

---

## 6.0 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

The SEQRA process requires the analysis of any growth inducing impacts associated with the proposed Project. 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 built facility must be addressed. Possible growth inducing impacts resulting from the Project are mentioned below.

The Project will not result in long-term population growth in the Project Area. The proposed Project does not require a work force greater than approximately 10 to 15 employees for the operation of the Project, most of who will be drawn from the surrounding area. Even if all of the employees were to be imported from other areas, this increase represents a nominal increase in population. In addition, as discussed in Section 2.9, Socioeconomics, the existing number of housing units in the Project Area is adequate to absorb any incidental population growth and Section 2.8, Traffic and Transportation, discusses that the roads are not used to full capacity. Although the Project's operations phase work force 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 would be in a better position to support unrelated economic development. For example, select local roads would be improved to accommodate Project construction equipment. After the Project is completed, roads would be able to support heavier loads and intersections would be able to accommodate larger vehicles. The addition of a new source of electricity generation into the local electric transmission system would enhance the reliability of the local electrical system to some extent. Additionally, the increased Project-related income to local governments may allow localities to create amenities to attract desirable economic development within the Project Area. These improvements and enhancements are considered Project benefits.

The Project may enhance tourism traffic in the area, especially in the first few years of operation. Greater tourist traffic could 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 tourist traffic, but it is not of the level that has led to the establishment of significant new 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 and are the most likely form of new businesses that result from the Project. As the novelty of wind energy decreases, the amount of tourist traffic experienced at wind farms may decrease. However, certain communities such as Fenner have established a renewable energy education and visitor center aimed at sustaining wind farm-related tourism.

---

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

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 has shown that other wind power projects will be proposed on adjacent. As mentioned in Section 4.0, other developers are pursuing creation of a wind energy project in the towns of Belmont and Chateaugay to the east of the Jericho Rise Project site. In addition, a wind energy project is currently under construction in the towns of Ellenburg and Clinton. 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 more difficult to develop, because such development could likely only be accommodated by upgrading the existing transmission line. The cost of such upgrades would likely make future projects less economically viable. 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 Belmont and Chateaugay would allow for a thorough review of any subsequent applications for wind energy development.