

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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10097/10-E-0149

PSC CONCLUDES WIND FARM INVESTIGATION

— Changes Made by Wind Farm Operator in Wake of Wind Turbine Collapse —

Albany, NY—10/14/10—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today closed its investigation into the turbine failure at the Noble Altona Windpark in Clinton County. The decision to close the investigation was based on independent reviews of Noble Environmental Power, LLC’s records, management protocols, operations and maintenance procedures, and site conditions.

These assessments of procedures and records allowed the Commission to conclude that the Noble facilities have been inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations. Moreover, the Commission concluded that Noble has demonstrated that it is in compliance with appropriate specifications and procedures for inspection, maintenance, public safety and site security as required.

“The Commission is encouraged by the steps that Noble has taken to implement robust site control and internal reporting and scheduling procedures subsequent to the Altona turbine failure investigation,” said Chairman Brown. “The Commission is mindful that site security and public safety require ongoing diligence and adaptation of procedures as technology advances, and the Commission expects Noble to make certain that its electric plant and facilities are secure, and that public safety outside of the turbine setback areas is reasonably assured.”

Meanwhile, in response to the turbine failure incident, the manufacturer of the turbine has implemented appropriate product and process improvements to preclude a repetition of the circumstances that led to the incident.

On the morning of March 6, 2009, the Noble Altona Windpark in Altona, New York, experienced the unintended loss of electric power. Two units, designated as Turbines 42 and 59, did not move into safe mode upon the loss of power as designed. The rotor and blades of Turbine 42 spun at approximately three times the operational design speed, and blades apparently contacted the tower structure, which ultimately collapsed. Oil in the nacelle of the turbine caught fire and the unit was heavily damaged. The blades on turbine 59 also spun freely, resulting in damage to one of the composite blades. Personnel at the site restored electric power to Turbine 59 and succeeded in placing it into safe mode before it sustained any additional damage.

As a result of the incident, a Department of Public Service team was established to perform an investigation. The team prepared a report on the incident and, on May 13, 2010, the Commission issued an order requiring Noble to show cause why it should not be required to demonstrate, through a third-party certification or otherwise, that its affiliated electric corporations operating in New York are providing safe wholesale electric service, instrumentalities and facilities, and that all Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) program measures and manufacturer's recommendations for inspection and maintenance of turbines, towers and related facilities have been implemented for the facilities they are operating in New York State. Noble responded to the Order to Show Cause, stating that overall its affiliates were complying with all QA/QC measures and manufacturer's recommendations.

The Commission's decision today, when issued, may be obtained by going to the Commission Documents section of the Commission's Web site at www.dps.state.ny.us and entering Case Number 10-E-0149 in the input box labeled "Search for Case/Matter Number." Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission orders may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).