

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW**  
**POSITIVE DECLARATION**  
**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law.

TO: SERVICE LIST

Date: March 25, 2004

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Lead Agency:	Steuben County Industrial Development Agency, Steuben County
Name of Action:	Ecogen, LLC Prattsburgh/Italy Wind Farm
SEQR Status:	Type 1
Description of Action:	Construction of 53 ± wind turbine units for the purpose of generating 79.5 megawatts or less of electricity.
Location:	Town of Prattsburgh, Steuben County, NY and the Town of Italy, Yates County, NY.

**SEQR PROCESS**

The Steuben County Industrial Development Agency (SCIDA) identified the project as a Type 1 action for the purposes of SEQR under 6 NYCRR Part 617 – State Environmental Quality Review. The SCIDA, in its role as Lead Agency, chose to coordinate the review with other involved agencies. The SCIDA reviewed the potential environmental impacts of the Action, identified in the Environmental Assessment Form Part 2, against the criteria listed in Part 617.7, and determined that the Action may have a significant effect on the environment and that a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.

The preparation of the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement will be preceded by public scoping. A public scoping session will be held on April 22, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Prattsburgh Central School, 1 Academy Street, Town of Prattsburgh, NY.

**Reasons for Supporting this Determination:**

The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) adopted by the NYSDEC as implementing regulations for Article 8 of New York State's Environmental Conservation Law is used to ensure that future developments take place in a manner that does not significantly detract from the quality of the environment.

More specifically, it is stated that the basic purpose of SEQRA is to incorporate the consideration of environmental factors into the existing planning, review and decision-making processes of state, regional, and local government agencies at the earliest possible time. To accomplish this goal, SEQRA requires that all agencies determine whether the actions they directly undertake, fund, or approve may

have a significant impact on the environment, and if it is determined that the action may have a significant adverse impact, prepare or request an environmental impact statement.<sup>1</sup>

It is according to this mandate that the following information is supplied that supports the decision that the proposed Ecogen, LLC Prattsburgh/Italy Wind farm Project located in the Town of Prattsburgh, Steuben County, NY and the Town of Italy, Yates County, NY may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. After evaluating the impacts identified in the EAF Part 2 as being potentially large, the following impacts remain and represent the reasons for this determination:

Impact on Land

- The Project will involve construction in areas of steep slopes.

Impact on Water

- The project may involve construction in a designated freshwater wetland. Although avoidance and minimization of wetland disturbance will be a priority, the electrical collection system will have to cross near and, possibly through some wetlands.
- The project will involve construction activities that may affect surface water runoff patterns.

Impact on Plants and Animals

- The project may substantially affect non-threatened or non-endangered species. In particular, the project may impact resident and migratory avian and bat species.
- The project may require removal of more than 10 acres of mature forest or other locally important vegetation.

Impact on Agricultural Land Resources

- The Project may result in the excavation or compaction of the soil profile of agricultural land.
- The project may sever, cross or limit access to agricultural land.
- The Project will potentially affect land designated as an agricultural district.

Impact on Aesthetic Resources

- The Project will affect the local landscape and view shed of several areas surrounding the Project area due to project components that are obviously different from, or in sharp contrast to existing surrounding land uses and natural features.

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<sup>1</sup> 6 NYCRR Part 617, *State Environmental Quality Review, 617.1(c)*. Adopted September 20, 1995

### Impact on Historic and Archaeological Resources

- Properties or prehistoric areas of sensitivity may be located in the vicinity of the Project.
- The Project (individual wind turbines) may be located in the
- View shed of listed historic site(s).

### Noise Impacts

- The Project has the potential to produce sound levels during operation that are higher than existing sound levels in the area.

### **For Further Information:**

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James Sherron, Executive Director  
Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

Date: March 25, 2004