STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

January 28, 2011

Carrie L. Larson
Pullman & Comley, LLC
90 State House Square
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: **PETITION NO. 984** - BNE Energy, Inc. petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 4.8 MW Wind Renewable Generating facility located on Winsted-Norfolk Road (Route 44), Colebrook, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Larson:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than February 23, 2011. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available.

Please forward an original and 15 copies to this office and a pdf copy. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan, the Council is requesting that all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Yours very truly,

Linda Roberts

Linda Roberts
Executive Director

c: Paul Corey, Chairman, BNE Energy Inc.
Council Members
Parties and Intervenors

Petition 984: BNE Energy
Colebrook, Connecticut
Pre-Hearing Interrogatories, Set One

1. What were the results of BNE's mailing of notices to abutting property owners? How many return receipts did BNE receive? If some receipts were not returned, did BNE make additional efforts to notify abutters?

2. On what date was BNE's legal notice in the Litchfield County Times published?

3. Who owns the property on which BNE's proposed Wind Colebrook North project would be located?

4. How many properties were investigated and rejected in the search for the Wind Colebrook North project's site in this area?

5. How many residences are located within 2,000 feet of the property on which Wind Colebrook North would be located?

6. Provide a cost estimate for the proposed project; total cost and itemized by different component costs.

7. Provide the addresses of the residential properties identified as R1 through R13 in the Sound Level Calculations included as part of the Noise Evaluation (Volume 3, Exhibit M).

8. What is the difference between the "horizontal distance to receptor" and the "distance to receptor" included in the Sound Level Calculations of the Noise Evaluation (Volume 3, Exhibit M)?

9. Why did BNE consider the host property to be in a Class C noise zone for its Noise Evaluation since the property is zoned residential and land use in the area is predominantly residential?

10. Did BNE take any existing noise level measurements on the host property or near the immediately surrounding properties identified in its noise evaluation for the Wind Colebrook North project? If so, what were the results?

11. Provide any noise specifications for the GE turbines BNE has selected for the Wind Colebrook North project.

12. On page 7 of Exhibit M, the Noise Evaluation, it is stated that the project generated sound levels are based on an assumed daytime wind speed of 9 m/s and a nighttime wind speed of 8 m/s. Please explain the basis for selecting these wind speeds.

13. Is there an industry-adopted engineering standard to which wind turbines are normally built? If so, what is this standard?

14. Table 3 of the Wind Assessment in Exhibit M includes a statement, "This turbine does not meet fall zone requirements from the project boundary, and further investigation is necessary to mitigate this requirement." Does this statement pertain to the particular wind turbine model chosen by BNE for this project? If not, what are the normal fall zone requirements for the wind turbine model chosen by BNE? Provide a map showing the fall zone radius for each of the turbines to be located on the host property.

15. Are there any industry-accepted guidelines for the minimum amount of acreage required per wind turbine? If so, what are these guidelines?

16. Describe the normal maintenance schedule for the turbines selected by BNE.

17. At what wind speed would the 82.5 meter blades begin producing electricity? The 100 meter blades?

18. Provide a shadow flicker analysis that estimates the number of hours per year this condition may occur, and the extent to which the effects may be discerned.

19. Provide an estimate of the total area to be cleared for the project, including turbine sites, laydown areas, access roads, and electrical collector yard.

20. Estimate the number of trees with diameters at breast height of six inches or more that would be cleared for the project.

21. Would the laydown areas be allowed to revegetate after the turbines are installed?

22. Approximately how many megawatt hours in a year would the proposed project have to generate in order to be commercially viable? How many hours of operation does this number represent?

23. Volume 1, page 11 of the Petition discusses emissions offsets. Please provide the basis for the estimates of emissions reductions of air pollutants compared to fossil-fueled generation, including assumptions regarding fuel mix, emission factors, and capacity.

24. What is the maximum distance that ice could be thrown from the proposed wind turbines? How many homes are located within this distance?

25. How does BNE intend to monitor the facility for ice build up on the blades and potential ice throw? What could be done if ice does begin to build up on the blades?

26. What is the approximate distance that parts of the blades could be thrown from a turbine? How many residences are located within this distance?

27. Did BNE make any attempts to determine the presence of raptors in the vicinity of the project area? If so, what were the results of these attempts?

28. Is the Wind Colebrook North project located near any Important Bird Areas designated by the Connecticut Audubon Society?

29. Provide a comparison between the wind data collected from the property on which the Wind Colebrook North project would be located and the data collected from the Wind Colebrook South project location. How was the data for the Wind Colebrook North property collected?

30. The application states, "The CWRA is not in the vicinity of any known bat colonies or features likely to attract large numbers of bats." What is the basis for this statement?

31. On page 21 of Volume 1 of BNE's application and on page 6 of Exhibit I, the application states that there are six major different habitat types on the Wind Colebrook North property. Attachment C of Exhibit I (page 2) refers to four major habitat types. Explain this discrepancy.

32. In its request for party status, FairwindCT implies that the Smooth Green Snake could occur within the Northern Hardwoods Forest habitat that contains species characteristic of transitional, lightly forested habitats favored by the snake. Is this correct?

33. Does DEP have any indications that the Northern Spring Salamander occurs on the Wind Colebrook North property?