

## **Public Hearing**

Date: September 20, 2022

Court Reporter: Ann Marie Hollo, CSR, RDR, CRR

Paszkiewicz Court Reporting Phone: 618-307-9320

Toll-Free: 855-595-3577
Fax: 618-855-9513
www.spreporting.com

# LIVINGSTON COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS

#### PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

REGARDING THE LIVINGSTON WIND PROJECT, LLC

SPECIAL USE PERMIT CONSIDERATION

REGARDING CASE NUMBERS SU-9-22 AND V-3-22

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Ann Marie Hollo, CSR, RDR, CRR

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Page 2  PRESENTATION BY SCOTT WENTZELL Page 17  PRESENTATION BY MARK GERSON Page 24  PRESENTATION BY JARED KASSEBAUM, Ph.D Page 51  PRESENTATION BY KENNY ALLEN Page 65  PRESENTATION BY TAYLOR FOLEY Page 71  PRESENTATION BY ANDREW LINES Page 80  PRESENTATION BY SYLVIA GIBSON Page 97  PRESENTATION BY RHETT GOOD Page 109  INDEX OF EXHIBITS  EXHIBIT PAGE  Exhibit 31 16  Exhibit 31 16  Exhibit 34 46  (Exhibits retained by Mr. Gershon.)	A P P E A R A N C E S Mr. Scott B. Kains, Esq., Facilitate Ms. Joan Huisman, Zoning Board of Board Members: Mr. Joe Stock, M Mr. Richard Runyon, Mr. Dave Ra Livingston County Staff: Mr. Cha Mr. Jesse King For the Livingston Zoning Board of Mr. Syed E. Ahmad SA Law and Consulting, LLC 411 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 17: Peoria, Illinois 61602 (309) 643-0310 syed@salcfirm.com For the Livingston Wind Project, I. Mr. Mark A. Gershon Mr. Benjamin M. Jacobi POLSINELLI 150 North Riverside Plaza Suite 3000 Chicago, Illinois 60606-1599 (312) 873-3615 mgershon@polsinelli.com bjacobi@polsinelli.com bjacobi@polsinelli.com  For Livingston County: Mr. Andrew J. Keyt Ms. Alex Rives HEYL, ROYSTER, VOELKER & 300 Hamilton Boulevard Peoria, Illinois 61601 (309)676-0400 akeyt@heylroyster.com arives@heylroyster.com The Court Reporter: Ann Marie H Paszkiewicz Litigation Services 26 Ginger Creek Parkway Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034 (618) 307-9320	or Chairperson Mr. William Flott, andolph urles Schopp and of Appeals:  20  LLC:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Page 3  LIVINGSTON COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS STATE OF ILLINOIS  PUBLIC HEARING  BEFORE THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REGARDING THE LIVINGSTON WIND PROJECT, LLC SPECIAL USE PERMIT CONSIDERATION REGARDING CASE NUMBERS SU-9-22 AND V-3-22 SEPTEMBER 20, 2022  PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REGARDING THE LIVINGSTON WIND PROJECT, LLC SPECIAL USE PERMIT CONSIDERATION, on SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, between the hours of twelve minutes after six o'clock in the	parties that the public he shorthand by Ann Marie Shorthand Reporter, and typewriting.  *****  (Hearing started EXAMINA MS. HUISMA going to call the meeting Welcome to the the Livingston County Z name is Joan Huisman. Livingston County Boar introduce the folks that a all aware of who is here. On my right is	e Hollo, RDR/CRR, a Certified d afterwards transcribed into d 6:12 p.m.) TION N: Good evening. We're g to order. is evening's meeting of Zoning Board of Appeals. My I'm the chair of the rd of Appeals. I'm going to are on the stage so you're
19 20 21 22 23 24	afternoon and nine o'clock in the afternoon of that day, at the Pontiac Township High School, 1100 East Indiana Avenue, Pontiac, Illinois 61764, before Ann Marie Hollo, CSR, RDR, CRR, in a certain cause now pending before the LIVINGSTON COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, STATE OF ILLINOIS.	for us tonight. He will be and keeping us on sched To my left is S attorney that represents appeals. He is here to he	be essentially the umpire dule and on task. Syed Ahmad. He is an

Page 6 Page 8 he will help us prepare findings of fact and a 1 1 For the record, this public hearing 2 2 decision at the close of this hearing. is taking place at the Pontiac Township High School 3 3 auditorium, 1100 East Indiana Avenue, Pontiac, Across the stage at the opposite 4 4 table are the other members of the Livingston County Illinois. 5 5 We referenced the numbers of the Zoning Board of Appeals that are present tonight. 6 6 Richard Runyon -- and in place of cases. They are Case SU-9-22, pertaining to a 7 roll call, if you could just raise your hand, and 7 request by the Livingston Wind Project, LLC, for the 8 8 we'll record who is here. approval of a special use permit for the wind energy 9 9 Richard Runyon? conversion system, and the variance case, V-3-22, 10 10 MR. RUNYON: [Indicated.] pertains to a request for a setback variance to 11 MS. HUISMAN: Dave Randolph? 11 allow for a project substation be located 10 feet 12 12 instead of 1,600 feet from an adjacent property on MR. RANDOLPH: [Indicated.] 13 MS. HUISMAN: Bill Flott? 13 which a primary residence is located, with it being 14 14 proposed that the planned substation will be placed MR. FLOTT: [Indicated.] 15 15 MS. HUISMAN: And Joe Stock? approximately 2,500 feet from the primary residence. 16 16 The subject properties are located in the west half MR. STOCK: [Indicated.] 17 17 MS. HUISMAN: Absent tonight is of Section 31, Round Grove Township. Binders with Richard Kiefer. He may be here for future hearings. 18 18 information regarding these applications have been 19 19 made available to all zoning board of appeals And another member of the zoning 20 20 board of appeals, Neil Turner, has recused himself members. 21 21 from these hearings because he has a conflict of The Livingston County Regional 22 22 Planning Commission reviewed Zoning Case SU-9-22 on interest. 23 23 So with that, I'll turn it over to September 12, 2022, pertaining to the zoning case in 24 Mr. Kains, who will go over the ground rules for the 24 relation to the Livingston County Comprehensive Page 7 Page 9 1 1 Plan. Livingston County Planning Commission is hearing. 2 2 FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, Joan. recommending the approval of this zoning case. 3 Tonight is the first night of what 3 A legal notice pertaining to this 4 likely will be several evenings of a public hearing, 4 Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals public 5 5 regarding Case Numbers SU-9-22, an application for a hearing was published on September 1, 2022. 6 special use permit, and V-3-22, an application for a 6 Property owners in the area of the zoning cases have 7 7 variance filed by Livingston County Wind Project, been properly notified of this public hearing, and 8 8 LLC, for the construction and operation of the wind representatives of these applicants are present and 9 9 are prepared to present information regarding these energy conversion system, commonly known as a wind 10 farm, located in portions of the Townships of 10 two zoning cases. 11 Broughton, Sullivan, Union, and Round Grove 11 Now, the purpose of this hearing is 12 Townships. 12 for the Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals to 13 13 The special use application requests hear evidence, make findings of fact, and then make 14 to construct and operate a wind farm consisting of a 14 a recommendation on the proposed project to the 15 maximum of 88 wind turbines, 2 substations, an 15 Livingston County Board, which will then have the 16 16 operation and maintenance center, a temporary final say on the special use permit. As to the 17 17 construction lay-down area, and below- and variance request, the zoning board will hear 18 above-ground electric lines. The accompanying 18 evidence and make a final determination. 19 variance application requests a property setback 19 The applications for special use and 20 20 variance to allow construction of the substation. variance are available on the Livingston County 21 21 The applicant has paid the Zoning Office website. 22 22 applications fee required by county ordinance, and This hearing is currently scheduled 23 notice of this public hearing has been published and 23 to occur tonight and tomorrow night, same location, 2.4 2.4 mailed in accordance with applicable law. same time. If additional hearing nights become

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necessary, we will schedule those nights and announce the hearing dates at the close of tomorrow night's hearing.

consultants.

Those interested in speaking, whether for the project, against the project, or neutral, there is a sign-in form out in the -- just outside the door -- I guess it's the cafeteria perhaps -- a sign-in form, to identify your interest in presenting testimony and or documentary evidence. We plan to use the forms to assist us in proceeding with the hearing in an orderly fashion. Keep in mind this is your opportunity to be heard regardless of your position on the project. All testimony is provided under oath or affirmation. Any witnesses may present verbal or documentary evidence. If you are providing documentary evidence, the document will be marked, and a decision will be made on whether to admit the evidence for consideration by the zoning board of appeals. The strict rules of evidence do not apply to this hearing; however, the ZBA may exclude irrelevant material and unduly repetitious testimony or evidence that is not pertinent or relevant to the proceedings. In terms of the process that will be

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the presentation of testimony by members of the public who oppose the proposed project.

Again, each individual who wishes to testify will be sworn in, make their testimony, and then may be questioned by members of the ZBA, attorneys for the applicant, other interested parties, and by Livingston County staff and consultants.

The applicant will then have the opportunity to present any rebuttal witnesses, as will any other interested parties. Then there will be an opportunity for the presentation of any county staff reports or comments. Once all of the evidence has been presented, the evidence will be closed. Then we will hear a closing statement from counsel for the applicant. Then interested parties may present closing statements, first, those in favor, followed by those opposed to the proposed project. And I should add any persons who are neutral with respect to the project may also present a closing statement.

Interested parties must have testified previously in this hearing under oath or affirmation to be eligible to make a closing

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followed, the applicant will present its evidence on

the proposed project. The applicant will present its witnesses individually. ZBA members will be

allowed to question witnesses called by the
 applicant at any time during their testimony. Then

witnesses can be questioned by members serving on

units of local government, including school
 districts, by licensed attorneys representing
 interested parties, by other interested parties

districts, by licensed attorneys representing interested parties, by other interested parties, and, finally, by Livingston County staff and

The applicant will present all of its witnesses, and we will follow the order of additional questioning as I have stated. Then we will hear from other individuals who are in favor of the proposed project. Each individual, who wishes to testify, will be sworn or affirmed, provide their testimony or other evidence, and then may be questioned by members of the ZBA, attorneys for the applicant, other interested parties, and then by Livingston County staff and consultants.

Once the applicant presents its witness, and members of the public in favor of the proposed project testify, then it will be time for

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statement. Interested parties shall not introduce new information in the closing statement. Counsel for the applicant will then have the opportunity for a final rebuttal argument.

Then the ZBA will discuss the proposed project, deliberate on the required criteria, and vote on the application. The ZBA may, in its discretion, set a future meeting date for deliberations and a vote on the application. The vote of the ZBA on the special use permit is not a final decision, but it is a recommendation for the Livingston County Board. The ZBA shall transmit its findings and recommendation of the county board, which then will decide the issue. However, if you wish to present any evidence on this project, you must do so during this ZBA hearing.

A few other notes. We will take a break during the evening to accommodate folks on the stage and our court reporter. We will try to do so at approximately 7:30 or 7:45 when we come to an actual stopping point.

By the way, I would ask that you silence your cell phones either by turning them off or hitting the ringer off.

#### Page 14 Page 16 1 1 Then some basic ground rules for all of the -- we have a copy -- downloaded a 2 2 concerning testimony. First and foremost, please copy from the website. Those exhibits are the same 3 3 allow the person speaking the opportunity to finish as the table of contents in the -- on the first 4 his or her statement or question. As I referenced, 4 page. So we will reference those as we go through 5 we have a court reporter seated across from me 5 them, but Exhibits 1 through 30, a copy of that list 6 6 transcribing everything that is said, and she cannot was provided to the ZBA's attorney, Mr. Syed Ahmad. 7 possibly do her job if two people are talking at the 7 In addition, we have provided 8 8 same time. Therefore, please have one person speak Exhibit 31, which is a copy of our PowerPoint, and 9 9 at a time. if I can, I'd like to pass out copies of that to the 10 10 Another thing, if you are questioning board so they have it. I'll try not to be shocked 11 a witness, please stick to just asking questions. I 11 that I had the exact number. 12 know it's tempting to start telling your side on a 12 (Exhibits 1 through 30, and Exhibit 31 13 particular point, but when it's time for 13 were identified for the record.) MR. GERSHON: With that, I'd like to 14 questioning, just ask questions. You'll be allowed 14 15 15 the opportunity to testify when it is your turn. turn this over to Scott Wentzell. 16 16 Then, counsel, as you go through the MR. WENTZELL: Can you hear me all 17 17 application, please refer to the section number or right? 18 page number in the binder so that board members can 18 FACILITATOR KAINS: Sir, would you 19 19 please raise your right hand to be sworn by the follow along. 20 20 And with that, Mr. Gershon, for the court reporter, please. 21 21 applicant, you may proceed. (Witness sworn.) MR. GERSHON: Thank you very much. 22 22 23 23 Can you hear me on the mike? 24 MS. HUISMAN: I don't think so. 24 Page 15 Page 17 1 MR. GERSHON: Is that better? 1 SCOTT WENTZELL, 2 No one's ever complained that I'm not 2 of lawful age, being produced and sworn, testifies 3 loud enough, so I usually don't need a mike. 3 and says: 4 Before I turn this over to Scott 4 MR. WENTZELL: This is working great. 5 Wentzell to start, I'd like to just do a little bit 5 Hello. Good evening. Thank you to 6 6 members of staff, and the board, general public, our of homework first, but also to thank everyone here. 7 7 We truly appreciate your time and consideration in supportive landowners who are in the room tonight. 8 8 this matter, both the county staff, the members of My name is Scott Wentzell. I'm the regional project 9 9 the ZBA, their attorneys, and the members of the development manager with EDF Renewables. 10 10 community who are here. I just wanted to -- one or Is everything all right? 11 two quick pieces of homework so we can actually go 11 FACILITATOR KAINS: Could you please 12 through some of these documents. 12 spell -- could you please spell your last name for 13 Along with my colleague, Ben Jacobi, 13 the record, Scott. 14 14 I represent the applicant, Livingston Wind Project, MR. WENTZELL: Of course. 15 LLC. And the first thing I'd like to ask is that to 15 W-E-N-T-Z-E-L-L, Wentzell. 16 avoid duplicative testimony, the ZBA allow us to 16 All set? 17 17 present our case for the requested variation and for THE REPORTER: Yes. 18 18 MR. WENTZELL: Thank you. the special use simultaneously. 19 FACILITATOR KAINS: Yes, Mr. Gershon. 19 Scott Wentzell. I'm the regional 20 You will be allowed to do so. 20 project development manager with EDF Renewables. 21 MR. GERSHON: Thank you. Thank you. 21 I've been the project lead for the Livingston Wind 22 22 Project for the last three years. It's my pleasure And then I'd also like to enter into 23 23 our record the application that was just discussed. to speak with you all tonight. 24 The application consists of our first 30 exhibits 24 To kick us off, I'd like to do some

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very quick introductions. We're here this evening to discuss the Livingston Wind Project, LLC. This is a 255-megawatt wind project, located in Round Grove, Union, Broughton, and Sullivan Townships here in Livingston County. This project represents an

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approximately \$375 million investment in the county, and it's a collaboration between EDF Renewables and over 230 participating landowners and property owners here in Livingston County. Those landowners

collectively own over 385 properties.

Livingston Wind is a wholly-owned affiliate of EDF Renewables, my employer, and EDF Renewables is the U.S.-based renewable energy power plant developer, owner and operator.

We have over 1,500 employees across the United States, including here in Illinois, and we have over 35 years of experience in the electric utility industry. In fact, our history largely tracks with the history of the wind industry here in the United States. We, as a company, got our start in the 1980s, servicing some of the very first wind farms here in the U.S. We've grown considerably as a company since then, and now we have operating power plants around the country that collectively

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engineering and environmental studies that ultimately inform the design of a project, as well as the regulatory process, which we're sitting here tonight discussing.

Along the way, we're working closely with our customers. These are large electric utility companies, like ComEd, or AEP. There are also large industrial energy users -- Google, Amazon, heavy manufacturing companies.

We, ourselves, are not a construction company, but we manage all aspects of the engineering, design, installation of the project, and we partner with national construction companies to build the actual wind farm itself.

And my company, once built, will be -- will serve as the long-term asset owner with staff on-site in the community maintaining that project for the length of the asset.

To give you some context, last year, EDF Renewables put over 1,100 megawatts into service. That's equal to nearly four Livingston Wind Projects, and collectively those 1,100 megawatts will power nearly 400,000 homes. We have the experience to build and operate projects like this.

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power over 2 million American homes, including homes here in Illinois, and we'll talk more about our projects that are operating here.

Lastly, EDF Renewables is itself an affiliate of the broader EDF Group. The EDF Group is a top two or three global electric utility company, headquartered in Europe with over 70 years of delivering electricity to customers around the world.

The takeaway that I'd like to leave with you on this slide is that the technical know-how of my company, EDF Renewables, with the financial backing of our parent, the EDF Group, provides the stability for us to construct, own, and be a long-term asset owner to the Livingston Wind Project.

Briefly, a little bit more about my company, EDF Renewables. We really touch all aspects of the wind farm's life. That starts with a conversation around the kitchen table with landowners and progresses through to legal negotiations and lease signings with property owners. It advances into development studies, which we'll talk about throughout this evening. Those are

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But we're here tonight to talk about Livingston Wind. I opened this evening by mentioning this is the collaboration of over 230 landowners in this community in Broughton, Round Grove, Sullivan, and Union Townships.

We're proposing 88 turbine locations with the expectation that we'll construct somewhere between 75 and 81 of those sites. The remainder will serve as backups, backups both for unforeseen construction challenges, as well as to allow the technical specifications of the turbine that is ultimately selected for this site. We'll discuss that more later.

In all cases, the equipment being considered is below 500 feet in compliance with the county's wind ordinance, and it would meet all applicable local, state, and federal siting standards.

We also propose additional ancillary facilities that are required for the safe operation of a wind farm. These are things like access roads, underground electrical collection wires, which will gather power from multiple turbines to collect and transmit into the high-voltage electrical system,

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ultimately overhead transmission line, into a substation, as well as supporting meteorological towers that help to gather data back to the wind farm.

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Now, we expect this project will commence detailed engineering and design work early next year. That design work includes electrical drawings and detailed engineering work that ultimately allows us to custom make and custom procure every widget, gadget, component within the wind farm. The expectation then is that procurement would commence in late 2023 for all of those widgets and gadgets, continuing to 2024. We expect to start construction as early as the end of 2024 and place this project totally into service in 2025 or 2026.

Those last two bullets are highly dependent on our grid connection, which in turn is dependent on the local utility company, ComEd, as well as the regional grid operator, PJM, and so we will follow the schedule that they set forth for a safe connection to the power grid.

I often get asked, why here? Why not somewhere else? And so I think there are many reasons why we've spent four years working in

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to Mark Gershon.

MR. GERSHON: All right. Thank you, Scott.

Some of these slides, our hearing officer has already gone through. In the interest of time, I will probably just reference -- reference that, but as you heard --

FACILITATOR KAINS: Mr. Gershon, before you go any further, could you just be sworn if you're testifying?

(Witness/counsel sworn.)

12 MR. GERSHON: As indicated, our 13 approvals that we are seeking are for special use 14 permit for siting approval, as well as a variation 15 for our substation for setback relief. We'll go 16 into much more detail into that later.

> I've already discussed the application. We will -- we admitted this into the record and made it available to everyone. The application for those who did download it -- and to the members of the board -- includes multiple studies, documentation, et cetera, all of which support the project. I am obviously not going to go through this entire binder, but we're happy to

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- Livingston County, and it starts first with property owners. I think you see both in this room and by
- 3 the volume of participating landowners that there is
  - broad support and interest in wind development in
- 5 these communities. The townships of Broughton,
- 6 Sullivan, Union, and Round Grove voted by referendum
- 7 to support reduced setbacks in those communities,
- 8 and by proxy voted in favor of wind development.
  - You can see that also simply by the project layout and design where we have over 60 percent of Broughton Township by land area participating in this project.

In addition, Central Illinois has a very strong average wind speed in a state with very high demand for renewable power. And, lastly, EDF owns and operates two adjacent wind farms, Kelly Creek and Pilot Hill, and we look to build on the success of those projects.

Finally, this evening you'll hear from ten of my colleagues, esteemed experts in their field, who will discuss the design and siting of this project in compliance with the county's rules and both state and federal siting regulations.

With that, I'd like to pass the mike over

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respond to any questions that any of you have as we 1 2 go through.

> We're very pleased that the first sort of public part of our approvals with the county was an analysis by the planning commission of whether our project had an impact on the comprehensive plan, and we were pleased to have seen the anonymous approval for that. I'll go into the information on the comprehensive plan in a little

I've already introduced those documents into the record, and we've got the name of the presenters, the expert testimony. Each of the people who is testifying will include, as they give their presentation, some of their background. So rather than having me go through that now, we'll ask that that be accepted, and they be accepted as experts based on that testimony.

The first thing I do want to talk about -- and we're going to go into much more detail on this later -- these are your standards for special use per your code. I'm not going to go through this because the board knows them well, but within our application, item 3,

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Exhibit -- Exhibit 3, as part of the application exhibits, goes through each of these standards with a detailed reason why we believe we satisfy those standards. We will certainly be talking about many of those reasons as part of this, but should you have questions, there is, again, more detail in this binder.

Similarly, you have -- a little too far to the left. Here we go.

Similarly, you have standards for variation. Again, I'm not going to walk through them right now. We'll talk about them at the end of the presentation. But, again, these are your standards for review.

And in Exhibit 9, which, again, is part of the application, there are written responses to each of these standards as well. We divide them into those standards, and then you identified additional criteria, which are identified as being separate from the standards. Again, a direct quote from your codes. I'm not going to walk through those, but, again, there's also responses in that same Exhibit 9 to each of those standards. The reason I'm not walking through those is just for the

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participants, but also for the rest of the people in the community, given the significant support to schools, the county, and other governmental entities that support everyone's lifestyle in the county.

The last in terms of "purpose, use, specifically identify" is to promote the supply of wind energy in support of a goal of increasing energy production from renewable energy sources, and there's a reason that I read through those specifically, and I promise not to do that with most of our slides. I think that it's critically important that everyone recognize that you have set what your purposes were in establishing your WECS ordinance, and we are pleased to be presenting the evidence.

We already talked about the fact that the planning commission unanimously approved, so I'll skip by that.

So I'm most definitely not going to go through our full, comprehensive plan analysis because your planning commission already did that for you, but there are just a few of these.

Now, if you look on the screen, what you see in blue in italics is your comprehensive

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benefit of everyone here and in the community. Those are in writing. Those responses are there. I certainly could read through all of them, but it's about 30 pages, and I think you've got information there should you have any questions.

So talking about -- a little bit about where we are. One of the questions that always comes up at this type of hearing is: Well, are wind farms an appropriate use in this county? The good news for everyone here is that we don't have to ask that question. You've already answered it. Your zoning ordinance has approved wind farms as a special use within the district, and you've gone a bit further. Your Article 8 of your wind code specifically states that the purpose of all your regulations is to ensure that any development and production of wind-generated electricity in the county is safe. One of the reasons why it's important for us to show you that we are meeting all of your standards is that you set the standards for determining whether or not this is a safe use.

Similarly, we're going to talk a lot tonight about the economic opportunities for local residents for the communities, both of those who are Page 29

plan language. The typeface below it is our response. These are some of the various slides we presented to the planning commission, and I just think some of them are great answers for us to think as we go through this thing.

First, is that you want to preserve prime farmland. Not only, as you will see, do these wind farms use an incredibly small amount of land throughout the project -- approximately 140 acres for all improvements, and believe it or not, only 4 acres of the entire project actually have turbines on it. So this is a use that uses very little land, but at the same time provides significant economic support, again, for not only the farmers in that farmland, but also the whole community.

One of the -- one of the other important things that we talked about is your use of land regulations. I will tell you that I do this work both for governmental entities and for municipalities and counties, and you are rather unique. This county not only has a WECS code, which is fairly standard these days, but in 2017, you actually had the very townships we're working in vote to indicate that they wanted to support wind

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farms. That really shows that you are actively using your codes to allow those parts of the county that want to have wind farms be in.

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The support economically for the county for farmers is critically important throughout your comprehensive plan, and not withstanding that we're only using that -- less than 140 acres of this entire project for all of our improvements. We generated approximately \$6.5 million annually on average and \$254 million over the life of the project.

And we will have testimony later by one of our experts, David Loomis, who will back up all of those numbers with documentation. I'm just responding as part of the comprehensive plan.

Finally, my favorite quote in your comprehensive plan, which I've now recommended to multiple people to read: "Agriculture is one of the few essential industries, in that people must eat."

One of the few other essential industries is the generation of the energy that's necessary to -- for all of us to live our lives. We think that the proposed wind farm is one step beyond that, because it's local, because it is renewable,

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of the project started to form. We had an understanding of landowner interest and wherein this

3 project might be sited, and so we began outreach to

nonparticipating neighbors, and these are folks that

5 chose not to participate in the project, as well as

6 home owners and property owners that were outside of

7 the boundary of the project and were not approached

8 to be participants for various reasons. Some of

9 these conversations resulted in good neighbor 10

agreements based on proximity to proposed turbines.

Now, 2020, this is the height of the pandemic restrictions, and so we launched a website at that point to keep the community and our landowners up to date on our progress. Throughout that time, we also had a dedicated inbound landowner hotline. This is our phone number for the broad -- for the community. It's staffed five days a week, and it provides a resource both for landowners, but also for anyone in the community that has questions.

Into 2021 -- and we really began working with adjacent municipalities, villages, school districts, et cetera, and you'll see that represented in the application with resolutions of

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because it therefore supports all of those property owners, the community, the schools, et cetera. Not only does this support something we all need, which is energy, but it also directly supports those property owners and the community.

With that, I'm going to go back to Scott.

MR. WENTZELL: Thank you, Mark. Great. I'm going to spend the next few minutes speaking a bit more about the details of the proposed project, and I'd like to begin with our history here in Livingston County.

And I mentioned before: It begins around a dinner table, and that was in 2017 or 2018. Sitting with landowners, beginning to broach the topic who might be interested, what might it take, and those conversations blossomed into full, legal lease negotiations that then, through 2019, became the basis for a broad outreach campaign both to participate -- now participating property owners, but the broader community as well. That included formal introduction to the community at the high school in Cullom in early 2019.

As we head into 2020, the boundaries

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support, letters of support, et cetera.

Our commitment to the community this year began with notice to all residents and property owners within a mile and a half of the project boundary, both with legal notice of the project, as well as a formal invitation to join us for a public information meeting, which began at the high school in Cullom, and that was an opportunity for members of the public to attend and ask questions of me and my staff, to review the proposed project, and to learn more about what we were doing. That notice was sent to thousands of households both in Livingston, but also at Ford and Kankakee Counties.

Also, this spring, we opened an office in Pontiac that's staffed several days a week. This is a resource for the community to view -- review maps of the project, review our project application, connect with a live human being and ask their questions.

And our work with the community continues, and so I'm here on a monthly, sometimes weekly basis, working with our community members with fire districts and drainage districts, with landowners and neighbors, and that's our commitment

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to be here still working as long as it takes.

our landowners, again, a hotline resource.

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So I mentioned at the top -- and I'll keep mentioning, this is a collaboration between EDF Renewables and over 230 property owners and the four participating townships. Our landowners have been involved from the very, very beginning, and that started with helping to craft the actual lease documents that they all have now entered into. It continued through iterations of our design and layout, reviewing access roads, turbine locations, transmission lines. We maintain frequent updates to

I'd really like to highlight here that this is 100 percent a voluntary project. Livingston Wind does not, nor does it seek condemnation powers. All 230 landowners have signed voluntary agreements to have their property participate in this project, and I believe most of you are here to do so.

Okay. I'd like to show a few graphics to highlight this. The Exhibit B, on the left of the screen, is from the actual lease agreement that we've entered into with the landowner. This exhibit was presented -- I've

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moves to access roads, and those are not always possible, but we -- our commitment is to continue to find solutions to any siting challenges that landowners might find.

Lastly, a more recent example on the right -- this is our overhead transmission line. We held the meeting this spring, invited every property owner that is under or within that proposed right of way and discussed their siting interests with this transmission line. So most of our property owners are farmers. Most of these folks will be farming the properties or have tenants that farm the properties, and so we've worked collaboratively as much as we can to adjust this infrastructure to make it easier for them to farm. In some cases, that's meant aligning the transmission line along the property lines. So those poles are along their property line. In other cases, it's meant pulling poles up into the fields so that we can get a full pass of the sprayer between the property line and the poles. We're committed to continuing to find solutions like those for landowners as they identify them.

Okay. So we've spoken about

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redacted the document for the landowner's privacy.

This was inserted into the lease for their review prior to ever signing an agreement. The blue lines

that you see are the property lines. The gray hatch

5 lines are representative of the county's setbacks.

And so the communication with this exhibit was that

the area in the northeast corner of their property would be reviewed for siting of wind turbines, and the rest of their property was unavailable based on

Fast-forward a few years, and you see in the center, another exhibit. This is a map that was mailed to landowners along with the letter, and that letter sought landowner feedback and proposed infrastructure of their property. You can see we did, in fact, site a turbine on this landowner's property. We sited it where we told them we might, and we sought their feedback on that location, in particular, on the access road.

Now, I know we have lots of landowners in the audience, and we've worked diligently with folks to incorporate their feedback where possible, and that includes both cost-effective and engineering-ly (phonetic) sound Page 37

landowner involvement in the project, involvement in the project. I think I'd like to highlight for this slide that we've designed Livingston Wind to comply -- turbine setbacks to comply completely with

5 the county's and state's turbine setback

requirements, including shadow flicker and noise.

I'll reiterate here that the project is sited in Round Grove, Broughton, Sullivan, and Union Townships. These are townships that have voted on in support -- reduce setbacks, which are now codified in the county's WECS ordinance. We have set back at least 1,875 feet from primary residences in those townships, while still following the greater setback of 3,250 feet where turbines are sited adjacent to any township that was not part of that support referendum. There are similar setback differences for property lines as well.

Okay. The special use permit application before you encompasses nearly 30,000 acres of land. However, 0.02 percent of that special use will actually be used to site wind turbines. That's about 4 acres. The reason being, wind turbines actually have a relatively small footprint, and farmers may continue to farm nearly

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right to the base of that turbine. We're also proposing ancillary support facilities like roads and substations, and so when you factor in all of that development, this project will be sited on fewer than 140 acres across the special use area. That's less than 1/2 of 1 percent, and it averages out to 6/10ths of an acre per landowner for 1/3 of an acre per parcel used to site the wind farm facilities.

I believe intuitively that landowners have done that calculus in their head when they chose to participate in this project, and they recognize that this is a valuable use of their property that will create new revenue for their farms and their family.

Lastly, Livingston Wind is seeking a variation, and this is an order to site one substation, the ComEd Substation. This piece of infrastructure is required to connect to the high-voltage transmission system, and it inherently must be located adjacent to the existing ComEd power lines, as well as within or adjacent to the special use area. There are no locations where a substation could satisfy these requirements of ComEd's project

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In all cases, the equipment that we are considering are below 500 feet in height and comply with both county and state siting requirements, and those would include noise restrictions and shadow flicker. Ultimately, our turbine selection will depend on the performance of the units available, the exact engineering specifications required by the project cost and timeline to manufacture and deliver.

As I mentioned earlier, we expect that next year will begin detailed engineering for this project. That detailed engineering will identify the specifications necessary for this project, including detailed engineering -- or excuse me -- electrical requirements. Those requirements will ultimately go into a request for proposal, an RFP, which will be sent to qualify equipment manufacturers like GE, Siemens Gamesa. Those manufacturers will submit bids that will ultimately be reviewed by our engineering team, and then we will make a final turbine selection.

I often compare this to buying a car where I can walk into a dealership today and speak to a representative at that dealership and know every detail I need to know about a car. I can -- I

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engineering requirements.

The location proposed will have a substation sited within 10 feet of an adjacent property line requiring a variation against the required setback of 1,600 feet from the adjacent property line with a primary residence. However, we believe this location satisfies the spirit of the requirement whereby the substation is located over 2,500 feet away from that residence.

In addition, the homeowner of the adjacent impacted property supports the variation request.

Lastly -- and I believe this is important -- the ComEd substation will be constructed by Livingston Wind, but will ultimately be conveyed to ComEd after construction, at which point the variation would no longer be required for the siting of the substation under Illinois law.

Okay. I am often asked: What turbine are you using on this project? And the very honest and simple answer is we do not know yet, but I'd like to explain why. We're considering only top-tier manufacturers, and these include companies like General Electric, Siemens Gamesa, and Vestas.

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1 know the price, the trim, the make, the model, the 2 horsepower.

But if I walk into that same dealership and ask: "I want to buy a car in three years. What do you have," they're going to kind of look at you like you've got four heads.

And so we're at that point with this project. We know the manufacturers. We have a good sense of the makes and models that will be available, but the exact specifications, the trim package, if you will, is unknown as of now. And so as a result, we're -- we don't know which turbine we'll ultimately select for this site.

MR. GERSHON: If I can interrupt for one moment.

You asked us to enter -- identify when we have used items for our exhibits. Going back -- we don't have to go back to the slide, but one slide before we talked about the substation. It indicated that we had a letter of support. That letter of support is included in Exhibit 9, which was our variation application along with the letter of support from the property owner.

FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you,

Page 42 Page 44 1 1 jobs that will be sustained during the operations of Mr. Gershon. 2 2 MR. WENTZELL: Thank you. this project. 10 to 15 of those will be directly 3 3 Let me see if I can catch up. There hired by EDF Renewables, and the balance will be 4 4 folks that support the operations of those wind we go. 5 5 farms, whether it be high-voltage electricians, I'd like to spend the next few slides 6 6 speaking about the benefits of this project. And, landscapers, folks that help to clear snow from the 7 first, I'd like to talk about our property owners 7 property, et cetera. 8 8 and our support for farming in the community. Lastly, I think it's really important 9 9 Inherently, we believe that wind farm to note that this is local, home-grown, low-cost 10 10 development is aligned and supportive of farming renewable power that is not subject to commodity 11 operations. In addition, we have legal commitments 11 swings or foreign interference or wars or gas 12 12 to every property owner to reimburse for any crop pipeline shortages. Wind farms like this help to 13 damage, as well as to fix any drain tile damage or 13 produce stable, constant power that lowers overall 14 14 wholesale power and benefits this community directly other damage to the property during construction or 15 15 during operations. and this state. 16 16 Okay. I'd like to read our In addition, as we spoke earlier, 17 turbines themselves are sited on -- take up very 17 commitments to the community. I think these 18 little land once sited, and property owners and 18 are important. And first and foremost, we put 19 19 farmers may continue to farm right to the base of safety first. We hold it as a core company value, 20 20 that turbine. and this is both for our employees, but also for the 21 21 Let me highlight a few numbers from broader community. We strive to be a good neighbor, 22 22 this graphic. The average 80-acre farm a long-term member of the community, and a steward 23 23 of the local environment. We already own and participating in this project will realize an 24 additional \$10,000 per year in revenue by 24 operate two wind farms next door. We are already Page 43 Page 45 1 participating in this project. That's \$125 per acre 1 your neighbors, and we are already living up to 2 2 per year, and income that is not dependent upon those commitments. 3 commodity prices, not dependent on the weather. It 3 We will leave the public roads in as 4 doesn't matter if they have a good year or bad year. 4 good or better shape than when we started. We 5 5 That's income that that family can count on. commit to identify and repair damage to drainage 6 We expect to pay over \$150 million to 6 ditches, field tiles, or any other infrastructure 7 7 local landowners over the life of the wind project. that's caused by the project, whether that's during 8 That comes out to over a million dollars per acre of 8 the construction or the operation of the project. 9 9 sited property within this wind farm of those These are commitments that we have in our legal 10 140 acres that we're siting on. 10 agreements with landowners. 11 And it's not just property owners 11 And, finally, we will fully 12 that are benefiting from this project. There are 12 decommission Livingston Wind according to our 13 broad community benefits, including over a hundred 13 commitments with landowners and to the 14 million dollars in local property tax revenue, 14 decommissioning plan at the end of Livingston Wind's 15 \$66 million of which will accrue to the local school 15 useful life. 16 districts. 16 Digging a little bit deeper here. We 17 Additionally, we expect this project 17 are actively in conversations with the county 18 will create over 400 local jobs during construction. 18 highway department and with the township road 19 A portion of those will be on-site construction 19 commissioners to craft a road agreement that 20 workers, and others will be in the supply 20 obligates Livingston Wind to uphold those

commitments I just mentioned, including repair any

damage to the public road system. We have similar

commitments to maintain both public and private

drainage. We will obtain private drain maps from

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chain: Truck drivers, cement plant workers, gas

Additionally, we expect 33 new local

station attendants, hotel workers, and et cetera.

These projects have a trickle-down effect.

	Dama 46		Da 40
	Page 46		Page 48
1	property owners that have them, and we are committed	1	FACILITATOR KAINS: Mr. Gershon, do
2	to design changes where those are reasonable, and,	2	you have any further questions for your witness,
3	of course, obligated to repairs for damages	3	Mr. Wentzell?
4	unavoidable. We are actively coordinating now with	4	MR. GERSHON: Not at this time.
5	the drainage districts that have similar obligations	5	Thank you.
6	to avoid any damage to their infrastructure.	6	FACILITATOR KAINS: Very good. Thank
7	Lastly, we have financial excuse	7	you.
8	me legal obligations to have both property owners	8	Now it is time for members of the
9	as well as through the State of Illinois to	9	zoning board of appeals if they have any questions
10	decommission this wind farm. Those are spelled out,	10	for as Mr. Wentzell and Mr. Gershon kind of
11	first, in our legal agreements with landowners, and,	11	tag-teamed testimony initially, we'll start with
12	second, in the agriculture impact mitigation	12	questions for Mr. Wentzell, and if any members of
13	agreement, which Livingston Wind Project has entered	13	the zoning board have questions, please identify
14	into with the State of Illinois.	14	yourself by name, and then you may proceed with
15	MR. GERSHON: If I could, again,	15	questions for Mr. Wentzell.
16	mention this for the record, that the agriculture	16	MR. FLOTT: I have one question.
17	impact mitigation agreement is our Exhibit 19, and	17	This is in relation
18	that's the only one. Sorry.	18	FACILITATOR KAINS: Bill, could you
19	MR. WENTZELL: Thank you.	19	state your name.
20	MR. GERSHON: And the drainage	20	MR. FLOTT: Bill Flott.
21	district notice is has been handed in to Mr. Syed	21	I have a question regarding the
22	Ahmad. It is our Exhibit 34.	22	homeowner that lives in the house adjacent to the
23	(Exhibit 34 was identified for the	23	substation. Is the homeowner also the person that
24	record.)	24	lives in that house?
	Page 47		Page 49
1		1	
1 2	FACILITATOR KAINS: What number, sir?	1 2	MR. WENTZELL: Yes, sir.
2	FACILITATOR KAINS: What number, sir? MR. GERSHON: 34.	2	MR. WENTZELL: Yes, sir. MR. FLOTT: The parent company, where
2	FACILITATOR KAINS: What number, sir? MR. GERSHON: 34. FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you.	2	MR. WENTZELL: Yes, sir. MR. FLOTT: The parent company, where is it located?
2 3 4	FACILITATOR KAINS: What number, sir? MR. GERSHON: 34. FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you. MR. WENTZELL: Thank you, Mark.	2 3 4	MR. WENTZELL: Yes, sir.  MR. FLOTT: The parent company, where is it located?  MR. WENTZELL: We're headquartered in
2 3 4 5	FACILITATOR KAINS: What number, sir? MR. GERSHON: 34. FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you. MR. WENTZELL: Thank you, Mark. So to reiterate, we are legally bound	2 3 4 5	MR. WENTZELL: Yes, sir.  MR. FLOTT: The parent company, where is it located?  MR. WENTZELL: We're headquartered in Paris, France. We have operations all over the
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Page 50 Page 52 1 Chair. 1 please state your name, spelling first and last 2 2 And, again, as we proceed, if you names for the record, please. 3 3 have any questions for the witness, just let us DR. KASSEBAUM: Jared Kassebaum. 4 4 J-A-R-E-D, K-A-S-S-E-B-A-U-M. 5 5 FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you. You All right. Very good. 6 Now, the zoning board has had 6 may proceed. 7 opportunities to ask questions of the witness. 7 DR. KASSEBAUM: Great. Thank you all 8 8 Then interested parties. Are there for allowing me a few minutes to speak this evening 9 9 any members of any local unit of local government in to share some of the considerations for designing a 10 10 the audience who wishes to come forward? We have a specific layout of turbines when we're designing a 11 podium down front. If any member of a unit of local 11 project. 12 12 government has any questions for either Mr. Wentzell Let me begin by sharing some of my 13 or Mr. Gershon, now is the time to ask questions of 13 qualifications. As I said, I'm the director of the 14 these witnesses. 14 energy assessment team at EDF Renewables. I've been 15 Seeing none, are there any interested 15 there since 2009, over 13 years. I originally 16 16 actually hailed from Illinois, Southern Illinois, parties represented by licensed attorneys who have 17 questions for either Mr. Wentzell or Mr. Gershon? 17 and did my first degree at Northwestern just up the 18 Please step forward if you have questions if you are 18 road and then got a Ph.D. in mechanical and 19 19 aerospace engineering at the University of Virginia. a licensed attorney representing an interested 20 20 party. My primary area of expertise is wind resource 21 21 assessment, and so that means analyzing the wind Seeing none, the next classification 22 22 of folks who can come forward and ask speed data for various sites and designing optimal 23 23 questions -- it says "other interested parties." wind farms, looking at the operation of those and 24 That's you. If any of you in the audience have a 24 trying to understand how to ingest that information Page 51 Page 53 1 question for the project manager, Mr. Wentzell, or 1 to make sure we're constantly getting better in our 2 2 ability to build efficient -- and then accurately the attorney, Mr. Gershon, now is the time to ask 3 questions of either of these witnesses. You may 3 predict the performance of the projects. 4 just come down front. 4 And most recently, I served as the 5 5 Seeing none, questions then from program co-chair for the American Clean Power 6 Livingston County staff and consultants. 6 Resource and Technology Conference in Las Vegas. 7 7 MR. SCHOPP: We have none. So I'd like to walk you through FACILITATOR KAINS: None? Thank you, 8 8 quickly some of the considerations that we iterate 9 9 Chuck. upon as we design a specific layout of turbines for 10 The time for asking questions of 10 a wind project. As Scott said earlier, it begins 11 these witnesses has concluded. 11 with the wind resource. You can look at national-12 Mr. Gershon, you may call your next 12 or regional- or state-level wind maps and get an 13 13 witness. idea of where you might site a wind farm where you 14 MR. GERSHON: I'd like to ask Jared 14 might have good enough resource to turn some blades, 15 Kassebaum, who is a Ph.D. and the director of the 15 to turn a generator, and to create electricity, but 16 16 energy team for EDF Renewables. beyond that, we need to know even more specifically 17 FACILITATOR KAINS: Mr. Kassebaum, 17 how the wind flows over a project site, and so 18 if you could raise your right hand and be sworn by 18 that's one of the most important elements of my job, 19 the court reporter. 19 my team's contribution. 20 20 Next are the setbacks and (Witness sworn.) constraints. Scott has already discussed some of 21 JARED KASSEBAUM, Ph.D., 21 22 22 of lawful age, being produced and sworn, testifies those and how those impact where we can and can't 23 23 and says: build. Turbine loading conditions is also 2.4 2.4 FACILITATOR KAINS: Sir, could you important. These are machines, and we want to make

Page 54 Page 56 1 sure that they operate well and that they perform 1 2 2 well, and so we want to make sure that we're putting DR. KASSEBAUM: We've got it. I'll 3 3 the right machine in the right conditions that it just get a little closer. Is that better? 4 was designed for. 4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Otherwise I don't 5 5 Sound and shadow flicker impacts are, care. 6 of course, important. We want to be good neighbors. 6 DR. KASSEBAUM: Okay. So as I said, 7 We want to make sure that we're not only complying 7 I like to explain this process in three 8 8 with regulations, as there may be, but also making extrapolations. One is horizontal. We've measured 9 9 sure that we can mitigate those impacts whenever the wind speed at a few-point locations at the MET 10 10 possible. towers, but we want to know what happens everywhere 11 And, finally, construction costs. 11 across the entire site, and we do that by numerical 12 12 How can we -- how can we make sure we're wind flow modeling, modeling the wind flow over the 13 efficiently, you know, deploying our resources there 13 terrain, over the forestry, or trees as there are, 14 so that we -- so that we build the project for the 14 and understanding the meteorological impacts and how 15 15 best that we can. the wind flows over a region. 16 16 Vertical is another important So let's start with the wind 17 17 resource. Again, this is really my primary area. extrapolation. We only measure to a certain height. 18 How do we -- how do we get to know the resource in 18 We measure to about 60 meters for most towers, but 19 an area? Many of you may have seen the 19 the wind turbines may have their hub height at 20 20 meteorological towers -- MET towers -- that we have 80 meters, and the tip of the blades go even higher. 21 21 up in the region. And the map on the right shows So we want to understand how the wind speed changes 22 22 the MET towers that we have been -- that we have across the full rotor so that we can, again, 23 23 understand best how these machines will operate. been collecting data at for many years across this 24 region for neighboring facilities, including 24 To do that, we do a lot of data Page 55 Page 57 1 1 analysis. We also use remote sensing devices to Livingston. 2 2 If you can zoom in on the left. measure the wind at higher heights than the MET 3 Again, you would see that we've been collecting data 3 towers are able to, essentially using something like 4 since 2008, which is really important to know not 4 a LiDAR, which shoots a laser up in the air and 5 5 just how the wind is, you know, in a short time, but measures the change in wind speed with height. 6 6 we've been measuring for many years to really And the third is temporal. If you 7 7 understand broadly the resource on-site. were to measure the wind speed on a single day of 8 So how do we go from a few point 8 the year, and it was the windiest day on record, and 9 measurements where we have a few towers here and 9 you thought let's build a wind farm, and we know 10 there to understanding the resource across the site? 10 what we're going to expect, you'd be very 11 I love explaining this. This is what -- as I said, 11 disappointed. So, instead, we want to correct for 12 what I've been doing for 13 years. I like to 12 that and take into account when it would be 13 explain it as three extrapolations: Horizontal, 13 measured, okay? 14 14 vertical, temporal. We've measured these few years. How 15 FACILITATOR KAINS: Excuse me. 15 do those reflect the long term? We'll be operating 16 Mr. Kassebaum, could you slow down a little bit and 16 this plant for, you know, 30 or 40 years. How 17 speak a little more clearly? Some members of the 17 will -- you know, how will the resource look in the 18 audience are having a little bit of a hard time 18 long term? And so to do that, we look at long-term 19 hearing you. 19 reference data sets. These can be collected at 20 DR. KASSEBAUM: Sure. I'd be happy 20 airports, or they can be large-scale models that 21 21 provide that long-term, consistent data record. 22 FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, sir. 22 So when you put all these together, 23 23 DR. KASSEBAUM: There we go. you get what you see on the left, which is -- shows 24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Light -- turn it 24 the boundary of the project on top of a colored map

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of the wind speeds across the site. And you can see the higher -- or the hotter colors would be higher wind speeds, and the cooler colors would be -- would be the lower wind speeds.

So in the center of the project, there is a bit of a ridge, which -- you know, which features some of the highest resource, and indeed to the east and west of this project, you have those neighboring facilities that have all been developed along this ridge, and then further to the south, the winds fall off a little bit, though they're still -- you know, they're still worthwhile to develop there as well.

So the next component after we understand the resource is where can we build? And so to consider that, my team works with a team of GIS analysts -- and that is geographic information systems analysts -- whose role it is to manage the spatial data on-site to help us ingest it and make good use of it, understanding what are the things we must set back from -- structures, roads, transmission lines, communication towers, property lines, all of these things that we want to make sure we are appropriately set back from.

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you're familiar with the concept of wake where there is turbulent energy behind something and a slowing of that stream. So in the -- when it comes to wind turbines, you have just that happening: Turbulence and a slower resource directly behind the wind turbine. So as we seek to optimize the layout, we're considering and modeling how will one turbine impact another? And how can we space them in such a way that they produce the maximum amount of energy?

On the left is shown a model, which is simply showing a representation of what would happen when wind is blowing from the left, and you can see the model wind speed deficit behind the turbines. This is not -- this Livingston project is just an example.

And on the right is actually the measured data. This was collected by running a dual-Doppler horizontal wind speed scan. You can see both from above and the side of what the wind speeds behind the -- behind these turbines look like. In a given -- I should say in a given moment, this is obviously highly variable as the winds change, the directions change. There's, you know, turbulent mixing happening. So, of course, in

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The amount of our setbacks are determined by county ordinances, state regulations. We also received guidance from environmental agencies, and short of those, we have best management practices, internal guidance on the best and most efficient way to site turbines. That has been developed over many years of developing projects. And we validate these by site visits and to verify the data on-site, as well as doing high resolution surveys.

I would also add -- and I didn't note it on the slide, but as Scott said before, there is a component of this process of defining the buildable area that is done in conjunction with landowners and taking their feedback into account to make sure that we're trying to hear their needs and site turbines where it benefits everyone.

Okay. Now, we go to resource and where we are capable of building. How do we go about optimizing the energy and building the most -- the most efficient project? We've got a couple of pretty pictures here that demonstrate the wake loss or the wake impact of turbines. If you have ridden on a boat or seen a rock in a stream,

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reality, over time, it looks much, much more chaotic than just this snapshot, but it gives a good idea of how we seek to optimize the position of the turbines, and we do this with some custom software.

Next is the turbine's suitability and loading. Wind turbines are designed and certified to withstand certain external conditions -- average wind speeds, extreme gusts, turbulence, and temperature extremes. And so part of understanding the resource of the site is to be able to select the most appropriate technology, and also to make sure that as we design the layout, we're siting turbines appropriately so that we don't add too much loads on any given machine, and then find ourselves having to constantly maintain or repair for that turbine, and so that's an element of designing the layout, and likewise, the foundations of turbines are actually designed relative to site-specific conditions and the expected mechanical loads.

In conclusion, we work to balance all of these items together maximizing the energy production, which incidentally also maximizes royalties that we're able to pay to landowners, minimizing the construction cost by optimizing the

	Page 62		Page 64
1	collection or the access roads.	1	area is the remaining, like, buildable area.
2	For example, if we have a turbine	2	MR. RUNYON: Okay.
3	sited, and the energy is the same in position A or	3	DR. KASSEBAUM: And if you don't see
4	position B, but one position allows us to construct	4	some under specific turbine, sometimes the buildable
5	less less roads or less cable, then that's what	5	areas can be very small, and the resolution you're
6	we'll do. We seek to obey or to respect all	6	looking they're there.
7	setbacks, and always with the intention to limit all	7	FACILITATOR KAINS: Are there any
8	sound and flicker impacts, and, finally, to ensure	8	other questions from members of the zoning board of
9	that we site the turbines in a responsible way so	9	appeals?
10	that they will be safe and have their full lifetime.	10	MS. HUISMAN: [Indicated.]
11	If you've ever looked at a turbine	11	FACILITATOR KAINS: Yeah. With
12	layout and wondered why exactly they go where they	12	respect to all witnesses, Mr. Gershon, the zoning
13	go, and why in this position and not that position,	13	board will reserve the right to ask questions of
14	hopefully that explains all the many factors that	14	them as we proceed through this public hearing.
15	we're trying to balance.	15	MR. GERSHON: Understood. Thank you.
16	And then the last thing I want to add	16	FACILITATOR KAINS: Very good. Thank
17	is that this is a very iterated process, and for	17	you.
18	most projects, we may iterate on this some 50 times	18	All right. Questions for the
19	or even a hundred times. It begins with in those	19	witness, Dr. Kassebaum, from the units of members
20	early-stage ideas of what would a layout look like	20	of units of local government? Any questions for
21	here? And we're just kind of throwing some dots on	21	Dr. Kassebaum from members from units of local
22	a map to get an idea conceptually, into this very	22	government?
23	detailed type of work where you have a high	23	Questions from licensed attorneys who
24	resolution of understanding of your resource and of	24	represent interested parties?
	D 62		
	Page 63		Page 65
1		1	
1 2	your setbacks and your interested landowners and		Questions from other interested
	your setbacks and your interested landowners and technology you're going to use, and those all come	1 2 3	Questions from other interested parties, the general public?
2	your setbacks and your interested landowners and	2	Questions from other interested parties, the general public?  Any questions for Dr. Kassebaum from
2	your setbacks and your interested landowners and technology you're going to use, and those all come together to get to the final layout.	2 3	Questions from other interested parties, the general public?  Any questions for Dr. Kassebaum from anyone?
2 3 4	your setbacks and your interested landowners and technology you're going to use, and those all come together to get to the final layout.  That's all I have.	2 3 4	Questions from other interested parties, the general public?  Any questions for Dr. Kassebaum from
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2 3 4 5 6	your setbacks and your interested landowners and technology you're going to use, and those all come together to get to the final layout.  That's all I have.  FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, Dr. Kassebaum.	2 3 4 5 6	Questions from other interested parties, the general public? Any questions for Dr. Kassebaum from anyone? And, finally, questions from Livingston County staff and consultants?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	your setbacks and your interested landowners and technology you're going to use, and those all come together to get to the final layout.  That's all I have. FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, Dr. Kassebaum.  Mr. Gershon, do you have any questions of your witness?  MR. GERSHON: No further questions. Thank you. FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Questions from other interested parties, the general public? Any questions for Dr. Kassebaum from anyone? And, finally, questions from Livingston County staff and consultants? MR. SCHOPP: We have no questions. FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Kassebaum. You may step down. And, Mr. Gershon, you may call your next witness. MR. GERSHON: My next witness is
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Page 66 Page 68 names for the record. 1 1 electrical collection system. Sometimes these 2 2 MR. ALLEN: Kenny Allen. K-E-N-N-Y, things can go parallel. They're not always at the 3 3 A-L-L-E-N. same -- or they're not always following each other, 4 FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, 4 but there's a train of activity. 5 5 Mr. Allen. You may proceed. The towers and then the nacelles and 6 6 MR. GERSHON: And if I could, again, blades will come in on 9 to 13 trucks. They'll be 7 at the hearing officer's request, identify that one 7 staged and installed usually at the same time. 8 8 of the items Kenny will be addressing is Exhibit 27, Substations and transmission line. That's 9 9 which is our decommissioning plan. a separate activity usually. So that's not in the 10 10 FACILITATOR KAINS: Very good. Thank train construction sequencing. And when the site is 11 you, Mr. Gershon. 11 complete, we'll restore it back to the way it was. 12 MR. ALLEN: Thank you for being here 12 Crop loss and damage payments. I don't 13 and taking your time. 13 really -- sorry. So we talked about drain tile and 14 I've been with the EDF for 13 years, 14 repair. That's done with local contractors 15 and my background is construction management and 15 typically, and, like I mentioned, it's -- it occurs 16 16 preconstruction activities prior to construction. at the time of damage or soon after. 17 17 So our best-management practices that We already talked about repair and 18 are paramount are the top soil preservation and 18 restoration of the public roads. That is -- it's 19 19 retention, which it keeps the crop growing, land important to note that we do assess the condition of 20 20 viable. the road prior to construction and then repair that 21 Next is drain tile repair. Sometimes 21 back to the way it was. 22 22 that drain tile gets breached, and we -- as you can Well, this illustrates -- yeah. This is 23 23 see here, we'll locate it and repair it at that time what happens soon after the project is complete and 24 or at a later time that's more opportunistic to get 24 the restoration is complete. Scott mentioned Page 67 Page 69 1 1 earlier that you can farm right up to the base of the repair correct. 2 Storm water. That -- it's a 2 the tower typically. 3 storm-water prevention plan. This -- this is 3 Our construction schedule, it's less than 4 outlined in many of the preconstruction documents 4 a year. It ramps up. It's kind of like an airplane 5 5 taking off, you know. It starts off a little slow, and the contractor -- the contract. 6 6 Dust control. That's monitored by and then there's a large peak like a bell curve. It 7 7 our on-site staff. During construction, we'll apply drops off. But the months of construction usually 8 water or a dust palliative to keep the dust at a 8 are in the spring and summer, and the project's 9 9 minimum or nonexistent. commissioned towards the end of the year. So it's 10 10 So prior to mobilization, we assess not a very long process, relatively. 11 the road conditions, the public road conditions, and 11 FACILITATOR KAINS: Mr. Gershon, do 12 then we'll make the repair as necessary to make the 12 you have additional questions of your witness? 13 project constructible, and then come back and repair 13 MR. GERSHON: No additional 14 14 the roads at the end of the project. Also, we will questions. Thank you. 15 have ongoing maintenance and repair of the public 15 FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you. 16 16 and private roads. And thank you, Mr. Allen. 17 The sequencing of construction is 17 Members of the zoning board of 18 this -- you know, it's -- I look at it as like a 18 appeals, do you have any questions for Mr. Allen 19 train, a construction train, where these disciplines 19 regarding the preconstruction/construction process? 20 come through -- equipment and staff, and they 20 MS. HUISMAN: [Indicated.] 21 usually follow -- well, they have to follow each 21 FACILITATOR KAINS: Yeah. 22 22 other. We'll build the roads. Following road Mr. Gershon, they will reserve the 23 23 construction, we'll put the foundations in and pad right to question Mr. Allen should it become 24 to put the crane up. Following that is underground 24 necessary later in the hearing.

Page 70 Page 72 1 1 Now, members of the units of local historic resources. 2 IDNR has reviewed this project, and 2 government, any questions for Mr. Allen? 3 3 Seeing none, attorneys representing part of their response included some recommended 4 interested parties, any questions for Mr. Allen? 4 setbacks that we evaluated, and we've been able to 5 5 voluntarily comply with all of these for all but one Seeing none, then questions from the 6 6 general public for Mr. Allen? turbine, M-8, for which we are requesting a waiver 7 There being none, now questions from 7 from IDNR, a stream setback. The placement of that 8 8 turbine is the only available location on that Livingston County staff and consultants? 9 9 MR. SCHOPP: We have no questions. landowner's parcel that complies with all the county 10 10 FACILITATOR KAINS: Very good. Thank setbacks. We'll have some information later that 11 you. 11 explains that. 12 12 All right. Mr. Allen, thank you. But the habitat quality and the 13 You may step down. 13 biological value of that creek are very low, and 14 And, Mr. Gershon, call your next. 14 there will be no direct impacts to the creek due to 15 15 MR. GERSHON: I'd like to call Taylor construction or operation of that turbine. 16 16 Foley, who is the director of environmental The table on the right illustrates 17 permitting for EDF Renewables, and while Taylor is 17 some of the additional recommended setbacks that we 18 working his way up here, he will be, in part, 18 were able to accomplish. 19 identifying matters discussed in Exhibit 24, the 19 EDF complies with the 2012 U.S. Fish 20 Illinois Department of Natural Resources letter 20 and Wildlife wind energy guidelines, or the WEGS. 21 21 dated February 18, 2022, regarding the EcoCAT The WEGS provide a tiered approach to site-specific 22 22 consultation. assessments and studies, as well as regulatory 23 FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you. Thank 23 agency communication, and a primary focus is on bird 24 24 and bat species. We also followed the 2013 U.S. you, Mr. Gershon. Page 71 Page 73 1 Mr. Foley, could you please raise 1 Fish and Wildlife Eagle conservation plan guidance 2 2 your right hand to be sworn. to study bald and golden eagle impacts. 3 (Witness sworn.) 3 The figure on the right shows the 4 TAYLOR FOLEY, 4 tiered analysis guidelines from the WEGS. It starts 5 5 of lawful age, being produced and sworn testifies from tier 1, which is a land state level, more of a 6 6 and says: broad landscape view of potential places to put a 7 7 FACILITATOR KAINS: And, Mr. Foley, project and what impacts it may have. 8 please state your name, spelling first and last 8 As you move down the tiers, the next 9 9 names for the record. step would be site-specific studies, and it 10 10 MR. FOLEY: Taylor Foley, culminates with tier 4, tier 5, which is assessing 11 T-A-Y-L-O-R, F-O-L-E-Y. 11 the impacts to wildlife once the project is 12 FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, sir. 12 operational. 13 You may proceed. 13 As part of the first tiers of the 14 14 MR. FOLEY: So my name is Taylor WEGS, as Jared mentioned, we have internal GIS 15 Foley. I'm the director of environmental permitting 15 systems and tools that we can use to analyze 16 for EDF. I've been with EDF for about five years. 16 potential project locations, and we've also 17 I have a background in biology from Texas A&M 17 completed a full sweep of tier 3 site-specific 18 University. I've led environmental surveys and 18 studies, including avian and eagle use studies, 19 permitting for more than 50 onshore wind and solar 19 raptor and eagle nest studies, and wetland 20 projects for EDF in the Eastern United States. My 20 delineations. 21 key knowledge areas are federal and state 21 Another important component of the 22 22 WEGS is wildlife agency consultation, which takes environmental permitting and the associated studies 23 23 place in two phases. The first phase we introduce of those -- in particular, protected species, 24 regulated wetlands and waters, and cultural and 24 the project, we gather data from the wildlife

	Page 74		Page 76
1	agencies that may not be public, and we obtain	1	Engineers, and all federal and state, local permits
2	concurrence on our tier 3 site-specific study plan.	2	will be obtained prior to construction of those
3	The second phase is to review and	3	impacts.
4	present the tier 3 survey results and collaborate on	4	FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you,
5	operational measures that might be necessary.	5	Mr. Foley.
6	Those operational measures are	6	•
7	documented in what we call "bird and bat	7	Mr. Gershon, questions of your witness?
8		8	
	conservation strategy," which EDF prepares for all		MR. GERSHON: No further questions.
9 10	of our wind projects, and that document describes	9	FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you.
	all the detailed operating procedures that we will	10	Okay. Now it's time for members of
11	implement to minimize wildlife impacts, and those	11	the zoning board of appeals to ask questions of
12	have all been coordinated with the various	12	Mr. Foley. Are there any questions from the zoning
13	environmental agencies.	13	board?
14	The bird and bat conservation strategy	14	MS. HUISMAN: This is Joan Huisman.
15	also includes an adaptive management approach, which	15	With regard to turbine was it M-8
16	allows us to tailor our operational measures based	16	that's not going to meet the setback requirement for
17	on post-construction monitoring.	17	IDNR? Did you say that you're going to address this
18	We've committed to three years of	18	later in the hearing? More testimony will be
19	post-construction mortality monitoring for this	19	provided that explains the situation?
20	project at IDNR's request, which also aligns with	20	MR. FOLEY: The next presentation
21	the Wildlife Tier 4 WEGS guidance.	21	will have we'll have slide details.
22	Another important study that we conduct is	22	MS. HUISMAN: Okay. Nothing further
23	the archaeological and historical resource survey,	23	at this time.
24	which was complete by Westwood. Eight archeological	24	FACILITATOR KAINS: Any other
	Page 75		Page 77
1	_	1	
1 2	sites are within a mile of the project, but none within the project area itself. We will still	1 2	Page 77 questions for members of the zoning board of appeals?
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	Page 78		Page 80
1	MS. HUISMAN: We'll recess for a	1	FACILITATOR KAINS: Mr. Lines, could
2	brief break. It's 7:43. If we could take ten	2	you please state your name, spelling your first and
3	minutes for drinks and rest, we'll reconvene at 7:53	3	last names for the record.
4	or shortly thereafter.	4	ANDREW LINES,
5	(Whereby a short break was taken.)	5	of lawful age, being produced and sworn, testifies
6	MS. HUISMAN: We've gone	6	and says:
7	significantly over the time frame. It's 8:04.	7	MR. LINES: Sure. Andrew Lines.
8	We're going to go back on the record and continue on	8	A-N-D-R-E-W, L-I-N-E-S.
9	with the testimony.	9	FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you,
10	FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, Madam	10	Mr. Lines. You may proceed.
11	Chair.	11	MR. LINES: Thank you so much.
12	Mr. Gershon, are you prepared to call	12	Hopefully Mr. Gershon has the first slide pulled up.
13	the witnesses live, or is this not live?	13	So CohnReznick, so everyone knows, is
14	MR. GERSHON: So in the interest of	14	a national advisory insurance and tax firm with a
15	time, and knowing what time you were hoping to close	15	particular focus on commercial real estate. We have
16	this evening, I'd like to change our order just a	16	25 offices around the country, including in Chicago,
17	little bit. I have Andrew Lines, who is with	17	and I'm a principal with the valuation advisory
18	CohnReznick. He's a principal in their valuation	18	group, which is comprised of nearly 70 professionals
19	advisory services. If you go in your binder	19	providing valuations on a wide variety of real
20	until there it is. Thank you. If you move in	20	estate properties, businesses, and equipment.
21	your binder down to until you see the CohnReznick	21	Next slide.
22	slides. We'll also have this on the screen.	22	I've prepared the report along with
23	Mr. Lines would have truly liked to have been here	23	the national director of our valuation group. Her
24	this evening, but was forced to be with his company	24	name is Patricia McGarr. She's an Illinois State
	Page 79		Page 81
1	in Florida, so we're having him join by phone.	1	Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, and she
1 2	in Florida, so we're having him join by phone.  Andrew, can you hear us?	2	Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, and she also has an MAI designation, as well as a couple of
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2 3 4 5	in Florida, so we're having him join by phone.  Andrew, can you hear us?  MR. LINES: I can.  MR. GERSHON: And because he's on a microphone here, if for some reason he does not hear	2 3 4 5	Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, and she also has an MAI designation, as well as a couple of others. She's been practicing for over 35 years, and she was appointed by Governor Rauner several years ago to the Department of Financial Regulations
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have appraised properties in the State of Illinois
 for the last couple of years. And along with

Patricia McGarr, we've provided impact studies to zoning boards throughout Illinois, dozens of property types over the past 20 years, including analyses of solar farms, slaughter houses,

retail -- box retail, affordable housing, landfills,
 waste transfer stations, zoning overlay districts.

And I'll note that there are some uses that do result in negative impacts to surrounding property, and we have used very specific approach methodology to evaluate this in the context of the proposed wind farm.

Pardon me if you could go to slide five.

So what is the methodology that we've employed to evaluate whether or not the proposed wind farm may impact residential homes and property in the general area? We've used paired sales analyses, which analyzes test groups and control groups. We've also evaluated before or after appreciation rates, and these two methodologies come directly from an appraiser and a Ph.D., Dr. Randy Bell, who is an MAI, and he wrote a treatise called,

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MR. LINES: Will do.

In addition to doing our own studies and paired sales analyses, we also reviewed and analyzed other academics and other appraisers who have studied wind farms and their perceived impacts on residential property and surrounding property.

The next slide, slide 6, shows 14 of these, and these covered the vast majority that have been performed in the last 20 years. Some use multiple regression analyses, which takes hundreds and thousands of data points in a very long approach. And others use more simplified paired sales analyses as we do. And of the vast majority of these studies, all of them conclude that there's no impact. And I'll note the 14 that are up there, 4 of them occurred on data within the State of Illinois, including the counties of Lee, McClean, Woodford.

The next slide, please.

So our studies focused on ranges of sale prices between test and control groups, differences in those sale prices. Time on market and days on market are things that we also study, including rate of appreciation and whether or not

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"The Damages in Real Estate." Most of the appraisers around the country follow to the letter the instructions that Dr. Bell provides, and he's long been considered the chief expert in the area.

And from Dr. Bell, when analyzing a test group and a control group, he notes that there needs to be a consistent and measurable negative impact in order to conclude that there's a detrimental condition. And so what that means, again, is that we have to find multiple occurrences of a negative differential between targets and controls in order to conclude that that proposed use may be negatively impacting surrounding properties.

MR. GERSHON: Andrew, if I could interrupt for one second just for the record, you identified the name of Mr. Bell's document as "The Damages in Real Estate." Just because we do have a court reporter, can you please confirm the name of the document is actually "real estate damages"?

THE DEPONENT: That's correct. It's Real Estate Damages: Applied Economics and Detrimental Conditions.

MR. GERSHON: Thank you. Please continue.

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new development occurs next to existing wind turbines.

Next slide.

As part of our methodology, we sort to identify where there are test sales to study. So generally speaking, these sales are somewhere between a quarter mile to a mile and a half to 2 miles away from existing turbines. They need to be arm's length transactions between non-related properties, and they can't be distressed sales. So no foreclosures, short sales, or bankruptcies.

Further, we make sure that we don't use any test sales that might be owned by participating landowners. So we make every effort to identify potential participating landowners using data that we'll receive from some of the wind developers, and if we find any, they're excluded from analysis.

Once we have test sales and we understand what they are, when they sold, how big they are, how much land they cover, we then go and search for control area sales. We start no closer than 2.7 miles from existing turbine, and we generally try to stay as close as we can to the same

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communities that the test sales are in. We make sure that we find similar properties in terms of construction, vintage, land area, and, of course, improvement size in order to compare those groups to test sales. Again, we're using only arm's length transactions, and we don't use any distressed sales.

The point here is we're going to find sometimes one, sometimes a few sales that occur near the existing wind project. These are the test sales. And we're actually going to compare them to multiple control sets. So we have a group of control sets. So instead of just looking at one house against another house, we'll be looking at one, two, or three homes in comparison to seven, eight, nine, or ten homes.

And after very minor adjustments for type and market conditions, bringing everything to effectively the same date, we're going to look at their price per square foot, and we're going to look at the median price per square foot in the test group versus the control group, and if there is some kind of negative impact, then we should see that the test sales would have a naturally lower median price per square foot than the control groups, and you

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finished living area of the test controls, as well as the land sizes and rough year built and the number of beds and bathrooms are essentially very similar. That's done on purpose. And when we evaluated the median price per square in the control data, we saw that there was only 0.28 percent difference between the median of the test sales and the median of the control sets. So this would indicate that there is no negative impact based on this data set.

Next slide.

We found two other test sales for the Pilot Hill Wind farm to evaluate. These were built in different eras. So we have a different comparable set. It's more closely related to this particular home's vintage, and, again, we compared this one sale to ten other sales. Again, the gross finished living area and square feet is roughly similar, and the control area sales bracket, the test sale in terms of finished living area, acreage, year built, and bedrooms and bathrooms. And in this circumstance, the differential between the test sales and control sales was 0.59 percent, which is extremely nominal. And, again, we didn't find any

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should see that over and over again. So that is the methodology that we employed.

I'm going to give you an example that's taken from our report. Next slide.

So because this wind development is in between two almost existing wind farms, we have some really nice data to review that's very close to Livingston County. The first one that we looked at is the Pilot Hill Wind Farm, which is Kankakee and Iroquois, and that was developed in 2015, and its total output is about 175 megawatts AC.

And you can see the map, and you can see the red dots are all of the existing turbines that were developed. The yellow dots that you see there are test zones that meet our test sale criteria.

So the first group actually consists -- if you go to the next slide, Mark, slide 10. The first group consisted of three homes, and those three homes combined at a median price per square foot of approximately \$133.13. We identified seven control sales that occurred in nearby communities, but at least 2.7 miles away from any existing turbine. You can see that the gross

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negative impact.

Next slide.

We see group three, which, again, is a single home. We evaluated this test sale with seven other homes, again, being consistent in terms of our methodology. And in this instance, we found that the test sale had a higher price per square foot than both the control sales by about 6.9 percent, and so the different groups that we studied for the Pilot Hill Wind Farm did not indicate that there was a negative impact as caused by being located closer to turbines than any of the other homes in the general area.

So this is a good example of what we do, and I'll report that I believe it was submitted with the application -- details of 11 different studies that we performed both in Illinois, as well as a couple of wind farms in Iowa, and some additional studies that we had conducted previously in the state of Colorado.

If you go to the next slide, slide 13, you'll see that this is a representation of all of the data that we've reviewed. So we looked at the Pilot Hill Wind Farm. We also examined the

	Page 90		Page 92
1	Kelly Creek Wind Project, and the Camp Grove Wind	1	Mr. Gershon, do you have any
2	Farm, as well as the Lee-DeKalb Wind Energy Center,	2	questions of your witness?
3	all within Illinois, all in nearby counties to the	3	MR. GERSHON: No questions. Thank
4	proposed, and the evaluation of this data indicated	4	you.
5	that there wasn't a consistent negative impact as	5	FACILITATOR KAINS: Questions from
6	caused by any of the wind farms that we studied.	6	members of the zoning board of appeals for
7	In addition to the studies that we	7	Mr. Lines?
8	conducted, we also performed interviews with local	8	Yeah. Richard?
9	county assessors who see transactions of homes in	9	MR. RUNYON: Richard Runyon.
10	their back yards associated near existing wind	10	I was wondering if you keep data on
11	farms.	11	why these homes go up for sale?
12	I think turn to slide 14, Mark.	12	MR. LINES: I didn't hear the
13	You'll see that we have included	13	question.
14	several of these interviews and individuals who all	14	MR. GERSHON: Andrew, the question
15	indicate that not only did they not see differential	15	was whether you keep data on why these homes are
16	prices between current values before wind farms were	16	going up for sale.
17	•	17	Is that correct?
18	developed and after, but that no there's no	18	MR. RUNYON: Yes.
	document and no documentation, and they're not	_	MR. LINES: So we want to make sure
19 20	receiving any complaints of how potential changes in	19	
	the values before and after any of the wind farms	20	that we are looking at sales that have actually
21 22	were built.	21 22	transacted, meaning that they've actually sold in
23	Specifically I wanted to call out		the marketplace. There could be a number of reasons
23	Shelly Renken, who is the supervisor of assessments	23 24	why people decide to put up their sales as lists.
24	in Livingston County, who noted that there was a	24	And as many brokers can tell you, everybody has a
	Page 91		Page 93
1	Page 91 concern of some people about the potential impact,	1	Page 93 price. So we know that although many people right
1 2	-	1 2	
	concern of some people about the potential impact,		price. So we know that although many people right
2	concern of some people about the potential impact, but that she didn't find any documentation that	2	price. So we know that although many people right now keep putting up their homes for sale, and
2	concern of some people about the potential impact, but that she didn't find any documentation that shows that's happening, that values had gone down or	2 3	price. So we know that although many people right now keep putting up their homes for sale, and they're not selling them to be due to the market,
2 3 4	concern of some people about the potential impact, but that she didn't find any documentation that shows that's happening, that values had gone down or up as a result of being near a wind farm. So those	2 3 4	price. So we know that although many people right now keep putting up their homes for sale, and they're not selling them to be due to the market, not necessarily the fact that they're just near a
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	concern of some people about the potential impact, but that she didn't find any documentation that shows that's happening, that values had gone down or up as a result of being near a wind farm. So those are the interviews that we also took into consideration in coming up with our conclusion.  Slide 15, Mark.  So based on our examination, our research of and analyses of existing wind farm uses, including multiple peer-reviewed studies from other experts and our own studies of wind farm projects, as well as the information provided in interviews with local county assessors who were familiar with transactions near wind farm projects, we don't find any consistent negative impact that has occurred to adjacent property values that could be attributed to the proximity to the adjacent wind farm, and therefore we don't believe that the proposed project will likely cause any negative impact to any of the residents in the proposed area at Livingston County.  And with that, I'll conclude my presentation, and I'm happy to answer any questions.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	price. So we know that although many people right now keep putting up their homes for sale, and they're not selling them to be due to the market, not necessarily the fact that they're just near a wind turbine. So we're very specific in that we review actual transactions, and while we do collect data on whether or not, you know, a house might be for sale, ultimately a study test sale can only be one that's actually sold.  FACILITATOR KAINS: Any other questions for Mr. Lines?  Bill?  MR. FLOTT: Yes. Bill Flott.  I wonder if you have pictures of the houses particularly in the Pilot Hill, Kankakee, Iroquois County, that study? Do you have pictures of the homes?  MR. GERSHON: Andrew, can you hear that question?  MR. LINES: I heard the question.  We do collect pictures and data points. We keep files on all of the information

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1	something that the board needs, I can make those	1	questions for you. We will work with him on getting
2	available to them.	2	you on the line to answer additional questions.
3	MR. FLOTT: Thank you.	3	MR. LINES: Understood. Thank you
4	FACILITATOR KAINS: Yeah. Mr. Lines,	4	very much.
5	would you please make photographs of every home that	5	FACILITATOR KAINS: Very good. Thank
6	you've referenced in your testimony? If you could	6	you.
7	send them to Mr. Gershon, and if you could provide	7	All right. Mr. Gershon, you may call
8	them to the board tomorrow evening. Would that be	8	your next witness.
9	possible?	9	MR. GERSHON: Let me turn this off so
10	MR. LINES: I'll do our best. My	10	I don't have reverb. I apologize.
11	entire staff is in Florida for meetings, but we'll	11	I'd like to take us back up to if
12	go through and see if we can make this happen as	12	you look for Sylvia Gibson and Steve Powell who are
13	soon as we possibly can.	13	with EDF Renewables. Sylvia is a regional senior
14	FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you.	14	director of asset optimization, and Steve Powell is
15	Are there any other questions from	15	EDF Renewables regional operations manager of asset
16	the board?	16	optimization. I'm moving Sylvia up because while
17	MS. HUISMAN: Joan Huisman.	17	Steve will be here tomorrow to answer questions,
18	What were your findings regarding	18	Sylvia unfortunately cannot be. So I want to make
19	time length of time on the market for the	19	sure that if you had questions for her, you could
20	properties that had sold, and do you have that	20	ask those this evening.
21	analyzed in table format that could be shared with	21	FACILITATOR KAINS: All right. Very
22	the board?	22	good. Thank you.
23	MR. LINES: Yes. We do track all of	23	MR. GERSHON: I think testimony will
24	the data in the market for all of the properties,	24	be primarily from Sylvia, but I assume you'd like to
	Page 95		Page 97
1	and we make sure that we understand how long they've	1	swear them both in.
2	been. So I can absolutely compile some of this data	2	FACILITATOR KAINS: Yes. First of
3	and show the difference in the average length market	3	all, Ms. Gibson, if you would raise your right hand
4	between test sales and the control sets.	4	and be sworn.
5	MS. HUISMAN: Okay. Thank you.	5	(Witness sworn.)
6	FACILITATOR KAINS: Mr. Gershon?	6	FACILITATOR KAINS: And, Mr. Powell,
7	All right. Are there any other	7	if you would raise your right hand and be sworn.
8	questions for Mr. Lines about his testimony from the	8	(Witness sworn.)
9	board?	9	FACILITATOR KAINS: All right.
10	Questions for Mr. Lines from members	10	Mr. Gershon, you may proceed with questioning of
11	of units of local government?	11	your witnesses.
12	Questions for Mr. Lines from licensed	12	SYLVIA GIBSON,
13	attorneys representing interested parties?	13	of lawful age, being produced and sworn, testifies
14	Any questions for Mr. Lines from any	14	and says:
15	members of the public in the room?	15	MS. GIBSON: Good evening to the
16	And any questions for Mr. Lines from	16	board and to the general public. Thank you for
17	Livingston County staff and consultants?	17	having me here today.
18	MR. SCHOPP: We have no questions.	18	I am here primarily to support my
19	FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, Chuck.	19	development team with respect to sharing with you
20	All right. Mr. Lines, your testimony	20	who we are as an organization and what we do.
	has concluded. However, please be advised that	21	FACILITATOR KAINS: Ms. Gibson, if I
21		I ^^	111
21 22	there may be additional questions from the zoning	22	could interrupt you and just have you state your
21		22 23 24	could interrupt you and just have you state your name, spelling first and last names for the record, please.

Public Hearing September 20, 2022 Page 98 1 1 MS. GIBSON: Of course. My name is 2 2 Sylvia Gibson. S-Y-L-V-I-A, G-I-B-S-O-N. 3 3 FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, ma'am. 4 MS. GIBSON: So I represent the Asset 4 5 5 Optimization North Region, and I've been with the 6 company for about 12 years. My focus is on 6 7 optimizing performance of profitability of renewable 7 8 8 energy assets in my region and overall success. 9 9 My group is working on various 10 10 projects in the north, from Illinois to Minnesota, 11 and we basically perform asset management and 11 12 12 operations and maintenance. 13 I have one of my members of my team 13 14 with me, Steven Powell. He's been with the company 14 15 for over 23 years. He basically manages teams in 15 16 16 the north region, one of the areas of the north 17 regions. And he oversees about five teams today of 17 18 site managers and technicians, and this project 18 19 19 coming online would be in his jurisdiction, and he 20 20 would be overseeing this Livingston project once it 21 21 goes into operations. 22 22 Next, please. 23 23 So what we do and who we are. Asset 24 optimization is just a portion of EDF Renewables. 24 Page 99 1 We have about 655 employees. About 400 of those 1 2 2 employees are people supporting projects, operation 3 and maintenance people, working on the sites. We 3 4 have about 7.8 gigawatts in assets under management, 4 5 5 meaning we manage their regulatory compliance, 6 6 contracts. We are trying to assure commercial 7 7

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our company because I think it is very critical for you to understand. You know, we have a purpose and a mission, and it is our purpose, our company purpose, not only as an organization to save the planet and drive well-being and economic development in our communities, and we basically -- we live by our core values. Core values are very critical to us, and you see it's very unusual for a company to actually have seven of them. Safety, good sense, accountability, transparency, teamwork, respect, and passion. We are all about it. In fact, when I actually interview people, I first try to understand their character and if they belong with our company, if they can live by their values.

We build relationship with our communities, and we basically uplift them economically by being there from taxes, to landowner payments. We help communities.

Next, please.

Now, as I said, safety is one of our core values, and it's the number one core value. We have an extensive safety program. We have safety KPS (phonetic). We have values training that we try to make sure that our employees actually adhere to

success and financial performance as well as operational performance.

We also have an operation control bank, or control center, in San Diego where we have monitoring of about 10.4 gigawatts of all assets in North America, not only in the U.S.

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For me, from my perspective, the north region has about 1,600 megawatts of installed capacity, and we are expected to grow about 2.5 gigawatts between years 2024 and 2027. The north region is supported by a hundred-plus employees.

And as I said -- as I mentioned before, we do asset management, procurement, operation and maintenance. We also have monitoring, and we have a bunch of support teams to make sure that the wind farms and solar farms are successful. Next, please.

Now, let me tell you something about

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and go through. It's very critical for a company to actually make sure that all people go back home safe, unharmed, and they go back to their families.

We have emergency preparedness and response plans. We work with community energy services. We are a very responsible entity, company.

Next, please.

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As you've heard before, this project will help this community build new jobs, and we -- our organization is responsible for taking on those projects when they go into commercial operations, which is projected to be about the '25, '26 year.

Prior to -- prior to the project going commercial operations, meaning that all the construction has been finished and we are energized, we actually conduct interviews within the community, and we offer jobs to local members interested in becoming wind technicians and gain the experience. We have a very good training program. I'll talk about it in a few seconds, but primarily the jobs that are actually supporting the project are of those who are on-site. So site manager, he assures

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- 1 personal safety, he guides and coaches people, and
- 2 he interfaces with the landowners when -- especially
- 3 when we have maintenance issues, and we have to
- 4 replace a gear box. There are specifications for
- 5 landowners where we have to pass when we're going to
- 6 potentially get a truck, when this is going to
- 7 happen, how it's going to happen. We make sure that
  - we reimburse the landowners at the time for
- 9 the damaged craft, as is necessary obviously.
  - Before the landowner actually receives the payment,
- 11 we actually validate what sort of craft there was on
- 12 the acreage, on the land. We make sure that the
- 13 landowner is actually in agreement with the area
- 14 that was damaged, and we work with them to make sure
- 15 that contracts are satisfied and everybody is happy.

16 We also hire lead technicians who go

17 through the training program, and the training 18 program is pretty extensive. It has -- it has

19 various components from basic safety to systems

20 training, to an opportunity for a technician to

21 become a senior technician, advanced technician,

22 senior technician, multi-platform technician. You

23 name it, we have it.

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And then later when somebody wants to

Page 104

abatement. We have to do snow removal. We have to

2 fix the roads. There's various things that we need 3

support on, including drain tile repairs or

high-voltage support.

Next, please.

I just mentioned to you that we

7 have -- we have -- we're going to have positions for

8 technicians, and they will have the opportunity to

9 learn and train. Our technician training program is

10 certified by a global organization. That's very

11 important and critical for you to know. We have

12 different training sessions that are scheduled on an

13 ongoing basis. New technicians that are onboarding

14 from various placements throughout the country come

15 and join and go through the program. The technician

16 at first is expected within 21 days to basically

17 have a general technician training and then complete

18 its advanced technical training within six months.

19 The advanced technical training allows them to

20 perform preventative maintenance on the turbines.

21 That doesn't qualify them. They have to actually

22 troubleshoot and repair the turbines. It comes 23

along later. You have to get more experience and

potentially have more additional training, but it's

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move on with their career and change -- or maybe expand their expertise, we give them opportunities to potentially transition into other forms or with a different equipment or technology or solar plants.

So we also have asset managers. I used to be one when I actually hired -- got hired to the company 12 years ago, and our responsibility is to make sure that, you know, all financial, commercial, and contractual compliance actually happens, that we adhere to permits, that communities are satisfied, that all the state holders, not only investors, are satisfied, and those communications are ongoing, and local, federal, and state -- you know, authorities are in sync with what we are doing, and we are compliant.

It's very critical that we are also at the same time doing the right thing, we actually extract the highest value from the project. We want these turbines to run.

We -- and as you've heard before, as we hire on-site personnel, we also provide opportunities for local businesses to actually contribute to the ongoing maintenance of the project. We always have to -- we have to do weed Page 105

a fantastic opportunity for people to actually, you know, change their careers and develop new

3 experience.

Next, please.

One more time. What is this meaning to be a technician? When you are a technician, you

7 basically perform semi-annual and annual

8 maintenances, and those maintenances involve various

9 things from inspecting up-tower and down-tower

10 components, to grease application, and equipment

11 alignment, torquing and so on, and they also have to

12 sometimes perform unscheduled maintenances, those

13 that we don't plan for. We have failures, which

14 happens. And, like I mentioned, landowners

15 sometimes get impacted by that. They get pretty

16 skilled the longer they're with us, the more they

17 learn. And sometimes when we have adjacent projects

18 with similar platforms, we create synergies, and we

19 have each other and other projects to support the

20 maintenance of the turbines.

> So in a nutshell, we are here to serve the community and the business. We represent a team of hard-working people that are very committed and very -- and strongly believing in our

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	Page 106		Page 108
1	mission, our purpose, and our core values.	1	presentation, that's fine.
2	And on that note, I think that's it	2	MR. GERSHON: We'll bring up Scott
3	for me.	3	later to do that. Thank you.
4	FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you,	4	FACILITATOR KAINS: Any other
5	Ms. Gibson.	5	questions for Ms. Gibson or Mr. Powell from the
6	Mr. Gershon, do you have anything	6	board?
7	else to ask Ms. Gibson?	7	Questions for Ms. Gibson or
8	MR. GERSHON: No further questions.	8	Mr. Powell from units of local government?
9	Thank you.	9	Questions for Ms. Gibson or
10	FACILITATOR KAINS: Do you have	10	Mr. Powell from licensed attorneys representing any
11	anything for Mr. Powell?	11	interested parties?
12	MR. GERSHON: No. Mr. Powell is,	12	Questions from the general public?
13	again, here. Both of their questions would also be	13	And questions from Livingston County
14	questions you can do tomorrow.	14	staff and consultants?
15	FACILITATOR KAINS: Very good. Thank	15	MR. SCHOPP: We have no questions.
16	you.	16	FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, Chuck.
17	Members of the zoning board of	17	All right. Thank you, Ms. Gibson,
18	appeals, questions for Ms. Gibson or Mr. Powell?	18	Mr. Powell, and, Mr. Gershon.
19	MS. HUISMAN: Joan Huisman for	19	Just a reminder, Mr. Powell, if you
20	Ms. Gibson.	20	will be here tomorrow night, if there are additional
21	Is your operational department the	21	questions, we understand that Ms. Gibson is not
22	department that works with local fire departments	22	going to be here, but if there are questions, they
23	for safety, on-site safety, or training of the local	23	will be directed to Mr. Powell and perhaps to
24	fire protection districts in the event of an	24	Ms. Gibson, and we can work that out, Mr. Gershon.
	and procession anomalous an and overall or an		
	Page 107		Page 109
1	emergency, a fire, or other catastrophe on-site?	1	Just that reminder.
2	MS. GIBSON: So we have a safety	2	All right. You may call your next
3	department, health and safety department, which	3	witness.
4	actually prior to a project's operations, develops	4	MR. GERSHON: Thank you. At this
5	all the plans in accordance with the permit, and we	5	point, I'd like to call Rhett Good with Western
6	make sure that outside managers and the safety	6	EcoSystems. He's a senior biologist. And we are
7	departments are closely connected, and the project	7	back up to where we were when we moved the order of
8	is ready to work with those teams and those local	8	the slides, but, again, we'll go to this slide.
9	authorities.	9	And Rhett will, in part, be talking
10	MS. HUISMAN: So would that be a	10	about our Exhibit Number 25, which is the Western
11	different part of the presentation or	11	EcoSystems Technology report.
12	MS. GIBSON: I mentioned about	12	FACILITATOR KAINS: All right. Thank
13	safety. Safety was one of my slides, and I	13	you.
14	mentioned that the safety team or as I	14	Mr. Good, would you please raise your
15	MR. GERSHON: If I understood the	15	right hand and be sworn.
16	clarification, Scott Wentzell has been working with	16	(Witness sworn.)
17	the local fire departments. I'd be happy to call	17	FACILITATOR KAINS: All right.
18	him up to answer the questions if you have them.	18	Mr. Good, please state your name, spelling your
19	MS. HUISMAN: Okay. I just wanted to	19	first and last name for the record.
20	make sure that someone as part of the ordinance,	20	RHETT GOOD,
21	that someone's been in contact with the local fire	21	of lawful age, being produced and sworn, testifies
22	protection districts, and if there's training	22	and says:
23	provided, and if so, if we could hear more details	23	MR. GOOD: Yes. My name is Rhett
24	about that. If it's a future time during the	24	Good. R-H-E-T-T. Last name is G-O-O-D.

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FACILITATOR KAINS: You may proceed. MR. GOOD: Okay. Yes.

Well, thanks for your time tonight.

My name is Rhett Good. I'm a senior biologist and a certified wildlife biologist with WEST Incorporated. I've been involved in studies assessing the impacts of wind energy to wildlife for 24 years now, starting in Wyoming, and working the last 14 years here in the Midwest.

I'm going to be talking today about some studies that we completed in assessing wildlife and also addressing some of the questions you had about M-8.

So we've completed a number of studies on-site. These studies were in compliance with several guidance documents that have been developed on how the assessed risk of wind projects, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's land-based guidelines, as well as the eagle conservation plan guidance. Some of the studies we have completed included the tier 2 site characterizations that Taylor described earlier. We also have mapped habitat on the site that helped guide some of the setbacks that the DNR

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bald eagle nests recorded near the project, and the overall use of the project by birds is really similar to other wind energy projects that we've been involved with in Illinois that are in agricultural landscapes.

Next slide.

Use by Illinois threatened and endangered species was low, except for one species, the northern harrier. This is a species we see at most wind projects in Illinois, and they really are not very vulnerable to turbine collisions because they fly very low to the ground. It's part of their ecology and how they hunt.

Interestingly, we did observe two whooping cranes, which is an endangered species. Whooping cranes, despite being endangered, you know, were observed. I guess it shows the quality of our observers on-site. But one important thing to note is whooping cranes regularly fly over wind projects throughout the Midwest, and to date no fatalities have been recorded in the projects. Those two birds were not observed using the facility on the ground. They were flying over. So the risk to whooping cranes appears to be relatively low. They appear to

Page 111

recommend -- recommends. We've also completed multiple years of avian use surveys and eagle nest surveys on site.

I mentioned that multiple years of studies have been completed. These are based on the recommendations from the Fish and Wildlife Service, and it's a substantial effort. Over two years, we completed 748 hours of avian use surveys on-site at 24 different point count locations.

Next slide.

I'm just going to briefly go over some of the key findings from our studies. Probably the first, and most importantly, is the project really lacks a lot of important habitat for birds. Over 99 percent of the project consisted of tilled agriculture and developed areas, mowed grasslands that really don't provide high-quality habitat for birds. During our two years of study, we found relatively low rates of use by bald and golden eagles.

Just as a rough point of example, our technician had to complete surveys for roughly 57 hours before they observed a single bald eagle, which is a really low rate of use. There were no

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be able to see and avoid the turbines.

Another piece of evidence we used to assess risk are what sort of fatalities we observed at nearby wind projects, and to date no threatened or endangered bird species have been found as fatalities at nearby wind-energy facilities.

Regarding bats, you know, similarly, I think it's important to note that the project really lacks important habitat for bats. Very little forest is present. Currently no species -- no species currently listed as threatened or endangered have been found as fatalities at nearby wind projects.

There is one species that's currently proposed for listing, the tri-colored bat, that has been found in a number of facilities in Illinois. However, impacts to this species will be reduced by following IDNR recommendations for curtailment. I'll talk about that a little more later.

And I guess similar to other wind energy projects -- although the project lacks habitat, every wind project in Illinois has risks to the migratory tree bat species. Again, I want to talk about some of those measures the project will

Page 114 Page 116 1 1 use to reduce the impact. impacts. I guess I've said this twice, but I think 2 2 it's important to point out again that -- and the One of the most important measures 3 3 the project is using to reduce the bats are most important is that where this project has been 4 following the IDNR recommended setbacks, and so for 4 sited, it really lacks important habitat for birds 5 5 and bats. Again, over 99 percent of the project all turbines, except one location, the project is 6 6 able to follow IDNR recommendations for setting back area lacks high-quality habitat for birds and bats. 7 from streams and forested areas. 7 All but one of the turbines are sited per the 8 8 Illinois DNR recommendations. One turbine -- the one turbine that 9 9 is an exception is labeled as M-8, and I believe I did mention earlier that every 10 10 it's part of my -- or a couple of landowners who own project in Illinois has impact of migratory tree 11 the land at M-8 have submitted letters in support of 11 bats. So this is the reason why the Illinois DNR 12 12 this -recommends curtailment. So the project is committed 13 MR. GERSHON: If I could interrupt 13 to follow -- either following the IDNR 14 14 recommendations for reducing impacts to bats, or for a moment. 15 Our Exhibit Number 24 is both the 15 developing an approved adaptive management strategy EcoCAT review done by ID -- the Illinois Department 16 16 in coordination with the Illinois DNR that might 17 of Natural Resources, and at the back of that, 17 make use of some recent research completed at 18 you'll find a letter from Judith and Robert Rose to 18 surrounding facilities that will reduce bats impacts 19 the county board, regarding such turbine M-8 that 19 to similar levels, but do it in a different way. 20 20 we've been discussing. And then, finally, the Illinois DNR 21 MR. AHMAD: Syed Ahmad. Just a quick 21 has recommended three years of post-construction 22 22 question regarding the exhibits in this monitoring. So, you know, those studies will be 23 23 presentation. Are we referencing both 24 and both used to determine if the fact that the impact 24 24 predictions are correct. Page 115 Page 117 1 1 That's all I have. MR. GERSHON: Yes, we are. 2 2 MR. AHMAD: Thank you. FACILITATOR KAINS: Mr. Gershon, do 3 MR. GOOD: Regarding turbine M-8. So 3 you have any additional questions for Mr. Good? 4 the IDNR recommends a setback of a thousand feet 4 MR. GERSHON: No additional 5 5 questions. Thank you. from forested areas that are also located along 6 6 creeks known as forested areas. Turbine M-8 is FACILITATOR KAINS: Questions for 7 7 located closer to the thousand feet, but there will Mr. Good from the zoning board of appeals? 8 be no forest impacted by the construction of the 8 MS. HUISMAN: So I look in the letter 9 9 project, and I think it's important to note that that's included in Exhibit 24, that there's a list 10 this forested area really is very low quality. It's 10 of the state protected lands that are within the 11 very small. It meets just a very minimum size that 11 project vicinity. Did you contact any of the 12 would qualify for a recommendation from the DNR. 12 parties that either own or have been responsible for 13 And the forest, it really is not very mature. 13 developing those protected lands in trying to, I 14 14 So you add all this up, and there's guess, "develop" is the best word I can come up 15 15 really limited evidence that setting back the forest with, and encourage not just birds and bats, but 16 16 other species of pollinators or other is a strong measure for reducing impacts to birds, 17 and we don't anticipate obtaining variance to M-8 to 17 protected -- any kind of, I guess, even amphibians? 18 18 I mean, would these have an impact in your be a significant impact to birds or bats. 19 And along with all that, the project 19 professional opinion? Would it have an impact on 20 will undergo three years of post-construction 20 those -- anything other than birds and bats? 21 monitoring to determine if those predictions are 21 MR. GOOD: Right. Okay. Yeah, I 22 22 correct. think I'm following your question. 23 23 So I did allude to some of those So, yeah, the DNR recommends -- and I 24 measures earlier that the project is using to reduce 24 did mention those. I'm glad you brought those up.

#### Page 118 Page 120 1 1 So the Illinois DNR did recommend DNR has retracted some of the recommendations for 2 2 setbacks from -- I think some cemetery prairies and aquatic. 3 3 railroad prairies that do provide, I think, some So that's a long way of saying I 4 remnant prairie and also provide habitat for some 4 don't -- I don't believe there's going to be impact 5 5 to other species, especially given the setbacks of insects and such. The project is complying with the 6 6 Illinois DNR recommendations for setting back from the project they're using. 7 those. It's 1 mile from official nature preserves, 7 MS. HUISMAN: With regard to that 8 8 and I believe a quarter of a mile from Illinois turbine M-8, the one that doesn't meet the setback 9 9 natural inventory areas. So Illinois DNR feels like requirement, did you review any -- the siting of 10 10 that turbine with anyone from IDNR? that's a measure to use to reduce impacts to all 11 wildlife, not just birds and bats. 11 MR. GOOD: We have not reviewed that 12 12 MS. HUISMAN: And so with respect to turbine specifically with the DNR, no. 13 those protected lands, are there -- are the 13 MS. HUISMAN: Okay. Is it possible 14 14 to not locate that turbine there, and that there's turbines -- are the turbines close to each one of 15 those? I mean, I have a particular interest in the 15 no other spot on that property in which the 16 Gardner Prairie Reconstruction, wondering if you 16 to-be-located turbine that would be -- would meet 17 spoke with Mr. Gardner or the other educators that 17 the setback requirement, recommendation? 18 take kids out there and encourage kids to become 18 MR. GOOD: Scott can address that 19 19 educated on the species that are actually present in 20 20 those prairie areas? MS. HUISMAN: Okay. If you want to 21 MR. GOOD: No, we have not contacted 21 address it later, that's fine. 22 22 Mr. Gardner. That was all I had. 23 23 FACILITATOR KAINS: Very good. Thank MS. HUISMAN: So it's your testimony 24 that there's no impact on any of the other species, 24 you, Madam Chair. Page 119 Page 121 1 or you just studied birds and bats within the 1 Any other questions for Mr. Good from 2 2 footprint of this proposed wind farm? the board? 3 MR. GOOD: Well, like I said, I think 3 Questions from members of units of 4 Illinois DNR takes all of those potential impacts 4 local government? 5 5 into account when they're recommending setbacks. Questions for Mr. Good from licensed 6 6 So, you know, the DNR is concerned about, you know, attorneys representing interested parties? 7 7 Questions from any member of the pollinators, potential impacts to the aquatic 8 8 resources, and all that is wrapped into their public? 9 9 recommendations. So the project has complied with And questions from Livingston County 10 all the Illinois DNR recommendations from those 10 staff and consultants? 11 properties you're mentioning. 11 MR. SCHOPP: We have no questions at 12 And, yeah, I don't really 12 this time. 13 13 FACILITATOR KAINS: Thank you, Chuck. anticipate -- in my experience, I've never seen any 14 sort of impact of pollinators, aquatic species from 14 All right. Mr. Good, you may step 15 wind turbines. 15 down, but keep in mind that we may have questions 16 16 We were part of one study -- there for you tomorrow. 17 17 was one study in Illinois that actually addressed MR. GOOD: Okay. Thank you. 18 that. It was part of some county requirement in 18 FACILITATOR KAINS: All right. Very 19 McLean County. And I think there was a lot of 19 good. 20 20 concern that the vibration noises would transfer in MS. HUISMAN: We were just briefly 21 21 discussing the timing and whether or not we could the water and have an impact to those listed aquatic 22 22 species in the area. It turns out that those get to another witness. It's 8:58 at this point in 23 vibration sounds didn't even travel far enough to be 23 time, and the zoning board members need to look at 2.4 2.4 recorded by sound operators, and since that study, some dates for future hearings. So I think we're

going to call recess to tonight's hearing, and we'll reconvene tomorrow night at 6:00 o'clock, the same location, for everyone that's interested.  All right. Thank you. I appreciate your time tonight, and we'll be in recess:  MR. GIRSHION: Thank you. We appreciate your time tonight, and we'll be in recess.  MR. GIRSHION: Thank you. We appreciate your time and consideration.  (Hearing ended 9:00 p.m.)  CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER  I. Ann Marie Hollo, Certified  Shorthand Reporter, Registered Diplomate Reporter, and Certified Realtime Reporter, within and for the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing hearing was taken and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by he parties to the action in which this hearing was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties interested in the outcome of the action.  Dated this 26th day of September,  Certified Shorthand Reporter  State of Illinois			
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