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## 6.0 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

The SEQRA process requires the analysis of any growth inducing impacts associated with the proposed Project. The analysis must include a discussion of the potential to trigger further development by either attracting a significant local population, inviting commercial or industrial growth, or by inducing the development of similar projects adjacent to the proposed Project. Possible growth inducing impacts resulting from the Project are discussed below.

The Project will not result in long-term population growth in the Project Area. During construction of the Project, approximately 100 temporary workers will be employed. Most construction workers will not relocate to the Project Area as jobs are not permanent, and also because many will be hired from the Project region whenever local resources are available. The proposed Project does not require an operational workforce greater than approximately 10 to 15 employees, most of whom will be drawn from the surrounding area. Even if all of the employees moved to the Project Area from other areas, this number represents a nominal increase to the existing population as described in Section 2.9, Socioeconomics. In addition, the existing number of housing units in the Project Area is adequate to absorb any incidental population growth, and roads in the Project Area are not used to full capacity, as described in Section 2.8, Traffic and Transportation. Any minor increase in population resulting from the Project is not anticipated to create a need for municipal services or create an unjust burden on existing government and social resources (i.e., police, fire, hospitals, school systems, etc.). However, the presence of the construction workforce will temporarily boost supporting businesses such as restaurants and hotels. Although the Project's operations phase workforce will likely support the local economy through the purchase of goods and services, the type and level of expenditures are not anticipated to generate significant growth in the businesses that serve the proposed facility.

The Project may result in improved local infrastructure such that the Project Area will be better able to support unrelated economic development. For example, select local roads will be improved to accommodate Project construction equipment. After the Project is completed, roads will be able to support heavier loads and intersections will be able to accommodate larger vehicles. The addition of a new source of electricity generation into the local electric transmission system will enhance the reliability of the local electrical system. Additionally, the increased Project-related income to local governments and school districts will allow localities to create amenities and services to attract desirable economic development within the Project Area. These improvements and enhancements are considered Project benefits.

The Project may enhance tourism in the area, especially in the first few years of operation. Greater tourism can generate business for local providers of gasoline, overnight accommodations, and restaurant services. As discussed in Section 2.9, the experience of communities surrounding other wind farms in New York State is that there is a noticeable increase in tourism, but it is not of the level that has led to the establishment of significant new

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businesses or expansion of existing businesses. Small enterprises, such as wind farm-related souvenir sales, have developed around the Fenner and Maple Ridge wind farms in New York and are the form of new businesses most likely to result from the Project. As the novelty of wind energy decreases, the amount of tourism experienced at wind farms may decrease. However, certain communities such as Fenner have established the Fenner Renewable Energy Education (FREE) center aimed at educating the public on renewable energy technologies and sustaining wind farm-related tourism.

Local farmers hosting wind turbines will also receive economic benefits that will give them an opportunity to enhance their operations through better technology or expansion of available property and resources. The preservation of agricultural land and the economic gain in the Project Area will provide these landowners an alternative to selling their farms for construction of residential tracts and subdivisions, if they so choose. The Project will provide a second revenue stream that could balance their income in years of lower agriculture and farm yield.

By making payments in lieu of taxes, the Project will reduce the tax burden on other property owners in the area, and provide an enhanced source of revenues to the local communities. Those communities could use the economic benefits of the Project to further other growth initiatives within their jurisdictions.

The Project is proposed in its specific location because of its strong local wind resource and the presence of an existing transmission line that can bring the Project's power to market. The availability of these resources/facilities suggests that other wind power projects may be proposed on adjacent lands. However, this would be the case whether or not the proposed Project is built.

The construction of the Project will not encourage the development of additional wind power projects in the area. In fact, because existing transmission facilities serving the Project Area have limited additional capacity, the Project would make other wind projects that plan to connect to the same line more difficult to develop. The cost of such upgrades may make future projects less economically viable unless such projects were to interconnect at the same point and were either limited in size or were prepared to have their output curtailed above a certain level. In addition, landowner willingness and environmental sensitivity play a significant role in the location of wind power projects. The local and state permitting processes in Arkwright and Pomfret would allow for a thorough review of any subsequent applications for wind energy development.