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Siting Board Approves Its Largest Wind Farm to Date

290.7 MW Clean Energy Facility Approved for Steuben County Will Produce Enough Electricity to Power 113,000 Homes Per Year

Wind Farm Will Generate up to \$60 million in Local Property Tax Revenues Over 20 years

Local Governments to Receive \$2.3 Million Annually in Payments from Wind Farm

ALBANY — The New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (Siting Board) today granted approval to Canisteo Wind Energy, LLC (Canisteo Wind) to build and operate a wind farm in Steuben County. The Siting Board’s decision follows a detailed review and robust public participation process to ensure that the Southern Tier wind farm meets or exceeds all siting requirements. Canisteo Wind and other wind and solar projects currently under development are vital to meet the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act’s (CLCPA) aggressive carbon reduction and clean energy targets.

“In keeping with Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s ambitious goals for carbon reduction and for a clean-energy economy, we continue to develop clean energy resources in New York State to help all New Yorkers,” **said Siting Board Chair John B. Rhodes**. “With each Siting Board approval of a renewable energy facility we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and we demonstrate that renewable energy works in New York and helps create a clean energy future.”

The 290.7-megawatt (MW) Canisteo Wind project will consist of up to 117 wind turbines, with associated underground collection system and substation and related infrastructure in the Towns of Cameron, Canisteo, Greenwood, Jasper, Troupsburg, and West Union (Steuben County).

The facility will be located on approximately 25,000 acres of privately leased land and will enable landowners to continue with existing land uses. The project will provide economic benefits by creating direct jobs, will generate revenues for local governments through payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements, and will provide revenues for participating landowners through lease and other agreements. The next largest project approved to date by the Siting Board was the 242 MW Baron Winds project.

As described by the developer, the project would have a positive economic impact on the host communities, including an average weekly construction workforce of 200 workers for one year with an estimated total payroll of \$20.3 million; non-payroll expenditures of an additional \$7 million; creation of 73 secondary jobs generated by construction, and provided up to 14 permanent jobs during the operation of the facility.

Canisteo estimates that the project represents a major local investment, which will result in a significant increase to Steuben County's taxable property base. In the first year, the wind farm estimates \$4.562 million in direct economic benefits to host communities for the PILOT, host community agreement payments, fire district taxes, and participating leaseholder payments. Once operational, Canisteo says it will pay more than \$49 million to local landowners over the life of the project through annual lease payments. This consistent stream of supplemental revenue can protect against fluctuating commodity prices and help maintain family farms. Overall, Canisteo Wind estimates that annual property tax and tax-related payments include \$2.3 million per year in PILOT and host community agreement payments, and up to \$60 million in local property taxes over the life of the project.

The project will connect to the electric system grid in the Town of Hornellsville, pending the Commission's issuance of a separate approval pursuant to Article VII for construction of a 15-mile, 115 kilovolt (kV) interconnection line.

The Siting Board examiners determined that the wind farm will be consistent with the energy policies and long-range planning objectives and strategies contained in the most recent State Energy Plan. Based on this, and based on its consideration of other relevant social, economic and other factors, the Siting Board determined that the project will be a beneficial addition to the electric generation capacity of the State, and will also serve the goals of improving fuel diversity, grid reliability, and modernization of grid infrastructure.

Canisteo filed its formal application with the Siting Board in November 2018. The active parties to the proceeding included local municipalities, the Alliance for Clean Energy New York, Inc; local individual residents; and several state agencies. The record includes more than two hundred public comments. The Siting Board held two public information sessions, two on-the-record public statement hearings, two procedural conferences, and conducted three days of evidentiary hearings at which expert and factual testimony was taken, all near the project area.

Today's decision demonstrates how New York is working to achieve Governor Cuomo's Green New Deal — the most aggressive climate and clean energy initiative in the nation, putting the state on a path to being entirely carbon-neutral across all sectors of the economy and establishing a goal to achieve a zero-carbon emissions electricity sector by 2040, faster than any other state. Additionally, the CLCPA mandates the Green New Deal's national leading clean energy targets: nine gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035, six gigawatts of distributed solar by 2025, and three gigawatts of energy storage by 2030, while calling for an orderly and just transition to clean energy that creates jobs and continues fostering a green economy. The CLCPA also directs New York State agencies and authorities to collaborate with stakeholders to develop a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent from 1990 levels by 2050 and aim to invest 40 percent of clean energy and energy efficiency program resources to benefit disadvantaged communities.

Today's decision may be obtained by going to the Documents section of the Department of Public Services Web site at www.dps.ny.gov and entering Case Number 16-F-0205 in the input box labeled "Search for Case/Matter Number". Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission documents may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500). If you have difficulty understanding English, please call 1-800- 342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this press release.