

# Wind farm 'super permit' could be issued today

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May 21, 2009 6:00 AM

The state Energy Facilities Siting Board could decide today whether to formally approve a "super permit" for the proposed Nantucket Sound wind farm.

In March, the siting board ordered its staff to draft a tentative decision to issue nine local and state permits for the 130-turbine project first proposed by Cape Wind Associates LLC in 2001. If the siting board's tentative ruling is formalized, it would override a 2007 denial of the project by the Cape Cod Commission.

The siting board, which is responsible for ensuring the state has a reliable energy supply with minimal impact on the environment and at the lowest possible cost, could accept the tentative decision as it was written or require changes, siting board spokesman Tim Shevlin said yesterday. "This thing has been so contentious that you never know what is going to happen," he said.

Yarmouth officials hope an agreement on the local construction work they signed with Cape Wind in 2003 and amended in 2007 is incorporated into the siting board's decision. "We believe it needs to be clear," Town Administrator Robert Lawton said. "Then there are no arguments."

Of particular interest to Yarmouth officials are requirements in the agreement that Cape Wind repave roadways affected by the installation of a cable to connect the wind farm to the electric grid, Lawton said. In the past, Yarmouth had a problem with utility workers failing to repair roads properly after a major construction project, he said.

Although many town officials do not support Cape Wind, the agreement with the wind farm developer was intended to give the town standing in the event the project is built, Lawton said. "That's why we didn't sue," he said.