



TONI COPELAND  
CLERK TO THE  
COUNTY BOARD

# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY BOARD

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November 17, 2006

Mr. Joel Peck, Clerk  
State Corporation Commission  
c/o Document Control  
PO Box 2118  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

RE: Case Number PUE-2005-00101  
Highland New Wind Development LLC

Dear Mr. Peck:

On behalf of the County Board, please accept this letter as Arlington County's support of the application for permit by Highland New Wind Development for its 39-megawatt wind farm in Highland County, Virginia.

Arlington recognizes that meeting our needs for electricity from wind turbines instead of conventional power plants results in cleaner air for Virginians and a healthier environment for wildlife, and for this reason, Arlington is already purchasing 2,340,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity (per year) from a wind farm in West Virginia. In addition, our wind power purchase is one of several approaches Arlington County is taking to reduce our burden on global climate change. We plan to increase our wind power purchases in the future, and we are likely to purchase power from this Highland site once it is built.

Several regions in Virginia – including the metropolitan-DC area of which Arlington and several other Virginia jurisdictions are part of, as well as the Richmond and Tidewater regions – do not comply with Federal air quality standards. The EPA has designated our region “in severe non-attainment for ground-level ozone,” a condition known to be caused by a combination of two factors: (1) local air pollution emissions, and (2) the flow of air pollution into our region from coal-fired power plants located to our west and southwest.

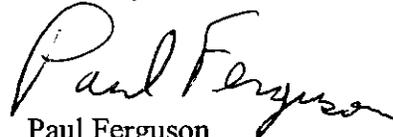
Our own efforts address both of these factors. We are actively working to reduce our local air pollution emissions from vehicles, buildings and other activities. In addition, we are taking measures to reduce our demand for electricity by pursuing greater energy efficiency, and, we are purchasing electricity from nonpolluting wind farms in our ‘airshed’ as a cost-effective way to ease the burden on our residents and the environment from distant coal-fired power plants.

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We recognize that no source of electric power is completely benign with respect to the environment. We support preservation of wildlife, including birds and bats, and we believe the applicant has performed reasonable due diligence on the potential impact of their project. Requiring the applicant to assess the potential cumulative negative impact of all prospective wind turbines in Virginia or along the Appalachians is unreasonable and unjustifiable. To our knowledge no new conventional power plant is held to such a standard, and yet each conventional power plant produces thousands of tons of harmful emissions over its life of operation. Conversely, arguments in opposition to this project do not recognize the significant benefits to human health and the environment, including wildlife health, from wind-generated electricity due to the avoidance of emissions from conventional power plants.

In the interests of advancing new, clean energy technology in Virginia, and in the interests of protecting the health of Virginians and our environment, we respectfully urge the Commission to issue the applicant their permit to proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Ferguson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Paul Ferguson  
Vice Chairman