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November 3, 2014

*Via Electronic Filing*

Ms. Barcy McNeal  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Administration/Docketing  
180 East Broad Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

**Re: Northwest Ohio Wind Energy, LLC, now Trishe Wind Ohio, LLC,  
Case No. 13-0197-EL-BGN**

Dear Ms. McNeal:

On December 16, 2013, the Ohio Power Siting Board ("Board") issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need subject to a number of conditions to Northwest Ohio Wind Energy, LLC ("NOWE"). On August 19, 2014, an application was filed requesting the Board to approve/recognize that the NOWE certificate is now held by Trishe Wind Ohio, LLC ("Trishe")

Condition No. 25 of the Board's Order requires the following:

**Assuming that such studies are made by Comsearch, the Applicant shall request Comsearch to perform a study of the potential impacts of the project to any known mobile phone carriers. A copy of this study, or Comsearch's opinion as to why such a study is not appropriate for the Northwest Ohio Wind Farm, shall be provided to Staff at least 30 days prior to construction for review and confirmation that it complies with this condition.**

In compliance with Condition No. 25, attached is a copy of the Mobile Phone Carrier Report prepared by Comsearch.

If you have any questions please call at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Sally W. Bloomfield

Attachment

cc: Grant Zeto (w/Attachment)

# Wind Power GeoPlanner™

## Mobile Phone Carrier Report

Trishe Wind Ohio LLC



Prepared on Behalf of  
Starwood Energy Group  
Global, Inc.

October 31, 2014





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## **1. Introduction**

Comsearch has developed and maintains comprehensive technical databases containing information on licensed mobile phone carriers across the US. Mobile phone carriers operate in multiple frequency bands and are often referred to as Advanced Wireless Service (AWS), Personal Communication Service (PCS), and Cellular. They hold licenses on an area-wide basis which are typically comprised of several counties.

This report focuses on the potential impact of wind turbines on mobile phone operations in and around the project area. Comsearch provides additional wind energy services, a description of which is available upon request.

## 2. Summary of Results

### Methodology

Our mobile phone analysis was performed using Comsearch's proprietary carrier database, which is derived from a variety of sources including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Since mobile phone market boundaries differ from service to service, we disaggregated the carriers' licensed areas down to the county level. Then we compiled a list of all mobile phone carriers in the main counties that intersect the area of interest. The area of interest was defined by the client and encompasses the planned turbine locations. A depiction of the wind project area and counties appears below.

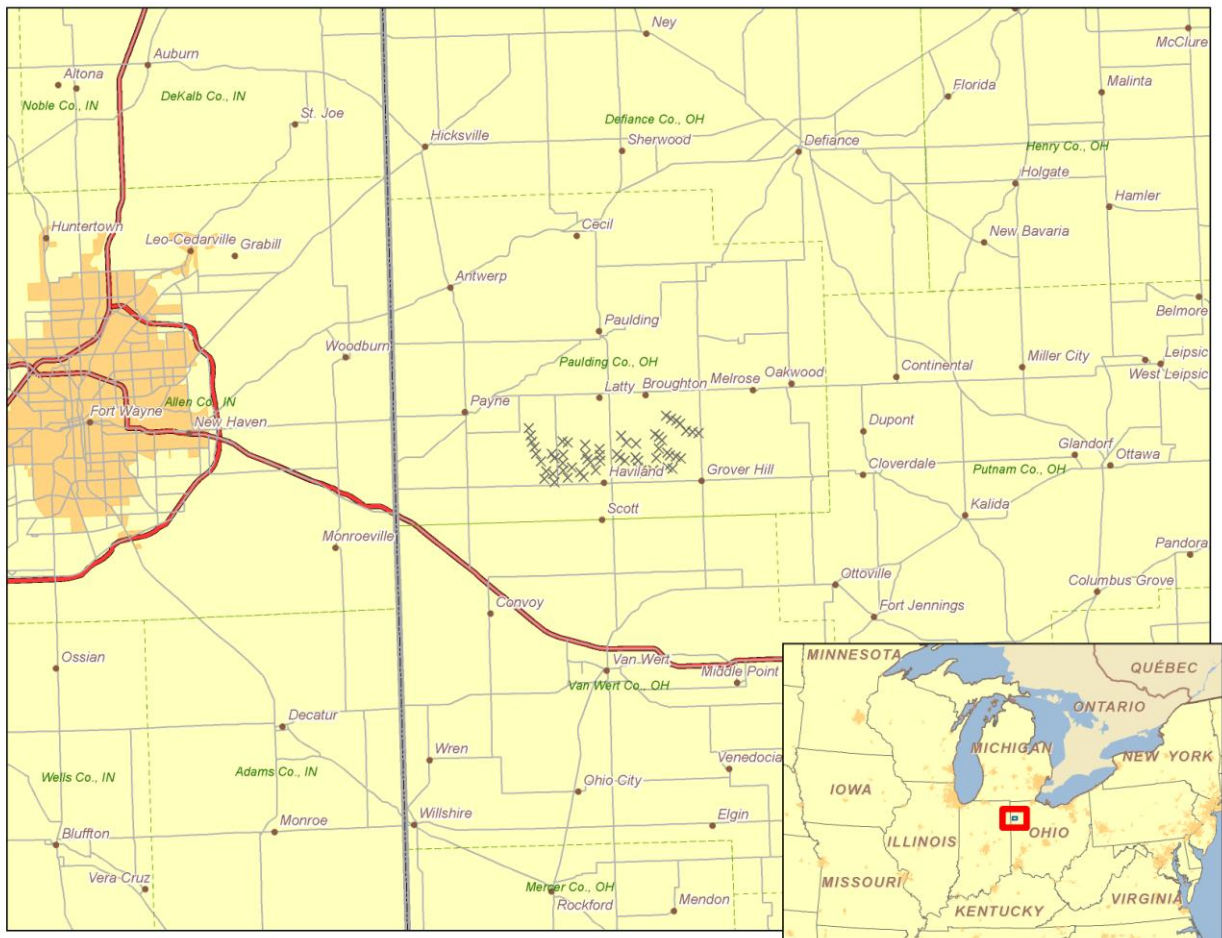


Figure 1: Counties that intersect the Area of Interest



## **Results**

The Trishe Wind Ohio Project is located in Paulding County, Ohio. We have identified the type of service, channel block, market ID and FCC callsign for each carrier in the county of interest. A description of the various service types and geographic market areas is below with a summary table on the following page.

## **AWS**

AWS licensees won their spectrum in an auction that started in August 2006. The licenses are authorized by 734 Cellular Market Areas (CMA) for Block A, 176 Economic Areas (BEA) for Blocks B and C, and 12 Regional Economic Area Groupings (REA) for Blocks D, E and F. This spectrum at 1.7 and 2.1 GHz was allocated for mobile broadband and advanced wireless services. Partitioning and leases are permitted in the band.

## **Cellular**

Licensees are authorized by Metropolitan and Rural Statistical Areas, also known as CMAs. Unserved areas can be covered by licensees other than the original A or B block licensee. To determine the most realistic coverage, we compiled the Cellular Geographic Service Areas (CGSA) from the 32 dBu contours defined by Part 22.911(a) of the FCC rules. Mobile services are provided at 800 MHz and partitioning and leases are permitted in the band.

## **PCS**

There have been nine auctions for this band, with the last one being held in August 2008. Licensees are authorized by 51 Major Trading Areas (MTA) for Blocks A and B, and 493 Basic Trading Areas (BTA) for Blocks C through F. This band has been heavily partitioned and disaggregated both by counties and by smaller polygons within counties (known as undefined areas or partial counties). The 1.9 GHz PCS carriers provide mobile services and leases are permitted in the band.

Service <sup>1</sup>	Mobile Phone Carrier	Channel Block	County	ST	Market ID	Callsign
AWS	AT&T	A	Paulding	OH	CMA585	WQKI626
AWS	T-Mobile	B	Paulding	OH	BEA056	WQGA948
AWS	AT&T	C	Paulding	OH	BEA056	WQGV774
AWS	Verizon Wireless	D	Paulding	OH	REA003	WQPW449
AWS	Verizon Wireless	E	Paulding	OH	REA004	WQPZ950
AWS	Verizon Wireless	F	Paulding	OH	REA003	WQGA717
CELL	AT&T	A	Paulding	OH	CMA585	KNKN854
CELL	Verizon Wireless	B	Paulding	OH	CMA585	KNKQ259
PCS	AT&T	A	Paulding	OH	MTA003	KNLF206
PCS	Verizon Wireless	B	Paulding	OH	MTA003	KNLF207
PCS	T-Mobile	C	Paulding	OH	BTA155	WPOJ843
PCS	Sprint Nextel	D	Paulding	OH	BTA155	KNLH522
PCS	AT&T	E	Paulding	OH	BTA155	WPOJ708
PCS	T-Mobile	F	Paulding	OH	BTA155	KNLF972
PCS	Sprint Nextel	G	Paulding	OH	BEA056	WQKT270

*Table 1: Mobile Phone Carriers in the Area of Interest*

### **FCC-Licensed Sites**

For competitive and confidentiality reasons, most mobile phone carriers' individual sites are not licensed with the FCC. However, in the cellular band, if a base station extends the existing Cellular Geographic Service Area (CGSA), then it must be recorded with the FCC. No cellular sites were identified within the area of interest of the Trishe Wind Ohio project.

<sup>1</sup> AWS: Advanced Wireless Service at 1.7/2.1 GHz  
CELL: Cellular Service at 800 MHz  
PCS: Personal Communication Service at 1.9 GHz

### **Impact Assessment and Distance Setback Requirements**

The cellular mobile phone signal propagation is typically not affected by physical structures because the beam widths of the radiated signal from the base stations and mobile units are very wide and the wavelength of the signal is long enough to wrap around objects such as wind turbine towers and blades. In addition, the cellular network consists of multiple base stations that are designed so that if the connection cannot be made to one base station it will shift to adjacent base stations to make the connection. This enables cellular mobile telephone systems to provide coverage in areas that are congested with physical structures such as downtown urban areas. Areas containing wind turbines have less of a coverage issue than urban areas, so the wind turbines presence does not require any special setback for signal obstruction consideration other than physical clearance of the blades. From an electromagnetic interference standpoint, the emissions from the wind turbines, which are specified by the FCC, should be taken into account to ensure they will not interfere with the base stations or the mobile units. Part 15 of the FCC regulations covers the emissions from unintentional radiating devices, such as wind turbines. The field strength limits for the emissions from unintentional radiators is given in paragraph 15.109 of Part 15 of the FCC rules. The emission limits are stated for a distance of 3 meters or approximately 10 feet and are shown below.

#### **Radiated Emission Limits at 3 Meters**

<u>Frequency of Emission (MHz)</u>	<u>Field Strength (microVolts/meter)</u>
30 – 88	100
88 – 216	150
216 – 960	200
> 960	500

From these limits and the receiver sensitivity of the cellular base stations and mobile units we can determine a setback requirement for wind turbines and cellular system. The typical sensitivity of mobile units is -90 dBm ( $1 \times 10^{-12}$  Watts) and the typical sensitivity of base stations is -93 dBm ( $5 \times 10^{-13}$  Watts). The gain of mobile unit antennas are -10dB or 0.1 and the gain of base station antennas are 17 dB or 50. The effective area (A) of the mobile unit and base station antennas are determined from the following formula.

$$A = G \cdot \lambda^2 / 4 \cdot \pi$$

Where,

G = Antenna Gain, number

$\lambda$  = Wavelength, 0.353 meters

$\pi$  = 3.14

This gives us an effective area for the mobile unit antenna of  $9.9 \times 10^{-4}$  meter<sup>2</sup> and the effective area for the base station antenna of 0.496 meter<sup>2</sup>. Using the typical receiver sensitivities of the mobile and base units above, we can determine their power flux density ( $P_D$ ) from the following formula:



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$$P_D = S/A$$

Where S is defined as the sensitivity for Mobile Unit or for the Base Station expressed in Watts

To calculate the electric field strength (E) we use the following formula:

$$E = (P_D * 377)^{1/2}$$

So for the mobile unit,  $P_D = 1.01 \times 10^{-9}$  Watts/meter<sup>2</sup> and  $E = 617$  microVolts/meter. And, for the base station unit,  $P_D = 1.008 \times 10^{-12}$  Watts/meter<sup>2</sup> and  $E = 19.4$  microVolts/meter.

These results show that the mobile units' sensitivity expressed as field strength is above the level allowed as an emission for the wind turbines at a distance of 3 meters. Therefore, no setback for the use of a mobile unit is needed beyond 3 meters. Since the base station has field strength sensitivity below the allowed emission level of the wind turbines a setback distance is needed to ensure that the base stations will not be affected. The field strength of the emission is inversely proportional to separation distance in meters. To determine the setback distance to reduce the field strength to 19.4 microVolts/meter the following formula is used.

$$D = (500 \text{ MicroVolts/meter}) * (3 \text{ meters}) / 19.4 \text{ MicroVolts/meter}$$

Where,

D = Setback Distance for Base Station to avoid interference, meters

Thus the setback distance for the cellular tower base station from the wind turbines should be 77.3 meters or greater.

### Summary

The telephone communications in the mobile phone carrier bands are typically unaffected by the presence of the wind turbines and we do not anticipate any significant harmful effect to mobile phone services in Trishe Wind Ohio LLC project area. Mobile phone systems are designed with multiple base transmitter stations covering a specific area. Since mobile telephone signals are designed with overlap between adjacent base transmitter sites in order to provide handoff between cells, any signal blockage caused by the wind turbines does not materially degrade the reception because the end user may be receiving from multiple transmitter locations. For example, if a particular turbine attenuates the signal reception into a mobile phone, the phone may receive an alternate signal from a different transmit location, resulting in no disruption in service. Mobile phone systems that are implemented in urban areas near large structures and buildings often have to combat even more problematic signal attenuation and reflection conditions than rural areas containing a wind energy turbine facility.

In the unlikely event that a mobile phone carrier believes their coverage has been compromised by the presence of the wind energy facility, they have many options to improve their signal

coverage to the area through optimization of a nearby base transmitter or even adding a new sector or cell site. Utility towers, meteorological towers or even the turbine towers within the wind project area can serve as the platform for a base transmit site or cell enhancer.

### **3. Contact Us**

For questions or information regarding the Mobile Phone Carrier Report, please contact:

Contact person:	Denise Finney
Title:	Account Manager
Company:	Comsearch
Address:	19700 Janelia Farm Blvd., Ashburn, VA 20147
Telephone:	703-726-5650
Fax:	703-726-5595
Email:	<a href="mailto:dfinney@comsearch.com">dfinney@comsearch.com</a>
Web site:	<a href="http://www.comsearch.com">www.comsearch.com</a>

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**Case No(s). 13-0197-EL-BGN**

Summary: Correspondence of Northwest Ohio Wind Energy, LLC, now Trishe Wind Ohio, LLC in Compliance with Condition No. 25 electronically filed by Teresa Orahod on behalf of Sally Bloomfield