

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA
Office

ENF Environmental Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	13229
MEPA Analyst:	Arthur Pugsley
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: Princeton Wind Farm Infrastructure Improvements		
Street: Westminster Road		
Municipality: Princeton	Watershed: Nashua	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: X: 261568.1442, Y: 4706810.2987	Latitude: 42 28' 37.0" N	Longitude: 71 54' 2.3" W
Estimated commencement date: May 2004	Estimated completion date: January 2005	
Approximate cost: \$5 million	Status of project design: 95%	
Proponent: Princeton Municipal Light Department		
Street: 168 Worcester Road		
Municipality: Princeton	State: MA	Zip Code: 01541
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Stephen Barrett		
Firm/Agency: Epsilon Associates, Inc	Street: 150 Main Street	
Municipality: Maynard	State: MA	Zip Code: 01754-0700
Phone: (978) 897- 7100	Fax: (978) 897-0099	E-mail: sbarrett@epsilonassociates.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):

Formal transfer of 0.89 acres of Article 97 land owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation historically used for access to private property site and for operating and maintaining an electric transmission lines, and conversion of approximately 5 acres of private land for conservation/recreation purposes. Project also involves a loan from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC).

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes Specify: No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Site Plan Review by Princeton Planning Board, FAA Review for Obstruction & Marking Lighting, NPDES Stormwater Permit, Section 106 NHPA (potential)

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 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 type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit (see footnote) <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval
Total site acreage	17.72 ¹			
New acres of land altered		1.48 ²		
Acres of impervious area (wind turbine pads)	0.04 ³	0.11 ⁴	0.11	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				<input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Gross square footage	1,700 s.f. ³	5,000 s.f. ⁴	5,000 s.f.	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet / NGVD 1929)*	1,604	364	1,868	
TRANSPORTATION				² temporary construction impact; 0.1 acres on DCR land
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0	
Parking spaces	0	6 ⁵	6 ⁵	³ existing shed, 8 WTGs & pads (to be restored) ⁴ 2 WTGs & pads ⁵ at trailhead proposed as mitigation
WASTEWATER				
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	0	0	0	

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: Formal transfer of easement rights to site access road, which has been used informally with Commonwealth approval for the past 20 years, as well as transfer of easement rights to land under existing electric transmission line) 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.*)

Project Site: Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) operates an existing wind farm on a 16-acre parcel surrounded by property associated with the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation (WMSR) in Princeton, Massachusetts (see locus map). PMLD has accessed this site for over 20 years via an existing gravel roadway that is formally part of WMSR. PMLD also owns an easement on an additional 0.83 acres that establishes its legal (though undeveloped) access to Westminster Road, a paved public roadway. The 16-acre parcel currently supports 8 wind turbine generators (WTG), and is periodically cleared. As such, vegetation on the parcel includes scrub/sapling growth near the existing WTGs, and mixed hardwoods on portions of the property that are not maintained. An overhead utility line distributes electricity from the wind farm to the local electricity grid on Westminster Road. The existing access road, " Stage Coach Trail" is a gravel roadway with moderate grades, and was once a county road. The legal access is undeveloped, supports mature forest growth, and involves steep terrain.

The Project: PMLD proposes to install two new WTGs on the wind farm site, which will involve grading and drainage improvements to Stage Coach Trail (the preferred access) to allow for passage of equipment to transport components of the WTGs. These two WTGs will replace the eight existing WTGs, which will be removed. Stage Coach Trail traverses 1,470 feet of WMSR before intersecting with the 16-acre property owned by PMLD. PMLD has " informally" used Stage Coach Trail to operate and maintain the existing wind farm since the 1980s. Similarly, it operates and maintains a 225-foot segment of overhead electrical lines that crosses WMSR between the existing wind farm and the local electric utility infrastructure. PMLD seeks to formalize its long-term legal use of Stage Coach Trail and the land beneath the 225-foot segment of existing overhead electrical lines, which require a change in ownership of 0.89 acres of land protected under Article 97 of the State Constitution. Construction activities will be undertaken through a temporary permit issued by DCR, one of the

conditions of which will stipulate that PMLD proposes to swap 5 acres of its privately-held land in exchange for long-term legal rights to Stage Coach Trail and the land beneath the existing transmission lines.

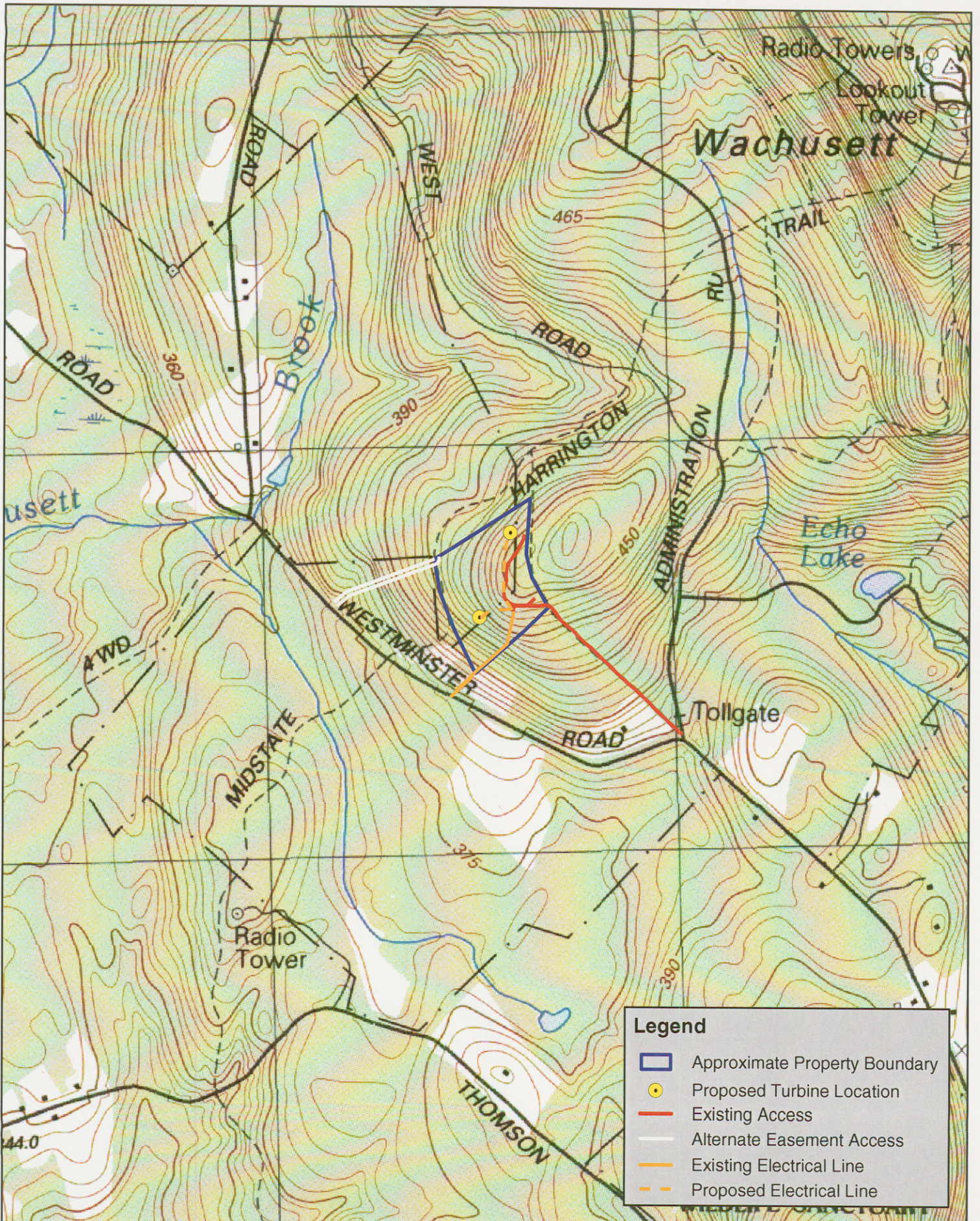
Alternatives: PMLD is considering two infrastructure alignment options to continue operation of the wind farm: (A) the existing Stage Coach Trail and the existing overhead utility line, and (B) development of PMLD' s legal right-of-way through undisturbed wetland and woodland. Stage Coach Trail is clearly PMLD' s preferred option as less environmentally damaging and more cost effective. Option B, the development of a new roadway and re-establishing the overhead utility lines along that easement, would not trigger MEPA review, nor would it necessitate obtaining any approvals from DCR. Engineering plans of the access alternatives are provided as Appendix A.

Mitigation:







Option A – Stage Coach Trail. In exchange for the formal transfer of easement rights to 0.89 acres of Article 97 land for continued use of Stage Coach Trail and right to the land beneath the existing overhead transmission lines, PMLD proposes a combination of on- and off-site mitigation measures. These include the transfer of 5 acres of land to DCR which contains an approximately 540-foot segment of the Midstate Trail, revegetation of temporarily disturbed areas adjacent to the existing roadway, construction of new trailhead parking, electrical infrastructure improvements to WMSR headquarters and summit facilities, and placement educational kiosks in appropriate locations providing information about wind energy.

Option B – Development of legal right of way. Development of the legal right of way would impact approximately 300 square feet of wetland and convert 0.41 acres of mature, unfragmented forest to the developed access road. Further, due to steep topography, it may be necessary to pave the access road under Option B, potentially resulting in new impervious surface. Mitigation measures would be limited to potential replication of the impacted wetlands, although, in that PMLD would have clearly demonstrated that there is no viable access alternative, wetland replication would not necessarily be required for the construction of the roadway and utility infrastructure under “ limited project” provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

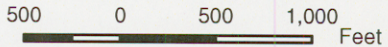
The citizens of Princeton have approved the wind farm upgrade project at a Special Town Meeting with 74% of voters in support. Although Option A (Stage Coach Trail) involves a “ conversion” of 0.89 acres of Article 97 land, in fact the use of that land will only temporarily be altered, and DCR will receive approximately 5 acres of new permanently protected conservation land in return, as well as other infrastructure, recreational and aesthetic improvements to WMSR facilities.



Legend

-  Approximate Property Boundary
-  Proposed Turbine Location
-  Existing Access
-  Alternate Easement Access
-  Existing Electrical Line
-  Proposed Electrical Line

Scale 1:12,000
 1 inch = 1,000 feet




Locus Map (USGS)
Princeton Wind Project
Princeton, Massachusetts

Basemap: 1988 USGS Quadrangles, MassGIS

