

***Overcoming Obstacles to Wind Power Development in Maine: A Report Prepared for the State Planning Office. Berry, Emily, Erica Bickford, Danielle Fitzpatrick, Eric Ford, Theresa Paladino and Patricia Rouleau, University of Maine (December 2005)***

Available on-line at:

<http://www.umaine.edu/nrc/Curriculum/2005%20Wind%20Paper.pdf>

Students in the University of Maine's environmental studies program prepared this report for SPO with the goal of investigating "ways to promote wind power in Maine in an environmentally responsible manner, with proper siting guidelines and adequate financing." In pertinent part<sup>1</sup>, the report examines Maine's current wind power siting process and makes the following recommendations:

- Develop long-term state plan to encourage siting of wind power facilities "in suitable locations where environmental impacts can be minimized"
- Both DEP and LURC "should adopt the same methods for evaluating proposals"
- Develop statewide siting guidelines to protect natural resources and allow for development in appropriate areas (see pp. 56-9 for issue-specific suggestions)
- Involve local interested parties from the beginning
- Ensure projects develop decommissioning plans
- In DEP rule, make explicit the requirement for pre-construction biological impact studies and decommissioning planning. Make biological studies as standardized as possible to allow for building of baseline information and to ensure fairness when dealing with different projects
- Policy for smaller scale (residential/community) should be developed to include noise standards, setbacks, design issues

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<sup>1</sup> The report's recommendations regarding financing options are not summarized here.