

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

**Petition of BNE Energy Inc. for a
Declaratory Ruling for the Location,
Construction and Operation of a 4.8 MW
Wind Renewable Generating Project on
Flagg Hill Road in Colebrook,
Connecticut (“Wind Colebrook South”)**

Petition No. 983

March 9, 2011

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF THOMAS WHOLLEY

Q1. Please state your name and profession.

A. Thomas Wholley and I am the Director of Air Quality Services and Noise Services for Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, inc. (“VHB”). VHB’s Connecticut office is located at 54 Tuttle Place in Middletown, Connecticut.

Q2. Please summarize your professional background and experience.

A. I have a B.S. from Lowell Technological Institute. I have over 37 years of experience in transportation and land development air quality and noise evaluations. My experience includes noise evaluation for local, state, and federal environmental documents. Prior to working at VHB, I also worked for 13 years at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where I was responsible for the implementation of federal laws including the Clean Air Act and the Noise Control Act. I began working for the State of Massachusetts Highway department where I was responsible for implementing the highway air quality and noise program. Wind turbines are turbine engines fueled by wind, rather than coal, natural gas, or oil. I have worked on the air quality and noise permitting of numerous turbine engines in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Hampshire, and Maine for facilities that require electricity, such as banking and internet data centers. My resume is attached hereto as Exhibit 1, which details my qualifications and experience.

Q3. What is your involvement with BNE Energy Inc.’s Wind Colebrook South project?

A. I was responsible for the preparation of the noise evaluation report, which is included in BNE’s petition at Exhibit N.

Q4. Please summarize the findings of the noise evaluation?

A. The noise evaluation determined existing conditions using noise monitoring, calculated future build sound levels from the proposed wind turbines, and compared the future sound level results to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) noise regulations. VHB collected baseline noise data in the neighborhood of Flagg Hill Road to the southeast of the site and Beckley Road to the southwest of the property at 29 Flagg Hill Road in Colebrook (the

“Property”) in order to establish existing noise conditions on the Property and the surrounding area, which could be compared to Sec. 22a-69-3.6. “High background noise areas”. VHB then utilized BNE’s wind data, the manufacturer’s reference sound level information from GE concerning the proposed 1.6 MW turbines, and the principles of acoustical propagation of sound over distance to calculate the worst case analysis of future build sound levels. As can be seen from the noise evaluation report, the daytime and nighttime sound levels at the residential receptor locations will not exceed DEP noise impact criteria. In actuality, the sound levels from the proposed project will be even lower than the predicted worst case scenario much of the time.

The statements above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

3/9/2011
Date

Thomas L Wholley
Thomas Wholley

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