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A PETITION TO REMOVE SALEM TOWNSHIP FROM THE EXPEDITED PERMITTING AREA FOR WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

DATES A PETITION MAY BE FILED: January 1 through June 30, 2016

Before a registered voter signs any removal petition, signature gatherers must offer the voter the opportunity to read the information below.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED REMOVAL

As directed in Public Law 2015, Chapter 265, The Maine Land Use Planning Commission shall, by rule, remove a specified place in the unorganized and deorganized areas from the windpower expedited permitting area if the Commission receives a petition on or before June 30, 2016 requesting the removal of the specified place from the expedited permitting area that is signed by at least 10% of the number of registered voters residing in the township, plantation, town or portion thereof that voted in the most recent gubernatorial election. If, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. Section 3453-A(3), a person requests substantive review of the petition for removal within 45 days of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission posting notice of receipt of the petition on its publicly accessible website, a further process of evaluating the merit of the petition will take place as directed in statute.

Currently, only a portion of Salem Township is in the expedited area (see map at right). This petition is to remove all of that portion of Salem Township from the windpower expedited permitting area, which would have the effect of requiring any proposed grid-scale wind energy development to obtain a rezoning from the Commission before applying for a permit to construct the facility. It would also change the standard for evaluating the visual effects of any grid-scale wind energy development in the permitting process. Signing the petition means that the voter wishes to remove the specified place from the expedited permitting area.

The portion proposed to be removed is illustrated at the right, and is described as: the portion of Salem Twp., 07820, south of Route 142.

