

MMR ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9 and 30 March 2010

Time: 2:00-3:30 pm (9 March); 2:00-3:00 pm (30 March)

Location: Bldg 322, East Inner Road

Agenda: AFCEE/Army Proposed Wind Turbine Project – Presentation, Discussion, and Committee Recommendation

Attendees: See attached distribution lists (Attachment 1)

1. On 9 March 2010, Paul Nixon and Rose Forbes provided an overview and presentation (Attachment 2) on a wind turbine project proposed by the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE) and the Army Environmental Command (AEC) – Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP). The AFCEE/Army proposed wind turbine project consists of up to three wind turbines, similar to the existing AFCEE turbine, to be constructed along the PAVE PAWS access road. The purpose of the wind turbine project is to offset the electricity costs and air emissions associated with the MMR groundwater treatment systems.
2. The project is currently in review by several agencies include the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), PAVE PAWS, US Fisheries and Wildlife (USFW), Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), Bourne Historical Commission (BHC), and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). In addition, the AFCEE/Army has presented this project to the Community Advisory Council (CAC), the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC), and the MMR Cleanup Team/Senior Management Board (MMRCT/SMB). A similar presentation will be made to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) on 8 April 2010. AFCEE's contractor CH2M Hill is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Basis of Design. The EA will be submitted to the Army National Guard (ARNG)/National Guard Bureau (NGB) for their review following the EMC meeting on 8 April 2010. Following the ARNG/NGB review, the EA will be submitted for a 30 day public comment period.
3. Paul and Rose explained the MMR Energy Policy (Attachment 3) describes the responsibility of the MMR Energy Committee in reviewing renewable energy projects and providing a recommendation to the Joint Oversight Group (JOG). Each of the members was asked to consider the project and provide a recommendation at the next Energy Committee meeting.
4. The Energy Committee regrouped on 30 March 2010 to provide their input and recommendation on the AFCEE/Army wind turbine project. Following is a summary of the agencies comments and recommendation:
 - a. MA ARNG – Major John Bagaglio and Jim Oliveto asked if the FAA had approved the turbine locations. Rose Forbes responded that the FAA had returned a determination of no hazard for one of the proposed turbine locations (2010-WTE-1009-OE) but had not yet provided a determination for the remaining locations. Major Bagaglio also asked if there would be any property issues. Paul Nixon responded that the National Guard is the project proponent and will sign the EA. Since the project is located on Army-controlled property, there should not be any property issues. Col Tim Mullen also provided input on the property. Major John Bagaglio and Jim Oliveto provided a favorable recommendation for the project, pending the FAA and PAVE PAWS reviews.

- b. USCG – David Tessicini, Elizabeth KirkPatrick, and Kurt Carlson indicated they had no issues with the proposed project and provided a favorable recommendation pending the FAA and PAVE PAWS reviews.
 - c. ANG – Col Mullen stated the ANG does not have any issues with the proposed project and provided a favorable recommendation pending the FAA and PAVE PAWS reviews.
 - d. PAVE PAWS – Steve Mellin was not able to attend the Energy Committee meeting; however, in an email dated 26 March 2010, Steve provided a favorable recommendation pending the FAA and PAVE PAWS reviews.
5. Based on the input from the Committee members, the MMR Energy Committee hereby recommends to the JOG that the AFCEE/Army wind turbine project proceed as planned pending FAA and PAVE PAWS reviews. Note that on 31 Mar 2010, Col Underwood from Army Aviation stated in an email to Rose Forbes that the Army Aviation’s position is: “The rotary wing aviation community that operates within the boundaries of Otis ANGB and Camp Edwards Training Area cannot support the construction or operation of wind turbine towers within the primary flight area we utilize for Nap of the Earth (NOE) and Night Vision Goggle (NVG) operations. It negatively impacts essential training and creates an unacceptable safety risk.” The JOG should consider the Army Aviation’s position in concert with the MMR Energy Committee recommendation.
 6. Appendix B of the MMR Energy Policy has been completed and is included in Attachment 4. Because the wind turbines for the proposed project have not been selected yet, the information provided is based upon the existing AFCEE wind turbine. The proposed project assumes the wind turbines will be similar in nature to the AFCEE turbine.
 7. Please contact Paul Nixon at 508-968-5620 (paul.nixon@us.army.mil) or Rose Forbes at 508-968-4670 x 5613 (rose.forbes@brooks.af.mil) if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about these minutes, ideas for the next meeting’s agenda, or the MMR Energy Committee.

4 Attachments:

1. Distribution/Attendee Lists from 9 and 30 March
2. AFCEE/Army Wind Turbine presentation
3. MMR Energy Policy
4. Completed Appendix B of the MMR Energy Policy