



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 15, 2006

TO: Mr. Ernst F. Aschenbach
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street, Sixth Floor
Richmond, Va. 23219
efaschenbach@deq.virginia.gov
(804) 698-4326

FROM: Robert Munson, Planning Bureau Manager
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

SUBJECT: DEQ-06-011S: Highland New Wind Energy Development, LLC – Wind Power Generation Application

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

DCR reiterates its previous comments dated November 28, 2005 for this project (see attached). In addition, the following natural heritage resources may occur within Laurel Fork if suitable habitat is present:

<i>Fontigens morrisoni</i>	Virginia Springsnail	G1/S1/NL/NL
<i>Cambarus monogalensis</i>	Monongahela crayfish	G5/S1?/NL/NL

Due to the potential for this site to support populations of these natural heritage resources, DCR recommends an inventory for these resources in the study area. With the survey results we can more accurately evaluate potential impacts to natural heritage resources and offer specific protection recommendations for minimizing impacts to the documented resources. To minimize adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem as a result of the proposed activities, DCR also recommends the implementation of and strict adherence to applicable state and local erosion and sediment control/storm water management laws and regulations.

DCR supports the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries February 2006 comments for this project. DCR also recommends mist net surveys for bats be conducted May-Sept of each pre-construction monitoring year. DCR also suggests a pre-construction monitoring period of at least two years.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species. The current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects.

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please contact DCR for an update on this natural heritage information if a significant amount of time passes before it is utilized.

In addition, our files do not indicate the presence of any State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

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New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please contact DCR for an update on this natural heritage information if a significant amount of time passes before it is utilized.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database may be accessed from www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/info_map/index.html, or contact Shirl Dressler at 804-367-6913.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 804-371-2708. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert S. Munson".

Robert S. Munson
Planning Bureau Manager

CC: Andy Zadnik, VDGIF
Kim Marbain, USFWS