

Table 1: Draft Siting Electric Generating Facilities – Comparing States (Feb 18, 2013)

	Vermont	NH	ME	MA	CT	NY	RI
Total MW installed (wind)	Total Being updated 15 filings in 2011	(26 wind) 10 Sites 10 filings since 1998	3000 (397 wind; 768 biomass) 153 sites 2-6 filings/year	16,000 (38 wind) 100 sites 2-6 filings/year	8,767 66 sites ave 9 filings/year	1,440 Wind ave 8 filings/year	(2 wind) No new generation filings in 14 yrs
Threshold for State Level Authority	All electric generation > net metering (>150 Kw non-farm; 250Kw farm)	≥ 30 MW with opt-in for smaller units >5MW	> 100 Kw ≥ 3 acres for wind no opt-ins	≥ 100 MW	≥ 1 MW if co-gen, then >25 MW no opt-ins	> 25 MW w/ opt-in	>40 MW or >10 MW for hydro
State Siting Authority (different from PUC?)	No PSB/PUC (3 independent members) With input from ANR	Yes Site Evaluation Committee (16 members from agencies)	Yes – mostly local DEP coordinates identification of required permits	Yes Energy Facilities Siting Board (6 Agency heads plus 3 public members)	Yes Siting Council DEEP checks congruence w/IRP (9-members; 5 appt by Gov, 1 senate, 1 house, 2 agency)	Yes Permanent Siting Board (5 Agency Chairs) Project Siting Board (1 Perm + 2 Residents)	No PUC Siting Board (3 members: Chair PUC, Dir Dept Enviro Mgmt, Associate Dir Statewide Planning)
Timing of Decision	No regulated timing Varies	9 mo from time application is deemed complete 8 mo for renewable facility*	Varies based on permit(s) requirements	12 mo	6 mo after the filing of an application – may be extended	12 mo from complete application, may be extended w/applicant consent. 6 mo for existing plant add-ons	30 days to accept/reject, Prelim Hearing w/in 60 days, 6 mo for Advisory agencies to submit findings; Final hearings 45 days after advisory; final decision in 120 days
Public Participation (intervenor funding)	Bill-back authority	No intervenor funding, but public counsel (appointed by AG) can hire consultants at Applicant's	Actual DEP costs are paid for by applicant via 'Special Fee' Project billing	Active public participation, but NO financial, legal or technical support.	Applicants submit a municipal participation fee of \$25,000 for distribution by the state Treasurer to participating	Strong for >25MW Public Involvement Plan required 150 days before Scoping phase. Applicant pays intervenor funding: Scoping	1 Public Hearing in every community impacted; website; applicant assumes costs of Board. Applicant can be asked to assume

		expense with SEC approval			municipalities to defray expenses, including but not limited to costs of participation	PPhase (\$350/MW up to \$200,000); Application phase (\$1000/MW up to \$400,000)	Board consulting costs (including construction plant visits up to \$20,000)
Mandatory Evaluation Criteria	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (plus Model Ordinances to guide Local Govts)	Yes (working on developing new regulations on wind siting & zoning)	Yes	Yes
Voluntary Guidelines	Yes (Wildlife, Birds, Bats)	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Setback & Sound standards published	No	No	Yes (clear procedural steps & explicit standards for determining wind siting & zoning)	Yes (model recommended standards for local govt)	No	Y (Model recommended standards for local govt)	Yes
Cumulative Impact		No formal method of cumulative measurement	No current standards exist, but cumulative scenic impacts are being considered as a review criterion for future wind projects; DEP has some guidelines	EFSB is required to consider 'local and regional cumulative health impacts', which can include multiple generation facilities as well as other contributors.	By statute, Council is required to determine probable enviro impact of project alone and cumulatively with other existing facilities, incl specification of every significant adverse environmental effect, electromagnetic fields and conflict with policies of the state	Require cumulative indicators for air and visual impact in rules others should be identified at scoping stage for analysis. Cumulative impact of all project components is considered.	NA

* Information from the National Regulatory Research Institute (January 2012), and presentations from Siting Commissions in each state to the VT Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission

