



Community Engagement Plan

Valcour Altona Windpark

NYSERDA RESRFP24-1

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Bid Facility Background and Permit Status

Altona Windpark (“the Bid Facility”) is a 103.5 MW constructed in 2009 by Noble Environmental Power. The Bid Facility is part of a six-Windpark portfolio acquired by AES from Cogentrix in November 2021, with the intention of pursuing a repower. The Bid Facility has been in operation for 14 years, therefore some of the equipment is nearing the end of life. A full repower of the Bid Facility will result in an extended life of up to 30 years, increased clean electricity production and continuation of the economic benefits

The Bid Facility reduces carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 215,350 metric tons each year, producing enough electricity to power approximately 47,700 homes annually. Repowering will ensure continued, significant economic benefits to the local community via Host Community Agreements (HCA) and Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements in the Town of Altona in Clinton County.

The Proposer began conducting community engagement activities in November 2021 and will continue public involvement activities throughout the development, first decommissioning, construction, and post-repower operations. To date, the Proposer has hosted one public engagement events: a community meeting the Proposer has an office in Churubusco NY that serves the Clinton, Ellenburg, Chateaugay, and Altona Operating Bid Facilities. This office, where twenty-nine full-time staff Positions include but are not limited to Wind Turbine Technicians, Health & Safety Technical Services, Engineering, Field Services, Planner/Scheduler, Strategic Sourcing, and Operations & Maintenance.

Permit Application Status

The Project will be permitted under the Article VIII (formerly Section 94-c) permitting process. The Proposer will comply with all Article VIII community engagement requirements.

Key Contacts

Valcour Altona Windpark, LLC (“the Proposer”) has identified the following key contacts as of Q3 2024.

Authority Having Jurisdiction

The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is the Town of Altona, in Clinton County, New York. The taxing school district is the Northern Adirondack Central School District. The taxing school district BEDS code is 09091040000. The school district code ID is 3621260.

Locally Elected Officials

The locally elected officials for the town of Altona, New York are listed below.

| Name | Title and Office | Tenure ¹ | Contact | Address |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Nicole Bushey | Town Clerk/Tax Collector Town of Altona | Elected 4 years, end of term 12/31/23. | 518-236-7035 ext.104 nikki@townaltona.com | 3124 Miner Farm Road Altona, New York 12910 |
| Joe Snide | Town Supervisor Town of Altona | 4 years, end of term 12/31/27. | 518-236-7035 Ext 105 Joe@townaltona.com | 3124 Miner Farm Road Altona, New York 12910 |
| Brady Smart | Town Council Town of Altona | 4 years, end of term 12/31/27. | 518-578-6180 | 3124 Miner Farm Rd. Altona, NY 12910 |
| Jeanne Bushey | Town Council Town of Altona | 4 years, end of term 12/31/25. | 518-236-7398 | 3124 Miner Farm Rd. Altona, NY 12910 |
| Randy Lashway | Town Council Town of Altona | 4 years, end of term 12/31/27. | 518-534-4199 | 3124 Miner Farm Rd. Altona, NY 12910 |
| Dustin Relation | Town Council Town of Altona | 4 years, end of term 12/31/24. | 518-534-3377 | 3124 Miner Farm Rd. Altona, NY 12910 |
| Jason Myatt | Highway Superintendent Town of Altona | 4 years, end of term 12/31/27. | 518-236-7006 | 3124 Miner Farm Rd. Altona, NY 12910 |

Local Officials

| Name | Title and Office | Tenure | Contact | Address |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Larry Ross | Deputy Supervisor Town of Altona | 1 year appointment, to be renewed or terminated at discrepancy of supervisor/board | 518-569-1242 | 3124 Miner Farm Rd. Altona, NY 12910 |
| Jeanne Bushey | Deputy Supervisor Town of Altona | 1 year appointment, to be renewed or terminated at discrepancy of supervisor/board | 518-236-7398 518-578-2973 Jeannebushey002@gmail.com | 3124 Miner Farm Rd. Altona, NY 12910 |
| John Brunell | Code Enforcement Officer | 1 year appointment, to be renewed or terminated at discrepancy of supervisor/board | 518-236-7035 ext:102 (Office) 386-279-1952 (Cell) | 3124 Miner Farm Rd. Altona, NY 12910 |
| Melinda Guerin | Secretary to the Supervisor Town of Altona | N/A | 518-236-7035 ext.101 Mindy@townaltona.com | 3124 Miner Farm Rd. Altona, NY 12910 |

* Some officials do not have terms listed. The Proposer will continue to monitor the Town website to determine position appointments.

Outreach Efforts & Strategies

Description of Stakeholder List

The stakeholder list includes a variety of individuals and parties with interest in the Bid Facility. These stakeholders are described and listed in Section 1 of this document. A summary description of the stakeholder list is included below.

Community Members

Within this Community Engagement Plan, community members include the participating landowners, Bid Facility neighbors, adjacent landowners, and residents/businesses within a 5-mile radius of the boundaries of the Bid Facility Area. The community members stakeholder group includes any residents of the local community who reach out to the Proposer and have an interest in the progression of the Bid Facility.

Local Agencies

Local affected agencies are also stakeholders. The Proposer been in contact with local agencies, including the Town of Altona, NYS officials, the Northern Adirondack Central School District, local first responders and fire departments, adjacent municipalities, utility providers, and local interest groups. The Proposer has met with the local officials to introduce themselves, discuss the transition of ownership, and the Bid Facility repowering plans.

In addition to ongoing local consultation efforts, the Proposer has consulted with state agencies on several occasions during the pre-application process, including ORES; NYSDEC; New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM); and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP).

The Proposer continues to identify and collaborate with key local stakeholder groups. Should other key stakeholder groups come to our attention, the Proposer will initiate outreach and engagement with them and add them to our stakeholder list.

Methods of Communication

The Proposer utilizes a variety of communication channels to disseminate information about the Bid Facility including via the Bid Facility website, mailed notifications, and notices in local papers. Updates will continue to be shared on the Bid Facility website throughout the repowering process. Updated community meeting materials will be made available on the Bid Facility webpage. When stakeholders contact the Bid Facility team via phone, the Proposer responds with a return phone call within two business days.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Bid Facility Email | Altonawind@aes.com |
| Bid Facility Website | www.aes.com/altona-wind |
| AES NY Phone # | 518-497-0818 |
| Local AES Office Address | 23 Lost Nation Rd. Churubusco, NY 12923, United States |
| Town Board Website | www.townaltona.com/government/ |

Outreach Efforts – Pre-Award & Development

In addition to regular communication with local officials in the host communities, the Proposer has conducted community engagement and outreach events for the Bid Facility. Some of these outreach efforts are described below.

At community engagement events, it is customary practice that the Proposer introduces Bid Facility representatives, informs attendees about the Bid Facility, and answers questions. In addition, the Proposer solicits feedback from community members and members of local agencies. The Proposer publishes all notices of public engagement events in accordance with regulations.

Community Engagement Event Details

Community engagement events offer opportunities for the Proposer to meet with local stakeholders. The purpose of these events is to introduce AES and the Bid Facility to the host community, to inform the community about the repowering process and next steps, and to inform the community about how to get involved. The Proposer makes a thorough effort to notify stakeholders and encourage attendance and participation.

Notification of Community Engagement Events

The Proposer will notify stakeholders about community engagement events in accordance with permitting regulations. Notifications will also be posted on the Bid Facility website at least two weeks before the event.

Outreach Strategies – Decommissioning of existing towers and construction of new towers

The Bid Facility’s current towers will need to be completely removed and new towers will be constructed. During these two phases, public involvement and community outreach will continue on an ongoing basis. In consideration of the temporary disruption caused by these two phases of the Bid Facility, the Proposer will make every effort to communicate effectively and consistently with the host community. The Proposer will leverage its existing Complaint Resolution Process developed as part of the current Bid Facility HCA, and if necessary, will develop a supplementary Complaint Management Plan prior to the retrofitting phase. At a minimum, the Complaint Management Plan shall describe the following:

- Methods for registering a complaint, which shall include a phone number, email address, mailing address, and a form to report complaints.
- Notification to the public of the complaint procedures.
- Process for responding to and resolving complaints in a consistent, timely, and respectful manner.
- Logging and tracking of all complaints received and resolutions achieved, with records of the following for each complaint containing:
 - o The name and contact information of the person filing the complaint.
 - o Location and owner of the property where the complaint originated.
 - o Date and time of the underlying event causing the complaint.

- o Description of the complaint; and of Current status and description of measures taken to resolve complaints.
- Reporting to the Office and the NYSDPS any complaints not resolved within 30 days of receipt.
- Mediating complaints not resolved within 60 days; and
- Providing annual reports of complaint resolution tracking to the Office staff and NYSDPS staff, which shall also be filed with the Executive Director of the Office and Secretary of the NYSDPS.

Through these engagement tactics, the Proposer will ensure that stakeholders have appropriate recourse to learn and share feedback and concerns about the Bid Facility’s decommissioning and construction phases.

Outreach Strategies – Operation

The Proposer will make every effort to keep the community informed about the Bid Facility throughout all phases. During post-repower operations, as during the current operation, there is 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 post-repower Operating Phase, the Proposer is committed to being accessible to the community and all stakeholders. In particular, the Proposer will remain accessible at the local AES office serving the Altona, Chateaugay, Clinton, and Ellenburg offices located in Churubusco, Clinton County.

Climate Act Goals & Disadvantaged Communities

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) requires the state to invest or direct resources in a manner designed to ensure that Disadvantaged Communities to receive at least 35%, with the goal of 40%, of overall benefits of spending on:

- Clean energy and energy efficiency programs
- Projects or investments in the areas of housing, workforce development, pollution reduction, low-income energy assistance, energy, transportation, and economic development.

As we develop and build our 2+ GW renewable energy portfolio in New York, AES is committed to expanding our Social Impact program for the state. The funds designated for this program will be distributed to host communities, regions, and disadvantaged communities during the development and construction phases.

Social Impact Program

To support host communities during the development and construction of our renewable energy projects, including the Bid Facility AES launched its Social Impact Program in New York State in 2021.

Through the Social Impact Program, the AES team collaborates with community leaders from government, business, education, social services, and residents to identify opportunities where AES can provide financial and other types of support to high-impact initiatives, programs and institutions that enjoy broad support in the community. AES has developed these four focus pillars from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Partnering for access to Safe, Efficient, and Affordable Energy and Basic Services
2. Partnering for Inclusive Economic Growth & Education
3. Partnering for the Environment
4. Partnering for Community Resilience

Within these Focus Pillars, our Social Impact program strives to create partnerships that align with AES' purpose and values while strengthening our 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](#).

These goals closely align with the Climate Act's goals for Disadvantaged Communities.

AES Social Impact Spending for, in, or near Disadvantaged Communities

Per the Climate Justice Working Group Draft Criteria 15% of residents in the North Country live in a Disadvantaged Community, including the City of Plattsburgh.

AES understands the need for investing in workforce development and through our Social Impact program, we have invested in workforce development in the following Disadvantaged Communities through partnerships with:

- Franklin Essex Hamilton Board of Cooperative Education Services (FEH BOCES) in 2022
- Genesee Community College, Solar Electrical Technician Certificate Program in 2021 and 2022
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 910 Apprenticeship Program in 2023
- United Way of Northern New York-Watertown in 2023
- IBEW Local 237 Apprenticeship Program in 2023
- Solar One, NYC in 2023 and 2024

Regional Workforce Development

In addition to AES' financial commitments for Workforce Development in the North Country and Disadvantaged Communities, AES has been invited to join the North Country Workforce Development Board based in Plattsburgh and the Electrical Trades Consultant Committee of the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES, based in the Town of Malone, Franklin County.

Clean Energy Career Fairs

AES also recognizes the importance of sponsoring and attending Career and Job Fairs in Disadvantaged Communities and as such intends to participate in such events in 2024.

STEM Commitments

Equally important to workforce development partnerships at the high school and college level are early education investments in STEM curriculum. To that end, AES is a founding member of the Discovery Education STEM Careers Coalition. This coalition aims to expand the future STEM workforce by creating equitable opportunities for a diverse population of students and supports exposure to STEM careers and opportunities through the development of content and resources.

AES Social Impact Commitment to Disadvantaged Communities

During the development and construction of our 2+ GW utility scale renewable energy portfolio, including the Bid Facility’s repower, AES intends to invest Social Impact funding during development and construction. This funding will be dispersed in host communities, including the Town of Altona, and across the state.

Given AES’ own commitment to a just transition and the goals of the Climate Act, AES is committed to ensuring Social Impact spending in New York directly benefits disadvantaged communities.

Plans for Public Engagement

Community outreach will continue throughout the operations/pre-award and development phase, the first decommissioning phase, construction and post-repower operation phases of the Bid Facility’s life. The Proposer has a robust plan to provide the community with continuing access to Bid Facility representatives to make sure there are plenty of opportunities for community input.

There is a designated Bid Facility email address, a New York phone number, and weekly office hours. Contact information is provided in Section 2 of this document and is also available on the Bid Facility website. The Bid Facility website is also regularly updated with the latest information and development schedules so that the community has access to them.

As described in detail within Section 2 of this document, the Proposer uses effective methods of communication to notify all stakeholders and ensure that public engagement events are widely attended.

Direct Benefits to the Community

As described in Section 3 of this document, AES launched its Social Impact Program in New York State in 2021. This program is designed to support host communities during the development and construction of our renewable energy projects, including the Bid Facility.

You can learn more about the importance of AES to the communities where we are developing and operating projects in this video.

During development and construction of the Bid Facility, the Proposer will continue Social Impact funding across New York State, 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

Local Partnerships and Memberships

AES’ presence in the North Country has resulted in partnerships with a local BOCES program, local school districts, and local fire departments.

The Proposer will also provide electric utility bill credits for the first 10 years of the Bid Facility’s operation to the utility customers in the Town of Altona. The credits will total \$103,500 annually, based on \$1,000 per MW of capacity. Over the 10-year period, a total of \$1,035,000 in credits will be given.

During the repowering development phase of the Bid Facility, AES will continue Social Impact funding in these host communities and region, 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.

Community Economic Benefits

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and Host Community Agreement (HCA)

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) since the Bid Facility operation date. The Proposer will continue to provide economic benefits through the repower timeline.

Balancing Stakeholder Interests

The Proposer has conducted stakeholder outreach throughout the current pre-award and development phase of the Bid Facility. These efforts include stakeholder consultations, a public Community Meeting, and regular attendance at the monthly Clinton Wind Board meetings.

Information is also available to the community via the Bid Facility website. These outreach efforts have ensured community participation during the Bid Facility's development.

Building Stakeholder Support

The Bid Facility's success depends on continuing our strong relationship with the Altona Town Board, the Clinton Wind Board, and the local community. The Proposer has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring the community is aware of and participates in the development, first decommissioning, construction, and commercialization of the Bid Facility, and will continue to do so. The Proposer's desire is to be sensitive to local concerns throughout the realization of the Bid Facility, resulting in a project that the community is proud of. The Proposer will continue to work in cooperation with the community throughout the repower process. Overall, the local community is accepting of the existing Bid Facility and recognizes the local economic benefits and other benefits the Bid Facility's repower will bring well into the future.

Response to Community Concerns

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 examples listed below.

General concerns about wind development (flicker impacts, sound impacts, visual impacts): The Proposer has facilitated one-on-one conversations with concerned stakeholders and has communicated that the repowered Bid Facility is anticipated to have similar sound, flicker, and visual impacts as the current operating Bid Facility. Perceived burdens related to flicker, sound and visual impacts will be addressed by the proposer through the development and permitting process.

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 repower 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 Proposer believes that realization of the repower will enable preservation of the local landscape. The Bid Facility 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.

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 respond 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, acknowledging our stakeholders' concerns, and taking mitigatory or responsive action where possible to address concerns. The Proposer will continue this stakeholder outreach will continue throughout the repower process and is committed to responding respectfully to community feedback and concerns.

Mitigating Concerns from Stakeholders

The Proposer commits to understanding the local community and landowners' concerns with the Bid Facility and aid in mitigation where required or appropriate. The Proposer has a history of working with participating and non-participating landowners of the Bid Facility site and is committed to collaborating with individual stakeholders to mitigate Bid Facility-related concerns and impacts when possible.

In a typical process, any person impacted by the Bid Facility can contact the Bid Facility team through the avenues described in Section 2 of this document: Proposer phone line, the Bid Facility email, and the Bid Facility website. Public concerns are taken seriously, and Bid Facility representatives will respectfully communicate with stakeholders. 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: Operations, Repower Development, Asset Management, and Stakeholder Relations - to address/mitigate the identified issue(s). The Proposer is committed to being accessible and ensuring stakeholders receive information and resolutions to concerns. Examples of how the Proposer has responded to concerns expressed are listed in Section 7 of this document. The Proposer will continue to solicit feedback and input throughout all Bid Facility phases.

Feedback Solicitation

The Bid Facility's Community Engagement includes soliciting feedback and input from stakeholders during the Bid Facility repower development process. The Proposer has described the methods through which feedback has been solicited and incorporated into ongoing Project operation and development. This information can be found in Sections 2 and 4 of this document. In summary, the Proposer:

- Hosted a community meeting.
- Solicits input on the Bid Facility website.
- Monitors the Bid Facility email Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm
- Speaks with local leaders regularly
- Will host a second Community Meeting in the fall of 2024