

August 15, 2007

State OKs wind turbines in Steuben County

Staff reports

A wind turbine project in the Steuben County towns of Cohocton and Avoca received final state approval today.

The Public Service Commission announced that it had authorized the construction and operation of wind energy generating projects capable of generating 127.5 megawatts of electricity in the two towns.

The commission said it would impose conditions on the projects in Cohocton and the Dutch Hill area of Avoca, near Bath, to ensure safe, reliable and adequate service. The wind turbines were proposed by Canandaigua Power Partners, LLC and Canandaigua Power Partners II, LLC.

According to documents on file with the commission, there was serious opposition to the project, including from the towns of Naples, Ontario County, and Italy, Yates County, that are just to the north of Cohocton and Avoca.

The approval of the Cohocton and Dutch Hill projects “will provide electricity through facilities utilizing renewable resource technology to provide clean and renewable supplies of electricity to the wholesale energy market,” Commission Chairwoman Patricia L. Acampora said in a statement.

The commission statement said that in making its decision it considered public comments received concerning: “the reliability and characteristics of the wind turbines to be installed; the design, layout and accessibility of the proposed transmission and substation facilities; the potential for adverse effects on access to and operation of the bulk transmission system; and proposed right-of-way management practices and design standards.”

It said the proposed facilities would have a combined electric generating capacity of 127.5 megawatts to power approximately 45,000 homes on an average annual basis.