

7.0 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

Certain proposed actions covered under the SEQRA process have the potential to trigger further development by either attracting a significant local population, inviting commercial or industrial growth, or by inducing the development of similar projects adjacent to the built facility. The proposed Project does not require a permanent work force greater than approximately eight to eleven employees, and therefore will not lead to significant growth in local population or housing. Although the Project will provide some support to the local economy through the purchase of goods and services (primarily during construction) the type and level of expenditures are not of the sort that would generate significant growth of businesses that serve the proposed facility. Therefore, Project-related secondary/indirect impacts are not anticipated to influence local growth patterns. The lower taxes and increased tax base that would result from the Project has the potential to provide some incentive for businesses and residents to locate in the Town, but the impact is expected to be minimal.

The Project is proposed, in part, because of the presence of existing resources and facilities that allow the Project to be economically viable. Specifically, the availability of adequate wind resources and the presence of an existing transmission line allows for generation and transmission of the Project's electric output to the State's power grid. The occurrence of these resources/facilities might suggest that other wind power projects could be proposed on adjacent lands. However, this would be the case with or without the proposed Project. The Project's presence alone is not anticipated to encourage the development of additional wind power projects in the area. In fact, addition of the proposed Project will meet the capacity of the existing transmission facilities and, therefore, the Project will likely make future wind projects more difficult to develop as such development could only be accommodated by upgrading the existing transmission line. Such upgrades would likely make future wind projects less economically viable. In addition, landowner willingness and environmental sensitivity play a significant role in the location of wind power projects. As currently proposed, the Project maximizes the land resource within the wind power overlay district of willing landowners within the Town of Clayton. Any additional wind power development in these areas is likely to be limited due to set-back constraints, more significant environmental impacts, and lack of landowner participation.