

Vegetation Management Plan

Canisteo Wind Transmission Facility

Steuben County, NY

November 2018

1 Introduction

Canisteo Wind Energy LLC (Canisteo Wind or the Applicant) proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a facility to transmit power from the proposed 290.7-megawatt (MW) Canisteo Wind Farm (see Siting Board Case Number 16-F-0205) to the regional power grid (hereinafter the "Transmission Facility"). The Canisteo Wind Farm is a proposed 122-turbine wind energy facility in the Towns of Cameron, Canisteo, Greenwood, Jasper, Troupsburg, and West Union in Steuben County, New York. The Transmission Facility consists of a proposed 34.5/115 kilovolt (kV) collection substation ("Collection Substation") in the Town of Jasper, Steuben County, a 115-kV electric transmission line, and a proposed 115 kV point of interconnection (POI) at NYSEG's Bennett substation ("POI Switchyard") along State Route (SR) 36 in the Town of Hornellsville, Steuben County, New York. The dual circuit electric transmission cable will run approximately 15 miles from the proposed Collection Substation to the POI Switchyard.

This plan describes techniques and procedures Canisteo Wind will use to remove timber during construction and to maintain vegetation during Transmission Facility operation.

2 Timber Felling

Any trees cleared as part of construction along the transmission line route will be moved out of the transmission line Right-of-Way (ROW) before transmission line construction in that location begins. Timber may be left on site and stacked outside of the ROW or transported off-site for sale or processing.

3 Vegetation Along Access Roads

To allow regular access by maintenance trucks without damage to trees or property, the Applicant will need to maintain access points along the transmission line route that is free of overhanging branches and brush. For access roads passing through active agricultural fields, no regular maintenance is planned, as Canisteo Wind expects the landowner will manage vegetation and crops up the edge of the road surface.

For access roads that pass through wooded and shrub areas, Canisteo Wind plans to maintain a mowed shoulder approximately 2 feet wide beyond the edges of the road surface and it may also periodically trim branches of trees that grow over the road shoulders. Mowing of the shoulders will prevent trees from growing in the shoulder and overhanging the travel lanes.

Mowing intervals will be set, in part, to ensure the shoulders maintain a level of vegetation that will prevent erosion of the shoulders and the roadway. Areas beyond the shoulders will not be mowed and will be allowed to re-grow naturally with grasses, brush, and trees.

4 Vegetation Near Overhead Electric Lines

Canisteo Wind technicians will follow a company vegetation management plan to monitor and maintain vegetation near overhead transmission lines owned by the Applicant. This plan is designed to maintain minimum vegetation clearing distances (MVCD) in compliance with the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) Standard FAC-003.

Canisteo Wind would perform inspections annually to identify needs for any vegetation clearing. The “wire zone”, the area directly under and within 10 feet of the conductors, will be managed to promote a low-growing plant community dominated by grasses, herbs, or small shrubs of three feet or less. For the remainder of the ROW, Canisteo Wind will manage vegetation to establish and maintain small trees and shrubs no taller than 25 feet.

If during inspections Canisteo Wind identifies a “danger tree” that is dead or otherwise deemed a significant risk to the reliability of the line, tree removal will be initiated. One week or more before starting removal of a danger tree, Canisteo Wind will notify owners of the property where the danger tree is growing via written letter delivered in person or by US mail.

The MVCD and ROW widths are based primarily on the lines’ operating voltage. For the overhead facilities proposed in the Transmission Facility, these values are:

- 1.9 feet MVCD and 80 to 100 feet wide ROW for the 115 kV interconnection line at elevations below 2000 feet.
- 2.0 feet MVCD and 80 to 100 feet wide ROW for the 115 kV overhead collection line at elevations over 2000 feet up to 3000 feet.

5 Vegetation in and Near the Project Substation

Canisteo Wind will periodically use herbicides or mechanical means to clear weeds from areas inside the substation fence. Outside of the Project Substation fence, areas will be maintained as specified for overhead lines. In general, vegetation will be maintained to 3 feet or less within 10 feet of the fence, and to 25 feet or less within 50 feet of the fence.

6 Vegetation at the POI Switchyard

The POI Switchyard will be owned by New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) who will be responsible for managing vegetation in and around the yard.