

Hearings on wind project: How to participate

MONTEREY—The State Corporation Commission has scheduled public hearings in March to consider the proposal by Highland New Wind Development for a commercial wind utility here on Allegheny Mountain.

Four public hearings over two days will be held in the Highland Elementary School gym, Monterey:

- Monday, March 13 — sessions at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 14 — sessions at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Participating as a citizen

Citizens wishing to comment should arrive about 15 minutes early and sign in with the SCC bailiff. Speakers will be sworn in, and allowed to make statements in that order to the hearing examiner. There is no time limit to speak, and no limit on the number of speakers.

Speakers can be “cross-examined” by others involved in the case, including HNWD representatives and those who are participating as formal respondents. SCC information resources director Ken Schrad says usually speakers are not addressed following their statements, and when they are asked questions, it usually is meant to clarify their statements.

Those who cannot attend the hearings may submit comments in writing or through the SCC web site electronically. The deadline is March 13.

Letters should be mailed to: Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Va. 23218-2118. Refer to case number PUE-2005-00101 on the letter.

To submit comments electronically, visit the SCC web site: www.scc.virginia.gov/caseinfo.htm. Click on the “Public Notices” link, find the Highland New Wind Development case listed, and then click the “Submit Comments” button. You will be required to give your name and address, along with your comments.

Becoming a respondent

Those wishing to be formal “respondents” in the case must be represented by an attorney and notify the SCC by Feb. 10. Respondents give expert testimony or evidentiary information at a hearing to be scheduled later in Richmond, and are allowed to “cross examine” citizens who speak at the public hearings.

Becoming a respondent requires following strict procedures, including having the means to file copies and serve notices to all attorneys involved.

To participate as a respondent, individuals or groups must notify the SCC clerk with 15 copies of a “notice of participation,” along with a copy to HNWD’s attorney. See the SCC web site for details.

Dates to remember

- Jan. 12 — HNWD must file redacted copies of confidential material it has already submitted to the SCC.
- Jan. 17 — HNWD must file copies of its application, the resolution granting a conditional use permit, redacted copies of materials filed separately, and its testimony and exhibits with the Highland County Administrator’s office for public inspection.
- Jan. 20 — HNWD must publish a public notice in *The Recorder* with information about its application and the hearings.
- Feb. 8 — HNWD must file copies of its prepared testimony and exhibits it expects to use to make its case.
- Feb. 10 — Deadline to file notice of the intent to participate in the case as a formal respondent.
- March 3 — Formal respondents must file any response to the motion filed to dismiss HNWD’s application
- March 13 — Written comments on the application must be filed with the SCC.
- March 13-14: Public hearings held in Monterey.