



**Environmental
 Notification Form**

For Office Use Only Executive Office of Environmental Affairs	
EOEA No.:	13143
MEPA Analyst:	ARTHUR RUGSLEY
Phone: 617-626-	1029

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: Hoosac Wind Project		
Street: "Bakke Ridge", Crum Hill, Tilda Hill Road, Main Road, Kingley Hill Road		
Municipality: Florida and Monroe	Watershed: Connecticut (Deerfield) Hudson (Hoosac)	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15526361.76393 N. 2175332.95130 S.	Latitude: 42° 43' 38"	Longitude: 73° 01' 30"
Estimated commencement date: April 2004	Estimated completion date: Dec. 2004	
Approximate cost: \$40 Million	Status of project design: 75 %complete	
Proponent: enXco, Inc. (Todd Presson)		
Street: 110 Kimball Ave.		
Municipality: South Burlington	State: VT	Zip Code: 05403
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Daniel Lovett		
Firm/Agency: Hill Engineers, Architects, Planners Inc.	Street: 50 Depot St.	
Municipality: Dalton	State: MA	Zip Code: 01226
Phone: 413-684-0925	Fax: 413-684-0267	E-mail: dlovett@hillengineers.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 301CMR 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): *No financial assistance is being sought. The proponent may sell Renewable Energy Credits to the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative on a put and collar option basis over a 10-year period beginning in year 6 of commercial operation. The proponent does not believe that this constitutes financial assistance under MGL Chapter 30, Section 61 et seq or the applicable regulations in 301 CMR 11.00 et seq.*

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Local Order of Conditions, Special Permit, Subdivision Permit, Building Permit, EPA NPDES NOI, FAA Notice of Proposed Construction

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input 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 checked="" 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 Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: MNHESP Conservation and Management Permit MHC State Archaeologist's Permit, Intensive Survey Permit MAC Form E-10
Total site acreage	1,520±Ac.			
New acres of land altered		48±Ac.*		
Acres of impervious area	0	.08 Ac.	.08 Ac.	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		3,900±S.F.		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration Bank		375±L.F.		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	1,336 S.F.	1,336 S.F.	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	20	20	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	6	6	
Parking spaces	0	20	20	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	45	45	
GPD water withdrawal	0	45	45	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	45	45	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

*Impact during construction = 48 Acres; Impact during operation after re-vegetation = 10 Acres

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.*)

enXco is requesting a MEPA Certificate from the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs – MEPA Office, for the proposed Hoosac Wind Project. The project is a wind generation facility located on private and municipally owned land located in the Towns of Florida (Berkshire County) and Monroe (Franklin County). A locus map of the project site and a series of project design drawings are included with this form.**

The project consists of a total of 20 commercial scale wind turbines and associated infrastructure. Up to eleven wind turbines will be located on the "Bakke Ridgeline" in Florida and up to nine turbines will be located on the "Crum Hill Ridgeline", one in Florida and eight in Monroe. In addition to the wind turbines the project also includes; an internal system of gravel access roads that allow for accessibility to the wind turbines year round, 34.5 kV power distribution lines, a 1000 s.f. maintenance building, and a 18,300 s.f. electrical substation with a 336 s.f. equipment building. Approximately 48 acres of forested land will be cleared during construction; 38 acres of the 48 acres will be re-vegetated.

A comprehensive Natural Communities assessment was conducted by Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MNHESP). Large-leaved goldenrod (*Solidago macrophylla*) – a state-listed threatened species – was found along an existing trail up the east slope of Bakke Ridge and along the trail on the summit. One potential occurrence was also found on the existing trail to Crum Hill. Mountain wood fern (*Dryopteris spinulosa americana*), a state "watch-list" species, was also found on both Bakke Ridge and Crum Hill. Mountain wood fern was most often observed intermixed in large stands of interrupted fern. Larger stands of predominantly mountain wood fern also occur at the base of a rock ledge outcrop on the Bakke Ridge trail and bordering the trail near the Bakke Ridge summit. Some of the Large-leaved goldenrod is located in areas that will be disturbed on the Bakke Ridge. The plants will be transplanted in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan included at the back of this form. Impacts to the listed species will be avoided, minimized and mitigated to the greatest extent possible. Wildlife and avian studies conducted by enXco did not reveal the presence or likely occurrence of any federal- or state-listed wildlife species. Federal and state databases do not document the presence of any such species on either site. Areas with rare plant species were mapped out and used to establish roadway routes and position the turbines so as to minimize adverse impacts. The proponent is requesting a coordinated review with MNHESP.

Hill-Engineers, Architects, Planners Inc. in partnership with Watershed Resource Consultants has delineated wetland resources on the project. The project will impact approximately 375 linear feet of intermittent stream bank; 309 linear feet of bank will be replicated. Approximately 3,900 square feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) will be impacted; 5,160 square feet of BVW will be replicated. The majority of BVW that

the project will impact are on the land between Tilda Hill Road and Bliss Road where drainage from the surrounding ranges collects in a broad gently sloping region and creates both streams and seeps. Aside from a swale along Tilda Hill Road's south side, the streams are located west of Tilda Hill Road. Between Tilda Hill Road and Bliss Road the streams are gently sloping, while those west of Bliss Road run steeply off of the ridge, often with little or no associated BVW. All of these areas are mapped out and were used to establish roadway routes and position the turbines so as to minimize the wetland impacts.

Some minor modification to the Tilda Hill Road/Mohawk Trail (Route 2) intersection will be required to accommodate the transportation of the turbine components to the site. Modifications include the relocation of one or more utility poles and the widening of shoulders. Route 2 is a state highway and Mass Highway general access and wide load permits will be required. A schematic plan of the proposed modifications to the intersection is included at the back of this form. In addition, the shoulders of Tilda Hill Road at its intersection with the access roads will need to be widened. Such roadwork shall be performed in conjunction with the Municipal Department of Public Works. There will be minimal traffic generation from the project operated by two full time operation and maintenance personnel traveling to the site daily and occasional visitors.

At peak capacity, the project will be capable of producing 30 MW (megawatts) of electric power from up to 20 commercial scale wind turbines. The project will help meet the Commonwealth's renewable energy goals and provide long term air-quality benefits by producing power with no emissions and can displace approximately 300 tons of SO₂, 180 tons of NO_x and 60,000 tons of CO₂ produced by fossil fuel based energy each year. There will be approximately 4.4 miles of new electrical transmission lines within the system of gravel access roads, and 5.25 miles of new transmission lines along existing roads/rights of way. The capacity of the lines will be 34.5 kV (kilovolts).

Mitchell Mulholland, Ph.D., from the University of Massachusetts Archaeological Services at Amherst, performed an archaeological reconnaissance survey of the potential impacts to historical and archaeological resources in the area. Research revealed several historic farmsteads in the vicinity, but not within the project impact area. No Native American archaeological sites are on record in the project area. Site topography in the project area and distance from a water supply indicate that the ridgelines and steep slopes were not suitable for Native American occupation. Occasional small hunting or resource extraction camps are likely to have been in the area, but would have been occupied for a short time and would be extremely difficult to locate in this mountainous terrain. An old weather worn stone cairn (circa. 1950) constructed by an abutter as a property marker is located near the peak of Crum Hill, and will be avoided. Two small areas have the potential to contain small Native American and historic period sites. They include the lower portion of the Bakke Mountain access road in Florida, and the proposed substation in Monroe. A Phase 1B intensive survey has been recommended. A permit from the Massachusetts Historical Commission has been applied for, and a late Fall field survey is planned. A report will be filed with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) upon completion.

The proponent chose the proposed project site after considerable review of the regional wind resource and then refined the site after incorporating property availability, environmental resource investigations, engineering design parameters and access to existing utility interconnections. The resultant siting of the proposed wind turbines seeks to maximize the use of the available wind resource while minimizing the amount of new infrastructure, and impacts to land and natural resources, required for the project. Several alternate sites were investigated, but were not found to be feasible.

As a major part of the project site selection process, enXco thoroughly investigated available meteorological data and installed meteorological towers at five locations inside the Project site. All research and data indicates that the project site is an excellent wind resource area within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the New England region.

***Entire set of plans and supporting documentation sent to MEPA and MNHESP only, plans and additional information will be sent upon request.*