

WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS SITING ORDINANCE FOR FULTON COUNTY

WHEREAS Fulton County, Illinois has been granted authority to regulate and restrict location and use of structures pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/5-12001 *et. seq.* and 55 ILCS 5/5-12020 *et. seq.* and make rules and regulations (a) governing the construction and alteration of all buildings pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/5-1063, and

WHEREAS, the Fulton County Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing pursuant to Illinois law for review of the WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS SITING ORDINANCE FOR FULTON COUNTY, and approved this ordinance as written.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF FULTON AS FOLLOWS:

PURPOSE

This ordinance is adopted to advance and protect the public health, safety, morals, comfort, and general welfare of the county and its residents by creating regulations for the installation and operation of Wind Energy Conversion Systems, with the following objectives:

- A. To provide a regulatory framework for the designation of properties suitable for the location, construction, and operation of any Wind Energy Conversion System;
- B. To ensure compatible land uses in the vicinity of the areas affected by any Wind Energy Conversion System;
- C. To mitigate the impacts of any Wind Energy Conversion System on environmental resources such as important agricultural lands, forests, wetlands, wildlife, and other protected lands and resources;
- D. To create synergy between Wind Energy Conversion System development and other goals of the county and its comprehensive plan; and
- E. To comply with the requirements of 5/5-12020 of the Illinois Counties Code.

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Applicant" means the entity who submits to the Zoning Board of Appeals an application for the siting and operation of any WECS or Substation. All references to Applicant in this Ordinance shall include Applicant's successors-in-interest and assigns, which includes a WECS Permittee (as defined below).
- B. "Commercial Operation Date" means the calendar date on which the WECS Project produces power for commercial sale, not including test power.
- C. "Commercial Wind Energy Facility" means a wind energy conversion facility of equal or greater than 500 kilowatts in total nameplate generating capacity. Also referred to herein as "Wind Energy Conversion System" or "WECS" or "WECS Project".
- D. "Financial Assurance" or "Financial Security" or "Decommission Security" means assurance from a credit worthy party, examples of which include a surety bond (e.g.,

performance and payment bond), trust instrument, cash escrow, or irrevocable letter of credit.

- E. "Meteorological Tower" means those towers which are erected primarily to measure wind speed and direction plus other data relevant to siting and operation of a WECS Project. For purposes of this ordinance, Meteorological Towers do not include towers and equipment used by airports, the Illinois Department of Transportation, or other similar applications or government agencies, to monitor weather conditions.
- F. "Notice to Proceed" means a written document, named as such, stating that the Applicant expresses an intent to commence construction activities on a WECS Project and identifying the date on which the construction activities are scheduled to commence.
- G. "Nonparticipating property" means real property that is not a participating property.
- H. "Nonparticipating residence" means a residence that is located on nonparticipating property and that is existing and occupied on the date that an application for a permit to develop the WECS Project is filed with the county.
- I. "Occupied community building" means any one or more of the following buildings that is existing and occupied on the date that the application for a permit to develop the WECS Project is filed with the county: a school, place of worship, day care facility, public library, or community center.
- J. "Operator" means the person or entity responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of a wind energy conversion system, including any third-party subcontractors. The Operator must be a qualified wind power professional. All references to Operator in the Ordinance shall include Operator's successors-in-interest and assigns.
- K. "Owner" means the person or entity or entities with an equity interest in a wind energy conversion system, including their respective successors-in-interest and assigns. The Owner does not mean (i) the property owner from whom land is leased for locating a wind energy conversion system (unless the property owner has an equity interest in a wind energy conversion system); or (ii) any person holding a security interest in a wind energy conversion system solely to secure an extension of credit, or a person foreclosing on such security interest, provided that after foreclosure, such person seeks to sell a wind energy conversion system at the earliest practicable date. This definition includes the definition of Facility Owner as defined in 55 ILCS 5/5-12020.
- L. "Participating property" means real property that is the subject of a written agreement between a facility owner and the owner of the real property that provides the facility owner an easement, option, lease, or license to use the real property for the purpose of constructing a WECS Project or supporting facilities. "Participating property" also includes real property that is owned by a facility owner for the purpose of constructing WECS Project or supporting facilities.
- M. "Participating residence" means a residence that is located on participating property and that is existing and occupied on the date that an application for a permit to develop the WECS Project is filed with the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- N. "Professional Engineer" means a qualified individual who is licensed as a professional

engineer in any state in the United States. Where a structural engineer is required to take some action under terms of this Ordinance, a Professional Engineer may serve as the structural engineer if he or she has the appropriate structural engineering certification.

- O. "Protected lands" means real property that is subject to a permanent conservation right consistent with the Real Property Conservation Rights Act, or registered or designated as a nature preserve, buffer, or land and water reserve under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act.
- P. "Public Conservation Lands" means land owned in fee title by County, state or federal agencies and managed specifically for conservation purposes, including but not limited to County, state and federal parks, state and federal wildlife management areas, state scientific and natural areas, and federal wildlife refuges and waterfowl protection areas. Public conservation lands do not include private lands upon which conservation easements have been sold to government agencies or non-profit conservation organizations. Public conservation lands also do not include private lands for which the owners have entered into contractual relationships with government or non-profit conservation organizations for conservation purposes.
- P. "Conditional Use Permit" means a permit approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals, after a public hearing, allowing a particular use at a specified location subject to compliance with certain specified special conditions as may be required by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Q. "Substation" means the apparatus that collects and connects the electrical collection system of the WECS(s) and increases the voltage for connection with the utility's transmission lines.
- R. "Supporting Facilities" means the transmission lines, substations, access roads, meteorological towers, storage containers, and equipment associated with the generation and storage of electricity by the WECS. "Supporting Facilities" includes energy storage systems capable of absorbing energy and storing it for use at a later time, including, but not limited to, batteries and other electrochemical and electromechanical technologies or systems.
- S. "WECS Permittee" means an Applicant who applies for and receives a Conditional Use Permit under this Ordinance for the siting and operation of any WECS or Substation. All references to a WECS Permittee in this Ordinance shall include a WECS Permittee's successors-in-interest and assigns.
- T. "WECS Tower" or "Wind Tower" means and includes wind turbine tower, nacelle, and blades.
- U. "WECS Tower Height" means the distance from the rotor blade at its highest point to the top surface of the WECS foundation.
- V. "WECS Building Permit" means a permit necessary for the commencement of work performed toward the construction, erection or installation of an approved WECS, Substation or operations and maintenance building in connection with a WECS Project. A WECS Building Permit may be issued by the Zoning Department after a WECS Project has obtained a Conditional Use Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Zoning Board of Appeals determines that all conditions, if any, have been satisfied that are imposed by the Conditional Use Permit. The WECS Building Permit shall require the Applicant (WECS Permittee) to deliver a written "Notice to

Proceed" for the WECS Project to the Zoning Board of Appeals prior to commencement of construction of the WECS Project. The term "commencement of construction", as used in this Ordinance, includes any site development work (e.g., demolition, grubbing, grading, excavation, road work, construction of Project-related structures and infrastructure improvements, etc.) regarding the WECS Project.

- W. "Wind Turbine" means any piece of electrical generating equipment that converts the kinetic energy of moving wind into electrical energy through the use of airfoils or similar devices to capture the wind.

II. APPLICABILITY

- A. This Ordinance governs the siting of WECS and Substations that generate electricity to be sold to wholesale or retail markets.
- B. Owners of WECS with an aggregate generating capacity of 0.5MW or less who locate the WECS(s) on their own property are not subject to this Ordinance.

III. PROHIBITION

- A. No WECS Project, WECS or Substation governed by this Ordinance shall be constructed, erected, installed, or located within the county, unless prior siting approval and a building permit, has been obtained for each individual WECS Project, WECS and Substation or for a group of WECS Projects and Substations under a joint siting application pursuant to this Ordinance. Prior siting approval is obtained via a Conditional Use Permit, granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- B. Commercial Wind Energy Facilities and their supporting facilities are only allowed by issuance of a Conditional Use Permit and Building Permit in the Agricultural Conservation (A/C) and Industrial (I) districts of Fulton County.

IV. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

- A. To obtain siting approval, the Applicant must first submit a Conditional Use Permit application to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- B. The Applicant shall be responsible for reserving a location for the hearing to take place, after consulting with the Zoning Enforcement Officer.
- C. The Applicant shall also be responsible for sending "Notice of Hearing" letters. Said notice shall be sent to the property owners, as recorded in the County Recorder of Deeds, of all property adjacent to, or within two hundred fifty (250) feet in each direction of the location for which the conditional use permit is requested and the number of feet occupied by all public roads, streets, alleys and other public ways shall be excluded in determining the two hundred fifty (250) feet requirement.
- D. Said Notices shall also be sent to any incorporated municipality within 1.5 miles of any portion of the proposed Commercial Solar Energy Facility.
- E. Material changes to the application are not permitted once the notice of the public

hearing has been published, unless requested or permitted by the Zoning Board of Appeals; and

- F. The Applicant shall submit twelve (12) copies of the Conditional Use Permit application to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and at least one (1) copy in electronic format.
- G. The Conditional Use Permit application shall contain or be accompanied by the following information:
 - 1. A general WECS Project Summary, including, to the extent available:
 - a. It's approximate overall name plate generating capacity;
 - b. The potential equipment manufacturer(s) of the turbines and any energy storage system;
 - c. Type(s) of WECS(s);
 - d. The number of WECS, and name plate generating capacity of each WECS;
 - e. The maximum height of the WECS Tower(s) and maximum diameter of the WECS(s) rotor(s);
 - f. Description of supporting facilities, including energy storage systems (if any);
 - g. Energy storage system overall acreage, nameplate capacity, power capacity, storage duration, and aggregate energy capacity.
 - h. A project site plan, project phasing plan and project construction timeline plan;
 - i. The general location of the project.
 - 2. A description of the Applicant, Owner and Operator, including their respective business structures.
 - 3. The name(s), address(es), and phone number(s) of the Applicant(s), Owner and Operator, and all property owner(s), if known, and documentation demonstrating land ownership or legal control of the property;
 - 4. A site plan for the WECS Project showing the planned location of each WECS Tower, including parcel numbers and legal descriptions for each site, guy lines and anchor bases (if any), Participating and Non-participating Residences, Occupied Community Buildings, parcel boundary lines (including identification of adjoining properties), setback lines, public access roads and turnout locations, all supporting facilities including any energy storage systems, substation(s), operations and maintenance buildings, temporary and permanent Meteorological Towers, concrete batch plants, laydown yards, electrical cabling from the WECS Tower to the Substation(s), ancillary equipment, third party transmission lines, the location of any wetlands, flood plain, drainage structures including surface ditches and subsurface drainage lines, underground mines, scenic and natural areas within one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet of the proposed WECS, the location of all known communications towers within two (2) miles of the proposed WECS, and the layout of all structures within the geographical boundaries of any applicable setbacks;
 - 5. All "Determinations of No Hazard to Air Navigation" (DNH) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for all wind towers and other applicable structures,

- received on or before the filing of the Conditional Use Permit application;
6. A proposed Decommissioning Plan for the WECS Project including cost estimations and a draft form of financial assurance for same;
 7. All required studies, reports, certifications, and approvals demonstrating compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance;
 8. An Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) executed between the Applicant and the Illinois Department of Agriculture;
 9. The topographic map shall include the WECS Project site and the surrounding area;
 10. Any other information normally required by the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of its permitting requirements for siting buildings or other structures;
 11. Waivers from the setback requirements executed by the occupied community building owners and/or the non-participating property owners bearing a file stamp from the County Recorder of Deeds Office confirming that the waiver was recorded against title to the affected real property.
 12. Waivers from the shadow flicker mitigation requirements executed by the occupied community building owners and/or the non-participating property owners bearing a file stamp from the County Recorder of Deeds Office confirming that the waiver was recorded against title to the affected real property.
 13. Waivers from any noise enforcement executed by participating property owners, participating residence owners, nonparticipating property owners and/or nonparticipating residence owners bearing a file stamp from the County Recorder of Deeds Office confirming that the waiver was recorded against title to the affected real property,
 14. Results and recommendations from the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) obtained through its "Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool" (EcoCAT) or a comparable successor tool.
 15. Results and recommendations from consultation with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding potential impacts on State-registered historic sites under the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act;
 16. A farmland drainage plan (to include a drain tile survey) which shall be provided to the county and any impacted drainage district;
 17. Adequate proof that the special use permit application has been submitted to local emergency response agencies;
 18. A copy of all communication and interference studies demonstrating the potential impacts of the project on television, radio, telephone (including mobile phone communications), transportation communication devices, emergency and law enforcement communications including E911 communications, and weather radar utilized by the National Weather Service (NWS) or others to communicate weather

events to the public;

19. Unless otherwise provided, information required under Section 5-12024 of the Illinois Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/5-12024) for energy storage systems (if any) utilized for the project;
20. Evidence demonstrating that the project will avoid protected lands as identified by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC);
21. Any other information requested by the Zoning Board of Appeals or the County consultants that is necessary to evaluate the siting application and operation of the WECS Project and to demonstrate that the WECS Project meets each of the regulations in this Ordinance, including the Conditional Use Permit standards set forth below.

V. DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

A. Design Safety Certification

1. WECSs shall conform to applicable industry standards, including those of the American National Standards Institute ("ANSI") (most recent edition), National Electric Code (NEC) (most recent edition) and requirements of the public utility. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, applicants shall submit certificates of design compliance that equipment manufacturers have obtained from Underwriters Laboratories ("UL"), Det Norske Veritas ("DNV"), Germanischer Lloyd Wind Energie ("CGL"), or an equivalent third party. All turbines and supporting facilities, including energy storage systems, shall be new equipment commercially available; no used or experimental equipment shall be used in the WECS Project without the approval of a variance by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
2. Following the granting of siting approval under this Ordinance, a structural engineer shall certify, as part of the WECS Building Permit application process, that the foundation and tower design of the WECS is within accepted professional standards, given local soil, subsurface and climate conditions.

B. Controls and Brakes

All WECSs shall be equipped with a redundant braking system. This includes both aerodynamic overspeed controls (including variable pitch, tip, tilt, and other similar systems) and mechanical brakes. Mechanical brakes shall be operated in a fail-safe mode. Stall regulation shall not be considered a sufficient braking system for overspeed protection.

C. Electrical Components

All electrical components of the WECS shall conform to applicable local, state, and national codes, and relevant national and international standards (e.g. ANSI and

International Electrical Commission) (most recent editions).

D. Aesthetics and Lighting

The following items are recommended standards to mitigate visual impact:

1. *Coatings and Coloring:* Towers and blades shall be painted white or gray or another non-reflective, unobtrusive color.
2. *Turbine Consistency:* To the extent feasible, the WECS Project shall consist of turbines of similar design and size, including tower height. Further, all turbines shall rotate in the same direction. Turbines shall also be consistent in color and direction with nearby facilities.
3. *Lighting:* WECS Projects and any applicable supporting facilities, shall utilize minimal lighting that is compliant with the applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, as amended by the FAA. Applicant shall apply to the relevant federal government entities for the installation and use of an "Aircraft Detection Lighting System" (ADLS). If approved by the FAA for a WECS Project, the Applicant shall install Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems ("ADLS") or other similar technology to reduce light pollution and visual impacts caused by the WECS Towers, and maintain the system(s) in operating condition for the life of the project.
4. *Intra-project Power and Communication Lines:* All power lines used to collect power from individual turbines and all communication lines shall be buried underground at a depth in accordance with the "Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement" (AIMA) until same reach the property line or a substation adjacent to the property line.
5. *Debris and Garbage:* The WECS project area shall be kept free of debris and garbage at all times during the life of the project.

E. Warnings

1. A reasonably visible warning sign concerning voltage must be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations, at all entrances to the Wind Towers, and other locations where high voltage is present and is reasonably accessible by others.
2. Visible, reflective, colored objects, such as flags, plastic sleeves, reflectors, or tape shall be placed on the anchor points of guy wires and along the guy wires up to a height of fifteen (15) feet from the ground.
3. Reflective signage posted at the location where the private lane meets the public roadway indicating the address number of the turbine.

F. Climb Prevention

1. All WECS Towers must be unclimbable by design or protected by anti-climbing devices such as:

- a. Fences with locking portals at least six (6) feet high; or
- b. Anti-climbing devices twelve (12) feet vertically from the base of the WECS Tower.

G. Setback Requirements

1. WECS Towers shall be sited as follows, with setback distances measured from the center of the base of the WECS Tower;
 - a. *Occupied Community Buildings*: 2.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the outside wall of the structure.
 - b. *Participating Residences*: 1.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the outside wall of the structure;
 - c. *Nonparticipating Residences*: 2.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the outside wall of the structure;
 - d. *Boundary Lines of Participating Property*: None.
 - e. *Boundary Lines of Nonparticipating Property*: 1.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the property line of the nonparticipating property.
 - f. *Public Road Rights-of-Way*: 1.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the center point of the public road right-of-way.
 - g. *Overhead Communication and Electric Transmission and Distribution Facilities (Not Including Overhead Utility Service Lines to Individual Houses or Outbuildings)*: 1.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest edge of the property line, easement, or right of way containing the overhead line.
 - h. *Overhead Utility Service Lines to Individual Houses or Outbuildings*: None.

Fish and Wildlife Areas and Illinois Nature Preserve Commission Protected Lands: 2.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the property line of the fish and wildlife area or protected land.
2. The setback requirements may be waived by the written consent of the owner(s) of each affected property. The Applicant does not need obtain a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals upon waiver by the property owner of the setback requirement. Any waiver of any of the above setback requirements shall run with the land and be recorded with the Recorder of Deeds of the County prior to the issuance of any building permit for the project.
3. Setback requirements for fencing in relation to public rights-of-way shall be those set forth for the Agricultural Conservation (A/C) district by the Fulton County Zoning Ordinance.

H. Compliance with Additional Regulations

1. Nothing in this Ordinance is intended to preempt other applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

I. Use of Public Roads

1. An Applicant proposing to use any County, municipality, township or village road(s), for the purpose of transporting WECS or Substation parts and/or equipment for construction, operation, or maintenance of the WECS(s) or Substation(s), shall:
 - a. Identify all such public roads; and
 - b. Obtain applicable Oversize and Overweight Load permits from relevant government agencies prior to construction.
 - c. Obtain applicable Entrance and Utility within the Right-of-Way Permits from relevant government agencies prior to construction, should they be required.
2. To the extent an Applicant must obtain an Oversize and Overweight Load permit from the County, municipality, township or village, the Applicant shall:
 - a. Conduct a third-party pre-construction baseline survey to determine existing road conditions for assessing potential future damage; and
 - b. Any proposed public roads that will be used for construction purposes shall be identified and approved in writing by the respective Road Authority prior to the granting of the Conditional Use Permit. Traffic for construction purposes shall be limited to these roads. All overweight and/or oversized loads to be transported on public roads may require a permit from the respective highway authority. Any road damage caused by the transport of the facility's equipment, the installation, maintenance, or removal, must be completely repaired to the reasonable satisfaction of the respective Road Authority. The respective Road Authority may choose to require remediation of road repair upon completion of the WECS Project in addition to being authorized to collect fees for overweight and/or oversized load permits. Further, financial assurance in an amount to be fixed by the Road District Commissioner to ensure the Road District or the County that future repairs are completed to their reasonable satisfaction shall be provided. Applicant shall submit a draft form of said financial assurance with application for Conditional Use Permit.
 - c. Enter into a road use agreement with the County and each affected Road District that includes the following provisions, at a minimum:
 - i. Project layout map;
 - ii. Transportation impact analysis;
 - iii. Pre-construction plans'
 - iv. Project traffic map;
 - v. Project scope of repairs;
 - vi. Post-construction repairs;

- vii. Insurance;
- viii. Financial Security in forms and amounts acceptable to the County;

The road use agreement shall require Applicant to be responsible for the reasonable cost of improving roads used to construct WECS and the reasonable cost of repairing roads used by the facility owner during construction of the WECS so that those roads are in a condition that is safe for the driving public after the completion of the WECS construction. Roadways improved in preparation for and during the construction of the WECS shall be repaired and restored to the improved condition at the reasonable cost of the developer if the roadways have degraded or were damaged as a result of construction-related activities.

- 3. All repairs and improvements to County public roads and roadway appurtenances shall be subject to the prior approval of the respective Road Authority before being made and shall also be subject to inspection and acceptance by the respective Road Authority after such repairs and improvements are completed. The County's Road use agreement, and any further agreements contemplated therein, regarding the maintenance and repair of County public roads and highways, must be approved by the County Board prior to the Zoning Board of Appeals/Zoning Department approval of any WECS Building Permit applications related to the construction of the proposed WECS Project.

J. Site Assessment

- 1. To ensure that the subsurface conditions of the site will provide proper support for the WECS Towers and soil restoration, the Applicant, at its expense, shall provide soil and geotechnical boring reports to the County Engineer with respect to each WECS Tower location, as part of its WECS Building Permit. The Applicant shall follow the guidelines for Conservation Practices Impact Mitigation submitted by the County Soil and Water Conservation District (or equivalent regulatory agency). The Applicant shall submit grading plans for the project for review and comment by the County Soil and Water Conservation District prior to the issuance of any WECS Building Permit for the construction of said substations.

K. Communications Analysis; Interference

- 1. The Applicant, at its expense, shall have a third party, qualified professional (after submission of resume and relevant work experience) conduct an appropriate analysis of the television reception documenting the television stations that are received within one and one-half (1 ½) miles of the footprint of the WECS Project. The results of said study shall be public record and will serve as a baseline reading for television reception conditions prior to the construction of the WECS Project and shall be submitted as part of the Conditional Use Permit Application.
- 2. The Applicant, at its expense, shall have a third party, qualified professional (after submission of resume and relevant work experience), conduct a communications analysis that indicates that the E9-1-1 communications,

emergency communications or official County and local municipal communications reception shall not be negatively impacted or influenced by the proposed wind power facility. Said communication analysis shall be a public record and shall be submitted as part of the Conditional Use Permit application.

3. The Applicant and the Operator, at the Applicant's expense, shall take immediate actions to minimize or mitigate interference with electromagnetic communications, such as radio, telephone, microwaves or television signals and to eliminate any such interference that impacts local government public safety (police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management services, 911 dispatch) communications, caused by the operation of the WECS.
 - a. The Applicant shall provide the applicable microwave transmission providers and local emergency service provider(s) (911 operators) copies of the WECS Project Summary and Site Plan, as set forth in Section IV (G)(1) and IV(G)(4) of this Ordinance. To the extent that the above provider(s) demonstrate a likelihood of interference with its communications resulting from the WECS(s), the Applicant and the Operator, at Applicant's expense, shall take reasonable measures to minimize and mitigate such anticipated interference and with regard to interference with local, government public safety (police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management services, 911 dispatch) communications, the Applicant and the Operator, at Applicant's expense, shall take all necessary and available commercial measures to eliminate any such interference.
 - b. If, after construction of the WECS, the Applicant (WECS Permittee) or Operator receives a written complaint related to the above-mentioned interference, the Applicant (WECS Permittee) shall take commercially reasonable steps to respond to the complaint, except in the case of a complaint of interference with local, government public safety (police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management services, 911 dispatch) communications. In the case of local, government public safety communications, the Applicant (WECS Permittee) and the Operator, at the Applicant's expense, shall immediately take all necessary and available commercial measures to eliminate any such interference.
4. If, after construction of the WECS, the Applicant (WECS Permittee) or Operator receives a written complaint related to interference with local broadcast residential television, the Applicant (WECS Permittee) shall take commercially reasonable steps to respond to the complaint. A summary of complaint and subsequent response from Applicant shall be forwarded to the Zoning Board of Appeals for review. Once the construction is complete and a television reception complaint is received by the Zoning Board of Appeals, who will have thirty (30) calendar days to verify the complaint, the Applicant (WECS Permittee) will be given fifteen (15) calendar days to respond, in writing (validation date). Said response shall be addressed and forwarded to both the Zoning Board of Appeals and the complainant. Such response shall include but not be limited to the following: an acknowledgment that a complaint was made and evaluated by the Applicant (WECS Permittee). If considered valid by the Applicant (WECS Permittee): an explanation, including a timeline, as to what the Applicant

(WECS Permittee) intends to do about the complaint. The Applicant (WECS Permittee) of the wind power facility will be given an additional fifteen (15) calendar days from the validation date to resolve said TV reception issue. If considered invalid by the Applicant (WECS Permittee), an explanation, including supporting documentation and expert opinions, as to why the Applicant (WECS Permittee) believes the complaint is not valid. Television reception complaints must be filed within six (6) months from the date each wind turbine generator goes online.

L. Noise Levels

Noise levels from each WECS or WECS Project shall be in compliance with applicable Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) regulations. The Applicant shall submit manufacturer's wind turbine sound power level characteristics and other relevant data regarding wind turbine noise characteristics necessary for a competent noise analysis. The Applicant, through the use of a qualified professional, shall appropriately demonstrate compliance with the applicable noise requirements in its Conditional Use Permit application. Any waivers as to noise obtained after the filing of the special use permit application shall be provided to the county prior to the issuance of the building permit. Any such waivers shall reflect the amount of overage modeled for the operation of the project and shall be recorded with the county recorder of deeds.

M. Agricultural Impact Mitigation

Pursuant to 505 ILCS 147/15(a), the Applicant, at its expense, shall enter into an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) with the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) prior to any public hearing required before a siting decision on the WECS Project application. All impacted agricultural land, whether impacted during construction, operation, or decommissioning activities, must, at a minimum, be remediated by the Applicant pursuant to the terms of the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The Applicant shall submit the executed Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of the Conditional Use Permit application.

N. Avian and Wildlife Impact Study

The Applicant, at its expense, shall have a third party, qualified professional (after submission of resume and relevant work experience) conduct an avian and wildlife impact study and submit said study to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of the Conditional Use Permit application. Each WECS or WECS Project shall be located, designed, constructed, and operated so as to avoid and if necessary, mitigate the impacts to wildlife.

O. As-Built Map and Plans

1. Within sixty (60) calendar days of completion of construction of the WECS Project, the Applicant or Operator shall deliver "as-built" maps, site plan and engineering plans for the WECS Project that have been signed and stamped by a Professional Engineer and a licensed surveyor. Plan needs to include a GIS shapefile showing the lanes and location of each turbine involved. In addition, the Applicant will be required to obtain an address for each windmill from the Fulton County 911 Office.

2. Within sixty (60) calendar days of completion of construction of the WECS project and any supporting facilities, pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/10-620, the Owner of the WECS project shall, at their own expense, commission a metes and bounds survey description of the land upon which the WECS project and any supporting facilities is installed, including access routes, over which the owner of the WECS project has exclusive control. Said survey shall be performed and prepared by an Illinois registered land surveyor. The survey shall be recorded in the Fulton County Recorder's Office at the expense of the Owner, and a separate copy shall be provided to the Chief County Assessment Officer.

P. Engineer's Certificate

The WECS Project engineer's certificate shall be completed by a structural engineer registered in the State of Illinois or by a Professional Engineer with a certification from a structural engineer registered in the State of Illinois and shall certify that the WECS tower and foundation design is compatible with and appropriate for each turbine design proposed to be installed and that the specific soils and subsurface conditions at the site can support the apparatus, given local soil, subsurface and climate conditions. All commercially installed wind turbines must utilize self-supporting, tubular towers. The WECS Project engineer's certificate shall be a public record and shall be submitted as part of the Conditional Use Permit Application.

Q. Conformance with Approved Application and Plans

The Applicant shall construct and operate the WECS Project in substantial conformance with the construction plans contained in a Zoning Board of Appeals-approved submitted Conditional Use Permit Applications(s), conditions placed upon the operation of the Facility, this ordinance and all applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations.

R. Additional Terms and Conditions

1. All technical submissions as defined in the Professional Engineering Practice Act of 1989 (225 ILCS 325/4(w)) and contained in the Conditional Use Permit Application and the building permit application shall be prepared and signed by an Illinois Professional Engineer (or structural engineer) for the relevant discipline.
2. The Zoning Board of Appeals may retain a qualified, independent code inspector or professional engineer both to make appropriate inspections of the WECS Project during and after construction and to consult with the Zoning Board of Appeals to confirm that the construction, substantial repair, replacement, repowering and/or decommissioning of the WECS Project is performed in compliance with applicable electrical and building codes. The cost and fees so incurred by the County in retaining said inspector or engineer shall be promptly reimbursed by the Applicant of the WECS Project.
3. The applicant shall obtain the services of a certified court reporter to record the hearing and issue the report to the applicant and to Fulton County. The certified court reporter is required to physically attend the hearing, and may not appear virtually or by any other electronic means. The cost of the reporter will be borne by

the applicant.

4. The Applicant shall provide locked metal gates or a locked chain are installed at the access road entrances of all the wind turbine generator and supporting facilities locations. An exception may be made when the landowner has filed a written statement with the Zoning Board of Appeals which states that the owner does not want a locked metal gate installed and has provided a signed liability waiver to the County. If there is a locked gate a "Knox box" or a lock with a numbered combination would be required and if a numbered combination is utilized, that number must be on file at the Fulton County 911 office and verified annually. In the event the code is changed between the annual reporting requirements, the Owner shall inform the Fulton County Zoning Office and Fulton County 911 Office within 14 days of the date of change.
5. The Conditional Use Permit granted to the Applicant shall bind and inure to the benefit of the Applicant, its successors-in-interest and assigns. If any provision in this Ordinance, or conditions placed upon the operation of the Commercial Wind Energy Facility is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision and, to this end, the provisions in this Ordinance are severable.
6. The Applicant shall provide an executed road use agreement between the Applicant and, the appropriate governing road and highway jurisdictions or the Illinois Department of Transportation, to the County showing approved entrances prior to the issuance of any WECS Building Permit or prior to construction of the WECS Project.
7. No wind turbine generator shall be installed in any location where its proximity with existing fixed broadcast, retransmission, or reception antenna for radio, television, or wireless phone or other personal communication systems would produce electromagnetic interference with signal transmission or reception. The wind turbine generator shall not be installed in a location along the major axis of existing microwave communications link where its operation is likely to produce electromagnetic interference in the link's operation.
8. The Applicant of the WECS Project shall use two (2) methods to detect icing conditions on turbine blades: (1) sensors that detect when blades become imbalanced or create vibration due to ice accumulation; and (2) meteorological data from on-site meteorological towers, on-site anemometers, and other relevant weather sources that will be used to determine if ice accumulation is occurring. These control systems will either automatically shut down the turbines(s) in icing conditions or the Applicant will manually shut down the turbine(s) if icing conditions are identified.

VI. OPERATION

A. Maintenance

1. *Annual Report.* The Applicant (WECS Permittee) must submit, on an annual basis on the anniversary date of the siting approval application, an operation and maintenance report to the Zoning Board of Appeals. A pre-approved form for this report may be obtained from the Fulton County Zoning Office.

The report shall contain the following information:

- a. A general description of any physical repairs, replacements or modification(s) to the WECS and/or its infrastructure and any supporting facilities;
 - b. Complaints pertaining to setbacks, noise, shadow flicker, appearance, safety, lighting and use of any public roads received by the Applicant concerning the WECS and the resolution of such complaints;
 - c. Calls for emergency services;
 - d. Status of liability insurance; and
 - e. A general summary of service calls to the WECS. Failure to provide the annual report shall be considered a material violation of this Ordinance and subject to Article XI (Remedies).
2. *Re-Certification.* Any physical modification to the WECS that alters the mechanical load, mechanical load path, or major electrical components, increases the nameplate capacity, adds additional properties or parcels, increases the height of towers, increases the sound impacts to nonparticipating properties or nonparticipating residences, increases the shadow flicker impacts upon nonparticipating properties or nonparticipating residences, moves a wind tower greater than 100 feet in any direction, or moves any above ground supporting facilities greater than 100 feet in any direction shall require re-certification under Design and Safety Certification section, paragraph 1, of this Ordinance.

Like-kind replacements and modifications that are made in the ordinary course of operations, including expected repairs and warranty items, shall not require re-certification. Prior to making any physical modification (other than a like-kind replacement or other modifications made in the ordinary course of operations), the Applicant shall confer with a relevant third-party certifying entity identified in Design and Safety Certification section, paragraph 1, of this Ordinance to determine whether the physical modification requires re-certification.

B. Coordination with Emergency Responders:

1. The Applicant shall submit to the local emergency responders a copy of the Site Plan, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), and any amendments to such documents, for the wind power facility so that the local law enforcement, fire protection district and rescue units, emergency medical service providers and emergency management service providers that have jurisdiction over each tower site may evaluate and coordinate their emergency response plans with the Applicant of the WECS Project.
2. The Applicant shall provide a map of the facility labeling the location of the following;
 - Batteries and Energy Storage Systems (ESS): The map should clearly call out battery and ESS locations and size of battery and ESS storage.
 - Roads: The Applicant shall work with the Fulton County 911 Office to develop a private lane naming and addressing schema.
 - Point of Interconnection (POI) to the utility grid
 - Main AC Disconnect, DC Disconnect, Rapid Shutdown Switch (RSD) and BESS/ESS Disconnects (if any).
3. The Applicant shall provide the Fulton County Zoning Office and 911 Office with any GIS Shape Files owned by the Applicant for the facility to assist with creating a map for the facility. In the event GIS shape files are not available, the Applicant agrees to allow Fulton County 911 Staff access to the facility to create a digital

map.

4. The Applicant, at its expense, shall provide annual training for, and the necessary equipment to, the Operator and local emergency response authorities and their personnel so that they can properly respond to a potential emergency at the WECS Project and any related, supporting facilities. Special equipment to be provided includes, but is not limited to, permanently installed rescue equipment such as winches, pulleys, harnesses, etc.
5. The Applicant and the Operator shall cooperate with all local emergency responders to develop an emergency response plan. The plan shall include, at a minimum, 24-hour contact information (names, titles, email addresses, cell phone numbers) for the Applicant and the Operator and at least three (3) designated WECS Project representatives (a primary representative with two (2) alternate representatives, each of whom are on-call "24 hours per day / 7 days per week / 365 days per year"). Any change in the designated WECS Project representative or his/her contact information shall be promptly communicated to the Fulton County 911 Office and Fulton County Zoning Office within 5 business days of the change. Additionally, the content of the emergency response plan, including the 24-hour contact information, shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.
6. Nothing in this section shall alleviate the need to comply with all other applicable life safety, fire / emergency laws and regulations.

C. Water, Sewer, Materials Handling, Storage and Disposal

1. All solid wastes related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the WECS shall be removed from the site promptly and disposed of in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and regulations.
2. All hazardous materials related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the WECS shall be handled, stored, transported and disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations.
3. The WECS Project shall comply with existing septic and well regulations as required by the Fulton County Health Department and the State of Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

D. Shadow Flicker

1. The project must be operated such that any occupied community building or nonparticipating residence will not experience more than 30 hours per year of shadow flicker under planned operating conditions, unless waived by the impacted property owner.
2. The Applicant must present to the Zoning Board of Appeals a study on potential shadow flicker. The Applicant shall appropriately demonstrate to the Zoning Board of Appeals through industry standard modeling that no occupied community building or non-participating residence will experience an expected duration of 30 hours or more per year. An occupied community building owner or a non-participating participating residence owner may waive this shadow flicker mitigation requirement. Each waiver of the above shadow flicker mitigation requirement shall be set forth in a written waiver executed by the occupied

community building owner or non-participating residence owner and filed with the County Recorder of Deeds Office against title to the affected real property.

3. Any waivers as to shadow flicker obtained after the filing of the special use permit application shall be provided to the county prior to the issuance of the building permit. Any such waivers shall reflect the amount of overage modeled for the operation of the project and shall be recorded with the county recorder of deeds.

E. Signage

Signage regulations are to be consistent with ANSI and AWEA standards. A reasonably visible warning sign concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers, supporting facilities, substations, at all entrances to Wind Towers, and other locations where high voltage is present and is reasonably accessible by others.

F. Drainage Systems

The Applicant, at its expense, shall repair, in a prompt and timely manner, all waterways, drainage ditches, agricultural drainage systems, field tiles, or any other private and public infrastructure improvements damaged during construction, maintenance and operation phases of the WECS Project in accordance with the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA), the Illinois Drainage Code, and any agreements related to drainage.

G. Complaint Resolution

The Applicant shall, at its expense and in coordination with the Zoning Board of Appeals, develop a system for logging and investigating complaints related to the WECS Project. The Applicant shall resolve such non-emergency complaints on a case-by-case basis and shall provide written confirmation to the Zoning Board of Appeals. All costs and fees incurred by the County in attempting to or resolving complaints shall be reimbursed by the Applicant of the WECS Project. The Applicant shall also designate and maintain for the duration of the WECS Project either a local telephone number or a toll-free telephone number and an email address as its public information / inquiry / and complaint "hotline" which shall be answered by a customer service representative 24/7 basis. The Applicant shall post the telephone number(s) and email address (es) for the customer service representative(s) in a prominent, easy to find location on their websites and at the WECS Project site on signage.

VII. LIABILITY INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

- A. Commencing with the issuance of a WECS Building Permit, the Applicant shall maintain a current general comprehensive liability policy and automobile liability coverage covering bodily injury, death and illness, and property damage with limits of at least Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) per occurrence and Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000.00) in the aggregate; and, shall further maintain the above-stated lines of insurance from delivery of the "Notice to Proceed by the Applicant under the turbine supply and/or balance of plant construction contract(s) for the WECS Project, in coverage amounts of at least Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) per occurrence and Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000.00) in the aggregate during the life of the WECS Project. The Applicant shall file the original certificate of insurance upon commencement of project construction prior to the issuance of a WECS Building Permit, corresponding policies and endorsements to be provided within sixty (60) days of issuance, and at each subsequent renewal, at least annually thereafter.

- B. The Owner and/or Applicant (WECS Permittee) shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, appointed and elected officials, employees, attorneys, engineers and agents (collectively and individually, the "Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, suits, causes of action, damages, injuries, costs, expenses and liabilities whatsoever, including reasonable attorney's fees relating to or arising out of the issuance of the Conditional Use Permit or the construction, operation, maintenance and removal of the WECS and affiliated equipment including, without limitation, liability for property damage or personal injury (including death or illness), whether said liability is premised on contract or on tort (including without limitation strict liability or negligence) or any acts or omissions of the Applicant (WECS Permittee), the Owner or the Operator under this Ordinance or the Conditional Use Permit, except to the extent any such claims, demands, losses, suits, causes of action, damages, injuries, costs, expenses and liabilities arise from the negligence or intentional acts of such Indemnified Parties. This general indemnification shall not be construed as limiting or qualifying the County's other indemnification rights available under the law.

VIII. DECOMMISSIONING AND SITE RECLAMATION PLAN REQUIRED

- A. Applicant (or Owner, if different from Applicant) must submit a Decommissioning Plan with cost estimation to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of the siting application and provide testimony supporting the calculation of costs provided in said plan during the public hearing on the application.
- B. Prior to receiving any building permit for the Commercial Wind Energy Facility, the Applicant or Owner shall enter into an agreed upon Decommissioning Agreement with the County, to be approved by the Fulton County Board, and post the required Financial Assurances for the benefit of the County. The Decommissioning Agreement and Financial Assurances shall comply with 55 ILCS 5/5-12020.
- C. Periodically, and as required by the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement, the Owner shall update the Decommissioning Plan, cost estimations and provide updated Financial Assurances to the benefit of the County.

IX. REMEDIES

- A. The Applicant's failure to materially comply with any of the provisions under the Conditional Use Permit, any conditions imposed on the project, building permit and/ or failure to comply with any law or regulation shall be a default and shall be grounds for revocation of the Conditional Use Permit and/or building permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- B. Prior to implementation of the applicable County procedures for the resolution of default(s), the Zoning Board of Appeals must first provide written notice to the Applicant and Operator, setting forth the alleged default(s) and provide an opportunity for the Applicant or the Operator to cure the default(s) within a thirty (30) calendar day period from the date of the notice. Should the Applicant commence the cure within that 30-day cure period, and diligently pursues a cure, then the Applicant shall receive an additional sixty (60) days to continue to pursue the cure before the County pursues procedures for the resolution of default. If the default relates to a life safety issue or interference with local, government public safety (police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management services, 911 dispatch) communications, the Applicant or the Operator shall take all necessary and available commercial measures to immediately cure the default. If the Applicant or Operator cannot cure the default(s) or resolve the alleged default(s) within the cure period, then

applicable County ordinance provisions addressing the resolution of such default(s) shall govern.

X. FEE SCHEDULE AND PERMITTING PROCESSES

1. Conditional Use Permit Application Fees

- a. Prior to processing any Conditional Use Permit Application for a Commercial Wind Energy Facility, the Applicant must submit payment to the Zoning Office equal to \$5,000 per megawatt of nameplate capacity (D/C), up to a maximum fee of \$125,000. Nameplate capacity shall include any energy storage system capacity. Nameplate capacity shall be calculated in terms of Direct Current (D/C) nameplate capacity.
- b. Should the actual costs to the County exceed the submitted Application Fee, the Applicant shall be responsible for those additional costs and shall remit additional funds to the County within 15 days of receipt of a request from the County. No hearings on an Application shall be conducted nor final decisions rendered on an Application if there are Application fees due to the County.

2. Building Permit Application Fees

- a. Prior to the issuance of building permits, the Building Permit Applicant must remit a Building Permit Fee equating to \$5,000 per megawatt of nameplate capacity, up to a maximum fee of \$75,000 for projects with a Nameplate Capacity up to 15MW. Projects with a Nameplate capacity over 15 MW must remit an additional \$500 per megawatt of nameplate capacity as deemed reasonable for projects over 15MW. The Nameplate capacity shall include any energy storage system capacity. Nameplate capacity shall be calculated in terms of direct current (DC) nameplate capacity.
- b. Should the actual costs to the county exceed the building permit application fee paid, the applicant shall be responsible for the additional costs and shall remit additional funds to the county within 15 days of receipt of a request from the county. No building permit shall be issued upon outstanding fees remaining due to the county.

3. All Costs to be Paid by Applicant or Owner

- a. In addition to all fees noted above, the Applicant or Owner shall pay all costs incurred by the County, including but not limited to, those costs associated with all offices, boards and commissions of the County, and third-party costs incurred by the County. This includes, but is not limited to, the direct or indirect costs associated with the hearing, permitting, operations, inspections, decommissioning, litigation, disputes, and/ or negotiations.

4. Annual Conditional Use Permit Renewal Fees

- a. All Conditional Use Permits in Fulton County require an annual renewal fee pursuant to a Fulton County Resolution passed September 11th, 2012, effective January 1st, 2013, and amended September 9th, 2025. Commercial Solar Energy Systems, Large WECS and Tier-4 Energy Storage Systems (ESS) shall remit an annual renewal fee of \$2,000 for systems with a Nameplate Capacity under 5 MW A/C, and \$2,000 plus \$50 for every MW over 5 MW A/C not to exceed \$5,000 for systems with a Nameplate Capacity of 5 MW A/C and over.

XI. HEARING FACILITATOR

1. The Zoning Board of Appeals may engage the services of a hearing facilitator. The hearing facilitator shall be an independent contractor who shall conduct a hearing in accordance with all applicable rules of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the county but has no adjudicatory responsibility other than ruling on requests for continuances, procedural matters, admissibility of evidence and the propriety of any arguments.
2. The hearing facilitator shall be an attorney, licensed to practice in the State of Illinois. The Applicant shall reimburse the county for the fees and costs charged by the facilitator.

XII. HEARING FACTORS

1. The Zoning Board of Appeals may approve a Commercial Wind Energy Facility Conditional Permit application if it finds the evidence complies with state, federal and local law and regulations, and with the standards of this zoning code including the factors listed below. The factors below are applied as a balancing test, rather than individual requirements to be met.
 - a. The establishment, maintenance or operation of the WECS Project will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, morals, comfort or general welfare;
 - b. The WECS Project will not be injurious to the uses and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purposes already permitted, nor substantially diminish and impair property values of surrounding properties;
 - c. The establishment of the WECS Project will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of the surrounding properties;
 - d. Adequate public utilities, access roads, drainage and/or necessary facilities have been or will be provided;
 - e. Adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets;

- f. The proposed WECS Project is not contrary to the objectives of the current comprehensive plan of the County (if any); and
- g. The WECS Project shall, in all other respects, conform to the applicable regulations of this Ordinance and the zoning district in which it is located (if a zoning ordinance is in effect), except as such regulations may, in each instance, be modified pursuant to the recommendations of and approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

XIII. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

A. Conditions.

The Zoning Board of Appeals may stipulate conditions, guarantees and restrictions, upon the establishment, location, construction, maintenance, and operation of the WECS Project as are deemed necessary for the protection of the public interest and to secure compliance with the standards and requirements of this Ordinance.

B. Revocation.

- 1. In any case where a Conditional Use Permit has been approved for a WECS Project, the Applicant shall apply for a WECS Building Permit from the Zoning Department and all other permits required by other government or regulatory agencies to commence construction, and commence and actively pursue construction of the Project within five (5) years from the date of the granting of the Special Use Permit. If the Applicant fails to apply for a WECS Building Permit from the County and all other permits required by other government or regulatory agencies prior to construction and/or fails to commence and actively pursue construction of the Project within the five (5) year period, then without further action by the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Conditional Use Permit authorizing the construction and operation of the WECS Project shall be automatically revoked and void. Upon written request supported by evidence that the Applicant has diligently pursued issuance of all necessary government and regulatory permits for the Project required to commence construction and that any delay in commencement of construction of the Project is due to conditions out of his/her/its control, the Zoning Board of Appeals, in its sole discretion, may extend the above five (5) year period by passage of an ordinance that amends the Conditional Use Permit for a reasonable amount of time.
- 2. The Conditional Use Permit shall be subject to revocation if the Applicant dissolves or ceases to do business, abandons the WECS Project or the WECS ceases to operate for more than twelve (12) consecutive months for any reason.
- 3. Subject to the provisions of Article IX (Remedies), a Conditional Use Permit may be revoked by the Zoning Board of Appeals if the WECS Project is not constructed, installed and/or operated in substantial conformance with the County-approved Project plans, the regulations of

this Ordinance and the stipulated Conditional Use Permit conditions and restrictions.

C. Transferability.

1. Owner or WECS Permittee. The Applicant shall provide written notification to the Zoning Board of Appeals at least thirty (30) days prior to any change in ownership of a WECS Project of any such change in ownership. The phrase "change in ownership of a WECS Project" includes any kind of assignment, sale; lease, transfer or other conveyance of ownership or operating control of the Applicant, the WECS Project or any portion thereof.
2. The Applicant or successors-in-interest or assignees of the Conditional Use Permit, as applicable, shall remain liable for compliance with all conditions, restrictions and obligations contained in the Conditional Use Permit, building permit, the provisions of this Ordinance and applicable County, state and federal laws.
3. In addition to the written notification outlined in paragraph "1", the Owner shall record a document in the Fulton County Land Records office memorializing the assignment, sale, lease, transfer or other conveyance of ownership and operating control of the Applicant for the WECS Facility or any portion thereof.

D. Modification.

Any modification of a WECS Project that alters or changes the essential character or operation of the WECS Project and/or any supporting facilities in a way not intended at the time the Conditional Use Permit was granted, or as subsequently amended, shall require a new Conditional Use Permit. The Applicant or authorized representative, shall apply for an amended Conditional Use Permit prior to any modification of the WECS Project.

E. Permit Effective Date.

The Conditional Use Permit granted under this ordinance shall become effective upon the date of approval of the Conditional Use Permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

XIV. INTERPRETATION

The provisions of these regulations shall be held to the minimum requirements adopted for the promotion and preservation of public health, safety and general welfare of Fulton County. These regulations are not intended to repeal, abrogate, annul or in any manner interfere with existing regulations or laws of the Fulton County nor conflict with any statutes of the State of Illinois.

XV. SEVERABILITY

If any section, paragraph, clause, phrase or part of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid by any court or competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of these regulations.

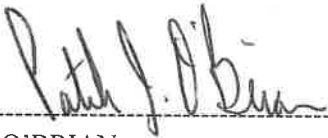
XVI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, publication and approval as required by law.

LET IT FURTHER BE ORDAINED, that this Ordinance hereby REVOKES and REPLACES the current Section 9.2 “Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems Siting Ordinance for Fulton County” of the Fulton County Zoning Ordinance of 2009.

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of May, 2026

ATTEST:



PATRICK O'BRIAN
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD



JOHN SPANGLER
CHAIRMAN OF THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD