

**Attachment B. Public Release of Bid Facility Information and Community Engagement Plan**

Proposers can refer to Section 4.3.8 of RESRFP25-1 for full guidance on submitting the information requested here. All Proposers must provide a complete Attachment B. Proposers are advised to not report any confidential information.

<b>Bid Facility Information</b>	
Bid Facility Name:	Wethersfield Windpark
Proposer:	Valcour Wethersfield Windpark, LLC
Technology:	Wind
Proposed Nameplate Capacity (Megawatts AC):	148.5 MW
Interconnection Queue Number:	38397
Interconnecting Utility:	New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG)
NYS PSC Article 10/ORES Case Number (if applicable):	23-03034
Bid Facility Website (if applicable):	<a href="#">Wethersfield Wind   Wind Farm in Wethersfield and Eagle, NY   AES</a>
Proposed In-Service Date:	12/31/2028

**General Description of the project. (250 words or more)**

The Wethersfield Windpark (“Wethersfield”, “Bid Facility”) is an existing 126 MW, 84-turbine wind facility, constructed in 2008 by developer Noble Environmental Power. The Bid Facility, part of a six-Windpark portfolio, was acquired by AES from Cogentrix in November 2021, with the intention of pursuing a partial repower, as the Wethersfield Windpark has been operating for 17 years, some of the equipment is nearing the end of life.

In late 2023, the Proposer decided to pursue a Full Repower which will result in an extended Project life of up to 30 years, increase in energy production, and continuation of the economic benefits associated with Windpark operations. A full repower will entail replacing turbines entirely, building new foundations and re-routing underground collection systems. The Proposer intends to reuse as much of the existing infrastructure as feasible, including the existing substation, overhead collection systems, and access roads. This will result in a Bid Facility with fewer, but larger, higher energy producing turbines.

The Bid Facility is located in Western New York and is adjacent to the Bliss Windpark, another project included in the six-Windpark portfolio acquired by AES. The Bid Facility, with a current nameplate of 126 MW, reduces carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 132,000 metric tons each year, equivalent to the annual electricity consumed by approximately 22,600 homes in the United States. Repowering will ensure continuation of the significant economic benefits provided to the local community via Host Community Agreements (HCAs) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements with the town(s) and county.

The Proposer began conducting community engagement activities in November 2021 during the pre-award and development phase of the repower and will continue public involvement activities throughout the development, and post- repower operation phases.

The local office of the Proposer located in the Hamlet of Bliss, at 3700 Route 78 Bliss, NY 14024, has 18 full-time employees. Positions include Regional Manager, Safety Representative, Planner, Team Lead, Technicians, and an O&M Administrator - all of whom are dedicated to serving the Bliss and Wethersfield Windparks.

<b>Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) Information</b>					
County(ies):	Wyoming County				
City/Town/Village(s):	Towns of Wethersfield and Eagle				
Taxing School District(s):	Letchworth Central School District, Yorkshire Pioneer Central School District and Warsaw Central School District				
Located in Agricultural District? (Yes/No)	Yes, a portion of the Bid Facility's site is located in agricultural district WYOM002 (District 2) in Wyoming County, New York.				
Local Elected Official Name(s), Contact Information, and Tenure	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title and Office</b>	<b>Elected/ Appointed</b>	<b>Tenure</b>	<b>Contact</b>
	Mark A. Merrill	Wethersfield Town Supervisor	Elected	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(631) -727-3200 Ext. 223
	Gail Vosburg	Wethersfield Town Clerk	Elected	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585) – 689 - 2521
	Karl Drasgow	Wethersfield Council Person	Elected	2022 - 2025 (4 years)	<a href="mailto:Karl@drasgowinc.com">Karl@drasgowinc.com</a>
	Brian Chambers	Wethersfield Council Person	Elected	2026 - 2029 (4 years)	(585) – 689 - 2521
	Ronald Jacoby	Wethersfield Council Person	Elected	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585)-553-0173
	Brandon Eastman	Wethersfield Council Person	Elected	2022 - 2027 (6 years)	(585) – 322 - 6007
	Garry Cummins	Wethersfield Council Person	Elected	2026 - 2029 (4 years)	Gcummins0730@gmail.com
	Real Property Tax Ofc.	Wethersfield Assessor	Appointed	2025 (1 year)	<a href="mailto:Realproperty@wyomingcountyny.gov">Realproperty@wyomingcountyny.gov</a>

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RESRFP25-1** Renewable Energy Standard Program  
Purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates



	Steve Sherman	Wethersfield Historian	Appointed	2025 - 2026 (2 years)	(585) – 409 - 8390
	William D. Parmeter	Wethersfield Superintendent of Highways	Appointed	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585) – 704 - 4845
	Kathy Conrad	Wethersfield Tax Collector	Elected	2025 (1 year)	(585)-322-5399
	Michael Roche	Town of Eagle Supervisor	Elected	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585) – 301 - 3432
	Stacy L. Prevorse	Town of Eagle Clerk and Tax Collector	Elected	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585) – 322 - 9257
	Anthony C. George	Town of Eagle Justice	Elected	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585)-322-8888
	Bridgette Dukarm	Town of Eagle Justice	Elected	2025 - 2028 (4 years)	(716) – 361 - 8320
	John Hamilton	Town of Eagle Council Person	Elected	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585) – 322 - 4945
	Chris Jones	Town of Eagle Council Person	Elected	2026 - 2028 (3 years)	(585) – 322 - 7521
	Debbie Slowik	Town of Eagle Council Person	Elected	2026 - 2028 (3 years)	(585) – 322 - 7619
	Clarence George	Town of Eagle Council Person	Elected	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585)-322-7408
	James Kirsch	Town of Eagle Assessor	Appointed	2026 - 2027 (2 years)	(585)-689-9533
	Michelle Barber	Town of Eagle Historian	Appointed	2025 (1 year)	(585)-356-0850
	Stacy L. Prevorse	Town of Eagle Registrar	Appointed	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585) – 322 - 9257
	Wyoming County Zoning Department	Town of Eagle Zoning Officer	Appointed	2025 (1 year)	(585) – 786 3152
	Marc Roche	Town of Eagle Super of Highways	Elected	2024 - 2027 (4 years)	(585) – 322 – 7667

This document will be made publicly available on NYSERDA’s RES Solicitation website.

**Description of local outreach strategies, engagement activities, and public events to date.**

- The Proposer has utilized and will continue to utilize a variety of outreach strategies and communication channels to disseminate information about the Bid Facility to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), and to residents of the host communities. Outreach strategies include:
  - Postcard notifications for upcoming community meetings about the Bid Facility are mailed to all residents and businesses within a 5-mile radius of the Bid Facility boundary two weeks before an event.
  - At least two weeks prior to community meetings:
    - Information regarding public meetings for the Bid Facility can be found on the Bid Facility website;
    - Meeting notices were placed in local papers of record
      - Arcade Herald – The print/online publication serving the Town of Eagle and the Hamlet of Bliss;
      - Batavia Daily News – The print/online publication serving the Town of Wethersfield and Wyoming County; and
      - Warsaw Penny Saver – A free publication mailed to Wyoming County (also available online)
    - The Notice was placed on the Town Board website
  - Physical copies of the permit application are made available at the host communities local libraries.
    - Eagle Free Library, 3413 School Street Bliss, NY 14024.
    - Gainesville Public Library, 10 Church Street, NY 14550.
  - Community meeting materials, such as slide presentations, are also available on the Bid Facility website.
  - When stakeholders contact the Bid Facility team via the state phone line, the Proposer responds within two business days.
- The table list below offers a summary of the Proposer’s primary channels of communication:
  - **Bid Facility website:** <https://www.aes.com/energy-projects/wethersfield>
  - **Bid Facility email:** Wethersfieldwind@aes.com
  - **Local AES Office phone number:** (585) 322-7671
  - **Local AES Office address:** 3700 Route 78, Bliss, NY 14024
- The Proposer has executed the following community engagement and outreach events for the Bid Facility:
  - Bid Facility Full Repower Community and Local Agency Meeting was hosted on January 28, 2025. This meeting was held in person at the Rita George Recreation Hall, 3528 E Main St. Bliss, NY 14024.

- The Social Impact Acknowledgment event for the Proposer's \$26K donation to the North Java Volunteer Fire Department was hosted on December 12, 2024, at the North Java Fire Station, 4274 NY-98, North Java, NY 14113.
- Wyoming County Green Energy Committee on November 30, 2022. Representatives from the Bid Facility gave a presentation about the Proposers' social impact program, operations and repower plans for the Bliss Windpark and the Bid Facility.
- Town of Eagle Board Monthly Meeting on November 17, 2022. The Proposer attended this meeting to provide updates about the proposed Bid Facility repower.
- Town of Wethersfield Board Monthly Meeting on November 14, 2022. The Proposer attended this meeting to provide updates about the proposed repower.
- Bliss & Wethersfield Wind Repower Community Meeting was hosted on June 8, 2022. This meeting was held in person at the Bliss Recreation Hall.

**Description of planned local outreach strategies, engagement activities, and public events.**

- Upon receiving issuance of a draft permit, and the date and time for the Public Comment Hearing, the Proposer will provide notice about the Public Comment Hearing in accordance with Article VIII regulations. As such:
  - The Proposer shall publish at least one notice no less than twenty-one days prior to the hearing date in a newspaper having general circulation in the area within which the proposed project is located.
  - The Proposer shall also provide a copy of the public comment hearing notice to the Town of Wethersfield and Eagle supervisors no less than twenty-one days prior to the hearing.
  - The Proposer shall also consult the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) no less than 30 days prior to the hearing date to confirm the mailing of any additional notices in advance of the hearing to adequately inform the potentially affected public about the hearing.
- Public involvement and community outreach will continue on an ongoing basis during the preconstruction and construction phases of the Bid Facility.
  - A complaint management log will be maintained by the Proposer to document and respond to all stakeholder inquiries and complaints related to the Bid Facility construction. Stakeholders will be able to indicate concerns and make complaints via the Bid Facility's website.
- At least fourteen business days prior to the Proposer's commencement of construction date, the Proposer shall provide notice by mail to all people residing within five miles of the bid facility included on the master stakeholder list.
- Notice will be provided by mail and phone to local town and county officials and emergency personnel. The notice shall be published by mail in the local newspapers of record for dissemination, including at least one free publication, Warsaw Penny Saver.
- The Proposer will also provide notice for display in public places, which shall include, but not limited to the Wethersfield and Eagle town hall, the Eagle library, the Arcade post office, the Bid Facility website, and the Bid Facility construction trailers/offices; and file notice with the Office (ORES) for posting on the Office (ORES) website.
- At least fourteen business days prior to commencement of construction, the Proposer will file with ORES an affirmation that it has provided the notifications and will include a copy of the notice(s), as well as a distribution list.

- Prior to the completion of construction, the Proposer will notify all residents within the 5-mile radius of the Bid Facility, as well as the AHJ's and emergency personnel with the contact names, telephone numbers, email and mailing addresses of the facility operations manager.
  - The Post Construction Notice shall include a map of the Bid Facility, brief description of the Facility, the construction schedule and transportation routes, name, mailing address, local or toll-free telephone number, and email address of the appropriate facility contact for development, construction, and operations. The procedure and contact information for registering a complaint, contact information for the Office and the NYSDSPS; and a list of public locations where information about the facility, construction, and the permittee will be posted.
- Within fourteen days of the completion of final post-construction restoration, the Proposer will notify the NYSDPS, with a copy to the Office, that all such restoration has been completed in compliance with the siting permit and applicable compliance filings and provide an anticipated date of commencement of commercial operation of the facility.
- During operations of the Fully Repowered Facility, as during current operations, there will be signage posted at both the Bid Facility Site and local office with Bid Facility contact information. Signage includes specific instructions on responding to an emergency.
- The Proposer will continue to engage with the local community in appropriate and meaningful ways. Throughout the operations phase, as during all phases, the Proposer is committed to being accessible to the community and all stakeholders. In particular, the Proposer will remain accessible at the local office located in the Hamlet of Bliss.
  - The Proposer will assign a community relations liaison to handle all inquiries and concerns raised by external stakeholders regarding the Bid Facility. Important Bid Facility updates will be included on the Project website.
  - Communication will be maintained with local emergency responders to ensure safety and response readiness.
  - Bid Facility site tours for local non-profits, community organizations, local school districts, and town and county officials will be made available to educate and inform stakeholders about ongoing Bid Facility operations.

**Description of benefits to disadvantaged communities that would be realized with the development and construction of the Bid Facility:**

- In alignment with the goals of the Climate Leadership Community Protection Act, the Proposer intends to continue supporting disadvantaged communities and households (DACs) during development and construction through its Social Impact program.
- The Proposer launched its Social Impact Program in New York State in 2021 to collaborate with community leaders from government, business, education, social services, and residents to identify opportunities where the Proposer can provide financial and other types of support to high-impact initiatives, programs and institutions that enjoy broad support in the community. The Proposer has developed these four focus pillars from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:
  - Partnering for access to Safe, Efficient, and Affordable Energy and Basic Services;
  - Partnering for Inclusive Economic Growth & Education;
  - Partnering for the Environment; and
  - Partnering for Community Resilience
- Within these focus pillars, the social impact program strives to create partnerships that align with the Proposer’s purpose and values while strengthening the Proposer’s investment in community-led initiatives that meet the targets set forth by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals and American Clean Power’s Energy Transition for All Initiative.
- The Proposer understands the need for investing in workforce development and through our social impact program in New York, has prioritized investments in workforce development specifically within DACs.
- The Proposer is committed to prioritizing the hiring of construction staff from DACs to the maximum extent practicable. The Proposer will do so by working with EPCs, NYSERDA, the NYS Department of Labor, its contractors, and representatives from the Bid Facility host communities
  - The jobs are primarily in the construction trades, including laborers, mechanics, field engineers, electricians, and some executive and management/administrative positions.

**Description of the direct benefits to the community:**

- The Proposer's presence in Western New York has led to over \$500,000 worth of partnerships with emergency responders, local school districts, and not-for-profit organizations including but not limited to:
  - Letchworth Central School District in 2025
  - Yorkshire Pioneer Central School District in 2025.
  - North Java Fire Department in 2024.
  - Peers Together of Wyoming County in 2024.
  - Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in 2024
  - Village of Arcade in 2023.
  - Autism Nature Trail in 2023.
  - Friends of Letchworth State Park in 2022.
  - Genesee Community College in 2022.
  - Barker Central School District in 2022.
- The Proposer was a silver level sponsor of the 2024 Wyoming County Pride of Agriculture Award Dinner hosted at the North Java Fire Hall. AES was also a gold level sponsor of the 2025 Wyoming County Pride of Agricultural Award Dinner.
- The Proposer also recognizes the importance of sponsoring and attending Career and Job Fairs in DACs and will continue to participate in such events.
- During the repowering process of the Bid Facility, the Proposer will continue social impact funding in these host communities and regions, in the critical areas of clean energy and energy efficiency programs, investments in the areas of housing, workforce development, pollution reduction, low-income energy assistance, energy, transportation, and economic development.

**Description of past or planned PILOT and HCA engagements:**

- Since the original commercial operation data in 2008, the Bid Facility has provided economic benefit to the local taxing jurisdictions in the form of Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) and Host Community Agreements (HCAs). The Bid Facility will continue to provide economic benefits through the Full Repower timeline. To date, the Bid Facility has contributed over \$20 million to the local communities through PILOT and HCA agreements. Over the anticipated project life, the Bid Facility will contribute over \$30million via the HCA and over \$7 million via the PILOT.
- The Proposer expects to execute a PILOT agreement for the Bid Facility which is anticipated to provide millions of dollars in revenue for the host communities and county.
- The Proposer also expects to execute HCA with each host community. These agreements will provide millions of dollars in revenue for the two host towns.
- Another source of revenue for the host communities is the payments to local landowners.

**Description of local interests and concerns, including strategies to build support and/or mitigate concerns:**

- The Bid Facility’s success depends on continuing a strong relationship with the Wethersfield and Eagle Town Boards, and the local communities. The Proposer has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring the community is aware of and participates in the development, construction, and commercialization of the Bid Facility, and will continue to do so. Overall, the local community is accepting the existing Bid Facility and recognizes local economic benefits and other general benefits that the Bid Facility will bring well into the future.
- The Proposer has worked in cooperation with the community throughout the Repowering of the Bid Facility. The Proposer takes into consideration concerns raised by the community and has incorporated solutions to respond accordingly. Please see the examples listed below.
  - Impacts to the topography and project footprint.
    - During the construction of the Bid Facility, the Proposer will be utilizing the same access roads and laydown yards used during initial construction of the Wethersfield Windpark. Minimal tree-clearing and grubbing (removal of stumps, shrubs and roots) along roads and around turbines and minimal grading and smoothing of dips in delivery roads will limit impacts during the delivery of the new turbine components. The Proposer will communicate with landowners as needed if any tree-clearing, road-improvement, or other retrofitting-related impacts are anticipated on their land.
  - General concerns about wind development: flicker impacts, sound impacts, visual Impacts.
    - The Proposer continues to facilitate one-on-one conversations with stakeholders concerned about shadow flicker, sound impacts, and visual impacts. Stakeholders have been assured that the repowered Bid Facility is anticipated to have similar sound, flicker, and visual impacts as the current operating Facility. Perceived burdens related to flicker, sound, and visual impacts will be addressed by the Proposer through the repower development and permitting processes.
  - Preservation of rural landscape and minimizing impacts on the local community
    - The Proposer is cognizant that preserving the current landscape is a main concern and priority for many members of the local community. To this end, the Proposer aims to mitigate and minimize impacts related to the Bid Facility and aims to enable the Bid Facility to continue operating post-repower the same way it has for the past 14 years. The repower will not entail the erection of any new turbines, and thus the Bid Facility footprint and local presence will remain unimpacted. The Proposer

believes that realization of the repower will enable preservation of the local landscape and that the Bid Facility will have no new impacts on the community. The Project Area will be preserved for up to an additional 30 years of operation, and economic benefits to the local community will be able to continue via extended PILOT and HCA agreements.

- Economic Benefits
  - Additionally, community members expressed the significant positive impact that HCA and PILOT payments have had on the communities from 2008 to the present. These community members have stated that they want these payments to continue and have expressed concern about the lost economic benefits to the community if the Bid Facility is not repowered. The Proposer has communicated with community members and local agencies that our desire is to see the life of the Bid Facility extended, and with it, the economic benefits that have been experienced by the community for the past 17 years.
- Our community engagement philosophy is to create a solid foundation at the local level and build additional layers of support at the regional and state levels. The Proposer will continue this outreach and is committed to responding respectfully to community feedback and concerns.
- The Proposer is committed to addressing all instances of concern or opposition by listening, providing factual and thorough resources where applicable, and taking corrective or responsive action where possible. The Proposer will continue this stakeholder outreach during the Full Repower process and is committed to responding respectfully to community feedback and concerns.
- The Proposer commits to understanding the local community and landowners' concerns with the Bid Facility and aid in mitigation where required or appropriate.
- In a typical process, any person impacted by the Bid Facility can contact the Bid Facility team through the avenues described in this document: Bid Facility phone line, Project email, and Bid Facility website. Every public concern is taken seriously, and a Bid Facility representative will respectfully communicate with the stakeholder to identify the source of their concern as well as any potential mitigation that may be required. If warranted, the Proposer will attend either virtual or in-person one-on-one meetings with the stakeholder with the goal of achieving a mutual agreement.

The Proposer will coordinate closely with the many teams involved in the Bid Facility to address and mitigate any identified concerns. The Proposer is committed to being accessible and ensuring stakeholders receive information and resolutions to concerns as quickly as possible and will continue to solicit feedback and input throughout all Bid Facility phases.

**Description of method for soliciting project feedback, including the process for sharing feedback:**

- The Proposer solicits input via phone line, the Bid Facility email, and the Bid Facility website Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm. The Proposer organizes community meetings; three have been organized thus far and speaks with local leaders nearly once a month.
- The Proposer has a track record of incorporating feedback into future engagements. For example, after learning that some community members were unable to attend a community meeting for another Bid Facility due to the scheduled time (5pm-7pm), the Proposer decided to hold two community meeting sessions, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, for future community meetings. In another example, the Proposer reissued modified notifications for a community meeting after receiving feedback from a stakeholder that the information contained in the first notification was too vague. The Proposer has also included Wind FAQ documents that are available on the Bid Facility website. These documents include responses to questions we have commonly received from our stakeholders at community meetings, one-on-one in-person interactions, and through our various communication channels. Compiling and publishing these Q&A documents demonstrates our commitment to sharing responses publicly.
- When the Proposer receives questions, feedback, or concerns we incorporate them into our public Q&A. When the Proposer receives individual feedback, questions, and concerns, the Proposer follows up with these stakeholders directly and documents our response. However, we do not make these exchanges public to protect the privacy of our stakeholders. The Proposer has numerous examples of concerns and issues that have been resolved via communication and direct follow-up between our AES team and our stakeholders.
- Contact Information
  - **Local Office address:** 3700 Route 78 Bliss, NY 14024
  - **NYC Office:** 292 Madison Ave 15<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10017
  - **Local Office Phone Number:** (585) 322-7671
  - **AES New York Toll Free Number:** 866-757-7697
  - **Bid Facility Email:** [wethersfieldwind@aes.com](mailto:wethersfieldwind@aes.com)
  - **Bid Facility Website:** [Wethersfield Wind | Wind Farm in Wethersfield and Eagle, NY | AES](#)