

29 March 2019

Kathleen H. Burgess  
Secretary to the Commission  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY  
12223-1350

Sean Mullany  
Presiding Examiner  
York State Public Service Commission  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

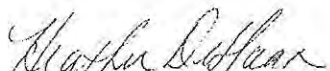
Daniel P. O'Connell  
Associate Examiner  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway, First Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-1550

RE: Case No. 16-F-0559 Application of Bluestone Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article 10 of the New York State Public Service Law to Construct the Bluestone Wind Energy Facility in the Towns of Sanford and Windsor, Broome County, New York

Dear Secretary Burgess and Examiners Mullany and O'Connell:

Please find attached a note outlining my concerns with the proposed project's potential impact on local birds, particularly—but not only—on bald and golden eagles. (All concerns are based on materials available on the DMM site.) As the note makes clear, it is my view that outstanding issues with regard to risk to local raptor populations cannot be resolved on the basis of existing research materials.

Sincerely,



Heather DeHaan  
24 Davis Avenue  
Johnson City NY  
13790  
hezyonka@gmail.com

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Dear Secretary Burgess and Examiners Mullany and O'Connell:

I write to voice my deep concerns with the proposed project's potential impact on local birds, particularly—but not only—on bald and golden eagles. It strikes me that this project has moved forward with excessive haste, taking too little time to fund the research required to ensure proper protections for local birds, many of which are endangered or threatened and, to the extent that they are present in this region, should be considered a critical element of local wealth—its attraction to homeowners and tourists (hikers, fisherman, etc.), as well as distinct part of local culture and heritage.

I ask that space be made for further research, particularly into wintering and seasonal bald and golden eagle populations. In reading through the reports, it strikes me that raptor surveys were conducted in only a few locations, due to limits of time and funding (though the time restrictions could have been lifted – and should be). This matters not only for golden and bald eagles, both of which can be found in surprisingly high numbers in this area, but also for the peregrine falcon (also endangered), as well as for threatened species such as the northern harrier (documented in raptor surveys conducted by Bluestone, as limited as these were). Other endangered and threatened species (not listed here) would likely also benefit from such work.

It is also clear that the mitigation and avian assessment materials submitted by the applicant failed to grapple in any serious way with the project's impact on wintering golden eagle populations. Though Dr. Miller's report on micro-siting provided some concrete ideas for how losses to eagle populations might be reduced, she appeared to deploy data related to golden eagle *migration*, not wintering populations—in the case of our golden eagles, a group of at-risk birds entirely overlooked in the WEST materials and Bluestone's Avian Risk Assessment.

In my view, Dr. Trish Miller's evaluations of proposed turbine location highlighted the problems that haste produces. First, in her assessment, she was reduced to making suggestions with regard to turbine micrositing, simply because her expertise was not brought to bear on this project sooner. (I am puzzled that Calpine and WEST neither knew of nor incorporated her research.) Second, her findings seemed to indicate that Calpine needs to support further study of local wind patterns: after all, Dr. Miller identified several turbines currently slated for placement in areas of high risk to eagles, but of low value for wind generation. If such locations were chosen because of challenges of which I, as a member of the public, am unaware (e.g. the locations of buildings on these properties, challenging topography), then I nonetheless wish to ask why such turbines are in the project at all. They seem a bit too costly and too ineffective.

In sum, I am asking that all parties involved set aside funds and/or time for further raptor surveys and seriously consider a return to rethinking the macro-siting of these turbines.

Sincerely,



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Johnson City NY  
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