

TOWN OF STAFFORD *Est. March 24, 1820*

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Sole Assessor

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June 11, 2012

Hon. Jaclyn A. Brilling
Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission

Three Empire State Plaza

Albany, New York 12223-1350

Case 12-F-0036:

Comments to the New York Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment – *In the Matter of the Rules and Regulations of the Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment contained in 16 NYCRR, Chapter X, Certification of Major Electric Generating Facilities*

Dear Secretary Brilling & members of the Energy Siting Board:

The Town of Stafford Board would like to add to the comments on the Article X regulations.

First, we do object to the loss of local control that Article X represents. The Town of Stafford used a study committee to develop and implement local regulations for the erection and use of wind power generators. We were able to draw together members with backgrounds in local agriculture, civil engineering, science, education and the electrical industry. They were able to develop regulations that provided for wind power at an appropriate scale for our town. Given this success we would expect significant local involvement with any siting board that would have an impact on our town.

Second, we feel strongly that the siting of any power generation facility should respect local setbacks. The Town of Stafford has all required setbacks from property lines. We do not agree with setbacks that could affect the land use of a non-participant.

Finally, we feel the public involvement portions of the proposed regulations need to make local involvement significantly easier. The Town of Stafford had excellent public turn out during the development of our local regulations. The Stafford Town Board went to great lengths to involve the public. The proposed regulations need to be as open to local involvement as possible.

Article X is in direct conflict with Home Rule. Short of repeal, the new regulations should allow local input at every opportunity. Since we have significant experience with this subject we would be happy to share our experiences.

Stafford Town Board