

The Commission should answer a threshold question first, whether it should revoke the site permit, OR suspend operations, OR require compliance filings.

Revocation of the Site Permit

1. Revoke Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC's site permit.

Suspension of Operations

Modeling

2. Order suspension of the site permit until Big Blue has filed:
 - a. noise modeling of the Gamesa G97 wind turbines that indicates projected compliance with the MPCA noise standards and the modeling has been approved by the Commission.

Modeling and Noise Protocol

3. Order suspension of the site permit until Big Blue has filed:
 - a. noise modeling of the Gamesa G97 wind turbines that indicates projected compliance with the MPCA noise standards and the modeling has been approved by the Commission, and,
 - b. an on/off noise monitoring protocol approved by the Commission.

Modeling, Noise Protocol, and Monitoring

4. Order suspension of the site permit until Big Blue has filed:
 - a. noise modeling of the Gamesa G97 wind turbines that indicates projected compliance with the MPCA noise standards and the modeling has been approved by the Commission,
 - b. an on/off noise monitoring protocol approved by the Commission, and,
 - c. completed on/off noise monitoring study (monitoring and report) approved by the Commission.

Continued Operations and Compliance Filings

5. Require Big Blue to file:
 - a. noise modeling of the Gamesa G97 wind turbines that indicates projected compliance with the MPCA noise standards within 30 days of the order,
 - b. an on/off noise monitoring protocol within 60 days of the order, and,
 - c. completed on/off noise monitoring study (monitoring and report), within 9 months of the order.

Following, the Commission should consider the additional items. Independent of the choices made above, staff recommends adoption of decision options 6, 7, 8 and 9 (as they are applicable to any scenario moving forward).

(Cont'd)

Additional Items

6. Delegate to the Executive Secretary the ability to approve filings relating to modeling, noise protocols, and monitoring/study results.
7. Require any modeling, protocols, or monitoring to be completed by a third-party consultant. Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC shall contract for work to be conducted by the third-party and the contractor shall be approved by DOC EERA and Commission staff (state agencies). Any consultant's scope of work shall be approved by the state agencies. The consultant shall follow the approved scope of work and file its results with the state agencies directly.
8. Any noise monitoring conducted shall include information and reporting on noise related to periods of curtailment. Big Blue shall file a summary with the Commission within 30 days of the order detailing the duration and occurrences of curtailment in 2017. Noise monitoring shall also include monitoring during periods of curtailment, an assessment of the noise caused by curtailment conditions, and information sufficient to determine whether it complies with the MPCA noise standard. Big Blue shall be required to curtail their turbines, as, and if needed, in order to obtain valid monitoring results pertaining to curtailment-related noise.

Complaint Reporting

9. Authorize staff to file revised complaint procedures for the Big Blue project. Upon filing, authorize the Executive Secretary to require Big Blue to mail notice of the revised procedures to affected landowners (defined as those within the project boundary and adjacent to it) and to local governmental units. Big Blue must file an affidavit with the Commission within 30 days of the mailing.