

*For Office Use Only*  
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
 MEPA Analyst: *Holly Johnson*  
 Phone: 617-626-*1023*

# NPC

## Notice of Project Change

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review of a NPC in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (see 301 CMR 11.10(1)).

Project Name: Berkshire Wind Power Project		EOEA #: 12532	
Street: off Brodie Mtn. Road			
Municipality: Hancock & Lanesborough		Watershed: HUDSON (Hoosic, Kinderhook); HOUSATONIC	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: 0641491E/4714096N & 0641943E/4718770N		Latitude: 42.9519 Longitude: 73.4518	
Status of project construction: 40 %complete			
Proponent: Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation			
Street: P.O. Box 426			
Municipality: Ludlow		State: MA	Zip Code: 01056
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this NPC May Be Obtained: Daniel M. Nitzsche			
Firm/Agency: Baystate Environmental Consultants Inc.		Street: 296 N. Main Street	
Municipality: East Longmeadow		State: MA	Zip Code: 01028
Phone: 413-525-3822	Fax: 413-525-8348	E-mail: dnitzsche@b-e-c.com	

In 25 words or less, what is the project change?

The project change includes an additional 16.9 acres of tree removal and limited access roadway changes. No new threshold is met or exceeded

See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the Environmental Monitor: June 9, 2001

Was an EIR required?  Yes  No; if yes,  
 was a Draft EIR filed?  Yes (Date: )  No  
 was a Final EIR filed?  Yes (Date: )  No  
 was a Single EIR filed?  Yes (Date: )  No

Have other NPCs been filed?  Yes (Date(s): March 2004 & September 2004)  No

If this is a NPC solely for lapse of time (see 301 CMR 11.10(2)) proceed directly to "ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES" on page 4. NO

**PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER**

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed: The project is now owned and funded by the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation – an affiliate of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company.

Are you requesting a finding that this project change is insignificant? (see 301 CMR 11.10(6))  
 Yes     No; if yes, attach justification.

Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?  
 Yes     No; if yes, attach the Certificate

Are you requesting a change to a Scope in a previously issued Certificate?  Yes     No; if yes, attach Certificate and describe the change you are requesting:

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Previously reviewed	Net Change	Currently Proposed
<b>LAND</b>			
Total site acreage	2,500	0	2,500
Acres of land altered	28.1	16.9	45
Acres of impervious area	0	0.15	0.15
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	160 SF	0 SF	160 SF Work is done and mitigation work has been accepted by DEP as successful
Square feet of other wetland alteration	48 L.F. Bank	0 L.F. Bank	48 L.F. Bank
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	0	0	0
<b>STRUCTURES</b>			
Gross square footage	0	6,524 Maintenance bldg & Tower foundations	6,524
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (in feet) <b>(Wind Turbines)</b>	340	54	394
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0
Parking spaces	0	0	0
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0

Does the project change involve any new or modified:

1. conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No

2. release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No

3. impacts on Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities? Yes No

4. impact on 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 No; if yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? Yes No

5. impact upon an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? Yes No  
If you answered 'Yes' to any of these 5 questions, explain below:

**PROJECT CHANGE DESCRIPTION** (attach additional pages as necessary). The project change description should include:

- (a) a brief description of the project as most recently reviewed
- (b) a description of material changes to the project as previously reviewed,
- (c) the significance of the proposed changes, with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6), and
- (d) measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts. If the change will involve modification of any previously issued Section 61 Finding, include a proposed modification of the Section 61 Finding (or it will be required in a Supplemental EIR).

- a. The most recent NPC Certificate was issued for MEPA File No. 12532 on November 8, 2004. The work included work included 26 acres of Land disturbance, 48 L.F. of Bank resource and 160 S.F. of BVW impacts. The project was reviewed with a total of 10 wind turbines that had a maximum output capacity of 15 MW. In March 2008, the Proponent expressed to the MEPA Office that the project was in the process of revising its scope to include 2.1 additional acres of Land disturbance that resulted from two access roadway sections being relocated. The total land disturbance expressed in March 2008 was 28.1 acres. MEPA issued a finding that no NPC was required at that time.
- b. It should be noted that considerable work has been completed based upon previously permitted work relating to the project. The general turbine sites have been cleared and the access roadway has been developed through turbine 5. The material change in the total project includes an increase of 16.9 acres of Land clearing for turbine site modifications and some roadway realignments that are needed to provide safe access for the heavy hauling equipment needed to complete the project. The Land changes are the result of more up to date geotechnical information regarding the bedrock suitability to provide adequate anchoring for the wind turbine tower assembly. The geotechnical data was not available at the time of the last NPC application.
- c. The changes proposed to Land disturbance do not met or exceed a MEPA threshold and the general limits of the project remain the same. There is no new information about the local environment that would suggest that the additional Land disturbance or change in completion date would have a significant environmental affect. The project changes do not require additional State permits for the proposed changes.

*Explanation for why the proposed changes should not constitute a significant change in the project:* The Proponent asserts that the additional Land disturbance will not significantly alter the forest community or alter the use of the area by local wildlife.

d. The disturbed land beyond the limits of the project that have been previously cleared will be restored with appropriate vegetation to the area and allowed to naturalize. The extent of proposed Land disturbance has been minimized to the extent practicable.

The wetland impacts have been completed and the approved mitigation areas constructed. The mitigation areas were monitored for two growing seasons and found to have successfully developed into wetland resources. An existing culvert is being removed and a natural stream channel developed to improve the wetland system. The Project will also comply with the current NPDES Permit requirements including the proper implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Attachments:

1. Secretary's most recent Certificate on this project
2. Plan showing most recent previously-reviewed proposed build condition
3. Plan showing currently proposed build condition
4. Original U.S.G.S. map or good quality color copy (8-1/2 x 11 inches or larger) indicating the project location and boundaries
5. List of all agencies and persons to whom the proponent circulated the NPC, in accordance with 301 CMR 11.10(7)

Signatures:

<p><u>7/13/09 Daniel M. Nitzsche for</u>  Date Signature of Responsible Officer  or Proponent</p>	<p><u>7/13/09 Daniel M. Nitzsche</u>  Date Signature of person preparing  NPC (if different from above)</p>
<p>Edward Kaczinski  Name (print or type)</p>	<p>Daniel M. Nitzsche  Name (print or type)</p>
<p>Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation  Firm/Agency</p>	<p>Baystate Environmental Consultants Inc.  Firm/Agency</p>
<p>P.O. Box 426.  Street</p>	<p>296 N, Main Street  Street</p>
<p>Ludlow/ MA/01056  Municipality/State/Zip</p>	<p>East Longmeadow/MA/01028  Municipality/State/Zip</p>
<p>413-589-0141  Phone</p>	<p>(413) 535-3822  Phone</p>