

May 30, 2012

Mr. Gil C. Quiniones  
President and Chief Executive  
New York Power Authority  
123 Main St. 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
White Plains, N.Y. 10601-3170

**RE: New York Energy Highway: Response to Request for Information**

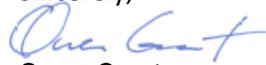
In response to the Energy Highway Task Force's Request for Information (RFI), Ridgeline Energy LLC ("Ridgeline") is pleased to present the enclosed information. Ridgeline is a renewable energy developer with a number of projects in operation and under development across the United States. We are currently in development of a portfolio of projects in New York State.

Ridgeline's focus in New York is on moderately sized projects sited inside transmission constrained areas, designed to best serve the communities in which they are located and help the state meet its renewable energy goals. When connecting to medium voltage lines with available capacity, such projects can also provide system benefits. Also, by virtue of their location inside the central-east constraint, these projects allow the State to harvest more of its renewable resources than it otherwise would and bring clean energy closer to load and bypass existing transmission bottlenecks.

Our projects provide economic benefits to the local community; create jobs and opportunities for New Yorkers, the surrounding region and the State of New York at a level disproportionate to their relatively modest footprint. These projects would benefit from long-term power contracts which could reduce the cost of capital and therefore the cost of renewable electricity.

Ridgeline looks forward to working with the Task Force in its efforts to partner with the private sector to make the Energy Highway Initiative a reality. Ridgeline submits Monticello Hills Wind for consideration under this RFI as one example of our projects. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss with you in detail MHW and our other projects. Should you have additional questions please contact me by e-mail at [ogrant@rl-en.com](mailto:ogrant@rl-en.com) or by phone at 518-213-4714.

Sincerely,



Owen Grant

Project Manager

**Ridgeline Energy LLC**

2021 Western Ave Ste. 105

Albany, NY 12203

518-250-4247

**Response to Request for Information**

**New York Energy Highway Task Force**

May 30, 2011

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Table of Contents .....i

Section I – RESPONDENT INFORMATION..... 1

Section II – PROJECT DESCRIPTION ..... 2

Section III – PROJECT JUSTIFICATION..... 3

Section IV –FINANCIAL ..... 4

Section V – PERMIT/APPROVAL PROCESS ..... 5

Section VI – Conclusion..... 6

## Section 1: Respondent Information

Ridgeline Energy LLC (hereinafter “Ridgeline”) is a renewable energy company headquartered in Seattle, Washington, with offices in Oregon, Idaho, Florida and New York. Ridgeline has expertise in both solar and wind energy. Ridgeline is an indirect subsidiary of Veolia Environnement, SA (“Veolia”). Veolia (Paris Euronext: VIE and NYSE: VE) a worldwide leader in environmental solutions. With more than 300,000 employees worldwide, the company has operations around the world and provides tailored solutions to meet the needs of municipal and industrial customers in four complementary segments: water management, waste management, energy management and passenger transportation. Veolia Environnement recorded revenue of \$36.9 billion in 2011.

Ridgeline has been active in wind energy development since 2001. The company has a portfolio of over 2,000 MW under development across North America. To date, three projects developed by Ridgeline are operating and one is currently under construction:

- The 64.5 MW Wolverine Wind Project in Idaho came on line in 2006 and is currently owned by a third party. The output is sold under contract to Pacificorp.
- Ridgeline, in partnership with BP Wind Energy, developed the Goshen wind project located in Idaho. The 125 MW project came on line in 2010 and is currently owned with BP Wind Energy and Diamond Generation. The output is sold to Southern California Edison.
- Ridgeline developed and constructed the Rockland Wind Farm, an 80 MW project in Idaho. The Rockland Wind Farm is a joint venture between RLE and Diamond Generation. The output has been sold under a long term contract to Idaho Power.
- Ridgeline developed and is currently constructing a 120 MW wind project in Idaho. Commercial operation is expected in December 2012 and the output will be sold under contract to Idaho Power.

In addition to its interests in wind energy, Ridgeline, drawing on the expertise of Veolia, a pioneer in solar energy, has a portfolio of approximately 300 MW under development in the United States. Veolia constructed the world’s largest rooftop solar power station (Zaragoza, Spain) partnering with Clairvoyant Energy, GM and the Government of Aragon. Veolia is developing more than 200 MW of solar throughout Europe. More information on RLE and Veolia can be found at [www.ridgeline.veolia.com](http://www.ridgeline.veolia.com) and [www.veoliaenvironnement.com](http://www.veoliaenvironnement.com).

## Section 2 Project Description:

<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Generation</b>
<b>Size of Project</b>	<b>18.45 MW</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Zone E, Town of Richfield, Otsego County Inside Central-East Constraint</b>
<b>Fuel</b>	<b>Wind</b>
<b>Earliest Online Date</b>	<b>November 2013</b>

MHW is a proposed 18.45MW wind energy facility comprising six turbines that will be located in the Town of Richfield, Otsego County in the western area of the Town of Richfield.

The project is sited in an already disturbed energy corridor on active farmland. The Tennessee gas pipeline runs east-west and the Marcy South transmission line runs north-south through the project site.

The project would allow those same landowners that host the Marcy South line to benefit from a clean renewable energy project that serves the electricity needs of the surrounding community. The project location straddles the service territory of Otsego Electric Cooperative and NYSEG and will interconnect to the 46kV NYSEG transmission line on the north side of US Route 20.

## **Section 3 Project Justification:**

### **Create jobs and economic opportunities for New Yorkers**

One of the many benefits of a project like MHW is the contribution to the local and regional economy. Though modest in size for a wind energy facility, MHW is by nature sized to serve the electrical needs of the surrounding communities. A greater portion of the economic benefits remain within the local, regional, and state economy as the development and balance of plant make up a greater percentage of the overall facility cost.

MHW expects three full-time-equivalent careers to be created for the operation of the facility. Approximately \$7 million in goods and services, materials and labor will be required during the construction of the project. Once in operation, the project will make annual payments of approximately \$150,000 to the taxing jurisdictions and \$165,000 to local landowners.

### **Contribute to an environmentally sustainable future for NYS**

MHW would add clean non-polluting renewable energy to the system mix which would help the State meet its ambitious renewable energy goals.

### **Maximize NYS ratepayer value on the operation of the grid**

The NYISO's report on wind integration highlighted the reductions in wholesale costs by adding zero marginal cost production onto the system.

### **Adhere to the market rules and procedures and make recommendations for improvements**

MHW must compete with other renewable projects for Renewable Energy Certificates in RFPs ordered under New York's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). A long-term Power Purchase Agreement would reduce the cost of capital and therefore the cost of new clean renewable energy.

## **Section 4 Financial:**

MHW would be interested in discussing a public-private partnership in the form of a Power Purchase Agreement with NYPA or another State or municipal entity.

Detailed financial information is considered business sensitive and for competitive reasons cannot be shared in this format.

## **Section 5 Permitting:**

MHW was awarded a Special Use Permit on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011. The town passed a Host Community Agreement on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2012.

The NYISO is currently conducting the Facility Study. The project must receive a SPDES permit from the New York State Department of Conservation and a local building permit from the Town of Richfield.

An Article 78 Petition was filed challenging the Special Use Permit. No decision has been reached.

## **Section VI Conclusion:**

With the Request for Information the Task Force called for a range of ideas that if acted on could help ensure a bright future for New York Energy. We applaud Task Force for the initiative and foresight it has demonstrated thus far. Moderately sized renewable energy projects inside transmission constraints like MHW can, today, bring renewable energy closer to load. As such, these projects can help achieve two goals of the RFI -diversify the downstate fuel mix and encourage utility scale renewable generation throughout the state- *without waiting for transmission upgrades*. We reach out to the Task Force to help make this possible by facilitating long-term power contracts. Doing so will reduce the costs of renewable energy for ratepayers, lowering tolls along the Energy Highway.