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1	4/16/2024 <b>-</b> Pra	ttsburgh Wind, LLC - 21-00749
2	STATE OF NEW YORK OFF	ICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING (ORES)
3		(ONLO)
4		G PERMIT FOR A ABLE ENERGY FACILITY
5		
6		IN
7 8		ca, Cohocton, Howard, urgh, and Wheeler,
0	St	euben County
9		ISSUED TO
10		burgh Wind, LLC
11		
12	ORES DMM	Matter No. 21-00749
13	OD	AT ADCIMENT
14	UR.	AL ARGUMENT
1 -	DATE:	April 16, 2024 at 12:55 p.m.
15	VENUE:	WebEx
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17		ALJ DAWN MACKILLOP-SOLLER  ALJ CHRISTOPHER MCENENEY CHAN
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21	Reported by Annett	e Lainson
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2	(The proceeding commenced at 11:05
3	a.m.)
4	THE REPORTER: We're on the record.
5	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
6	Ms. Lainson.
7	We are on the record for the oral
8	argument in the matter of Prattsburgh Wind, L.L.C.,
9	matter number 21-00749. The date is Tuesday, April
10	16th, 2024. And the time is 11:05 a.m.
11	My name is Dawn MacKillop-Soller. I'm
12	the administrative law judge along with
13	Administrative Law Judge Christopher McEneney Chan,
14	assigned to handle this oral argument this morning.
15	As stated in the notice of oral
16	argument issued on April 10, 2024, pursuant to 19
17	N.Y.C.R.R. 900-8.381, the administrative law judges
18	have determined that oral argument is necessary to
19	give the panelists here today the opportunity to
20	respond to arguments raised in ORES Staff's and
21	Applicant's responses filed on April 2nd, 2024 which
22	were in response to municipality and intervenor
23	petitions for full party status and statements of
24	local law compliance and supplements to the
25	petitions.

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2	There are four issues to be discussed
3	today. I will handle the first two issues and
4	Administrative Law Judge Christopher McEneney Chan
5	will handle the second two issues. We may have
6	questions following your arguments today. And we
7	will proceed with the first issue after I place
8	appearances of everyone, the panelists only, on the
9	record.
10	And I would begin with you, Mr.
11	Muscato, on behalf of the Applicant. Are you
12	appearing on behalf of the Applicant today and is
13	anyone else appearing with you from your law firm?
14	MR. MUSCATO: Good morning. Yes, your
15	Honor. Jim Muscato, appearing on behalf of the
16	Applicant, Prattsburgh Wind, L.L.C., as well along
17	with my colleague, Jessica Klami.
18	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
19	Ms. Klami, I would ask that you
20	introduce yourself for the record, please.
21	MS. KLAMI: Yes, thank you, your
22	Honor. This is Jessica Klami. I am a partner at
23	Young Sommer on behalf of the Applicant.
24	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
25	Ms. Klami.

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2	And as we continue with noting
3	appearances for the record, Ms. Lainson, as a court
4	reporter, I would ask that you please put your video
5	on if you could?
6	THE REPORTER: Yes. I'm sorry.
7	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: No, that's
8	fine. Thank you. That would be helpful.
9	So I'd like to turn to, now, for
10	appearances for Mr. Kanyuck. Mr. Kanyuck, can you
11	please state your name and who you represent?
12	MR. KANYUCK: Good morning, your
13	Honor. My name is Dwight Kanyuck. I represent the
14	Towns of Cohocton and the Town of Prattsburgh.
15	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
16	Mr. Kanyuck.
17	Mr. Pullen, on behalf of the Town of
18	Fremont, I'll turn to you now, sir. Are you here?
19	MR. PULLEN: Yes, Your Honor. I am
20	appearing on behalf of the Town of Fremont, Seth
21	Pullen, an attorney with the firm of Richardson,
22	Pullen, and Buck, P.C.
23	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
24	Mr. Pullen.
25	And I'd like to turn to Mr. Mullen on

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2	behalf of the Towns of Avoca, Howard, and Wheeler.
3	MR. MULLEN: Good morning, your Honor.
4	Aaron Mullen for the Towns of Avoca, Howard, and
5	Wheeler.
6	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
7	And Dr. Sokolaw, are you here? Are
8	you present on behalf of Prattsburgh Preservation
9	Alliance?
10	I'm just checking the attendees to see
11	if Dr. Sokolaw is in with the attendees by any
12	chance. Is there a representative from Prattsburgh
13	Preservation Alliance present as a panelist? All
14	right. We we're starting with appearances. So
15	we'll see if Dr. Sokolaw is able to join us as we
16	continue with appearances.
17	Mr. Oehlbeck, can you please place
18	your name on the record?
19	MR. OEHLBECK: Yes. My name is Marty
20	Oehlbeck.
21	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
22	Mr. Oehlbeck. And can you spell your name, please?
23	MR. OEHLBECK: Yes. O-E-H-L-B-E-C-K.
24	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
25	And I turn to ORES staff at this time.

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2	And I would turn to Ms. Tooher as General Counsel for
3	the Office of Renewable Energy Siting. Ms. Tooher,
4	can you please state your name for record?
5	MS. TOOHER: Certainly, your Honor.
6	Meave Tooher, General Counsel here at ORES. Your
7	Honor, I would comment that you are a bit garbled as
8	I'm hearing you. I don't know if anyone else is
9	having that experience?
10	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: All right.
11	Thank you for letting me know. I'll see if I can fix
12	that. And I can speak up as well. Is that better?
13	MS. TOOHER: No.
14	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: All right.
15	Let me see here. I see Dr. Sokolaw joined us.
16	Dr. Sokolaw, good morning. You're
17	muted.
18	DR. SOKOLAW: Good morning.
19	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Dr. Sokolaw,
20	can you hear me okay?
21	DR. SOKOLAW: It's garbled. And I had
22	difficulty getting on, too.
23	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Okay. Let
24	me see if I can fix the audio. All right. Is that a
25	little bit better? Can everybody hear me okay?

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2	DR. SOKOLAW: That's better.
3	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Is that
4	still is it I can speak up, too. I can raise
5	my voice a little bit to make sure everyone can hear
6	me okay.
7	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: It's still a
8	little garbled, but someone's going to try and bring
9	you a microphone to see if we can get the audio a
10	little bit better.
11	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Okay.
12	Great. Thank you very much.
13	MS. TOOHER: Your Honor, I believe
14	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes.
15	MS. TOOHER: Are you using the Wi-Fi
16	in the courtroom?
17	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes, I
18	believe I am on it.
19	MS. TOOHER: Directly through the
20	Ethernet, it's a better connection.
21	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yeah, I did
22	plug that in as a back-up, so I should be all set.
23	All right. Let me just see let me try to fix this
24	quickly.
25	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Should we go

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2	off the record while we address the audio issue?
3	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: I think I
4	can do this kind of quickly. Let me make sure
5	everyone can hear me okay. Can everyone hear me
6	okay?
7	DR. SOKOLAW: That's better.
8	MR. MUSCATO: Better.
9	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Is that
10	better? Is the headset better? Can everyone hear me
11	a little bit better?
12	DR. SOKOLAW: It's the same.
13	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: It's the
14	same? Okay. Okay. Can everyone hear me okay?
15	MR. MUSCATO: I can.
16	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: I'm just
17	testing this. Can everyone hear me?
18	MR. MUSCATO: Okay. It's still
19	garbled.
20	DR. SOKOLAW: You you're still
21	garbling in and out.
22	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Okay. Can
23	everybody hear me okay?
24	DR. SOKOLAW: It sounds like a
25	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Is that

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2	better? Dr. Sokolaw, can you hear me?
3	DR. SOKOLAW: It's garbled, but I can
4	understand what you're saying.
5	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: All right.
6	If everyone could just give me one moment, so I can
7	address this. I'll have it fixed in under two
8	minutes. Just give me a moment.
9	(Off-the-record discussion)
10	THE REPORTER: We're back on the
11	record.
12	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: All right.
13	Thank you.
14	So let's continue with introduction.
15	Dr. Sokolaw, if you could please just introduce
16	yourself again for the record?
17	DR. SOKOLAW: I'm Alice Sokolaw and
18	I'm a board member of the Prattsburgh Preservation
19	Alliance.
20	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
21	Dr. Sokolaw. Is anyone else here with you today from
22	Prattsburgh Preservation Alliance?
23	MS. SOKOLAW: On the line, I no.
24	In the meeting, no, huh-uh.
25	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Okay. Thank

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2	you, Dr. Sokolaw. I appreciate you noting your
3	appearance.
4	And I'd just like to go back to ORES
5	staff. General Counsel need to introduce yourself
6	for the record. Ms. Tooher, who is representing ORES
7	staff or appearing on behalf of ORES staff in the
8	oral argument?
9	MS. TOOHER: Yes, your Honor. Thank
10	you. Deputy Counsel Hayley Carlock and Associate
11	Counsel Will Bittinger.
12	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you
13	very much. So Ms. Carlock, I'll turn to you to state
14	your name, please, for the record.
15	MS. CARLOCK: Sure. Thank you.
16	Hayley Carlock, Deputy Counsel ORES.
17	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
18	Ms. Carlock.
19	And Mr. Bittinger?
20	MR. BITTINGER: Hi, William Bittinger,
21	Associate Counsel ORES.
22	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
23	Mr. Bittinger.
24	And I'd like to introduce
25	Administrative Law Judge Christopher McEneney Chan.

Page 11 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 2 Judge McEneney Chan, can you introduce yourself to 3 everyone at this time? A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Yes. 5 morning, everyone. Thank you for being here today. As Judge MacKillop-Soller said, I'm Christopher 7 McEneney Chan. I'll be co-presiding on this oral argument. 9 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you 10 very much, Judge McEneney Chan. I believe I've had 11 all of the panelists introduce themselves. 12 ready to begin with the oral argument. 13 We'll begin with issue number one. 14 Issue number one is whether the final siting permit 15 should include a site-specific condition to ensure 16 that the noise design goals and limits set forth in Part 900 are met on a cumulative basis. 17 18 Mr. Muscato, I will begin with you on 19 behalf of the Applicant, and also Ms. Klami. 20 sure who will be presenting the oral argument today 21 from your law firm, but you can begin at this time. 22 MS. KLAMI: Hi, your Honor. This is And Mr. Muscato may pipe in, but I 23 Jessica Klami. 24 will be presenting the oral argument today. 25 On behalf of the Applicant with

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Page 12 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 respect to the cumulative noise issue, the Applicant would note that the facility complies with ORES and town noise standards, and that the submissions by the Town of Cohocton did acknowledge that the Applicant used conservative assumptions in the modeling, and that the calculated sound levels are likely higher than what actually occur. At all six locations where cumulative sound is modeled above 45 dBA, Prattsburgh Wind meets the town and ORES sound limits. Only one location, Receptor 1963, has a contribution higher from Prattsburgh Wind than the surrounding facilities. The five other locations, Prattsburgh Wind does not contribute to an increase in sound beyond the existing modeled levels. With respect to Receptor 1963, the Applicant has reviewed the site-specific condition proposed by ORES staff in their response and believes

a resolution can be achieved to reduce the sound impacts at this location as outlined in ORES's response.

So the Applicant is considering the site-specific condition. Overall, we generally do not object to what ORES has in their issue statement.

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2	And we are looking to work with ORES to resolve the
3	issue through through the implementation of a
4	site-specific condition.
5	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Ms. Klami,
6	does that complete your oral argument, this morning?
7	MS. KLAMI: Yes, it does. With
8	respect to this issue, yes, your Honor.
9	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Okay. Thank
10	you, Ms. Klami. I have a couple of follow-up
11	questions. You indicated that the Applicant is
12	considering the site-specific condition. Can you
13	explain yourself on what that means, exactly? Is
14	Applicant agreeing to the site-specific condition
15	proposed by ORES staff?
16	MS. KLAMI: So the Applicant has
17	reviewed the site-specific condition and the text of
18	ORES staff's response and had a few clarifying
19	questions for ORES staff since the as I just
20	explained, Prattsburgh Wind is contribution is
21	higher from Prattsburgh Wind at this one specific
22	location.
23	And so our discussions with ORES, we
24	want to make sure that the site-specific condition
25	captures what we believe is both the Applicant and

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2	ORES's understanding that in instances where the
3	Applicant is not contributing to an increase in
4	sound, there isn't also some sort of obligation to
5	mitigate our sound as in those situations mitigation
6	wouldn't reduce the sound impacts anyway.
7	So really, we're just seeking
8	clarification and some edits to the site-specific
9	condition to make it clear that the Applicant's
10	responsibility to perform mitigation would be only in
11	those situations where Prattsburgh Wind is
12	contributing at an equal or higher level than the
13	surrounding facilities to the modeled sound impacts.
14	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
15	Ms. Klami. Does the Applicant's agreement include
16	completing updating updated noise modeling as a
17	pre-construction compliance filing?
18	MS. KLAMI: Yes, your Honor, it does.
19	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: And the
20	updated noise modeling, if I could just understand or
21	have clarification on what that would include. Would
22	it include current conditions? And what I mean by
23	that is would it include the surrounding wind
24	facilities including the re-powered Cohocton Wind
25	Project and Barron Winds Phase II?

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2	MS. KLAMI: Yes, it would. Depending
3	on what information is available at the time for
4	Phase II, which I I hope that the information is
5	fully available and public at that time. And we have
6	already, in response to the issues raised by the Town
7	of Cohocton, have begun to incorporate the re-
8	powering from Cohocton into our analysis.
9	And so it is our full intent to, when
10	we do the updated noise modeling, that the sound
11	power levels that are publicly available to the
12	Applicant at the time that that is conducted will be
13	included in that.
14	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
15	Ms. Klami. And the updated noise modeling that you
16	are speaking about, will that be cumulative noise
17	modeling and
18	MS. KLAMI: Yes.
19	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: it will
20	still be and okay. So that would be cumulative
21	noise modeling taking into account current
22	conditions; correct?
23	MS. KLAMI: Correct. And I just I
24	just want to clarify, because the Town of Cohocton
25	did put in their submission that they were looking

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2	for additional ambient sound testing, that is not
3	what we're proposing. What we're proposing is to
4	update the sound modeling with the sound power levels
5	from the turbine manufacturers.
6	So we are not proposing to conduct any
7	on-the-ground sound monitoring, as outlined in our
8	response, but we will update the sound modeling to
9	include updated information from those surrounding
10	projects.
11	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: And this
12	would be on a pre-construction basis; correct?
13	MS. KLAMI: Correct.
14	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: And this is
15	something different than sound measurements? Am I
16	understanding this correctly?
17	MS. KLAMI: That is correct, yes.
18	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: You
19	mentioned mitigation, Ms. Klami. Can you explain a
20	little bit more what you meant by mitigation? And if
21	we could just play out or I would propose a
22	hypothetical to you. If your cumulative noise
23	modeling pre-construction show results of cumulative
24	noise levels at or above the ORES requirements, what
25	would the mitigation efforts look like? Can you

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2	describe those?
3	MS. KLAMI: Yes. So in those
4	situations for the turbines that were predicted to
5	impact that receptor, the Applicant would have to
6	propose noise reduction operations at those turbines,
7	which is a mechanical mechanism to reduce the sound
8	at those turbine locations. So the sound power
9	levels would be reduced, essentially the turbines
10	would be operating in reduced capacity mode, and the
11	turbines in those situations would reduce their sound
12	contribution such that the modeled result results
13	indicate that the receptors are at the design limits
14	for the facility.
15	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
16	Ms. Klami. I do not have any further questions.
17	And I'd like to just take the
18	panelists a little bit out of order at this time in
19	terms of ORES staff for a response to Ms. Klami's
20	oral argument.
21	Ms. Carlock, if you could let me know
22	who is a representative of ORES staff? Is that
23	yourself today?
24	MS. CARLOCK: Thank you, your Honor.
25	Yes, I will be representing ORES staff as to issues

Page 18 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 one, two, and three, including this one, and Mr. 3 Bittinger will be representing staff with regards to the fourth issue. 5 So in response to --. A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you, Ms. Carlock. MS. CARLOCK: Thank you. response to Ms. -- Ms. Klami, it appears that there, 10 you know, is no dispute then at this point between 11 Staff and the Applicant as to the general concept of 12 conducting the pre-construction sound modeling on a 13 cumulative basis, using the most up-to-date 14 information both regarding the Applicant's chosen 15 turbine model, once they selected that, and the most 16 up-to-date publicly available information regarding the existing facilities. 17 18 As Ms. Klami said, we have not yet had 19 an opportunity to further discuss this additional 20 language that the Applicant has proposed. 21 something that Staff would have to consider. 22 Staff would also be very interested in the Town's 23 perspective and whether the Town of Cohocton would be 24 interested in entering into such a stipulation. 25 Just to cover the point about ambient

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1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 noise survey versus conducting additional noise 3 modeling, Staff agrees with the Applicant that the best way to accurately project noise levels, both on 5 a cumulative or individual basis, is through the noise modeling which, in this case, the Town's proposed expert, Mr. Bell, agreed that the noise methodology that the Applicant has used is sound and well accepted, and also that the results of their 10 analysis, again, both on a cumulative and individual 11 basis, represent a reasonable worst case scenario. 12 In other words, the models results are 13 likely to be worse or louder than the true sound. 14 The other issue with doing an ambient 15 sound survey as the Town has proposed is that the 16 Applicant has, of course, no control over whether the 17 other existing facilities are operating and at what 18 If they happen to be offline or some of capacity. 19 the turbines happen to be offline at any given time 20 or if they are being curtailed for any reason, that would mean that it wouldn't be an accurate noise 21 22 survey or, again, representing worst case scenario. 23 And that's something that neither Staff nor the 24 Applicant can control.

So we believe that this is a

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Page 20 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC reasonable path forward that will ensure that the 3 Town and the community are protected. The 45 dBA level sound limit that's set forth in 19 N.Y.C.R.R. 5 900-2.8 is based on standards for public health and And we do believe that, in this circumstance, given the number of additional wind facilities in the nearby area, this additional condition to ensure that public health and safety is 10 protected in the town is warranted. And we look forward to further discussing this with the Applicant 11 12 and perhaps with the Town, as well. 13 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: 14 Ms. Carlock. And I have one question for you. 15 all cases, at the completion of the cumulative sound 16 modeling that Applicant is proposing to complete on a 17 pre-construction basis meets the ORES sound level 18 limits, what would be ORES's requirements or what 19 would be ORES's -- what would be ORES's -- ORES's 20 view regarding mitigation, taking into account raised 21 or higher cumulative noise from surrounding wind 22 facilities even if Prattsburgh Winds' results come 23 back to be within ORES's requirements for noise? 2.4 MS. CARLOCK: I'm sorry; you're 25 breaking up a little bit. Let me make sure I

Page 21 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 understood your question correctly. Are you asking 3 whether if they conduct the pre-construction noise modeling as set forth in the proposed site-specific 5 condition and if Prattsburgh does not cause any exceedances of the 45 dBA limit, but it's shown that the other existing facilities are over 45 dBA, whether we would require mitigation? you're asking? 10 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: That was my question. What would be the mitigation, if any, that 11 12 ORES Staff would require? 13 MS. CARLOCK: If the Prattsburgh Wind 14 facility is not contributing to an increase in sound 15 level, so just to be clear, a hypothetical, if the 16 existing facilities that are not the subject of -- of 17 this proceeding are currently emitting 48 dBA, for 18 example, and Prattsburgh is emitting 40 dBA, but the 19 cumulative sound level is still just 48 dBA, then we 20 would not require any mitigation. Thank you, 21 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: 22 Ms. Carlock. What if the results were higher than 23 that and something along the lines of 50 dBA, would 24 mitigation be required? 25 MS. CARLOCK: If the Prattsburgh

Page 22 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -2 facility is causing an increase in sound levels that 3 is above 45 dBA, then yes, we would require mitigation. 5 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Do you have an idea of what that mitigation would look like, or not at this time? MS. CARLOCK: I do not at this time, not beyond what Ms. Klami suggested. But I do know 10 that such technology exists and is in use at other facilities and is well accepted as an appropriate 11 12 mitigation measure. 13 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you, 14 Ms. Carlock. 15 Next, I will turn to Mr. Kanyuck on 16 behalf of the Town of Cohocton. 17 MR. KANYUCK: Thank you, your Honor. 18 As -- as you're all aware, the -- the Town of 19 Cohocton petitioned with respect to the issue of 20 cumulative noise, the concern being that the -- the 21 modeling that was done, while conservative, did not 22 represent the actual turbines that are currently in 23 place with -- with respect to the existing facilities in Cohocton. 24 25 There is 72 other turbines in town and

Page 23 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 we advocated for -- you know, to ensure that the 3 existing conditions were understood for a noise study performed in -- under conditions where the existing 5 turbines were fully operation. We did ask Mr. Bell to review the proposed site-specific conditions that -- that ORES made. And based on his recommendation in reviewing with the town, the town would support that site 10 specific condition and -- and would enter -- and be willing to enter into a stipulation after further 11 discussions on it. 12 13 But as -- as presented, it addresses 14 the Town's concerns. 15 I think we would want to make sure 16 that the -- the current turbines that are present and 17 planned for Cohocton that are existing are -- are in the model and our -- the -- our expert is of the 18 19 opinion that -- that the pre-construction filing 20 modeling would help to ensure that the ORES standards 21 are met in conjunction with -- with post-construction 22 operational surveying. 23 So in sum -- in sum, we are supportive 24 of the proposed site-specific condition. 25 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,

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2	Mr. Kanyuck. So just to confirm, so I understand and
3	the record is clear, the Town of Cohocton is in
4	agreement with the S.S.C. that that was proposed
5	ORES Staff. Is that correct?
6	MR. KANYUCK: That is correct.
7	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Are there
8	any changes or revisions or any suggestions that you
9	have for the site-specific condition? Or the Town of
10	Cohocton is in agreement with it as as it is
11	proposed?
12	MR. KANYUCK: We we're in
13	agreement as proposed.
14	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Okay. Thank
15	you, Mr. Kanyuck.
16	I would next turn to Dr. Sokolaw on
17	behalf of the Prattsburgh Preservation Alliance.
18	Thank you, Dr. Sokolaw.
19	DR. SOKOLAW: Okay. I do have a few
20	questions. Under the assessment for public comments,
21	page one forty-two, the cumulative noise was to be
22	measured by a case-to-case basis. And I don't
23	interpret it as a site-to-site basis. In other
24	words, I don't think one site is going to represent
25	the cumulative impact.

Page 25 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 And why I say that, Epsilon has been 3 the acoustical evaluator since the beginning of the ORES project. In 9/26/2020, the cumulative noise in 5 the first incomplete report was 48 dB for the whole And they had no standard to compare with and there was no standard met. That was table 7.3 on the D.M.M. 16. In that footnote, it said the 10 cumulative analysis was only run for receptors that 11 have the potential to experience cumulative impact 12 for the Cohocton and Baron Winds project for the twomile zone. And under that, it said there were 13 14 multiple numbers, I have them on the previous page, 15 that did not meet the 45. The I.D. 22 -- 2333 had 48 16 dB. 2364 had 50 dB. 735 had 54. 17 And then, they did make note again, at 18 the beginning -- now this is at the beginning, 19 remember, this is two years ago, that there was a 20 significant discrepancy for Residence 1963 where the 21 cumulative sound for the project contributed 7 dB. 22 So that's -- that's very significant. 23 And I don't know if that's the only 24 place where this project, Prattsburgh, attributes 7 25 dB to the project. In other words, I don't think

Page 26 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 it's masking it as much as they say it is, especially 3 from their own documents. And then, they said the same thing 5 again in the incomplete status in -- of 11 -- let me see -- no, 6/20/23. They didn't recognize all of the participating receptors. And in there, they actually acknowledge that the receptors that the Town of Prattsburgh included, under non-participating residents, had to be within the contour, the 45 dB, 10 which were in question, T-one, T-four, T-five, T-six, 11 12 and T-nine, which means -- I quess, there is a 13 cumulative impact if they are using the same turbine 14 throughout. 15 Are they using your model, because on 16 their website up until January of this year, they 17 were using three models. And that -- that changes 18 the way that the information from the -- that goes 19 into the SCADA system and the programs that are used, 20 and are they compatible? 21 In Baron Winds I, I think there's a 22 problem with compatibility of the Siemens Gamesas 23 with the Vestas. And so they can't interpret it. 24 And what happens is some of the turbines are not 25 aligned with the other turbines and the wind, and so

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2	the noise increases. And so I guess, I have to have
3	clarity on whether there's one turbine being chosen
4	or more than one.
5	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you
6	very much, Dr. Sokolaw.
7	Mr. Oehlbeck, can you hear me okay?
8	Mr. Oehlbeck, are you there?
9	MR. OEHLBECK: Sorry, I was on mute.
10	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
11	Mr. Oehlbeck. It's time for you to place an argument
12	on the record if you would like to do that at this
13	time, sir. Would you like to do that?
14	MR. OEHLBECK: I would. I would, yes.
15	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes, you can
16	go ahead.
17	MR. OEHLBECK: As a general statement,
18	my reading of the assessment of public comments, page
19	48, is cumulative in nature. Section 900-2.8 is also
20	cumulative. And 900-6.5 describes all noises from
21	the wind facilities with an I.E.S., in parentheses,
22	so therefore plural.
23	Cohocton compliance testing also
24	measures sound received at a property line from any
25	source or sources irrespective of the owner.

Page 28 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 Cumulative is explicit or inherent in all four cases. 3 Prattsburgh Wind is the third or fourth wind project with the fifth substation 5 proposed in the Brown Hill area. Not surprisingly, previous projects have consumed almost all of the allowable noise budget across the region, forcing Prattsburgh to select locations with utmost care and caution. 10 Applicant's position is that they should really only be responsible when they are a 11 12 majority contributor. Given that there are several 13 other projects ahead of them, I feel that that's a --14 a very bold statement. 15 Moving on to the ORES responses, Staff 16 expressed a concern that the Baron Winds information 17 that I pointed to as the most recent information may 18 not have been publicly available for the Applicant. 19 However, other previous Baron Winds information from 20 that case which is 15-F-0122, contains identical or 21 similar information dating back to 2017. 22 For example, Staff should review case 23 number 15-F-0122, document number 805, which includes a narrative version of decibel offsets and rationale 24 25 when converting between time weighted average noise

Page 29 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 measurements and more instantaneous readings as 3 required for compliance testing. That document, number 805, is a Young 5 and Sommer memo confirming that compliance demonstration requires an appropriate conversion to align with the L.E.Q. 15-second 3 consecutive This Young and Sommer memo measurement criteria. also contains a footnote tracing back to the 2007, 10 also which is often referred to as a P.N.I.A. 11 That document referred to, this earlier document as document number 146. That's an 12 13 It is really document number 145 in case 15-14 F-0122.15 Page two of this P.N.I.A. clearly 16 shows a regulatory limit for Cohocton as a 45 dBA 15-17 second 3 consecutive measurement L.E.Q. format. 18 footnote on that page ties it to compliance 19 monitoring results from the original Cohocton Wind 20 Project. These documents were all publicly available 21 to the Applicant and illustrate that 45 dBA time 22 average measurements aren't sufficient to demonstrate 23 regulatory compliance. 2.4 I would also point out this sound 25 modeling approach and the results were approved by a

Page 30 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -Commission ruling on December 29th, 2022. 3 be found as document number 713 in that same case, 15-F-0122. 5 Staff also concludes that I do not make a showing that the facility does not comply with local law. They are correct. The noise study submission by the Applicant was so flawed that such a showing is not 10 possible from the erroneous data presented. That was 11 a point I tried to make clear. The fact that Staff 12 recommended a new revised study indicates the same and indicates I manifested a substantive issue in 13 14 this case. 15 The Staff recommendation of a revised 16 sound study using up-to-date information is a good 17 start. Amongst other flaws, both the Applicant 18 response and the sound expert affidavit give the 19 impression that all of the G.E. turbines in the 20 Cohocton Wind project power re-power have low noise 21 trailing edge configurations. 22 The information supplied by Terraform 23 to the Cohocton Town Planning Board in the form of a 24 June 2019 supplemental environmental assessment 25 indicated that only 17 of the 50 G.E. turbines were

Page 31 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 2 to be equipped with this low noise feature. 3 Obviously, the application -- the Applicant still lacks reliable information currently. 5 However, Staff recommendations do not go far enough regarding noise for Cohocton residents. As I outlined, there is a regulatory limit for Cohocton in addition to the ORES project goal. the select few residents falling within the Cohocton Town boundaries in the overlapping project area where 10 noise could be cumulative, the Applicant should also 11 12 clearly demonstrate compliance with regulatory 13 limits. Applicant has indicated that they will 14 adhere to this. 15 Finally, I would like to address 16 Staff's review of Mr. Bell's input with their comment 17 that Prattsburgh Wind would not contribute to an 18 increase in noise. While mathematically, a decibel 19 addition calculation does not yield much increase, 20 this is an oversimplification of the issue. 21 The addition of the Prattsburgh Wind 22 equipment will add noise during quieter periods for 23 First, for anyone near the substation, that substation noise is 24/7/365 with only minor 24 25 fluctuations due to transformer loading and fan on,

Page 32 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 fan off noise deviations. 3 Second, the Prattsburgh turbine height of almost 700 feet dwarfs the adjacent Cohocton Wind 5 turbines and exceeds those of the neighboring Baron Winds 550- and 600-foot turbines. Thus, the Prattsburgh turbine will engage in wind conditions earlier and more often. 9 This is one of the primary reasons why 10 Prattsburgh asked for height variances. However, the 11 result is a higher level of total average noise for 12 nearby residents. Thank you very much. 13 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: 14 Oehlbeck, thank you very much. 15 Okav. We are ready to move on to 16 issue two and that completes oral argument on issue 17 If there is going to be a stipulation by --18 that would be incorporating ORES Staff's proposed by 19 S.S.C., I would just note for the record that the administrative law judges would require that in 20 21 writing prior to May 2nd, which is the issues ruling 22 deadline date. So I'd like to turn to issue two at 23 And that issue is whether the final 24 this time. 25 siting permit should include additional conditions

Page 33 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 related to impacts to certain threatened and 3 endangered, T and E, species recently discovered in the project area. 5 I would note for this issue, ORES Staff and Applicant have stipulated to the type of T and E species involved and its location, which I just need to remind all the panelists today for confidentiality purposes, we do not need to refer to 10 the specific species, necessarily, or the location of the nests or the number -- the specific number of the 11 12 turbines involved. What I mean by that is the 13 turbine numbers, themselves. 14 So let's go ahead and start with 15 Applicant. Ms. Klami, are you ready? 16 MS. KLAMI: Yes, Your Honor. 17 will do my best. I have this written up as vaguely 18 as I can to maintain the confidentiality on this 19 issue. Overall, as outlined in the Applicant's 20 response to issues, the newly identified location of 21 the T and E species does not change the conclusions 22 in the application or warrant changes to the draft 23 permit and the facility as currently proposed with 24 the conditions of the draft permit, including the U.S.C.s, adequately avoids, minimizes, and mitigates 25

Page 34 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 any impacts to the species. 3 The location is not between turbines and primary food sources and is far enough away to 5 not pose an increased risk to the species during construction and operation. Nevertheless, the Applicant has spoken with ORES regarding their concern and is, as the Applicant said in their response, willing to continue 10 to engage in discussions with ORES to determine if 11 any additional mitigation measures or minimization 12 measures can and should be implemented as the project 13 proceeds into construction and operation as a result 14 of this newly identified location. 15 I could go further into some details, 16 but I -- I don't want to toe the line too much, but 17 the Applicant has fully briefed this response. 18 did have their experts go out. And as you mentioned, 19 we did stipulate with ORES as to the location and 20 type of species. 21 And there is an analysis provided in 22 the Applicant's response regarding their position 23 about the risk and increased risk to this species 24 which the Applicant's position has not changed with 25 respect to. However, as we've indicated, we are --

Page 35 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 we are willing and able to speak with ORES about 3 potentially finding a resolution that all parties who have concerns can agree to. 5 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you, I only have a couple of questions on this issue for you. And they are specific to mitigation efforts by the Applicant. The first that I'd like to just clarify, if you could just state and explain to 10 me, if the Applicant complies with the requirements 11 for T and E, or threatened and endangered, species under the ORES regulations 19 N.Y.C.R.R. 900-6.401? 12 13 And if so, how? 14 MS. KLAMI: Yes, the Applicant will 15 comply with those. And just give me one guick 16 second, your Honor. I just want to make sure I have 17 it up in front of me. These are the conditions 18 related to contacting ORES and identifying if there 19 has been a take of the species. 20 And we don't have any objections to the Uniform Standards and Conditions that are in the 21 22 draft permit that are part of the permit as it 23 I think -- and I don't want to put words in 24 the mouth of ORES, but I think they -- this 25 information came in and they were reviewing as to

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2	whether or not the existing draft permit conditions
3	were acceptable to them.
4	They are to us. And I believe that
5	our position has not changed with respect to being
6	able to comply with those conditions regardless of
7	of the location of this new identified species. And
8	we don't have any reason to believe that we cannot
9	comply with the conditions set forth for this species
10	in ORES's regulations and in the draft permit.
11	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
12	Ms. Klami. Just specific to the requirement, the
13	660-foot buffer
14	MS. KLAMI: Uh-huh.
15	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: that is
16	also stated in the 2024, the updated Eagle Rule 50
17	Code of Federal Regulations, Section 22.250 and the
18	New York State Department of Environmental
19	Conservation standards for this species, would the
20	Applicant be in compliance with that buffer?
21	MS. KLAMI: Yes, your Honor.
22	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: How so?
23	MS. KLAMI: The turbines are are
24	more than a mile and a half away from this location.
25	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: So that mile

Page 37 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 and a half -- and this is my final question for you, 3 and I appreciate you are answering my questions, Ms. If the updated United States Fish and 5 Wildlife Survey protocol suggests a home range for the nesting -- this nesting species in particular, is less than two miles and Applicant admits that the project has a risk, I understand Applicant is stating it's a low risk for impacts to this species during 10 construction and operation, given the distance 11 between the nest and certain turbines, how are the existing conditions in the draft permit sufficient --12 13 sufficient for avoiding mitigating and minimizing 14 impacts to this particular species? 15 Well, your Honor, the MS. KLAMI: 16 current conditions set forth in the draft permit in 17 the U.S.C.s has a requirement to work with ORES if, 18 in fact, take occurs. This is very similar to the 19 general permit that is currently being offered by the 20 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that has those 21 distances that you mentioned. 22 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service no 23 longer requires a specific take permit for a specific 24 number of species. And the take permit allows a 25 certain level of take before it would trigger

Page 38 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 additional mitigation and minimization measures. 3 It's very, very, very similar to what ORES's current draft -- draft permit and Uniform Standards and 5 Conditions already contemplate. A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you, Thank you for answering my questions on Ms. Klami. this issue. 9 I would like to turn to ORES Staff, 10 basically to give its argument and also to respond to 11 your oral argument just now. 12 Ms. Carlock, I would turn to you at this time. 13 14 MS. CARLOCK: Thank you, your Honor. 15 At the outset, I'll just state that 16 Ms. Klami is correct that we have been preliminarily 17 exploring potential resolution of this issue by And so if -- if in fact, we're able to 18 stipulation. 19 reach agreement as to any additional mitigation or 20 other conditions required in the final siting permit, 21 you know, then this issue will be resolved for 22 purposes of ORES Staff. 23 However, in the event that we do not 24 reach a resolution on this issue by stipulation, ORES 25 Staff believes that there are factual issues here in

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4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 dispute between the office and the Applicant based on the Applicant's position in its issue statement, and here today at oral argument, that may require new additional conditions to the draft permit in addition to the Uniform Standard and Conditions that Ms. Klami was referring to, and that that issue -- those factual issues have to be fleshed out the record. In this case, the discovery of the occurrence of this particular New York State threatened species, as was mentioned, came to the attention of ORES Staff and the Applicant well after the issuance of the draft permit. So at the time of issuance of the draft permit, ORES Staff was not contemplating that this species had a known occurrence within the vicinity of the project. Currently, as Ms. Klami mentioned, Section 6.401 of the draft permit requires a notice to ORES Staff if such species is found within the facility site. Certain tree removal restrictions within certain distances and within certain timeframes, and then, mitigation is only required under that Uniform Standard Condition if the species is actually found to be injured or killed by the

facility.

Page 40 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 And notably, ORES Staff leaves this 3 condition applicable for every wind facility even when no presence of this species is known within the 5 vicinity of the facility site. So these conditions are sort of a stop gap in the event that the species is not known to occur nearby, but we understand that, at some point, the species could either move in or be migrating or 10 otherwise traveling through the site. They're sort of a backstop measure. 11 12 In this case, now that we know that, 13 in fact, there is an occurrence of this species 14 within, as Ms. Klami said, about one and a half to 15 two miles of certain turbines in this facility, we 16 believe that more may be required. 17 I think the fundamental dispute 18 between the Applicant and ORES Staff, it centers 19 around the different treatment of this species at the 20 federal and state level. ORES Staff doesn't dispute 21 that the Applicant meets the federal requirements of 22 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 23 This particular species is not listed 24 as threatened or endangered by the federal 25 government. It is protected under other statutes.

Page 41 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 And the construction buffer of 660 feet that was 3 mentioned and then certain mitigation that would be required after a number of the species are actually 5 taken are the only requirements of the federal government. And that 660-foot buffer, it's 8 important to note, is intended to ensure that construction of the facility does not impact the 10 It does not address an operational impact species. 11 or operational take. Though there's diminished protection 12 13 now at the federal level, the species remains listed 14 as a threatened species under the New York State 15 Endangered Species Act and the State D.E.C. often 16 requires additional operational measures and 17 mitigation well beyond what the federal government 18 requires. 19 D.E.C. recommends specifically that, 20 in order to avoid and minimize impacts from operation 21 of wind turbines, that turbines not be sited in areas 22 where they will negatively affect nesting, roosting, 23 daily foraging movements, or migration of the 24 species, and caution specifically that movements 25 between nest and foraging areas and between winter

Page 42 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 roosts and foraging areas need to be taken into 3 consideration when making a siting decision. And while we have not confronted this 5 issue in the context of a 94-C project, Article 10 precedent is ripe with examples where the siting board has required adherence not just to those construction buffers required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, yes, it does require those, but in 10 the Article 10 cases, the siting board required implementation of other additional protections during 11 12 operation consistent with the D.E.C. recommendations I mentioned. 13 14 Just for example, some of these 15 projects include Barron Winds, High Bridge Wind, 16 Canisteo Wind, and Alley Cat Wind. And often, the 17 way that D.E.C. has assessed the take has looked at 18 foraging and breeding behavior for this species 19 within up to 10 miles of the facility site. 20 But I will note that this has really 21 been looked at on a case-by-case, site-by-site basis, 22 depending on particular features of the landscape, 23 the height of the turbines, and other factors. 24 really a case-specific analysis to determine how far 25 the territory is and whether the species is likely to

Page 43 1 4/16/2024 -Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 interact with the facility during operation of the 3 facility. So based on existing State 5 regulations, State policy, and Article 10 precedent, ORES Staff continues to believe that additional measures may be required in the final siting permit to avoid and minimize impacts in the first instance to the species and then, if impacts are -- are going 10 to occur to mitigate impacts to the species. 11 And again, because that is such a 12 site-specific, case-specific analysis that occurs, if 13 we're unable to resolve this with the Applicant by 14 stipulation, then we do think a hearing would be 15 required to flesh this out on the record. 16 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you, Ms. Carlock. I -- I -- I just have one question for 17 18 Just, you mentioned conditions that you gave 19 detail about. There were two conditions that I heard 20 specifically that you explained. And I thank you for 21 that explanation. 22 Other than those two conditions that -23 - that you detailed, are there -- are there any other 24 mitigation efforts or what other mitigation, if anything else, is ORES Staff looking for? 25

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2	MS. CARLOCK: At this point, that's
3	something that is currently under discussion among
4	Staff internally. But this mitigation could consist
5	of additional studies, post-construction monitoring.
6	Sometimes there is a fee associated with the take of
7	this particular species. And those are all different
8	options and avenues that ORES is open to at this time
9	and willing to, you know, advance discussions with
10	the Applicant.
11	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
12	Ms. Carlock.
13	Ms. Klami, I would just turn back to
14	you briefly, if I could. Ms. Carlock just gave us a
15	lot of information and she was able to articulate
16	conditions in a very detailed manner that that I'm
17	understanding now.
18	And since it's all being discussed at
19	this time at the oral argument, I'd like to give you
20	an opportunity to respond to what Ms. Carlock said,
21	specifically, with respect to the conditions that she
22	spoke about and also to potential additional
23	mitigation efforts.
24	MS. KLAMI: Yes, your Honor, I I
25	think, you know, a little bit of what I said before

Page 45 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -2 is -- is applicable to the response here. And that 3 is that the Applicant and ORES have a disagreement as to the risk to the species at this particular 5 location and the distances to turbines. And so, you know, at the end of the day, we have submitted our expert's analysis on where the turbines are located in relation to this species. And -- and I will say I -- I press ORES to -- to find me a wind project that does not have this species 10 present in some form or another. 11 12 And so the -- the risk here is, I 13 think, more nuanced than just a distance analysis. 14 And our experts have put that in. And I think that 15 is on par with testimony we've received from D.E.C. 16 in other proceedings that have had this issue. 17 think it is on par with what ORES has in their 18 response on this issue. 19 And that is, certainly, if there is 20 this species identified within a certain distance to 21 turbines, a closer look should be conducted. We have 22 done that. And in this instance, we do not believe, 23 given the location of the turbines and the location 24 of food sources, and all of the data we have from 25 some of the other projects and this project on

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2	surveys, that this species is actually traversing
3	through and near turbines, such that the risk is
4	increased compared to another project that may have
5	migratory species coming through.
6	Sorry, I'm trying to trying to keep
7	my the words straight in my mouth. But
8	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes, I
9	appreciate it.
10	MS. KLAMI: The Applicant's position
11	that this project has the same level of risk as other
12	projects that have been permitted with the office and
13	that this species is adequately protected from the
14	existing draft permit conditions and Uniform
15	Standards and Conditions.
16	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Ms. Klami,
17	just so I'm clear and I appreciate your time in
18	explaining all of this and going through it. I am
19	familiar with what the Applicant's consultant's
20	Stantec, said on these issues regarding the location
21	of the turbines, the food sources, and also flight
22	patterns.
23	Is it the Applicant's position that no
24	additional mitigation measures are necessary?
25	MS. KLAMI: Correct, your Honor.

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2	MR. MUSCATO: But you but I guess,
3	that being said, your Honor, we would also be willing
4	to consider the measures that Ms. Carlock mentioned.
5	And obviously, if potential stipulation can be
6	reached agreeing on potential additional mitigation
7	measures, we would absolutely consider that.
8	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
9	And that's where I was going with this. And again, I
10	would just remind Mr. Muscato, Ms. Klami, Ms.
11	Carlock, if there is a stipulation reached on this
12	issue, to provide it to the administrative law judge
13	in advance of May 2nd.
14	MR. MUSCATO: And in fact, your Honor
15	
16	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: And Ms.
17	Klami, thank you.
18	Yes?
19	MR. MUSCATO: One one of the
20	additional measures, I I don't know that it's
21	it's really something that could be addressed today,
22	but we're getting the office's position or Staff's
23	position with respect to the submission that you
24	referenced in the materials and evidence that was
25	provided by Stantec, I think that's part of that

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2	discussion on the stipulation.
3	But you know, obviously, we we
4	expect to have discussions with ORES Staff and and
5	see if we can agree upon terms of the stipulation and
6	we'll provide that to your Honors.
7	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
8	Mr. Muscato.
9	And Ms. Carlock, just one final
10	follow-up question for you. And again, I appreciate
11	you answering my questions on this issue and
12	explaining everything in the detail that you have.
13	With respect to the conditions that
14	ORES Staff is proposing and also that you've
15	discussed, are those conditions that are contemplated
16	or in some way in ORES's view, part of the
17	requirements of the ORES regulations?
18	MS. CARLOCK: Yes, your Honor. We
19	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: In other
20	words, where is where is this coming from? Like
21	where is where is ORES Staff stating its authority
22	for such for more conditions and and pursuant
23	to the standard?
24	MS. CARLOCK: Sure. Thank you, your
25	Honor. Yeah. So pursuant to Part 900-2.13 and 900-

Page 49 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 6.40, Applicants must avoid and minimize impacts to 3 listed threatened and endangered species. extent that any impacts to a threatened or endangered 5 species cannot be avoided or that there will be anticipated impacts, these impacts must be mitigated. If mitigation is required, the Applicant is required to prepare a net conservation benefit plan pursuant to 6.40. This requirement is 10 not triggered unless there is a known occurrence of a species in or around the facility site, not just for 11 12 the species, but for any other species as well. If it's not documented within the 13 14 site, there are other certain Uniform Standards and 15 Conditions as we've discussed related to this 16 species, but they exist for others as well, that will 17 be applicable even without a known occurrence of the 18 species. 19 So knowing that we have a presence of 20 the species within between one and a half and two 21 miles of various components of this facility, we 22 believe that triggers those requirements. 23 this is typically a discussion that is had between Staff and the Applicant very early on, even well 24 25 before the application is submitted.

Page 50 1 4/16/2024 -Prattsburgh Wind, LLC consultation and usually the results of that 3 discussion and consultation are included in the application. 5 We're in a bit of an odd circumstance here because this occurrence was unknown to anybody until it was raised by a public commenter well after issuance of the draft permit. So those provisions of our regulations do require mitigation. 10 You know, I -- I don't disagree with Ms. Klami that there are site-specific factors that 11 we need to look at and understand in this case in 12 order to determine is there going to be a take, what 13 14 is the level of that take, and what mitigation would 15 be required. But that's the discussion that we hope 16 to have with the Applicant. 17 But again, if we aren't able to 18 resolve it, I do think it requires some factual 19 evidence and discussion on the record since it's not 20 currently on the record in any way other than the 21 public comment. 22 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you, Ms. Carlock. 23 24 We're ready at this time to move on to 25 That completes the oral argument for issue three.

Page 51 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 issue two. And for issue three, I would turn to 3 Administrative Law Judge Christopher McEneney Chan. A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Thank you, 5 Judge MacKillop-Soller. Can everyone hear me? Okay. Thank you again for coming here today. We're going to move on to issue three. This is whether the facility complies with the 19 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 900 setback and 10 noise limits as they pertain to partially completed 11 structures in the Town of Prattsburgh. I'd like to hear from Applicant first, 12 13 please. 14 MS. KLAMI: Yes, hi, your Honor. 15 respect to non-compliance with ORES non-participating 16 residential setback requirements, the structures 17 identified by the Town of Prattsburgh should not be 18 treated as -- or I'm sorry -- should be treated as 19 non-participating, non-residential structures, not as 20 residences for the purposes of sensitive sound 21 receptors or setback locations. 22 The Town here has argued that several 23 building permits have been issued for what the Town 24 calls dwelling units that are within the residential 25 and sound setbacks for two turbines, T-one and T-

Page 52 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 Therefore, the Town argues that these turbines 3 are not compliant with residential setback and noise standards. 5 However, none of the structures identified by the Town have been fully constructed. None of them have septic systems or running water. None of them have certificates of occupancy at this None of them were identified as hunting camps 10 or seasonal residences on property tax codes. the Applicant's opinion, these structures, which are 11 12 small and akin to something you can -- can buy at 13 Home Depot, are a coordinated effort by a handful of 14 landowners to place, quote, unquote, residences at 15 the back portions of their property to frustrate the 16 development of this project. 17 Again, none of the building permits 18 indicate that these are residences where people will 19 be spending any significant amount of time. 20 setback and sound limits, as outlined in our response 21 and ORES response, are specifically designed to 22 address impacts to people residing near or close to turbines. 23 24 These are not residences. Under the -25

- you know, definition of residence in Merriam-

Page 53 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 Webster's Dictionary, they don't -- they don't meet 3 that definition. And they also don't meet that definition in the ORES regulations, which provide 5 some insight within the sound limits and requirements for how sound shall be modeled. One of the reasons that there's a requirement to have septic systems and running water, both for setbacks and for sound requirements, is 10 because these are setbacks and -- and sound limits 11 designed to protect people who are there year-round. 12 They are not intended to design to be for people 13 traveling through the area or taking short stays. 14 If someone can't take a shower at this 15 cabin, I -- I highly doubt they will be spending any 16 significant amount of time there. To treat them as 17 year-round residences or even, to a certain extent, 18 seasonal residences would be inconsistent with the 19 regulations, the intent, and the goals of the 20 C.L.C.P.A. 21 The sound limits and setbacks to 22 property lines are adequately protective of these 23 types of structures which have been set back -- the 24 turbines have been set back one point five times to

these structures. And in fact, the Applicant did

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2	move one of the turbines in response to the Town's
3	raising this concern.
4	However, there is no basis to treat
5	these structures as residences. And in doing so
6	would be very detrimental to the project and it could
7	lead to additional folks who see this as an
8	opportunity to try to take away from their neighbors
9	an opportunity to help the State achieve its
10	renewable energy goals.
11	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Okay. Thank
12	you. And in your view, Ms. Klami, are there any
13	facts in dispute on this record regarding this issue?
14	MS. KLAMI: No, your Honor, there are
15	no facts in dispute. There are these building
16	permits have been pulled. The Town has submitted
17	them with their response. I I don't believe we
18	have a disagreement regarding how these will be used.
19	The Town has has stated that there is no intent
20	for these to be used as residential structures.
21	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Okay. Thank
22	you.
23	All right. We'll hear from the Town
24	of Prattsburgh now, please. And thank you for your
25	oral argument.

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2	MR. KANYUCK: Thank you, your Honor.
3	So the Town of Prattsburgh submitted a
4	petition with respect to the three structures that
5	where the building permits were provided first in
6	2022 for these structures. As is the case with these
7	types of seasonal residences in the town which are
8	not uncommon, it often takes several years for them
9	to be constructed. They're often built by or
10	substantially built by the the property owners as
11	they do.
12	And I think there's testimony and
13	comments in the record from Mr. Wordingham Mr.
14	Wordingham and Mr. Schwab with respect to that. As
15	far as the motivation of those two people with
16	respect to the location of the residences, I would
17	defer to the comments that were presented in the
18	record of the public hearing of those two gentlemen.
19	And fundamentally, there's an issue
20	here. Are these structures considered a residence
21	under the regulations?
22	And it's there's distinctions in
23	the in the regulations that, in in the Town's
24	opinion, makes these residences that should be
25	considered for the the two-time-the-

Page 56 1 4/16/2024 - Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 turbine-height structure. 3 First of all, there's a distinction between residence set -- for setbacks between 5 residences and non-residential structures in -- in the regulations. This is the difference between a two -- two times the height versus one. let's call them cabins, seasonal residences, are intended for occupation. It may be for a short 10 period of time. It may have limited facilities. 11 These -- the dwellings in question 12 will have, according to the owners, composting 13 toilets. They will not have running water. 14 have power. Some they're both insulated. they're intended for occupancy for some period of 15 16 time. So these are residential structures. 17 So to call them -- they would not fit 18 under the non-residential structure that would be 19 subject to the one-and-a-half-times setback. 20 are -- these are residential structures. It's for a 21 short period of time. 22 But you know, the intent of setbacks 23 are to -- to mitigate not only potential safety issues, which whether it's ice throw or turbine 24 25 failure, which has happened in nearby town recently,

Page 57 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 but -- but also aesthetic issues. 3 The regulations also support this interpretation, again in the noise section, which is 5 section 900-2.8, each to which provides that all residences shall be included as sensitive sound receptors, regardless of occupancy. So in this -- in this sense, the regulations use the term residences with respect to either year-round or seasonal use. 10 So in -- in the Town's opinion, the -- the regulations clearly intend for seasonal use 11 residences to be considered residences. 12 13 Again, this makes sense because, 14 regardless of the amount of occupancy, there are 15 intended reasons for these setbacks. And -- and 16 whether it's for a few months of total occupancy over 17 the years or -- or full season, there -- there's a 18 rationale for it. 19 I think the -- the one concern that --20 and this -- this goes to, I think, the aesthetic 21 issues associated with the setbacks, the Town has a 22 substantial -- as I said, a substantial number of 23 seasonal residents present. About 15% of the tax 24 base is seasonal -- are seasonal residences. 25 So to consider them to have something

Page 58 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 less than treatment as a residence with respect to 3 the -- the wind facilities would -- would prevent or would stigmatize continued influx into the town of 5 seasonal residences, again, which is a substantial part of the tax base. The -- and finally, the Staff notes that the Wordingham residence is part of a commercial enterprise. This -- this goes to the ownership and 10 the -- and the ultimate used by the property owner of the -- of the -- of the dwelling, but the actual use 11 is still for human habitation. 12 Whether it be for a few -- for 13 14 different people passing through, this is a 15 commercial enterprise that Mr. Wordingham is trying 16 to develop. They're entitled to develop a business 17 as necessary. So in sum, the -- the regs are -- the 18 19 regs do refer to these seasonal residences as 20 residences. It's the interpretation and the language 21 of the regs would -- would point to that. 22 Applicant had notice of the structures at the 23 building permit phase. So ORES's concern that the 24 ability to assess the impacts to these structures 25 could not be done during the permit review is not

Page 59 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 2 The building permits were -- were in place. correct. 3 So in sum, these should be considered residences for the purpose of siting regulations and 5 the turbine should be sited accordingly. A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Thank you, Mr. 7 Thank you. And in the Town of Kanyuck. Prattsburgh's view, is this a purely legal question or are there any factual disputes that need to be 10 resolved on this record? 11 MR. KANYUCK: I think we would agree 12 this is a legal question. I -- the -- the Applicant 13 has not raised a factual issue, so we would agree 14 that this is a fact -- a legal issue. 15 A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Okay. Thank 16 you, Counselor. 17 All right. I'll turn to ORES Staff 18 now, please, for -- to put on its oral argument. 19 MS. CARLOCK: Thank you, your Honor. 20 And at the outset, kind of anticipating your 21 question, I'll just state that Staff also views this 22 as a purely legal issue. We believe that the facts 23 are pretty well set forth in the record. And we 24 certainly have no dispute with what the Town has set 25 forth in its petition or the public comments that are

Page 60 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 on the record. 3 And Staff used the fundamental legal issue here to be whether or not the two structures, 5 we'll call them the Wordingham structure and the Schwab structure, are residences for purposes of the setback and noise limitations in 900-2.6b and in 2.8b. And Staff agrees with the Applicant in 10 this case that the two structures in question are not 11 residences. This conclusion is supported by 12 applicable Article 10 and case law precedence that, 13 historically, has required the most protective 14 setbacks for primary residences and lessened setbacks for other types of residences, including seasonal 15 16 residences and other kinds of structures, even those 17 that may be occupied consistently for significant 18 periods of time, including schools, institutions, 19 places of work, and so on and so forth. 20 The Wordingham structure, just to sort 21 of set forth the two structures, are a little bit 22 different in terms of their use, but I think are 23 pretty analogous. 24 The Wordingham structure, as Mr. 25 Kanyuck mentioned, is being constructed as part of a

Page 61 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 commercial short-term rental operation as represented 3 by the property owner. It is located on a parcel that is 5 already improved with a residence and is approximately ten feet by twenty feet in size. will not be fitted with running water or septic, but will, according to the property owner, be fitted with a composting toilet and eventually powered by solar 10 energy. 11 The Schwab structure is being 12 constructed as a secondary living space. It is also on a parcel that is already improved with the owner's 13 14 primary residence. And according to that building 15 permit, the home would be approximately twelve feet 16 by twenty feet in size and would not have running 17 water or septic. 18 Neither residence nor non-residential 19 structure are defined by regulation or by local law. 20 However, there is instructive precedence supporting a 21 conclusion that these structures are not residences 22 because they are used intermittently and only on a seasonal basis. 23 24 So in other contexts, the ORES 25 regulations distinguish between residences and

Page 62 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 2 seasonal residences and other similar uses. 3 example, in Part 900-2.8h, an Applicant is required as part of its application to identify sensitive 5 sound receptors. And in that context, sensitive sound receptors include residences, cabins and hunting camps, and any other seasonal residence with septic system and running water. 10 And there, the separate enumeration of 11 residences, as opposed to a separate category for 12 cabins and hunting camps and a separate category for 13 other seasonal residences, suggest that residences, 14 as used within ORES regulations, have a very specific 15 meaning and is not meant to be construed broadly as a 16 catch-all term for any place where people, for 17 example, spend the night or spend a significant amount of time. 18 19 Applicable precedent in the Article 10 20 context has historically recognized diminished 21 protection for seasonal or intermittent residences. 22 For example, in Barron Winds, the siting board found 23 that setbacks there were adequate to protect health 24 and safety, where residences received the largest 25

setback, and a lesser setback was applied to seasonal

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2	residences.
3	In the case of Stony Creek, the siting
4	board declined to broadly apply the most protective
5	setbacks to other uses other than residences. And
6	notably in this case, this included the siting board
7	did not apply the most protective setback for
8	residences to an area of maple syrup production where
9	the property owner in that case was on site
10	continuously during certain seasonal periods as part
11	of that operation. But it was not considered a
12	residence despite that.
13	There is also a case law that supports
14	this differentiation between residences and other
15	uses where domestic activities might occur. For
16	example, in matter of Advocates for Prattsburgh
17	versus Steuben County I.D.A., the court upheld a
18	determination to approve a final generic
19	environmental impact statement because it adequately
20	addressed concerns about the sufficiency of setbacks.
21	And specifically, the court found that
22	distinguishing between permanent and non-permanent
23	residences and applying a lesser setback to non-
24	permanent residences has a rational basis.
25	In other contexts, including Black's

Page 64 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 Law Dictionary, how a venue is determined under the 3 C.P.L.R. and insurance law, they all consistently require some kind of a permanency and intention to 5 remain for a long duration for a structure to be considered a residence. Here, where we have, in the case of Wordingham, an Airbnb-type of operation explicitly for temporary, short-term and intermittent stays, 10 and, in the case of the Schwab structure, a secondary cabin without heat, septic, and running water, but 11 12 where the property owner plans to spend time seasonally and occasionally spend the night, do not 13 14 meet the definition of residences for purposes of the 15 setbacks and noise limits set forth in the ORES 16 regulations. 17 A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Thank you for 18 that. 19 I'm going to go a little out of order 20 and give it back to the Town of Prattsburgh to see if 21 you have a short reply to ORES Staff's oral argument. 22 MR. KANYUCK: No, your Honor. I think 23 ORES Staff's argument was consistent with their 24 You know, I -- I think -- I don't think 25 there's anything new that --.

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2	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: All right.
3	Thank you.
4	So this will conclude oral argument on
5	issue number three. We'll move on to issue number
6	four that was noticed for oral argument today. And
7	that is whether Applicant has justified a waiver of
8	the Town of Prattsburgh's local setback requirements
9	for four wind turbines proposed to be sited in the
10	town.
11	We will hear from Applicant on this,
12	first, please.
13	MS. KLAMI: Yes. Thank you, your
14	Honor.
15	With respect to the Town of
16	Prattsburgh, the Applicant has sought four waivers
17	from the Town's one point five times setback to non-
18	participating parcel parcel lot boundary lines.
19	The Applicant notes that there are
20	eight turbines proposed in the Town of Prattsburgh
21	and we are only seeking four waivers with respect to
22	the Town's setback requirements.
23	The turbines are T-two, T-three, T-
24	five, and T-nine. And the Applicant has demonstrated
25	that each of these turbines requiring waivers to the

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Town's setback to property boundaries has been sited in the least environmentally impactful location to achieve compliance to the maximum extent practicable with the ORES requirements and Town requirements.

The siting and constraints analysis, which can be found in the application in Exhibits 15 and 24 and 2, include optimizing the wind resource at each location, maintaining sufficient separation to minimize between other turbines, avoiding forested terrain, maintaining other setbacks as required by the Town and ORES, minimizing impacts to farmland, avoiding steep slopes and complex terrain, and a consideration of landowner development restrictions.

Areas with landowner-imposed development restrictions are depicted in figure 15-4 of the application. And these restrictions are generally associated with lands located directly in proximity to participating residences, in specific agricultural fields, and in forest areas.

Typically, the Applicant negotiates what portions of the property a -- a landowner will allow turbines or other facility components to be located on. And that's a private contractual negotiation between the Applicant and those

Page 67 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 landowners. The Applicant does not have the 3 authority to place components on locations that are not permitted by their real property agreements. 5 The Applicant has demonstrated that they have performed a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of siting these turbines and have demonstrated that the turbines are located, again, in the least impactful location, considering all of the 10 siting constraints and requirements. 11 The Applicant, again, does not have 12 the authority, nor could they propose a turbine on a 13 parcel or a portion of a parcel for which they do not 14 have real property rights. 15 The Applicant has an obligation to 16 also avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental 17 impacts. For every turbine location, including these 18 four, the Applicant went through a detailed iterative 19 process whereby the Applicant identified preliminary 20 turbine siting areas that accounted for siting 21 constraints such as setbacks, topography, sensitive 22 natural resources such as wetlands and T and E 23 species, and other environmental impacts. The final turbine locations were 2.4 25 further determined based on wind capture,

Page 68 1 4/16/2024 - Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 construction impacts, and factors such as noise and 3 shadow flicker. This analysis is further demonstrated on figure 24-4, submitted with the 5 Applicant's first response to the ORES notice of incomplete application. In the Town's issue statement, they, in particularly, asserted that two turbines, T-nine and T-two, could be moved to comply with the Town's 10 one point five times setback. The Applicant notes 11 that the map, which accompanies the Town submission, 12 is not accompanied by any expert testimony, and 13 clearly does not account for other environmental 14 impacts. 15 The Town must demonstrate that the 16 shifting of these turbines is actually possible and 17 not just speculate that the Applicant could move the 18 turbines to comply. The map submitted by the Town 19 clearly shows that T-two would be placed in the 20 middle of trees and in an area not previously 21 delineated for wetlands. The move proposed by the 22 Town would also move the turbine closer to residents in all directions. 23 2.4 As currently proposed, T-two resides 25 almost equidistance from all non-participating

Page 69 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 receptors to the north, south, east, and west. 3 also notable that T-two is at the edge of a farm field, reducing impacts to the farmland at that 5 location, and also has been sited in a way to reduce impacts to collection and access roads coming in and through that property to access that turbine. For T-nine, again, it would be moved, if the Town had their way, into a heavily wooded area 10 on steep slopes. And it appears, upon a careful review of the Town's map, that this location could 11 also violate ORES's one point one setback to roads. 12 13 Likewise, turbines T-three and T-five 14 are located away from steep slopes and in areas that 15 reduce impacts to farmland. Moving them would 16 undoubtedly increase those impacts. The Town has 17 failed to submit any credible evidence that the 18 turbines can actually move to locations that they 19 proposed. And the Applicant can confirm that the 20 locations proposed by the Town present other 21 environmental issues which are avoided by the 22 placement of the turbines in their current locations. 23 The Applicant has provided more than 24 enough information in the record to support the

setback waivers granted by the Department in the

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2	draft permit. And the Applicant demonstrated that
3	the setbacks are unreasonably burdensome on the
4	facility in a manner inconsistent with the
5	C.L.C.P.A.'s Renewable Energy targets.
6	The Town, in response, has failed to
7	meet its burden of proof and has not demonstrated
8	that there are substantive or significant issues with
9	the ORES waiver of the Town setbacks for two T-
10	two, T-three, T-five, and T-nine.
11	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Thank you very
12	much for that.
13	I'm going to switch up the order again
14	and ask that ORES Staff weigh in on this on this
15	topic now, please.
16	MR. BITTINGER: All right. Thank you,
17	your Honor.
18	At the outset, ORES stresses that, in
19	our view, the issue to be decided here today is
20	actually not, as state in the oral argument agenda,
21	whether the Applicant has justified a waiver of the
22	Town of Prattsburgh's local setback requirements for
23	four wind turbines proposed to be set in the Town.
24	Rather, with respect, the issue
25	properly presented is whether the Town of Prattsburgh

Page 71 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 has satisfied its burden to demonstrate a substance 3 significant issue exists with respect to ORES Staff's recommendation. And this is something Attorney Klami 5 just touched on. And regarding -- that's regarding factual issues. And regarding any legal issues within this overall issue, with respect to those, the Town of Plattsburgh must demonstrate that ORES Staff 10 made an error of law. Both of these are high bars, neither 11 12 of which the Town of Prattsburgh has met here, as 13 I'll discuss today, and as Attorney Klami touched on, 14 in its substance significant brief, Staff 15 demonstrated the record included the necessary 16 information under the 900-2.25c Local Law Relief 17 Standard and provided a reasonable justification for 18 its recommendation to approve limited relief. 19 Under those five factors, Staff 20 explained, in our brief, under factor one, the 21 Applicant included individual analyses demonstrating 22 the degree of burden for each turbine for which it 23 requests a relief. 24 Under factor two, the burden should 25 not be reasonably borne. The Applicant discussed

Page 72 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 that full compliance with this local law would result 3 in project production dropping by over 15% per year in some cases. Regarding factor three, design changes, Staff explained that the Applicant demonstrated the request could not be reasonably obviated by design change because of various constraints, which Attorney Klami touched on, 10 including physical constraints, participating 11 landowner land use restrictions, and sound and shadow flicker minimization. 12 13 Factor number four, minimum necessary, 14 the Applicant discussed how it was only needed the 15 request for relief for four of the facilities' 16 proposed turbines and no turbines will be closer than 17 one point five times the turbine height to non-18 participating structures, and two point times the 19 turbine height to non-participating residences as 20 also required under 94-c. 21 And finally under factor five, 22 mitigated to the maximum practical, the adverse 23 impacts of providing this relief will be mitigated due to the facility compliance with the office's one 24 25 point one times turbine height setback from all

Page 73 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 participating -- non-participating parcel off 3 boundary lines and public rights-of-ways where compliance with the Town's one point five setback was 5 infeasible. And in turn, the Staff's analysis discussed, in our brief, in general, we noted, again, that the Applicant has to comply with the setbacks set forth under 900-2.6b. The Applicant actually 10 used a 668-foot turbine, the tallest under consideration, when assessing compliance with the 11 Town's setback requirements. 12 So the worst-case scenario under 13 14 factor four, minimum necessary, the Applicant 15 actually eliminated its request for relief for the 16 participating other structure, quote, unquote, located within the Town's setback for T-one four 17 18 consultation with the participating landowner and 19 shifting the location by approximately 300 feet 20 south. 21 And regarding factor five, Staff, in 22 our brief, provided its own detailed analysis of each 23 individual turbine location and that why they appear to be the most suitable location in each parcel. 24 25 reasoned that this recommended relief in no way

Page 74 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 relieves the Applicant of its requirement to meet 3 manufacturer setbacks to homes regardless of participation status. 5 And Staff reviewed the information provided by the Applicant in Exhibits 5, design and drawings, Exhibit 6, public health safety and security, and agreed that the combination of compliance with the local setbacks were possible, and 10 with 94-c setbacks, where compliance was infeasible, was suitably protective of public health and safety. 11 And overall under the relevant 12 13 regulatory standard, Staff concluded that the 14 proposed locations of these four turbines are 15 reasonable based on the existing straits. 16 Applicant demonstrated that any potential adverse impacts associated with the limited relief would be 17 18 negligible and outweighed by the environmental 19 benefits of the proposed facility, which we talked 20 about earlier in the brief, are 147 megawatts of 21 renewable energy towards New York State C.L.C.P.A. 22 targets and the environmental benefits of offsetting 23 approximately 319,400 metric tons of CO2 and 24 associated greenhouse gas emissions per year. 25 And I would add the situation is in

75 Page 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 contrast to a precedent from Article 10, which we 3 recognize that's a different standard for local law relief than under 94-c, but can provide guidance 5 In the application number three wind for certificate under Article 10 in 2019, the siting board denied the Applicant's request for waiver and local setback laws as in two towns because the Applicant had not made the showings necessary under 10 those regulations to justify a waiver of the Town of Lowville's one point five turbine height setback 11 12 requirements and the Town of Harrisburg's setback 13 requirements. 14 So in sum, the Applicant in number 15 three had not made the showings necessary. 16 record was insufficient to justify a waiver. Whereas 17 here, a Staff established in briefs, as -- as I 18 recite today, that's far from the case. There's 19 ample record episodes, as Attorney Klami spoke to, 20 and the Staff made a reasonable justification for its 21 recommended relief. Thank you. 22 A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Thank you, Mr. 23 Bittinger. 24 And for the Town of Prattsburgh, 25 please, Mr. Kanyuck?

Page 76 1 4/16/2024 - Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 MR. KANYUCK: Thank you, your Honor. 3 In our -- in our petition, we -- we maintain that the -- the four turbines in question where the waiver was 5 sought did not adequately assess modifications to the landowner-imposed restrictions on the property, and that those were sufficiently in the record in order to assess whether there were alternative locations for the turbines that could be -- that could be 10 placed such that the -- the local laws for setbacks was complied with. 11 12 First of all, there's -- that the one-13 point-five setback of -- of the Town is not 14 inherently unreasonable. There -- as was mentioned 15 or it has been implied, the -- the one point -- a 16 waiver of one-point-five turbine height setback was -- was not waived in Number Three Wind. 17 In Heritage Wind, which ORES review, 18 19 Town of Barre had a one-point-five setback. 20 project complied with -- inherently, there's not an -21 - it's not, per se, unreasonable to have a one-point-22 five setback. 23 The -- there was, I think, a 24 misconception in some of the briefs, when we raised 25 the issue of the Applicant's involvement in the

Page 77 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 change from the setback, from two point three six, to 3 one point five in 2019. We recognize it was in the What isn't in the record is that the 5 Applicant was part of that discussion at the time and that the one-point-five setback was satisfactory at that time for the project. Again, that -- that demonstrates, in the Town's view, that their -- the Town's one-point-10 five setback is not inherently unreasonable. 11 Now, what's -- what was the basis for 12 the one-and-a-half setback? Well, the law was 13 It was based balancing health safety, 14 property values, and project viability. So there was 15 a recognition that there were safety and property 16 value issues, but also that -- that the -- there was 17 an interest in the Town at the time that the project 18 remained viable. 19 The safety response plan that the --20 the Applicant submitted relies on these setbacks, to 21 a fair extent, in -- in maintaining that -- that the 22 -- the facility, itself, is safe. The -- again, the -- there have been tower failures in the area 23 24 And the -- the Applicant states that the recently. 25 facility poses little risk to the community given the

Page 78 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 setback requirements established by local law and 3 their safety standards. It also says, again, that the wind 5 turbines shall be proposed for the project shall pose little risk to the community, setback requirements governing the location of the turbines and ancillary equipment protecting the project from potential harm. So there's twice in the -- in the 10 safety response plan where the local law setback is -11 - is considered to be a substantial safety issue as 12 far as preventing impacts to adjacent property 13 Again, inherently, the -- the one-point-five 14 setback is not an unreasonable scenario. 15 With respect to the landowner 16 restrictions present in the record, the figure 15-4, 17 if you look at it, it has no dimensions on it. 18 doesn't identify where the turbines are. 19 doesn't mention -- there's -- there's even with the 20 blobs that are on that -- on that figure, there is no 21 obvious restriction in the vicinity of turbines three 22 and nine as to why there's a landowner restriction. 23 The -- the reference to appendix 15c 24 is a pre-siting concerns of landowners just generally 25 speaking to -- to issues. In -- in reviewing what we

79 Page 1 4/16/2024 - Prattsburgh Wind, LLC 21-00749 could from figure 15-4, for turbine two, the parcel 3 that's excluded is -- is quite large. The landowner limits this turbine siting to a relatively small 5 southwest portion and -- and the -- and the turbine is sited in the furthest southwest corner of that southwest field in there. It could easily go to another side of that field and still be 1400 feet away from the 10 participating residence on that parcel. 11 So the -- the actual degree of 12 restrictions aren't satisfactory in the record. 13 There are no boundaries. There's a -- a -- a circle 14 near what appears to be turbine five. It's hard to 15 say what that circle is based on, presumably its 16 distance from the participating residence. 17 sense, and if that's the case, that residence is in 18 its own setback to -- to participating residences. 19 So the -- the Town recognizes that 20 there's a balancing with respect to siting the 21 turbines. There's what I would call physical issues 22 that -- that -- that are -- are limiting, that are not questionable, wetlands, steep slopes. 23 others that are policy-related, agricultural impacts 24 25 and forests.

Page 80 1 4/16/2024 - Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 The Town law should be on at least the 3 same level as those -- those concerns. And then, there are the landowner restrictions that are site-5 specific. Now, ORES does say they don't have the ability to impose new lease provisions on -- on landowners. We don't dispute that. What ORES can do is say that, given the -- all the other restraints, whether it be 10 wetlands, steep slopes, local law compliance, that 11 perhaps this is not a good location for a wind 12 turbine given the landowner restrictions that have 13 been presented. 14 The Applicant can then go back to the 15 landowner and make a decision with the landowner 16 whether that turbine can be moved, whether the restriction can be --. 17 18 So in -- in -- in essence, these 19 turbine locations have been placed without full 20 knowledge of the specific landowner restrictions. 21 And there's been -- given the, let's say the variable 22 factors in siting it, there's inherently a preference 23 given to landowner restrictions over the local law setbacks. 24 25 There has been a statement made that

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2	the that the impact the environmental impacts
3	of the of the waiver area have are are
4	minimal. But I think this does not recognize, one,
5	there's these setbacks are based on safety
6	considerations. And two, that the the overlap of
7	into the waiver areas can, in a sense, limit what
8	that adjacent property owner can do with its
9	property.
10	If the property owner is concerned
11	about safety and proximity to the wind turbines and
12	wants to put a seasonal residence in in that
13	portion of the property, is he is by doing so, is
14	he putting his family at risk by siting that
15	residence in the future in that location?
16	So inherently, this is giving
17	preference to the landowner restrictions. And and
18	in the opinion of the of the Town, the Town law
19	should be taking precedence. Thank you.
20	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Thank you, Mr.
21	Kanyuck. I have a question for you.
22	MR. KANYUCK: Sure.
23	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: The map that
24	was referenced earlier by Applicant that you
25	submitted in your petition as Exhibit B that was

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2	depicting possible proposed movements for two	
3	turbines	
4	MR. KANYUCK: Yes.	
5	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: who was the	
6	who's the author of that map? Who who put that	
7	together?	
8	MR. KANYUCK: That that map was	
9	prepared by a member of the planning board of the	
10	Town	
11	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Okay. Do you	
12	know who?	
13	MR. KANYUCK: who has the ability	
14	to to do layout preparation.	
15	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Is this person	
16	an engineer or have any other sort of specialty or	
17	expertise that you can put on the record here today?	
18	MR. KANYUCK: It it's Mr.	
19	McAllister. I believe he is not an engineer. He's -	
20	- he's more of a mapping he has some mapping	
21	capabilities.	
22	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Okay. Is there	
23	anything else you wanted to say on that point?	
24	MR. KANYUCK: No.	
25	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Okay. Thank	

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2	you.
3	I just wanted to turn over for a
4	quick, maybe two-minute reply and thank you, Mr.
5	Kanyuck to for the Applicant, if you just
6	wanted to make a quick response to the oral argument
7	today?
8	MS. KLAMI: Yes, your Honor.
9	There's just one point I wanted to
10	address. And that is this idea that the one-point-
11	five is necessary to be protective to, you know,
12	property boundary lines. ORES has setbacks, which
13	this project complies with, to residential property
14	boundary lines, which, as ORES counsel pointed out,
15	are protective of participating and non-participating
16	property boundary lines.
17	So this is not the only the the
18	waiver of the Town's setback requirements does not
19	allow the placement of the turbine up to the limit of
20	the property boundary. There is still an ORES
21	setback being applied, which the Applicant complies
22	with.
23	A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Thank you.
24	And the Staff, if you want to have a
25	brief reply of anything, if you'd like two minutes?

Page 84 1 4/16/2024 - Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 MR. BITTINGER: There are a couple 3 points. On the local law history, regardless of how you slice and dice exactly what regarding that is in 5 the record or not allegedly, it's irrelevant. take a local law as it stands at the time the relief was requested. There has to be a limiting principle here. Otherwise, how are -- how far back do you go 9 in time? 10 And in terms of prioritizing the public or the public -- the private or the public, 11 12 rather, with the Town's local law versus the 13 participating landowners restrictions, and Attorney 14 Kanyuck talked about, you know, alleged harm, there's 15 no evidence to demonstrate a detriment to any other 16 property owner. That the Town would have to submit a 17 18 proper piece of evidence to demonstrate that in terms 19 of the local law being -- I think the term used was 20 inherently reasonable. There's no such thing under 21 the ORES regulations. It's a case-specific analysis. 22 And it -- there wasn't even a waiver 23 request made in Heritage Wind, but that's that case and this is this case. 24 25 And I spelled out in detail how ORES

Page 85 1 4/16/2024 Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 2 went through the five factors the Applicant did 3 first, and we looked at it and determined that the Applicant met that standard. 5 In terms of the safety response plan, that safety response plan, itself, does not rely solely on the local setback compliance. But when there's a, quote, the wind turbines such as proposed for the Prattsburgh Wind project pose little risk to community's setback requirements governing location 10 of the turbines and ancillary equipment, protect 11 12 people and structures in the vicinity of the project 13 from potential harm in the event of an emergency. 14 Thank you. 15 A.L.J. MCENENEY CHAN: Okay. Thank 16 you very much. That will conclude oral argument on issue number four. 17 I just want to note for attendees and 18 19 -- and people in attendance who may not be familiar 20 with the process or may not be attorneys, you know, 21 the amount of time that we spend on each particular 22 issue doesn't necessarily reflect how important the 23 issue is. 24 That being said, if an issue wasn't 25 earmarked or brought up today for oral argument, that

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2	doesn't mean that that's not you know, it's any
3	less of an important issue in in this case.
4	And with that being said, I just
5	wanted to give it back to Judge MacKillop-Soller, see
6	if there's anything else that you'd like to add.
7	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
8	Judge McEneney Chan.
9	This will conclude the oral argument
10	for today on this matter. I would ask Ms. Klami and
11	Mr. Muscato, if it is possible, if we could please
12	have an expedited transcript from this oral argument.
13	MS. KLAMI: Yes, your Honor.
14	MR. MUSCATO: Yes, your Honor. I
15	think we've made that request already, but if not,
16	we'll make that formally and we'll make sure that
17	gets filed as soon as possible.
18	A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: I appreciate
19	that. Thank you very much.
20	I'd like to thank everyone, on behalf
21	of both Judge McEneney Chan and myself, for your
22	participation in this oral argument today.
23	Thank you, everyone, for your
24	patience, as well. We had a few connection problems
25	with this, but we do appreciate everyone sticking by

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 2
        and -- and being patient as we resolved them.
 3
                        Thank you and have a great rest of
 4
        your day.
 5
                        (The proceeding concluded at 12:55
 6
        p.m.)
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Page 88 4/16/2024 - Prattsburgh Wind, LLC -21-00749 1 STATE OF NEW YORK 2 3 I, ANNETTE LAINSON, do hereby certify that the foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place, 4 5 as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that 6 the foregoing typewritten transcription consisting of 7 pages 1 through 87, is a true record of all proceedings 8 had at the hearing. 9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto 10 subscribed my name, this the 19th day of April, 2024. 11 12 ANNETTE LAINSON, Reporter 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

ARII@courtsteno.com

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