

6.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

The proposed Project will require the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of certain human, material, environmental, and financial resources, as described below. For the most part, the commitments of these resources will be offset by the benefits that will result from implementation of the Project.

Human and financial resources have already been and will continue to be expended by Atlantic Wind, the State of New York (i.e., various state agencies), Jefferson County, and the Town of Clayton for the planning and review of the Project. The expenditure of funds and human resources will continue to be required throughout the permitting and construction phases of the Project (e.g., for environmental reviews and permitting, site plan approval, building and construction inspections). However, these commitments are appropriate and justifiable in light of the financial and energy-related benefits that would be derived from the Project.

The Project also represents a commitment of land for the life of the Project. Specifically, the approximately 48.5 acres of land to be developed for wind turbines, access roads, and substations will not be available for alternative purposes for the life of the Project. However, because the turbines/towers could be decommissioned, and the land reclaimed for alternative uses at some future date, the long-term commitment of this land to the Project is not either irreversible or irretrievable.

Various types of construction materials and building supplies will be committed to the Project. The use of these materials, such as gravel, concrete, steel, etc., will represent a long-term commitment of these resources, and potentially limit their availability for other future projects. However, the volume of materials used for the Project would represent a very small percentage of these materials produced/manufactured on a regional, national or worldwide basis. Moreover, some of these materials such as stone and steel will be available for salvage, reclamation and recycling; a small percentage upon completion of construction, and the remainder once the Project is decommissioned. Therefore, it is anticipated that the Project will not have a significant impact on the availability of these construction materials.

Energy resources also will be irretrievably committed to the Project, during both the construction and operation of the Project. Fuel, lubricants, and electricity will be required during site preparation and turbine construction activities for the operation of various types of construction equipment and

vehicles, and for the transportation of workers and materials to the Project site. However, the energy resources utilized to construct and operate the Project will be significantly offset by the benefits of up to 96 MW of clean, renewable energy generated by the Project and made available to the people of New York State.