

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

July 27, 2017

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11**

## **PROMOTING WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina is recognized for its beautiful, varied terrain, abundant natural resources, and its commitment to education, inclusivity, and rural economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of newcomers are drawn to the State of North Carolina each year in search of prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, the population of the State of North Carolina is projected to grow to 12.1 million people by 2035, which will require government and industry to take prudent steps to meet North Carolina's future energy needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina has taken aggressive, proactive measures to invest in and develop reliable and affordable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, these measures are necessary to foster economic development and growth, particularly in the state's rural regions, create good jobs, and promote energy independence; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of these measures, the State of North Carolina is now a national leader in solar energy; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina has the natural resources, business climate, and skilled workforce to support continued investment in alternative energy technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina citizens, residents, consumers, and businesses have a reasonable expectation of affordable and reliable electricity; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina has abundant and economically viable wind resources, particularly along the eastern coast; and

**WHEREAS**, wind energy is increasingly cost-competitive due to recent technological advances; and

**WHEREAS**, wind energy promotes rural economic development, promotes energy independence, creates good jobs, and produces significant tax revenues, particularly in eastern North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is the most military friendly state in the country and the wind permit process already rightly directs the Department of Environmental Quality to consider military bases and flight paths when permitting wind farms, and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 589 establishes an eighteen-month moratorium on “the issuance of permits for wind energy facilities and wind energy facility expansions in this State” for the purpose of (i) studying “the extent and scope of military operations” and (ii) considering “the impact of future wind energy facilities and energy and infrastructure on military operations, training, and readiness”; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to provide further guidance and clarity to the Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”), the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Coastal Resources Commission (“Commission”), and those state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions responsible for implementing House Bill 589.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. DEQ and the Commission shall make best efforts to expedite pre-application review and processing of all wind energy facility and wind energy facility expansion permit applications that are not completed and submitted by January 1, 2017.

2. DEQ shall to the extent feasible, support the Department of Commerce to make best efforts to recruit innovative energy projects, including wind energy facility and wind energy facility expansion projects, to North Carolina, and process new wind permit applications without prejudice.

3. Except as provided by law, DEQ, the Commission, and all other agencies, departments, boards, and commissions under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Governor shall make best efforts to promote wind energy in the State of North Carolina.


4. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed as authorizing the issuance of wind energy facility or wind energy facility expansion permits between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2018, unless (i) an applicant has received a written “Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation” issued by the Federal Aviation Administration by May 17, 2013, or (ii) an applicant can demonstrate that a completed application adhering to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-215.119(a) was submitted to DEQ or the Commission by January 1, 2017.

5. DEQ shall work with the Department of Administration to conduct a feasibility study regarding renewable energy and energy efficient projects on State-owned land and property.

6. Unless otherwise provided, this Executive Order supersedes and rescinds any previous executive orders to the extent that they conflict with this Executive Order.

7. This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 27th day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.

  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Elaine Marshall  
Secretary of State

