

**STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Petition of Georgia Mountain Community Wind, )  
LLC for a Certificate of Public Good, pursuant )  
to 30 V.S.A. § 248, authorizing the construction )  
and operation of a 5 wind turbine electric )  
generation facility with associated electric )  
collection and interconnection facilities on )  
Georgia Mountain, in the Towns of Milton and )  
Georgia, Vermont, to be known as the “Georgia )  
Mountain Community Wind Project” )

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF  
JAMES HARRISON**

**ON BEHALF OF  
GEORGIA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY WIND, LLC**

March 26, 2009

The purpose of Mr. Harrison’s testimony is to provide an overview the Project.

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**EXHIBITS**

Exhibit Petitioner JH-1	45 Day Letter
Exhibit Petitioner JH-2	Letters of Support

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1           **1.     Introduction**

2    Q1.    Please state your name, occupation and business address.

3    A1.    My name is James Harrison. I, together with members of my family, own and  
4           operate Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC (“GMCW”). My business  
5           address is: James Harrison, c/o Harrison Concrete, P.O. Box 2098, Milton,  
6           Vermont 05468-2098.

7

8           **2.     Overview of the Project**

9    Q2.    Please describe your involvement with the Georgia Mountain Community Wind  
10           Project (“GMCW Project” or “Project”).

11   A2.    The Project was developed by Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC, a  
12           business owned and operated by my family, the Harrison family. The family

1 members involved are myself, my wife Janet, my son Kevin, and my daughter  
2 Kathy. We are residents of Georgia, Vermont and local business owners. I,  
3 together with support from my family, run a family-owned and operated, third-  
4 generation concrete businesses serving northwestern Vermont, Harrison Concrete  
5 Construction Inc., and Harrison Redi-Mix Corporation, with combined  
6 employment contributions of over 75 jobs in the Chittenden & Franklin counties  
7 area.

8  
9 Our family believes in bringing clean energy and local economic benefits to our  
10 local communities and Vermont. We appreciate the potential challenges previous  
11 wind power proposals have encountered and believe a smaller, community-  
12 oriented project is a good fit in this northwest Vermont landscape. Several years  
13 ago, we began taking the steps to foster our dream to develop a commercial,  
14 community wind farm project on Georgia Mountain in Milton, Vermont. The  
15 Project would include a 3 to 5 wind turbine electric generation facility, which will  
16 be situated on the eastern summit ridge of Georgia Mountain in the Towns of  
17 Milton and Georgia. My family owns 700+/- acres of private land on Georgia  
18 Mountain in Milton, and we have plans to lease the ridge area in Georgia owned  
19 by Green Crow, LLC, a forest products company. Georgia Mountain is currently  
20 the site of a telecommunications tower located at the southern end of Georgia  
21 Mountain, as well as the temporary meteorological tower installed in 2006 for this

1 Project. Arrowhead Lake, located at the western foot of Georgia Mountain, is the  
2 site of an existing hydroelectric generation station and dam.

3  
4 The exact number, manufacturer and size of the wind turbines have not been  
5 finalized. Turbine height would be around 400 feet from ground level to tip of  
6 blade in its highest position. A detailed description of the Project is included in  
7 the testimony of John Zimmerman of Vermont Environmental Research  
8 Associates (“VERA”), whom we retained to function as the leading team member  
9 for GMCW Project.

10  
11 For the success of Georgia Mountain Community Wind, we have assembled a  
12 team of professionals, each with extensive expertise in their field, and all Vermont  
13 residents. As already noted, John Zimmerman, as well as Martha Staskus of  
14 VERA, function as the leading team members for GMCW Project, serving as  
15 Project Managers and providing guidance and services, including the wind  
16 resource measurement and assessment program, contributing to visual  
17 simulations, and public outreach support. VERA assisted us in obtaining a  
18 Section 248(j) Certificate of Public Good in November, 2006, to install and  
19 operate the wind measurement station on Georgia Mountain as a first step in  
20 assessing feasibility of the Project.

21

1 For the civil engineering work, we have retained Peter Cross, PE, the principal of  
2 Cross Consulting Engineers, a civil engineering firm in St. Albans, Vermont.  
3 Cross Consulting Engineers, which employs 11 employees, has 18-plus years of  
4 engineering, development, and Act 250 permitting experience in the northwestern  
5 Vermont region. Peter Cross has with worked me on numerous projects  
6 throughout our respective careers. GMCW offers another opportunity for the  
7 contributions of this locally-recognized engineering firm to the region's economic  
8 development.

9  
10 We have retained Steven Bourgeois, the Principal of Strategic Initiatives for  
11 Business, LLC, to act as a strategic planning and financial advisor. Steven has a  
12 35-year career as a local business leader and advisor in the regional and local  
13 financial institutions, having served as President and CEO of the Franklin-  
14 Lamoille Bank, as Regional President of Bank North and as a member of several  
15 economic development boards such as VEDA.

16  
17 Preferences have also been given to hiring Vermont-based experts that are  
18 experienced with the concerns and benefits surrounding the impacts of wind  
19 electric generation and the permit processes pertinent to Vermont. Other Vermont  
20 consultants providing expertise to the development of Georgia Mountain  
21 Community Wind include Arrowwood Environmental, of Huntington, Vermont  
22 (provides assessments and testimony regarding potential impacts to natural

1 resources), LandWorks, of East Middlebury, Vermont (provides assessments and  
2 testimony regarding potential impacts to visual aesthetics), Liz Pritchett  
3 Associates, of Montpelier, Vermont (provides assessments and testimony  
4 regarding potential impacts to historic properties), UVM Archaeology Consulting  
5 Program, of Burlington, Vermont (provides assessments and testimony regarding  
6 potential impacts to archaeological resources), and Resource Systems Group, Inc,  
7 of White River Junction, Vermont (provides assessments and testimony regarding  
8 potential impacts from noise).

9

10 Q3. Have you conducted any outreach efforts to share information about the Project  
11 with the public?

12 A3. Yes. We have sought to both inform and foster support among affected state  
13 agencies, local communities, community members, businesses and interested  
14 parties by providing information about the Project. Our outreach has included  
15 consultation with the towns, regional planning commissions, regional chambers of  
16 commerce, state agencies, local boards and key stakeholders. My son Kevin and I  
17 have also met with, and will continue to meet personally with, local business  
18 colleagues. The GMCW has developed a Project website,  
19 [www.georgiamountainwind.com](http://www.georgiamountainwind.com) to provide information on the Project to the  
20 communities and public and an avenue to contact our family. Additionally, a  
21 Project Fact Sheet with details on the Project, has been created and sent to the  
22 towns and regional commissions within a 10-mile radius.

1

2 We also provided a 45 day notice of this filing prior to filing our application with  
3 the Public Service Board. A copy of the 45 day letter and attachments is included  
4 with my testimony as Exhibit Petitioner JH-1. Attached as Exhibit Petitioner JH-  
5 2 are copies of letters of support for the Project that we have received thus far.

6

7 Q4. Have you established a schedule for the Project.

8 A4. Yes. Assuming necessary approvals are in-hand at the end of 2009, construction  
9 of the Project would begin in early 2010, ground and weather conditions  
10 permitting, with site clearing and grubbing in areas required for construction  
11 activities to occur on the access road, turbine pads, and electric collection line.  
12 We expect that we could complete construction and begin operations by the end  
13 of 2010.

14

15 Q5. Does this conclude your testimony at this time?

16 A5. Yes, it does.