



## **EIGHT POINT WIND ENERGY CENTER**

**Case No. 16-F-0062**

**1001.28 Exhibit 28**

**Environmental Justice**

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## Exhibit 28: Environmental Justice

### 28(a) Environmental Justice Analysis

The purpose of an Environmental Justice evaluation is to determine if a facility could potentially have a disproportionate effect on certain communities or populations with regard to environmental quality and associated health impacts. As a wind-powered electric generation facility, the Project will not generate emissions or negative air quality or other environmental impacts. Nevertheless, based on the criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR §487.4, the Applicant has defined the “Impact Study Area” for Environmental Justice consideration to consist of a 0.5-mile radius around proposed Facility components.

A Census block group is considered a Potential Environmental Justice Area if it meets one or more of the following thresholds:

- 51.1 percent or more of the population in an urban area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
- 33.8 percent or more of the population in a rural area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
- 23.59 percent or more of the population in an urban or rural area had household incomes below the federal poverty level.

There are no Potential Environmental Justice Areas located within the Study Area. The closest Potential Environmental Justice Areas are located outside of the Project Area. As such, and because there will be no air emissions, the Project will not negatively impact these or any other Potential Environmental Justice Areas and therefore, the Environmental Justice Analysis contained in 6 NYCRR §487.6 is not required for this Project.

### 28(b) Closest Potential Environmental Justice Areas

Per New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) guidance, data from the 2000 Decennial Census was utilized to identify Potential Environmental Justice Areas (NYSDEC, 2000). A review of the Census block groups within the Project Study Area indicates that none are Potential Environmental Justice Areas. The closest Potential Environmental Justice Area is located approximately 6.5 miles from the nearest turbine to the northwest (6-miles outside the “Impact Study Area”) in the Town of Alfred in Allegany County. The next three closest Potential Environmental Justice Areas are all located over 12 miles away from the nearest turbine to the north in the Town of Hornell in Steuben County. Table 28-1 below provides the location and distance to the nearest turbine. Data on minority and poverty populations within the block groups are from the US Census Bureau’s 2011-2015 American Community Survey and are provided for informational purposes only.

**Table 28-1. Summary of Potential Environmental Justice Areas Closest to the Project**

Census Block Group ID	Location (Town/County)	Distance from nearest turbine	Rural/Urban	% Minority	% Below Poverty Level
BG 360039508002	Alfred, Allegany County	6.5 miles	Rural	14.01%	21.70%
BG 361019609003	Hornell, Steuben County	12.6 miles	Urban	7.31%	37.19%
BG 361019609001	Hornell, Steuben County	13.0 miles	Urban	0.00%	46.28%
BG 361019608002	Hornell, Steuben County	12.8 mile	Urban	2.69%	36.57%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2016.

Note: Data are presented for informational purposes only. Potential Environmental Justice Areas were identified from NYSDEC maps, which based on data from the 2000 Decennial Census.

In order to comply with the Article 10 Regulations, this exhibit must identify and evaluate potential adverse environmental impacts of the proposed facility by taking into account surrounding Potential Environmental Justice communities. The above information on the absence of impacts to Potential Environmental Justice Areas was previously provided in the Project’s Public Involvement Program (PIP), and to date Eight Point Wind has received no comments concerning Environmental Justice.

Figure 28-1 depicts the closest Potential Environmental Justice Areas to the Project Area located in Alfred in Allegany County and Hornell in Steuben County. None of these areas fall within the Project Area (as described above).

## References

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) (2000). County Maps Showing Potential Environmental Justice Areas. Available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/899.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). *2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved October 26, 2017 from URL <https://factfinder.census.gov>.