



## Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
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August 20, 2021

Energy Facilities Siting Board  
RI Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

To the Board:

The North Kingstown Planning Commission was instructed by the Energy Facilities Siting Board to render an advisory opinion on the application of Revolution Wind, LLC to construct and alter major energy facilities located in Rhode Island in correspondence dated April 26, 2021 from Emma Rodvien, Energy Facility Siting Board Coordinator.

In developing this advisory opinion, as requested within the April 26, 2021 correspondence, the Planning Commission discussed any potential major variances required for the project; and whether or not the Revolution Wind, LLC project will be in compliance with the North Kingstown Noise Ordinance, Town Code Chapter 8, Article VI, *Noise*.

Given that the Revolution Wind, LLC project will take place within the Quonset Business Park, most land use considerations will follow Quonset Development Corporation land use regulations, superseding North Kingstown municipal zoning ordinances. As such, the Planning Commission agrees with the findings of the Quonset Development Corporation's technical review of this project, based on the information currently provided, that no major variances will be required at this time.

Regarding compliance with the Town of North Kingstown Noise Ordinance, the Planning Commission is concerned with the lack of information provided in the RevWind Exhibit 1(A): Environmental Report with respects to the noise study. It is the opinion of the Planning Commission that there is little information about the study's methodology, specifically regarding: the type of noise detection meter used; how this device was calibrated; the time, duration, and frequency of sample collections; the randomness of sample collections; whether theses samples are representative of the entire impacted area; and how baseline data was incorporated into the analysis.

Based on the information provided in "Table 8-14 Onshore Transmission Cable Construction Noise" of the RevWind Environmental Report, construction operations on the onshore transmission cable lines will exceed the maximum noise levels as established in the Town of North Kingstown Town Code Chapter 8, Article VI. The provided information also suggests that cable

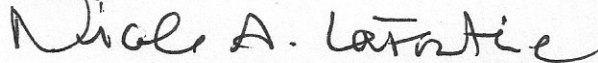
installation in the Camp Avenue right-of-way will be one of the more impactful components of the project based on the proximity of the nearby homes.

The Planning Commission is also concerned with the use of OSHA thresholds as a baseline for comparison for noise disturbances. The 85 dBA threshold applies to construction workers and other laborers and requires the use of hearing protection and hearing conservation programs. Residents within 50 feet of the construction area are not included in such programs and will still be impacted by noise disturbance greater than 85 dBA. Though residents living between 100 and 200 feet of the cable line construction will experience noise disturbances less than 85 dBA, said disturbances will exceed those identified in the North Kingstown Noise Ordinance. Utilizing the data provided, the Planning Commission opines that the project's noise will exceed noise thresholds and no mitigation efforts have been proposed or provided.

Therefore, the Planning Commission is requesting more detailed explanation regarding the methodology and analysis of the noise data collection and is also requesting a noise monitoring and mitigation plan. It is the opinion of the Planning Commission that there is inadequate information regarding noise disturbance levels during the construction and subsequent operations phases to develop a complete and definitive advisory opinion of the application.

Please contact me with any questions regarding the North Kingstown Planning Commission's opinion at [nlafontaine@northkingstown.org](mailto:nlafontaine@northkingstown.org) or (401)268-1570.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole A. LaFontaine".

Nicole A. LaFontaine, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development

cc: NK Planning Commission  
Matt Callaghan, Town Solicitor  
Ralph Mollis, Town Manager