

Local Law No.1 of 2007

Be it hereby enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Orleans as follows:

Local Law No.1 of 2007, entitled "A Local Law to Regulate WIND ENERGY FACILITIES Within the Town of Orleans," is hereby adopted to read in its entirety as follows:

WIND ENERGY FACILITIES

Article I

§1 Title.

This Local Law may be cited as the "Wind Energy Facilities Law of the Town of Orleans, New York."

§2 Purpose.

The Town Board of the Town of Orleans adopts this Local Law to promote the effective and efficient use of the Town's wind energy resource through Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS), and to regulate the placement of such systems so that the public health, safety, and welfare will not be jeopardized.

§3 Authority.

The Town Board of the Town of Orleans enacts this Local Law under the authority granted by

1. Article IX of the New York State Constitution, §2(c)(6) and (10).
2. New York Statute of Local Governments, § 10 (1) and (7).
3. New York Municipal Home Rule Law, § 10 (I)(i) and (ii) and §10 (I)(a)(6), (11), (12), and (14).
4. New York Town Law §130(1)(Building Code), (3)(Electrical Code), (5)(Fire Prevention), (7)(Use of streets and highways), (7-a) (Location of Driveways), (11)(Peace, good order and safety), (15)(Promotion of public welfare), (15-a)(Excavated Lands), (16)(Unsafe buildings), (19)(Trespass), and (25)(Building lines).
5. New York Town Law §64(7-a)(protection of aesthetic interests), (23)(General powers).
6. The State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA").

§4 Findings.

A. The Town Board of the Town of Orleans finds and declares that:

1. Wind energy is an abundant, renewable and nonpolluting energy resource of the Town and its conversion to electricity may help reduce dependence on nonrenewable energy sources and decrease the air and water pollution that results from the use of conventional energy sources.

2. The generation of electricity from properly sited wind turbines, including small systems, can be cost effective, and in many cases existing power distribution systems can be used to transmit electricity from wind-generating stations to utilities or other users, or energy consumption at that location can be reduced.

3. Regulation of the siting and installation of wind turbines is necessary for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of neighboring property owners and the general public.

4. Wind Energy Facilities have the potential to cause significant aesthetic impacts if not properly sited, because of their large size, lighting, and shadow flicker effects.

5. If not properly regulated, installation of Wind Energy Facilities have the potential to create drainage problems through erosion and lack of sediment control for facility and access road sites, and harm farmlands through improper construction methods.

6. Wind Energy Facilities may present a risk to wildlife populations if not properly sited.

7. If not properly sited, Wind Energy Facilities have the potential to adversely impact neighboring properties, including the property values of such properties.

8. Wind Energy Facilities are potentially significant sources of noise, and if such facilities are unregulated or improperly sited, or if such impacts are inadequately mitigated, they can negatively impact adjoining properties.

9. Without proper planning, construction of Wind Energy Facilities can create traffic problems and damage local roads.

10. If improperly sited, Wind Energy Facilities can interfere with various types of communications.

#### §5 Authorization of Zoning board of Appeals to Review Wind Energy Facilities.

The Town of Orleans Zoning Board of Appeals (hereinafter referred to as the "ZBA") is hereby authorized to review and either approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove applications for Wind Energy Facilities.

#### §6 Permits Required; Transfer; Modifications.

A. No Wind Energy Facility shall be constructed, reconstructed, modified, or operated in the Town except in compliance with this Local Law.

B. No WECS shall be constructed, reconstructed, modified, or operated in the Town except with a Wind Energy Facility Permit approved pursuant to this Local Law.

C. No Wind Measurement Tower shall be constructed, reconstructed, modified, or operated in the Town except pursuant to a Wind Energy Facility Permit issued pursuant to this Local Law.

D. No Small Wind Energy Conversion System shall be constructed, reconstructed, modified, or operated in the Town except pursuant to a Wind Energy Facility Permit issued pursuant to this Local Law.

E. This Local Law shall apply to all areas of the Town where wind energy facilities are permitted with proper review by the ZBA.

F. Exemptions. No permit or other approval shall be required under this Local Law for mechanical, nonelectrical WECS utilized solely for agricultural operations, commonly referred to as "windmills".

G. Transfer. No transfer of any Wind Energy Facility or Wind Energy Facility Permit, nor sale of the entity owning such facility including the sale of more than 30% of the stock of such entity (not counting sales of shares on a public-exchange), may occur unless the transferee provides to the Town Board of the Town of Orleans written certification that such transferee assumes all obligations of the transferor under any permit issued pursuant to this Local Law and any other applicable law or ordinance of the Town.

H. Notwithstanding the requirements of this Section, replacement in kind or modification of a Wind Energy Facility may occur without Town Board approval when (1) there will no increase in Total Height; (2) no change in the location of the WECS; (3) no additional lighting or change in facility color; and (4) no increase in noise produced by the WECS.

§7 Definitions.

As used in this Local Law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

AMBIENT SOUND LEVEL - also referred to as Ambient Noise Level and Ambient Sound Pressure Level, means the background (exclusive of the development proposed) Sound Level ( $L_{(90)}$ ) found to be exceeded 90 percent of the time over which sound is measured in a noise analysis. Unless indicated otherwise, frequency weighting according to the A-weighting scale is understood to be applicable.

EAF - Environmental Assessment Form used in the implementation of the SEQRA as that term is defined in Part 617 of Title 6 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations.

RESIDENCE - means any dwelling suitable for habitation existing in the Town of Orleans on the date an application is received. For purposes of this definition suitable for habitation shall mean that its primary purpose is for private occupancy and it has both electrical service and a connection to an on-site or off-site potable water supply and wastewater treatment/disposal system on a full-time basis. A residence may be part of a multi-dwelling or multipurpose building, but shall not include buildings such as hunting camps, hotels, hospitals, motels, dormitories, sanitariums, nursing homes, schools or other buildings used for educational purposes, or correctional institutions,

SEQRA - the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, as codified in Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations in Title 6 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, Part 617 *et seq.* (6 NYCRR §617).

SOUND LEVEL — also referred to as Noise Level, means the statistical sound pressure level expressed as the sound pressure level that is exceeded for a given proportion of the time over which sound is measured.  $L_{(10)}$  shall mean the standard abbreviation for the sound pressure level that is exceeded for 10 percent of the time over which the sound is measured.  $L_{(90)}$  shall mean the standard abbreviation for the sound pressure level that is exceeded for 90 percent of the time over which the sound is measured. Unless indicated otherwise, frequency weighting according to the A-weighting scale is understood to be applicable.

SOUND PRESSURE LEVEL - means the quantity in decibels measured by a sound level meter satisfying the requirements of the American National Standards Specification of Sound Level Meters, S1.4-1971 according to a frequency-weighted decibel scale. Decibels shall mean 20 times the logarithm to the base ten of the ratio of the root mean squared pressure of a sound to a reference pressure of 20 micropascals. dB shall mean the standard abbreviation for decibels. Frequency-weighting of the sound pressure level is obtained with the standardized dynamic characteristic "fast" or "slow" and weighting A, B or C; unless indicated otherwise, the A-weighting is understood to be applicable. dBA shall mean the standard abbreviation for the A-weighted sound pressure level in decibels.

SITE - The parcel(s) of land where a Wind Energy Facility is to be placed. The Site can be publicly or privately owned by an individual or a group of individuals controlling single or adjacent properties. Where multiple lots are in joint ownership, the combined lots shall be considered as one for purposes of applying setback requirements. Any property which has a Wind Energy Facility or has entered an agreement for said Facility or a setback agreement shall not be considered off-site.

SMALL WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM ("Small WECS") - A wind energy conversion system consisting of a wind turbine, a tower, and associated control or conversion electronics, which has a rated capacity of not more than 100 kW and which is intended to primarily reduce consumption of utility power at that location.

TOTAL HEIGHT - The height of the tower and the furthest vertical extension of the WECS.

WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM ("WECS") - A machine that converts the kinetic energy in the wind into a usable form (commonly known as a "wind turbine" or "windmill").

WIND ENERGY FACILITY - Any Wind Energy Conversion System, Small Wind Energy Conversion System, or Wind Measurement Tower, including all related infrastructure, electrical lines and substations, access roads and accessory structures.

WIND MEASUREMENT TOWER - a tower used for the measurement of meteorological data such as temperature, wind speed and wind direction.

WIND ENERGY FACILITY PERMIT - A permit granted pursuant to this Local Law granting the holder the right to construct, maintain and operate a Wind Energy Facility.

§8 Applicability.

A. The requirements of this Local Law shall apply to all Wind Energy Facilities proposed, operated, modified, or constructed in the Town of Orleans after the effective date of this Local Law, including any Wind Energy Facility, applied for but not yet approved prior to the date of this Local Law.

B. Wind Energy Facilities for which a required permit has been properly issued and upon which construction has commenced prior to the effective date of this Local Law, shall not be required to meet the requirements of this Local Law; provided, however, that:

1. Any such preexisting Wind Energy Facility which does not provide energy for a continuous period of twelve (12) months shall meet the requirements of this Local Law prior to recommencing production of energy.

2. No modification or alteration to an existing Wind energy Facility shall be allowed without full compliance with this Local Law.

3. Any Wind Measurement tower existing on the effective date of this Local Law shall be removed no later than thirty-six (36) months after said effective date, unless a Wind Energy Facility Permit for said Wind Energy Facility is obtained.

§9 Reserved for Future Use.

Article II

Wind Energy Conversion Systems

§10 Applications for Wind Energy Permits for Wind Energy Conversion Systems.

No application for a Wind Energy Facility Permit shall be complete until the following materials are received by the ZBA, in acceptable form, unless specifically waived by the ZBA. Such information shall be in addition to and not instead of any information required by the Town of Orleans, under any related Local Law or Ordinance, including but not limited to the Town of Orleans Zoning Ordinance:

A. Name, address, telephone number of the applicant. If the applicant is represented by an agent, the application shall include the name, address and telephone number of the agent as well as an original signature of the applicant authorizing the representation.

B. Name, address, telephone number of the property owner. If the property owner is not the applicant, the application shall include a letter or other written permission signed by the property owner (i) confirming that the property owner is familiar with the proposed applications and (ii) authorizing the submission of the application.

C. Address, or other property identification, of each proposed tower location, including Tax Map section, block and lot number.

D. A description of the project, including the number and maximum rated capacity of each WECS.

E. A plot plan prepared by a licensed surveyor or engineer drawn in sufficient detail to clearly describe the following,

1. Property lines and physical dimensions of the Site;

2. Location, approximate dimensions and types of major existing structures and uses on the Site, public roads, and adjoining properties within five hundred (500) feet of the boundaries of the proposed WECS Site.

3. Location and elevation of each proposed WECS.

4. Location of all above ground utility lines on the Site or within one radius of the Total Height of the WECS, transformers, power lines, interconnection point with transmission lines, and other ancillary facilities or structures.

5. Location and size of structures above 35 feet within a five-hundred-foot radius of the proposed WECS. For purposes of this requirement, electrical transmission and distribution lines, antennas and slender or open lattice towers are not considered structures.

6. To demonstrate compliance with the setback requirements of this Article, circles drawn around each proposed tower location equal to:

(i) Four times the height of the WECS measured from ground level to the highest tip of the blade. [If alternative setbacks are adopted this provision will be eliminated.]

(ii) Five hundred foot perimeter.

(iii) One thousand foot perimeter.

(iv) One thousand five hundred foot perimeter.

7. Location of the each residential structure, both on the Site and off the Site, that is located within two thousand five hundred feet from the nearest individual Wind Energy Facility, as well as the specific distance from the nearest individual Wind Energy Facility to each residential structure.

8. All proposed facilities, including access roads, electrical lines, substations, storage or maintenance units, and fencing.

F. Vertical drawing of the WECS showing Total Height, turbine dimensions, tower and turbine colors, ladders, distance between ground and lowest point of any blade, location of climbing pegs, and access doors. One drawing may be submitted for each WECS of the same type and Total Height.

G. Landscaping Plan depicting existing vegetation and describing any areas to be cleared and the specimens proposed to be added, identified by species and size of specimen at installation and their locations.

H. Lighting Plan showing any FAA-required lighting as well as all other proposed lighting. The application should include a copy of any determination by the Federal Aviation Administration to establish required markings and/or lights for each structure that is part of the facility, but if such determination is not available at the time of the application, no building permit for any lighted facility may be issued until such determination is submitted.

I. List of property owners, with their mailing address, within 500 feet of the boundaries of the proposed Site.

J. Decommissioning Plan: The applicant shall submit a decommissioning plan, which shall include the following information at a minimum: 1) the anticipated life of the WECS; 2) the estimated decommissioning costs in current dollars; 3) how said estimate was determined; 4) the method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration; (5) -the method, such-as by annual re-estimate-by a licensed engineer, that the decommissioning cost will be kept current; and 6) the manner in which the WECS will be decommissioned and the Site restored, which shall include at a minimum, the removal of all structures and debris to a depth of 3 feet, restoration of the soil, and restoration of vegetation (consistent and compatible with surrounding vegetation), less any fencing or residual minor improvements requested by the landowner.

K. Complaint Resolution: The application will include a complaint resolution process to address complaints from nearby residents. The process may use an independent mediator or arbitrator and shall include a time limit for acting on a complaint. The applicant shall make every reasonable effort to resolve any complaint.

L. An application shall include at a minimum, the following information relating to the construction/installation of the wind energy conversion facility:

1. A construction schedule describing commencement and completion dates; and

2. A description of the routes to be used by construction and delivery vehicles, the gross weights and heights of those loaded vehicles.

M. Completed Part 1 of the Full EAF.

N. Applications for Wind Energy Permits for Wind Measurement Towers subject to this Local Law may be jointly submitted with the WECS application.

O. For each proposed WECS, include make, model, picture and manufacturer's specifications, including noise decibels data. Include Manufacturers' Material Safety Data Sheet documentation for the type and quantity of all materials used in the operation of all equipment including, but not limited to, all lubricants and coolants.

P. If the applicant agrees in writing in the application that the proposed WECS may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and submits a Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS"), the ZBA shall issue a positive declaration of environmental significance.

Q. The following information must be submitted by the applicant, either with the application, or, in the event of a positive declaration under SEQRA, as part of any DEIS submitted by the applicant with respect to the application for a Wind Energy Facility Permit. Studies conducted by a qualified consultant as to each of the following impacts or potential impacts, which study or studies shall include, at a minimum, a detailed analysis of the existing conditions, any potential adverse impacts, and the measures to be taken by the applicant to mitigate or eliminate such impacts. The impacts/issues to be addressed by the studies shall include at a minimum the following:

Shadow Flicker; Visual Impact; Fire Protection and Emergency Response; Noise Assessment; Avian Analysis; Property Values; Electromagnetic Interference; Transportation Impacts; Groundwater Impacts; and Cultural Resources.

R. The applicant shall, prior to the receipt of a Wind Energy Facility Permit, provide proof that it has executed an Interconnection Agreement with the New York Independent System Operator and the applicable Transmission Owner.

S. A statement, signed under penalty of perjury, that the information contained in the application is true and accurate.

T. In addition to the materials required in accordance with this section, complete applications should include any additional study or assessment determined to be required by the lead agency during review of the project pursuant to SEQRA. No application shall be determined to be complete until the DEIS is submitted and accepted by the ZBA as complete.

#### §11 Application Review Process.

A. Applicants may request a pre-application meeting with the ZBA or with any consultants retained by the ZBA for application review. Meetings with the ZBA shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.

B. Six copies of the application shall be submitted to the Town Zoning Officer. Payment of all application fees shall be made at the time of application submission. If any waivers are requested, waiver application fees, if any, shall be paid at the time of the receipt of the application. In addition, the applicant shall provide the ZBA free of charge, with a reasonable number of additional copies necessary to coordinate review with involved agencies and interested parties, pursuant to SEQRA.

C. Town staff or Town designated consultants shall, within 30 days of receipt, or such longer time if agreed to by the applicant, determine if all information required under this Article is included in the application, unless the ZBA waives any application requirement, no application shall be considered complete and ready for final action until deemed complete and until either a negative declaration is issued under SEQRA, or, a Final Environmental Impact Statement and SEQRA Findings are issued by the lead agency.

D. If the application is deemed incomplete, the ZBA or its designated reviewer shall provide the applicant with a written statement listing the missing information. No refund of application fees shall be made, but no additional fees shall be required upon submittal of the additional information unless the number of WECSs proposed is increased.

E. Upon submission of a complete application, including the grant of any application waiver by the ZBA, the Town Zoning Officer shall transmit the application to the ZBA.

F. The ZBA shall hold at least one public hearing on the application. Notice shall be provided by first class mail to property owners within 500 feet of the boundaries of the proposed WECSs, and published in the Town's official newspaper, no less than ten (10) nor more than twenty (20) days before any hearing, but, where any hearing is adjourned by the ZBA to hear additional comments, no further publication or mailing shall be required. The applicant shall prepare and mail the Notice of Public Hearing prepared by the ZBA, and shall submit an affidavit of service. The assessment roll of the Town shall be used to determine mailing addresses.

G. The public hearing may be combined with any other public hearing required, including public hearings held pursuant to SEQRA.

H. Referral shall also be made, when applicable, to the Jefferson County Planning Department, pursuant to General Municipal Law §§239-1 and 239-m.

I. SEQRA review. Applications for WECS shall be deemed Type I projects under SEQRA. The ZBA shall be responsible for the review of the proposed project under SEQRA, shall where appropriate, act as lead agency under SEQRA and shall coordinate its review with all other involved agencies having discretionary approval over any aspect of the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA.

J. The ZBA may in its discretion, require an escrow agreement for the engineering and legal review of the applications and any environmental impact statements before commencing its review. At the completion of the SEQRA review process, if a positive declaration of environmental significance has been issued and an environmental impact statement prepared, the ZBA shall issue a Statement of Findings, which Statement may also serve as the ZBA's decision on the applications.

K. Upon receipt of the recommendation of the County Planning Department (where applicable), the holding of the public hearing, and the completion of the SEQRA process, the ZBA may approve, approve with conditions, or deny the applications, in accordance with the standards in this Article.

#### §12 Standards for WECS.

The following standards shall apply to all WECS, unless specifically waived by the ZBA.

A. All power transmission lines from the tower to any building or other structure shall be located underground to the maximum extent practicable.

B. No television, radio or other communication antennas may be affixed or otherwise made part of any WECS, except pursuant to the Town Code. Applications may be jointly submitted for WECS and telecommunications facilities.

C. In order to minimize any visual impacts associated with Wind Energy Facilities, no advertising signs are allowed on any part of the Wind Energy Facility, including fencing and support structures.

D. Lighting of tower. No tower shall be lit except to comply with FAA requirements. Minimum security lighting for ground level facilities shall be allowed as approved on the Wind Energy Facility development plan.

E. All applicants shall use measures to reduce the visual impact of WECS' to the extent possible. WECS' shall use tubular towers. All structures in a project shall be finished in a single, non-reflective matte finished white or gray in color. WECS' within a multiple WECS project shall be constructed using wind turbines whose appearance, with respect to one another, is similar within and throughout the Project, to provide reasonable uniformity in overall size, geometry, and rotational speeds. No lettering, company insignia, advertising, or graphics shall be on any part of the tower, hub, or blades.

F. The use of guy wires is disfavored. A WECS using guy wires for tower support shall incorporate appropriate measures to protect the guy wires from damage which could cause tower failure.

- G. No WECS shall be installed in any location where its proximity with existing fixed broadcast, retransmission, or reception antenna for radio, television, or wireless phone or other personal communication systems can be reasonably expected to produce electromagnetic interference with signal transmission or reception. No WECS shall be installed in any location along the major axis of an existing microwave communications link where its operation is likely to produce electromagnetic interference in the link's operation. If it is determined that a WECS is causing electromagnetic interference, the operator shall take the necessary corrective action to eliminate this interference.
- H. All solid waste and hazardous waste and construction debris shall be removed from the Site and managed in a manner consistent with all appropriate rules and regulations.
- I. WECS' shall be designed to minimize the impacts of land clearing and the loss of open space areas. Land protected by conservation easements shall be avoided when feasible. The use of previously developed areas will be given priority wherever possible.
- J. WECS' shall be located in a manner that minimizes significant negative impacts on rare animal species in the vicinity.
- K. Wind energy conversion facilities shall be located in a manner consistent with all applicable state and Federal wetlands laws and regulations.
- L. Storm-water run-off and erosion control shall be managed in a manner consistent with all applicable state and Federal laws and regulations.
- M. The maximum Total Height of any WECS shall be 500 feet.
- N. Any substation used in conjunction with a WECS shall be sited in a manner that will have the least intrusive impact upon adjacent residences and shall be sheltered and/or screened with a physical barrier and/or vegetation in a manner to eliminate its views from such residences. The ZBA shall assess such siting in accordance with the requirements of this Local Law and the Town's Site Plan Law.
- O. Construction of the WECS shall be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, unless the prior written approval of the ZBA is received to allow deviation from such hours.
- P. In processing any application for a WECS or in reviewing such project under SEQRA, the ZBA shall consider any applicable policy or guideline issued by the New York State DEC (i.e., visual impacts, noise impacts).
- Q. Turbine blades shall pass no closer than thirty (30) feet to the ground during operation of the facility.
- R. To the greatest extent possible WECS', together with all above ground facilities, underground cables and wires, and all permanent access roads shall be positioned along existing fence lines, hedge rows or tree rows and/or as near the edge of any fields as possible to minimize disruption to pasture land or tillable land. Following construction the site shall be graded and seeded and restored to its preconstruction condition or better. During construction the developer shall be required to act consistent with best agricultural practices to insure the post construction integrity of the site.

### §13 Required Safety Measures.

- A. Each WECS shall be equipped with both manual and automatic controls to limit the rotational speed of the rotor blade so it does not exceed the design limits of the rotor.
- B. Appropriate warning signs shall be posted. At least one sign shall be posted at the base of the tower warning of electrical shock or high voltage. A sign shall be posted on the entry area of fence around each tower or group of towers and any building (or on the tower or building if there is no fence), containing emergency, contact information. The ZBA may require additional signs based on safety needs.
- C. No climbing pegs or tower ladders shall be located closer than twelve (12) feet to the ground level at the base of the structure for freestanding single pole or guyed towers.

D. The minimum distance between the ground and any part of the rotor or blade system shall be thirty (30) feet.

E. WECS' shall be designed to prevent unauthorized external access to electrical and mechanical components and shall have access doors that are kept securely locked at all times.

F. Existing snowmobile and/or ATV trails shall be posted to warn of potential ice throw dangers from the WECS.

#### §14 Traffic Routes.

A. Construction of WECS' pose potential risks because of the large size construction vehicles and their impact on traffic safety and their physical impact on local roads. Construction and delivery vehicles for WECS' and for associated facilities shall use traffic routes established as part of the application review process. Factors in establishing such corridors shall include (1) minimizing traffic impacts from construction and delivery vehicles, including impacts on local residential areas; (2) minimizing WECS related traffic during times of school bus activity; (3) minimizing wear and tear on local roads; and (4) minimizing impacts on local business operations. Wind Energy Permit conditions may limit WECS-related traffic to specified routes, and include a plan for disseminating traffic route information to the public.

B. The applicant is responsible for repair of all damages to Town Roads occurring during the construction or maintenance of a WECS. A public improvement bond shall be posted prior to the issuance of any building permit in an amount, determined by the ZBA, sufficient to compensate the Town for any damage to local roads.

#### §15 Setbacks and Noise Standards for Wind Energy Conversion Systems.

A. The Sound Level statistical sound pressure level (L(10)) due to any WECs operation shall not exceed 50 dBA when measured at any off-site residence, school, church or public library existing on the date of the WECs application.

B. Any Sound level falling between two whole decibels shall be the lower of the two.

C. The following minimum standards shall apply to any tower, turbine, windmill, building housing mechanical components or electrical substation that is part of any Wind Energy Conversion System or Facility, unless specifically waived or varied by the ZBA as part of a permit. The following minimum standards do not apply to the transmission or collection system components of such WECS or Facility, except for electrical substations.

Each WECS shall be set back from site boundaries, measured from the center of the applicable component part of the WECS the following minimum distances:

1. 500 feet from off site lot lines;
2. 1250 feet from the nearest off site residence, hospital, school, church, or public library;
3. 500 feet from the boundary of the nearest public highway.

#### §16 Noise and Setback Easements

A. In the event a Wind Energy Facility does not meet a setback requirement or exceeds noise or other criteria established in this Local Law as it existed at the time the Wind Energy Permit is granted, a waiver will be granted from such requirement by the ZBA in the following circumstances:

1. Written consent from the affected property owners has been obtained stating that they are aware of the Wind Energy Facility and the noise and/or setback limitations imposed by this Local Law, and that consent is granted to (1) allow noise levels to exceed the maximum limits otherwise allowed or (2) setbacks less than required; and

2. In order to advise all subsequent owners of the burdened property, the consent, in the form required for an easement, has been recorded in the County Clerk's Office describing the benefited and burdened properties. Such easements shall be permanent and shall state that they may not be revoked without the consent of the ZBA, which consent shall be granted upon either the completion of the decommissioning of the benefited WECS in accordance with this Article, or the acquisition of the burdened parcel by the owner of the benefited parcel or the WECS.

B. Waivers granted under this Section differ from waiver requests under Article V of this Local Law in that no Article V waiver is required if a waiver is given under this Section, and an Article V waiver must be sought rather than a waiver under this Section if the adjoining property owner will not grant an easement pursuant to this Section.

#### § 17 Issuance of Wind Energy Permits.

A. Upon completion of the review process, the ZBA shall, upon consideration of the standards in this Local Law and the record of the SEQRA review, issue a written decision with the reasons for approval, conditions of approval or disapproval fully stated.

B. The decision of the ZBA shall be filed within five (5) days in the office of the Town Clerk and a copy mailed to the applicant by first class mail.

C. If any approved Wind Energy Facility is not substantially commenced within one (1) year of issuance of the Wind Energy Permit, the Wind Energy Permit shall expire.

#### §18 Abatement.

A. If any WECS remains non-functional or inoperative for a continuous period of one (1) year, the applicant agrees that, without any further action by the ZBA, the applicant shall de-commission and remove said system at its own expense. Removal of the system shall include at a minimum the removal of the entire above ground structure, including transmission equipment and fencing, from the property. This provision shall not apply if the applicant demonstrates to the ZBA that it has been making good faith efforts to restore the WECS to an operable condition, but nothing in this provision shall limit the Town's ability to order a remedial action plan after public hearing.

B. Decommissioning Bond or Fund. The applicant, or successors, shall continuously maintain a fund or bond payable to the Town of Orleans, in a form approved by the Town Attorney, for the removal of non-functional towers and appurtenant facilities, in an amount to be determined by the Town Board, for the period of the life of the facility. This fund may consist of a letter of credit from a State of New York licensed-financial institution. All costs of the financial security shall be borne by the applicant. All decommissioning funding requirements shall be met prior to commencement of construction.

#### §19 Limitations on Approvals; Easements on Town Property.

A. Nothing in this Local Law shall be deemed to give any applicant the right to cut down surrounding trees and vegetation on any property to reduce turbulence and increase wind flow to the Wind Energy Facility. Nothing in this Local Law shall be deemed a guarantee against any future construction or Town approvals of future construction that may in any way impact the wind flow to any Wind Energy Facility. It shall be the sole responsibility of the Facility operator or owner to acquire any necessary wind flow or turbulence easements, or rights to remove vegetation.

B. Pursuant to the powers granted to the Town to manage its own property, the town may enter into noise, setback, or wind flow easements on such terms as the Town Board deems appropriate, as long as said agreements are not otherwise prohibited by state or local law.

§20 Permit Revocation.

A. Operation. A WECS shall be maintained in operational condition at all times, subject to reasonable maintenance and repair outages. Operational condition includes meeting all noise requirements and other permit conditions. Should a WECS become inoperable, or should any part of the WECS be damaged, or should a WECS violate a permit condition, the owner or operator shall remedy the situation within 90 days after written notice from the Town Zoning Enforcement Officer. The applicant shall have 90 days after written notice from the Town Zoning Enforcement Officer, to cure any deficiency. The ZBA may extend the 90 day cure for good cause shown.

Article III

Wind Measurement Towers

§21 Wind Site Assessment.

As a wind site assessment is typically conducted to determine the wind speeds and the feasibility of using particular Sites, installation of Wind Measurement Towers, also known as anemometer ("Met") towers, shall be permitted in accordance with this Article.

§22 Applications for Wind Measurement Towers.

An application for a Wind Measurement Tower shall include:

A. Name, address, telephone number of the applicant. If the applicant is represented by an agent, the application shall include the name, address and telephone number of the agent as well as an original signature of the applicant authorizing the representation.

B. Name, address, telephone number of the property owner. If the property owner is not the applicant, the application shall include a letter or other written permission signed by the property owner (i) confirming that the property owner is familiar with the proposed application(s) and (ii) authorizing the submission of the application.

C. Address of each proposed tower location, including Tax Map section, block and lot number.

D. Proposed Development Plan and Map.

E. Decommissioning Plan, including a security bond for removal.

§23 Standards for Wind Measurement Towers.

A. The distance between a Wind Measurement Tower and the property line shall be at least one and a half times the Total Height of the tower. Sites can include more than one piece of property and the requirement shall apply to the combined properties. Exceptions for neighboring property are also allowed with the consent of those property owners.

B. Wind Energy Facility Permits for Wind Measurement Towers may be issued for a period of up to three years. Permits shall be renewable upon application to the ZBA in accordance with the procedure of §17.

Article IV

Small Wind Energy Conversion Systems

§24 Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of this Article is to provide standards for small wind energy conversion systems designed for home, farm, and small commercial use on the same parcel, and that are primarily used to reduce consumption of utility power at that location. The intent of this Article is to encourage the development of small wind energy systems and to protect the public health, safety, and community welfare.

§25 Applications.

Applications for Small WECS Wind Energy Facility Permits shall include:

A. Name, address, telephone number of the applicant. If the applicant will be represented by an agent, the name, address and telephone number of the agent as well as an original signature of the applicant authorizing the agent to represent the applicant.

B. Name, address, telephone number of the property owner. If the property owner is not the applicant, the application shall include a letter or other written permission signed by the property owner (i) confirming that the property owner is familiar with the proposed applications and (ii) authorizing the submission of the application.

C. Address of each proposed tower location, including Tax Map section, block and lot number.

D. Evidence that the proposed tower height does not exceed the height recommended by the manufacturer or distributor of the system.

E. A line drawing of the electrical components of the system in sufficient detail to allow for a determination that the manner of installation conforms to the Building Code of the State of New York.

F. Sufficient information demonstrating that the system will be used primarily to reduce consumption of electricity at that location.

G. Written evidence that the electric utility service provider that serves the proposed Site has been informed of the applicant's intent to install an interconnected customer-owned electricity generator, unless the applicant does not plan, and so states in the application, to connect the system to the electricity grid.

H. A visual analysis of the Small WECS as installed, which may include a computerized photographic simulation, demonstrating the visual impacts from nearby strategic vantage points. The visual analysis shall also indicate the color treatment of the system's components, and any visual screening incorporated into the project that is intended to lessen the system's visual prominence.

§26 Development Standards.

All small wind energy systems shall comply with the following standards. Additionally, such systems shall also comply with all the requirements established by other sections of this Article that are not in conflict with the requirements contained in this section.

A. A system shall be located on a lot a minimum of one acre in size, however, this requirement can be met by multiple owners submitting a joint application.

B. Only one small wind energy system tower per legal lot shall be allowed, unless there are multiple applicants, in which their joint lots shall be treated as one lot for purposes of this Article.

C. Small Wind energy systems shall be used primarily to reduce the on-site consumption of electricity.

D. Tower heights may be allowed as follows:

1. 65 feet or less on parcels between one and five acres.
2. 80 feet or less on parcels of five or more acres.

- E. The maximum turbine power output is limited to 100 kW.
- F. The system's tower and blades shall be painted a non-reflective, unobtrusive color that blends the system and its components into the surrounding landscape to the greatest extent possible and incorporate non-reflective surfaces to minimize any visual disruption.
- G. The system shall be designed and located in such a manner to minimize adverse visual impacts from public viewing areas.
- H. Exterior lighting on any structure associated with the system shall not be allowed except that which is specifically required by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- I. All on-site electrical wires associated with the system shall be installed underground except for "tie-ins" to a public utility company and public utility company transmission poles, towers and lines. This standard may be modified by the ZBA if the project terrain is determined to be unsuitable due to reasons of excessive grading, biological impacts, or similar factors.
- J. The system shall be operated such that no disruptive electromagnetic interference is caused. If it has been demonstrated that a system is causing harmful interference, the system operator shall promptly mitigate the harmful interference or cease operation of the system.
- K. At least one sign shall be posted on the tower at a height of five feet warning of electrical shock or high voltage and harm from revolving machinery. No brand names, logo or advertising shall be placed or painted on the tower, rotor, generator or tail vane where it would be visible from the ground, except that a system or mower's manufacturer's logo may be displayed on a system generator housing in an unobtrusive manner.
- L. Towers shall be constructed to provide one of the following means of access control, or other appropriate method of access:
1. Tower-climbing apparatus located no closer than 12 feet from the ground.
  2. A locked anti-climb device installed on the tower.
  3. A locked, protective fence at least six feet in height that encloses the tower.
- M. Anchor points for any guy wires for a system tower shall be located within the property that the system is located on and not on or across any above-ground electric transmission or distribution lines. The point of attachment for the guy wires shall be enclosed by a fence six feet high or sheathed in bright orange or yellow covering from three to eight feet above the ground.
- N. Construction of on-site access roadways shall be minimized. Temporary access roads utilized for initial installation shall be re-graded and re-vegetated to the pre-existing natural condition after completion of installation.
- O. To prevent harmful wind turbulence from existing structures, the minimum height of the lowest part of any horizontal axis wind turbine blade shall be at least 30 feet above the highest structure or tree within a 250 foot radius. Modification of this standard may be made when the applicant demonstrates that a lower height will not jeopardize the safety of the wind turbine structure.
- P. All small wind energy system tower structures shall be designed and constructed to be in compliance with pertinent provisions of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.
- Q. All small wind energy systems shall be equipped with manual and automatic over-speed controls. The conformance of rotor and over-speed control design and fabrication with good engineering practices shall be certified by the manufacture.

§27 Standards.

A Small Wind Energy System shall comply with the following standards:

A. Setback requirements. A Small WECS shall not be located closer to a property line than one and one half times the Total Height of the facility

B. Noise. Except during short-term events including utility outages and severe wind storms, a Small WECS shall be designed, installed, and operated so that noise generated by the system shall not exceed ambient noise levels (exclusive of the development proposed) by more than 6 dBA at the nearest property line to any proposed Small WECS. Sites can include more than one piece of property and the requirement shall apply to the combined properties. In the event the ambient sound pressure level exceeds 50 dBA, the standard shall be ambient dBA plus a maximum of 5 dBA. Independent certification shall be provided before and after construction demonstrating compliance with this requirement.

§28 Abandonment of Use.

A Small WECS which is not used for twelve (12) successive months shall be deemed abandoned and shall be dismantled and removed from the property at the expense of the property owner. Failure to abide by and faithfully comply with this section or with any and all conditions that may be attached to the granting of any building permit shall constitute grounds for the revocation of the permit by the ZBA.

All Small WECS shall be maintained in good condition and in accordance with all requirements of this section.

Article V

Waivers

§29 Waivers.

A. The ZBA may, after a public hearing (which may be combined with other public hearings on Wind Energy Facilities, so long as the waiver request is detailed in the public notice), grant a waiver from the strict application of the provisions of this Local Law if, in the opinion of the ZBA, the grant of said waiver is in the best interests of the Town. The ZBA may consider as reasonable factors in evaluating the request, which may include, when applicable, the impact of the waiver on the neighborhood, including the potential detriment to nearby properties, the benefit to the applicant, feasible alternatives, and the scope of the request.

B. The ZBA may attach such conditions as it deems appropriate to waiver approvals as it deems necessary to minimize the impact of the waiver.

Article VI

Miscellaneous

§30 Fees.

A. Non-refundable Application Fees shall be as follows:

1. WECS Wind Energy Facility Permit: \$85 per megawatt of rated maximum capacity.

2. Wind Measurement Towers Wind Energy Facility Permit: \$200 per tower.
3. Small WECS Wind Energy Facility Permit: \$ 50 per WECS.
4. Wind Measurement Tower Wind Energy Facility Permit renewals: \$50 per Wind Measurement Tower.

B. Wind Energy Facility Permits. The review of permits for Wind energy Facilities requires expertise and will require the Town to engage the services of professional consultants such as attorneys and engineers, the expenses for which can not be accurately established in advance. Therefore, in lieu of an established permit fee, the applicant shall be responsible for all of the Town's expenses incurred in the permit review process including, but not limited to, all administrative costs, attorney's fees and engineering fees, and the applicant shall be required to enter into an escrow agreement with the Town in advance of such review to provide for the payment of such costs and expenses of review as agreed by the parties.

C. Nothing in this Local Law shall be read as limiting the ability of the Town to enter into Host Community agreements with any applicant to compensate the town for expenses or impacts on the community. The Town shall require any applicant to enter into an escrow agreement to pay the engineering and legal costs of any application review, including the review required by SEQRA.

#### §31 Tax Exemption.

The Town hereby reserves the right to opt out of the Tax Exemption provisions of Real Property Tax Law §487, pursuant to the authority granted by paragraph 8 of that law, or by any other provision of law.

#### §32 Inspections.

A. Wind Energy Facilities shall not begin operation until all approvals required under this law are obtained and all required certifications are provided.

B. Following the issuance of any approval required under this local law, the ZBA or its designee shall have the right to enter onto the Site upon which a Wind Energy Facility has been placed, at reasonable times in order to inspect such facility and its compliance with this Local Law.

C. After undertaking such inspection, the ZBA or its designated representative shall provide notice of any non-compliance with the terms of this Local Law or the conditions of approval of any permit issued hereunder, and shall provide the owner or applicant with a reasonable time frame to cure such violation, such timeframe to be determined based upon the seriousness of the violation, its impact upon public safety, and the impact of the violation upon residents of the Town.

#### §33 Construction Related Damage.

The owner of every Wind Energy Facility constructed pursuant to this law shall, to the extent practicable, repair or replace all real or personal property, public or private, damaged during the construction of such facility.

#### §34 Enforcement; Penalties and remedies for violations.

A. The Town Zoning Enforcement Officer and such Town staff or outside consultants as appointed by the Town Board shall enforce and implement this Local Law.

B. Any person owning, controlling or managing any building, structure or land who shall undertake a Wind Energy Facility in violation of this Local Law or in noncompliance with the terms and conditions of any permit issued pursuant to this Local Law, or any order of the enforcement officer, and any person who shall assist in so doing, shall be guilty of an offense and subject to a fine of not more than \$250. Every such person shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each week such violation shall continue. The Town may institute a civil proceeding to collect civil penalties in the amount of \$250 for each violation and each week said violation continues shall be

deemed a separate violation.

C. In case of any violation or threatened violation of any of the provisions of this local law, including the terms and conditions imposed by any permit issued pursuant to this local law, in addition to other remedies and penalties herein provided, the Town may institute any appropriate action or proceeding to prevent such unlawful erection, structural alteration, reconstruction, moving and/or use, and to restrain, correct or abate such violation, to prevent the illegal act.

§35 Fiscal Responsibility.

A. The ZBA may, at its discretion, request the most recent annual audited financial report of the permittee prepared by a duly licensed Certified Public Accountant, during the review process. If such report does not exist, the ZBA may, in its sole discretion, require a suitable alternative to demonstrate the financial responsibility of the applicant and its ability to comply with the requirements of this Local Law.

B. No transfer of any Wind Energy Facility or permit, or sale of the entity owning such facility, including the sale of more than 30% of the stock of such entity (not counting sale of shares on a public exchange) shall occur without written acceptance by such entity of the obligations of the permittee under this Local Law and the terms of the permit. Any such transfer shall not eliminate the liability of any entity for any act occurring during its ownership or status as permittee.

§36 Certification.

Prior to operation of any approved and constructed Wind Energy Conversion Facility, the applicant must provide a certification that the project complies with applicable codes, industry practices and conditions of approval (where applicable).

§37 Severability.

Should any provision of this Local Law be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Local Law as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so decided to be unconstitutional or invalid.

§38 Effective Date.

This Local Law shall be effective upon its filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law.

(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)

1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. 1 of 2007 of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of Orleans was duly passed by the Town Board on July 12 2007, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.  
(Name of Legislative Body)

~~2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)~~

~~I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved)(repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ and was deemed duly adopted on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.  
(Name of Legislative Body)  
(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)~~

3. (Final adoption by referendum.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved)(repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory)(permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general)(special)(annual) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.  
(Name of Legislative Body)  
(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)

4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of \_\_\_\_\_ was duly passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, and was (approved)(not approved)(repassed after disapproval) by the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. Such local law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.  
(Name of Legislative Body)  
(Elective Chief Executive Officer\*)

\* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

5. ~~(Certification concerning Charter revision proposed by petition)~~

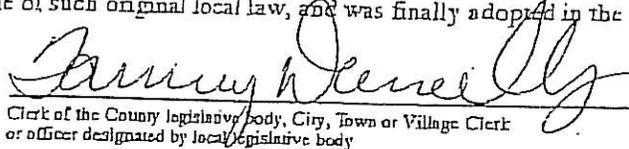
I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ having been submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, became operative.

6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 20\_\_\_\_ of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

~~(If any other authorized form of local adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certificate.)~~

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph \_\_\_\_\_, above.



Clerk of the County legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

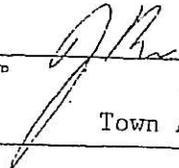
Date: June 12, 2007

(Seal)

(Certification to be executed by County Attorney, Corporation Counsel, Town Attorney, Village Attorney or other authorized attorney of locality.)

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF Jefferson

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing local law contains the correct text and that all proper proceedings have been had or taken for the enactment of the local law annexed hereto.

Signature   
Title Town Attorney

County \_\_\_\_\_  
City of Orleans  
Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Village J-1/12  
Date: June, 2007