

5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

The proposed Project would result in the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of certain resources as described below. However, on the whole, the commitment of these resources would be justified by the many benefits that would result from implementation of the Project.

Human and financial resources continue to be expended by SLW, the State of New York (i.e., various state agencies), Jefferson County, and the Towns of Cape Vincent and Lyme for the planning and review of the Project. This expenditure of human resources and money would continue to be required throughout the permitting and construction phases of the Project.

The Project would also require a commitment of land for the life of the Project. The land to be developed for wind turbine tower locations, access roads, transmission lines and substations would not be available for alternative purposes for the life of the Project. However, because the turbines/towers can be removed, the land used for the Project can be reclaimed for alternative use at some future date. Therefore, the commitment of this land to the Project is neither irreversible nor irretrievable.

Various types of construction materials and building supplies would be committed to the Project. The use of these materials, such as gravel, concrete, steel, etc., would represent a long-term commitment of these resources, which would not be available for other projects.

Energy resources would be irretrievably committed to the construction and operation of the Project. Fuel and electricity would be required during the manufacture and transportation of materials and components, during site preparation and turbine installation activities, and for the transportation of workers and materials to the Project site. Despite this, the energy resources expended to construct and operate the Project would be offset and dwarfed by the clean, renewable energy generated by the Project.