

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Petition of Green Mountain Power Corporation)
for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30) Docket No. ____
V.S.A. § 248(j), authorizing the installation)
and operation of three temporary wind)
meteorological stations on Lowell Mountain in)
Lowell, Vermont)

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DAVID RAPHAEL
ON BEHALF OF GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORPORATION**

August 7, 2009

Summary of Testimony

Mr. Raphael presents aesthetic and historic sites assessments of the three Lowell Mountain Wind Meteorological Stations being proposed by Green Mountain Power Corporation. He conducts the assessment under the provisions of the *Quechee* Analysis.

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1 **1. Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is David Raphael and I am a Professional Landscape Architect and
3 Planner as well as a Lecturer in the School of Natural Resources at the University
4 of Vermont.

5

6 **2. Q. By whom are you employed and in what position?**

7 A. I am the Principal and owner of LandWorks, a multidisciplinary planning, design
8 and communications firm based in Middlebury, Vermont.

9

10 **3. Q. Please describe your background and qualifications.**

11 A. I began my career as landscape architect and planner working for the State of
12 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. I have been associated with
13 LandWorks since its inception in 1986. LandWorks serves both public and private sector

1 clients in Vermont and the Northeast. Our areas of expertise include visual, aesthetic and
2 environmental assessment, site and master planning, graphic communications and GIS
3 mapping, permit planning, participatory and community planning, downtown
4 revitalization, open space and conservation planning, zoning ordinance and design review
5 development, landscape architecture and environmental design. At LandWorks we have
6 worked as advocates for communities, appellants, the State of Vermont and private
7 corporations. I personally have testified and served as an expert witness before most of
8 the District Commissions in the State and the Environmental Board, as well as the Public
9 Service Board.

10

11 LandWorks has extensive experience with regard to visual assessment and environmental
12 impact, Criterion 8 of Act 250, and the design and installation of utility facilities and
13 towers. We have been consultants in this capacity for the Vermont Department of Public
14 Service (“Department”). We have evaluated the aesthetic and environmental impact of
15 (1) transmission lines and corridors (including the Northwest Reliability, Lamoille and
16 Southern Loop projects, and the PV20 line removal along the Route 2 causeway in
17 Milton/South Hero); (2) telecommunication facilities (Coy Mountain tower proposal and
18 four telecommunications facilities in Essex and Milton, Vermont proposed by FairPoint
19 Communications); and (3) wind energy development (the Searsburg Project, the Sheffield
20 project (on behalf of UPC, now First Wind), and three wind projects in Maine (on behalf
21 of First Wind). We have prepared feasibility studies for wind energy facility siting for the
22 Lamoille County Development Commission. I have served as a member of the Design
23 Issues Study Committee appointed by the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources,

1 an initiative which clarified the application of the Quechee Analysis for aesthetics and
2 which resulted in the publication of *Vermont's Scenic Landscapes: A Guide for Growth*
3 *and Protection*. In addition we have prepared a number of zoning ordinances based on
4 scenery preservation and environmental protection guidelines (for example, the Town of
5 Stowe Scenic Hillside and Overlay District), prepared scenic highway corridor studies
6 (Interstate 91 in Brattleboro) and authored a study and state policy which was adopted for
7 permit review of the night lighting of ski areas (Agency of Natural Resources). I have
8 also recently help to author a revision to the EPRI Transmission Line Reference Book –
9 115-345kV Compact Line Design, Chapter 9.

10

11 **4. Q. Have you ever presented testimony to the Public Service Board (“Board”)**
12 **before?**

13 **A.** Yes, I have presented testimony on behalf of the Department in connection with
14 the Northwest Reliability Project, the Lamoille County Project, the East Avenue Loop,
15 the Southern Loop, and the Searsburg Wind Project. I have also testified on behalf of
16 UPC (now First Wind) for the Sheffield Wind Project.

17

18 **5. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

19 **A.** On behalf of Green Mountain Power Corporation (“GMP”), I address whether the
20 installation and operation of three temporary wind meteorological stations (towers,
21 associated meteorological instrumentation, access roads) (the “Project”) on Lowell
22 Mountain will result in an adverse impact on aesthetics and historic sites and, if so,
23 whether the adverse impact is undue.

1

2 **6. Q. Please summarize the results of your analysis.**

3 **A.** I conclude that the Project will not result in an adverse impact on aesthetics or
4 historic sites and, if even if there were an adverse impact, it is not undue. My
5 conclusions are set forth in an Aesthetic Assessment, attached as Exh. GMP-DR-1.

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7 **7. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

8 **A.** Yes.

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