activities in or around Canandaigua Lake.

**Question 51****Received from Joshua Bisset****My home's value will be decimated because it is directly next to a proposed turbine. Do I have any legal redress?**

Answer: Numerous studies have demonstrated that wind facilities have no consistent significant impact on property values.

**Question 52**

**Received from Josh Meacham**

**So how tall are the ones in Cohocton and Howard?**

Answer: The turbines in Howard and Cohocton are roughly 500 feet when the blade is at the highest point.

**Question 53**

**Received from Joshua Bisset**

**Do you know which direction tower 21 will face?**

Answer: Modern turbines will turn into the direction of the wind so they won't "face" a particular direction permanently but rather turn to capture the wind direction.

**Question 54**

**Received from Robin Phenes**

**Local towns have indicated they are running out of local gravel for road maintenance. If more of this local gravel resource is used for turbine access roads, will local residents then have to foot the bill in the future to get gravel trucked in for normal road maintenance?**

Answer: According to the road supervisor in Prattsburgh it is stone and not gravel that is in short supply. Towns do need to ship this in from longer distances, but this would happen regardless of the project. There will be a road use agreement with the town which will require the project to pay for/share in the costs of road upgrades and maintenance.

**Question 55**

**Received from Brenda Remchuk**

**So what benefits would we reap with the wind turbines? Doesn't the electric get placed on a grid and sent to NYC or will we see a deduction in our electric bills?**

Answer: While the details have still not been worked out, the legislation authorizing the new 94-c permitting regime also added a provision for a credit to be given to local resident's electric bills. In this case, it would mean roughly \$147,000 to be split between some area residents.

**Question 56**

**Received from Thomas MacAllister**

**Will Terra-Gen be our partner for the life of the Wind Farm so we can count on the assurances that Kevin gives us?**

Answer: Terra-Gen is a long-term owner and operator of wind projects and has done so since our founding. We plan to be a partner to the community for years to come.

**Question 57**

**Received from Amy Shick**

**Is there a listing of how tall each turbine is? How deep do you have to dig for each turbine? How do you dig each platform and how does that effect the water and wells?**

Answer: We currently plan on using six Vestas V116 2.0MW turbines which will be roughly 500 feet in height. We also have one Vestas V136 3.6MW turbine that will be approximately 575 feet. The remaining turbines (expected to be 22-24 additional turbines) will be approximately 650 feet if approved by the FAA and ORES.

Preliminary Geotech has been performed at many sites in the project area and that will inform the foundation design. However, based on what is know from other projects in the area, the foundations will likely be a “spread footer” type foundation and will not go very deep – typically only about 20 feet. Foundations of this type do not go deep enough to impact wells but if there is a concern around a particular foundation a well study can be conducted by a third party.

#### **Question 58**

**Received from Saul and Alice Sokolow**

**Vestas turbines require setbacks of 1640 ft. Will you honor that?**

Answer: We would need additional information about the setback you mention, and we can follow up with Vestas directly.

#### **Question 59**

**Received from Joshua Bisset**

**If my home is "in front" of the turbine blades (my home is 1300 feet to the north of turbine 21 on CR 7) will this affect the decibel level?**

Answer: Positions of homes relative to turbines are studied throughout the project area and are factored into the sound study.

#### **Question 60**

**Received from Fred Schwab**

**When will we be able to see the exact locations where the turbines will be located?**

Answer: The current draft layout is available on the project website at [www.prattsburghwindfarm.com](http://www.prattsburghwindfarm.com)

#### **Question 61**

**Received from: Brenda Remchuk**

**So what is the footage?**

Answer: We would need additional information to answer this question.

#### **Question 62**

**Received from: Cheryl Bagley**

**When you say 1.5 x, is that 15 feet or 150 ft? Please give examples that are specific.**

Answer: Updated answer from Kevin Sheen, Terra Gen: The mention of 1.5 times the height is referring to the tip of the blade at its highest point. For example, if a wind turbine reached 650 feet when the blade was at its highest point the setback would need to be 975 feet.

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