

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

In the Matter of the Application)	
of Buckeye Wind LLC to Amend its)	Case No. 13-360-EL-BGA
Certificate Issued in)	
Case No. 08-666-EL-BGN)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL SPEERSCHNEIDER

Q.1. Please state your name, title and business address.

A.1. My name is Michael Speerschneider. I am the Chief Permitting and Public Policy Officer for EverPower Wind Holdings Inc., and an officer of Buckeye Wind LLC which is a company within the corporate structure of EverPower. Buckeye Wind LLC holds the certificate for the Buckeye I Wind Farm which was issued in Case No. 08-666-EL-BGN. I am also an officer of Champaign Wind LLC, a company that is also within the corporate structure of EverPower and which holds the certificate issued for the Buckeye II Wind Farm in Case No. 12-160-EL-BGN. My business address is 1251 Waterfront Place, 3rd Floor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15222.

Q.2. What are your duties as Chief Permitting and Public Policy Officer?

A.2. I am responsible for all aspects of the permitting necessary to construct and operate EverPower's utility scale wind energy projects in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest, including management of an internal permitting team and external consultants. I am responsible for coordinating the permitting processes with state and federal agencies. I am also responsible for governmental affairs, communicating with state and federal agencies to develop and maintain relationships and manage political risks for EverPower's business. I was involved in the preparation of the initial application by

Buckeye Wind for the Buckeye I Wind Farm, Case No. 08-666-EL-BGN, as well as the application by Champaign Wind for the Buckeye II Wind Farm, Case No. 12-160-EL-BGN. I have previously testified at length before the Ohio Power Siting Board in the Buckeye II Wind Farm proceeding, Case No. 12-160-EL-BGN.

Q.3. What is your educational and professional background?

A.3. I received a B.S. in Physics and a B.A. in environmental studies from the University of Pittsburgh. I received a M.S. in Technology and Policy and a M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to attending MIT, I worked for Cambridge Energy Research Associates developing models for demand, supply and pricing in North American natural gas markets. I joined EverPower in 2004 and have been involved in all facets of its developed projects and operations. While my focus has been on development, permitting, policies and siting or zoning regulations, I have worked closely with our financial, commercial and operations teams to help ensure efficient development, construction and operation of our projects. I have worked closely with project operators to engage local officials and residents, as well as state and federal regulators, regarding what few issues have arisen as a result of project operations.

Q.4. On whose behalf are you offering testimony?

A.4. I am testifying on behalf of the applicant, Buckeye Wind LLC.

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

A.5. To describe the proposed amendments to the certificate granted on March 22, 2010, and to discuss the factors behind the addition of a new access road and relocation of a substation which are the subjects of this hearing. As my testimony will highlight, the

new access road and the relocation of the substation are in the best interests of the public. I will also sponsor the admission of the application into evidence along with the exhibits and the proof of publication. Finally, I will review the conditions suggested by the Board's Staff in the Staff Report of Investigation filed on November 1, 2013 and respond on behalf of the Applicant.

Q.6. Please describe the amendments proposed in the application?

A.6. On March 19, 2013, Buckeye Wind submitted its application to amend the Buckeye Wind LLC certificate proposing to amend the Project's collection line design, the location and size of three construction staging areas, the location of four access roads, the addition of a new access road and the relocation of the project substation. On December 13, 2013, Buckeye Wind filed a notice of withdrawal of its request to shift the western construction staging area, leaving only the request to add a new access road and the request to shift the project substation as the issues for this hearing. The application was prepared at and under my direction, and has been designated as Company Exhibit 2.

The proposed amendment as a whole, will result in significantly less impact on the environment and the local community, primarily as a result of eliminating overhead collection lines in favor of underground lines. For example, the proposed amendment converts approximately 40 miles of overhead collection lines to underground collection lines, eliminating poles and above-ground wires. Just as important, the total collection line distance has been reduced from approximately 65 miles to 42 miles. These changes are significant design improvements, which Buckeye Wind was able to accomplish by obtaining additional property rights.

Another benefit of the proposed design is that the majority of the collection line system, all staging areas and the substation for the Buckeye I Wind Farm (Case No. 08-666-EL-BGN) will now share the same locations as the collection line system, staging areas and substation for the Buckeye II Wind Farm (Case No. 12-160-EL-BGN). This design change avoids redundant impacts that would result if the Buckeye I Wind Farm and Buckeye II Wind Farm were constructed and operated as proposed under the current certificates. Instead, under the new design as proposed in the amendment, both projects can utilize the same substation and staging areas as well as the same locations for the majority of the collection line systems.

Q.7. Would you please provide a description of the new access road that Buckeye Wind is proposing to construct?

A.7. The new access road will run north and south between turbines 16 and 18. It will start at an approved access road location south of turbine 16 and will then follow a collection line route that was approved in the initial certificate proceeding for the Buckeye I Wind Farm, terminating at turbine 18. The addition of this access road will be an improvement to the overall design because it will allow for a direct route from the nearby construction staging area to turbines 21, 18, 16 and 17, reducing the need to use Perry Road to access turbines 16 and 17 during construction and operation of the Buckeye I Wind Farm.

Q.8. Are there any environmental concerns with Buckeye Wind constructing a new access road as part of the Project?

A.8. No. The new access road will require a stream crossing near turbine 18 where a crossing for a Buckeye I Wind Farm collection line has been approved. The stream is a

low quality stream, and is an ephemeral, Modified Class I stream. A culvert is already in place at the stream and Buckeye Wind plans to utilize it if possible or improve it depending on the results of further analysis. The new access road will be located in active agricultural areas, and will only have a limited, temporary forest impact of 0.14 acres as a result of the temporary clearing impact performed during construction of the access road.

Q.9. Would you please provide a description of Buckeye Wind's proposal to abandon the current Buckeye I Wind Farm substation location?

A.9. If the amendment is approved, the current location for the Buckeye I substation will be abandoned, and the substation will be placed at the same location as the Buckeye II Wind Farm substation. The Buckeye II Wind Farm substation location is approximately 1,000 feet center to center from the current Buckeye I Wind Farm substation location, and is approximately 1,227 feet from the nearest non-participating residence versus 1,531 feet from the current location for the Buckeye I Wind Farm substation. Importantly, amending the Buckeye I Wind Farm certificate to place the Buckeye I Wind Farm substation at the same location as the Buckeye II Wind Farm substation will allow both projects to share the same substation, and avoid the impact of two substations on the same parcel.

Q.10. Are there any environmental concerns or other concerns with Buckeye Wind's proposal to use the Buckeye II Wind Farm substation location?

A.10. No. The substation will remain located in an active agricultural field, and will be 1,227 feet from the nearest non-participating residence and at the same location as the approved Buckeye II Wind Farm substation. Having the flexibility to combine the

substations at one location is a better design and will result in less overall impact to the property.

Q.11. Is the March 19, 2013 application including all appendices and exhibits true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and belief?

A.11. Yes, subject to any clarifying statements made by Buckeye Wind in response to Staff's data requests. In addition, Buckeye Wind withdrew its request to amend the certificate to shift the western construction staging area on December 13, 2013.

Q.12. Did Buckeye Wind have notices of the application to amend published in a newspaper of general circulation in Champaign County?

A.12. Yes, a notice was published on April 1, 2013 in the Urbana Daily Citizen. A true and accurate copy of that notice that has been designated as Company Exhibit 3.

Q.13. Have you reviewed the Staff Report of Investigation issued in this proceeding?

A.13. Yes.

Q.14. Does Buckeye Wind have any concerns with any of the conditions recommended by Staff in the Staff Report of Investigation?

A.14. No, although condition 3 is no longer applicable because Buckeye Wind has withdrawn its request to relocate the western construction staging area.

Q.15. What do you recommend that the Ohio Power Siting Board do in this case?

A.15. I recommend that the Ohio Power Siting Board grant the application to amend the certificate.

Q.16. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

A.16. Yes, it does.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served upon the following parties of record via electronic mail this 23rd day of December, 2013.

G.S. Weithman, Director of Law
City of Urbana
205 S. Main Street
Urbana, OH 43078
diroflaw@ctcn.net

Jack A. Van Kley
Christopher A. Walker
Van Kley & Walker, LLC
132 Northwoods Blvd., Suite C-1
Columbus, Ohio 43235
jvankley@vankleywalker.com
cwalker@vankleywalker.com

Chad A. Endsley
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
280 N. High Street, 6th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43218
cendsley@ofbf.org

Werner Margard
John Jones
Assistant Attorneys General
180 East Broad Street, 9th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
werner.margard@puc.state.oh.us
john.jones@puc.state.oh.us

Jane A. Napier
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Champaign County
200 N. Main Street
Urbana, Ohio 43078
jnapier@champaignprosecutor.com

/s/ Michael J. Settineri

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12/23/2013 5:10:14 PM

in

Case No(s). 13-0360-EL-BGA

Summary: Testimony of Michael Speerschneider electronically filed by Mr. Michael J. Settineri
on behalf of Buckeye Wind LLC