



Environmental and Energy Services  
CITY OF BOSTON

THOMAS M. MENINO  
Mayor

JAMES W. HUNT, III  
Chief of Environmental  
and Energy Services

*Via electronic and first class mail*

February 29, 2012

Dennis E. Harrington, *Planning Director*  
City of Quincy Planning Board  
1305 Hancock Street  
Quincy, MA 02169

RE: Planning Board Case No. 2011-03 — Application filed by the City of Boston (the “City”) for a permit pursuant to sections 17.06.7 (Wind Facilities) and 17.9.4 (Special Permits) of the Quincy Zoning Ordinance.

Dear Mr. Harrington:

As you know, the above Planning Board case pertains to the City of Boston’s proposal to install a single wind turbine on Moon Island within the Open Space zoning district shown on Assessors Map 1088B/1.

From the inception of the project to-date the City of Boston has endeavored to provide Quincy officials and residents with opportunities to understand the details of this proposed community wind project. As early as May 24, 2010, for example, three months prior to filing its application for a special permit, and in cooperation with the office of Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch, a community meeting in Squantum was convened for the purpose of introducing the project to the residents of Quincy.

Since that very first community meeting the City of Boston has made considerable investments in both time and money in order to secure the regulatory approvals necessary to move the project forward, to compile the data required to support its special application before the Planning Board, and to disseminate relevant information about the project to Quincy’s residents. The City applied for and received approvals for the project from Federal Aviation Administration, the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The City commissioned an interconnection study from NGRID, a

comprehensive acoustical study, and an archeological study of the proposed site. In addition to paying its own consultant to prepare the special permit application, the City of Boston also paid the Planning Board's consultant, Beals and Thomas, Inc., to peer-review the application.

The approvals that the City of Boston received, the studies that it commissioned, and even the peer review completed by the Quincy Planning Board's consultant all support the conclusion that Moon Island represents one of the most favorable sites in Massachusetts for the development of a community wind project. The project would have generated clean renewable energy, created jobs, and reduced municipal energy budgets - all with virtually no impacts to residential areas.

- The proposed site is 5,000 feet—almost a mile—from the nearest residence.
- The acoustical study indicated that at a distance of 5,000 feet the sound propagated by the wind turbine would be 10 decibels below ambient nighttime sound levels in Squantum, thus inaudible to the neighborhood closest to the site.
- The acoustical study also confirmed that the wind turbine would not produce vibrations or low frequency noise at a distance of 5,000 feet.
- Engineering studies indicated that the wind turbine would cast minor shadow impacts on the nearest Squantum residences fewer than 10 hours per year, at sunrise, and that this “flicker” from the turbine could be entirely eliminated with operational controls.
- Given that the wind turbine would have been nearly a mile distant from the nearest residence, the visual impact of the proposed turbine would also have been minimal – less than the size of a dime on the horizon. By comparison, the MWRA's wind turbine in Charlestown is 1,720 feet from the nearest residence, the Hull I wind turbine is 760 feet away from the nearest residence, and the Hull 2 wind turbine is less than 500 feet away from the nearest residence—ten times closer than the proposed Moon Island wind turbine.

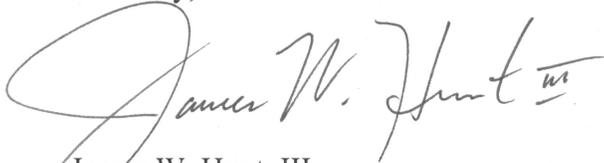
After nearly two years of discussion, the City of Boston was eager to have a full hearing before the Planning Board and present all of these findings at its February 8, 2012 meeting, and to have the Board render a decision on merits of the project. I agreed, however, with the decision to postpone the meeting, and to reconvene in a venue that would comfortably accommodate the large numbers of Quincy residents who attended the hearing in order to learn more about the project. I felt that this was especially important, given that Squantum residents had received flyers just prior to the February 8<sup>th</sup> hearing that contained misleading information that was not based on this site and had little, if any, relationship to this project.

Last week, Mayor Koch issued a community letter stating that he cannot support the proposed project at this time, and further requested that the City withdraw its application to construct a wind turbine on Moon Island. While the City is disappointed that after nearly two years of discussion and exhaustive study we have never had a full hearing of the project before the

Planning Board, we feel that we must respect Mayor Koch's request. Therefore, out of deference to Mayor Koch, I formally request a withdrawal of Case No. 2011-03 from the Planning Board's docket.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James W. Hunt III". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James W. Hunt, III

*Chief of Environmental and Energy Services*

cc: Thomas M. Menino, *Mayor of the City of Boston*  
Thomas P. Koch, *Mayor of the City of Quincy*