

April 18, 2007

H 1821. DENR PERMITS FOR SITING AND WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS. Filed 4/18/07. *TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF PERMITS TO BE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE SITING OF MEDIUM AND LARGE WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS AND TO REQUIRE OPERATORS OF THESE WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS TO OBTAIN A PERMIT TO SITE THEIR WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS.*

Enacts new Part 11 of Article 21 of GS Chapter 143 requiring a permit to operate a medium (generating between 20 kilowatts and two megawatts of energy) or large (generating more than two megawatts of energy) wind energy system. Requires the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to adopt rules for the siting of wind energy systems and enumerates issues that must be addressed in the rules, including requirements for the review of any environmental impacts, and procedures for revoking or suspending permits. Allows DENR to approve permit applications that DENR determines have no significant adverse environmental impacts. Authorizes DENR to establish a minor permit for medium wind energy systems that may be subject to expedited review. Operating a system without a permit or in violation of the permit, is punishable by civil penalties not to exceed \$10,000 per day for large systems and \$1,000 per day for medium systems. Requires DENR to establish a technical advisory committee to advise DENR on adopting siting standards and rules. Effective October 1, 2007, and provides that wind energy systems subject to the permit requirement cannot operate on or after October 1, 2007, unless they have a permit.

Intro. by Thomas.

GS 143