

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Reader: Hoosac Wind does not hold promise

September 12, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: News | 455 Words Page: A04 OpenURL Link

To the Editor:

Nice dreams, Mr. Montgomery [letter to the editor, Friday, Sept. 7]. Yes, I am one of those who detests everything that big wind power represents, from their obsolescent and pretentious machines to the way their promoters have hijacked the American desire to find the panacea of clean, abundant energy.

If you believe, as so many do, that the array of wind turbines of the Hoosac Wind Project will be the economic turnaround that postindustrial North Adams has been yearning for, you will be bitterly disappointed.

You'll get a firsthand chance to realize this when wind plants, like this one and Cape Wind, begin to be reflected in a sharp rise in your monthly power bill. Businesses, and what few industries survive in this state, who must constantly watch the "bottom line," seeing their power bills double and triple, will be forced to scale back, "down size," and to, in the end, bail out for greener pastures, where the energy costs and necessary social taxes are more forgiving. They will gag on the double irony of having to finance the corporate welfare free ride of the wind developers and then the obligation of paying their former employees unemployment benefits. And by the way, every one of us will be asked to "stand and deliver" to help pay for the wind power boondoggle.

And what is this trade off for? Ravished ridge tops, wrecked upland hydrologies, batteries of propagators of physiologically toxic vibrations called ILFNs (infrasound and low frequency noise) that will keep physicians puzzled and overwhelmed with a stream of patients presenting chronic insomnia to suicide, and a budding industry for attorneys bringing personal injury and nuisance suits against towns, developers and state government.

All this, for a technology that can never deliver a quarter of the power it purports to install, but one that is responsible for massive social dislocation, people fleeing their homes to escape the noise and blade flicker and pollutants leaching into their rural water sources. It is a nice dream to think about the Dutch love of their windmills. Those windmills have been pumping the seawater out of the lowlands for hundreds of years. Those windmills have been creating land where Hollanders have lived, made their farms, and built their lives. They are not the 400-foot-plus technological devices that big wind power calls windmills. These modern wind-driven contraptions destroy wild lands, make residents sick and impose a cost shadow that will be yoked onto generations to come, long after they join the over 14,000 standing dead wind turbines in this country.

So, Mr. Montgomery, I wish I could tell you that that rank of huge wind turbines on Bakke Mountain and Crum Hill was the answer to your dreams, but I cannot.

Marsh Rosenthal

Savoy, MA Sept. 9

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'LETTER TO THE EDITORReader: Hoosac Wind does not hold promise', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 12 Sep 2012 A04 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/14141B43A40A5950">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/14141B43A40A5950</a>



DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*9/6/2012 MONROE -- Nineteen 340-foot wind turbines are going up on Crum Hill in Monroe and Bakke Mountain in Florida, not far from Whitcomb Summit. And when they go on-line in December, they will generate enough electricity to power 6,000 homes, according to Jan Johnson, spokeswoman for Iberdrola Renewables.

September 6, 2012 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 504 Words
OpenURL Link

These Hoosac Wind Power Project turbines will also be generating \$257,000 in annual payments in lieu of taxes for their two host communities for the next 20 years. Monroe, a town of about 120 people, will get \$122,000 per year, while Florida, a town of 750, will receive \$135,000. Also, Monroe will get an additional \$3 million in revenue for the lease of town-owned land for the 20-year duration of this project, because five of the wind turbines are on town-owned land.

The Hoosac Wind Power Project is Iberdrola's first wind farm in Massachusetts, although the company currently operates about 3,000 wind turbines in the United States, at 50 different sites.

For six to eight weeks this summer, trucks carrying 125-foot-long sections of the turbine blades could be seen on Route 2 from Greenfield to Florida. It took three vehicles to haul just one complete set of blades to the site. The components are all in place now and being erected.

Johnson said the average wind turbine has about 8,000 parts in it. The GE 1.5-megawatt wind turbines feature towers that are 215 feet tall. Besides the mammoth blades, each turbine has a nacelle, which is a Winnabago-sized rectangle housing the gearbox, the electronics, generator and anemometer, which measures wind speed and direction.

According to Bill J. Williams Jr., senior project manager, the blades of these turbines will be able to swivel into the direction of the wind and "find that sweet spot," based on the information from the anemometer. On the other hand, the rotor and blades will be capable of turning away from damaging high winds.

He said the weather information provided by the anemometers will be conveyed to a local operator through buried fiberoptics. It would also be transmitted to Iberdrola's national headquarters in Portland, Wash.

This week, Iberdrola officials gave regional reporters a preview of the wind farm.

Just the foundations alone for the turbines used about 200 cubic yards of concrete and 79,000 pounds of steel.

Ground-breaking for the network of roads to make component deliveries to the hilltop turbines began last November. Johnson pointed out that the roads needed to be tough enough to withstand the transport of components weighing several tons. But once the construction is finished, the roads will be narrowed to the minimum width needed for maintenance.

"We will reclaim, re-vegetate, and re-seed the land," she said. Most wind facilities maintain a construction "footprint" that represents less than 2 percent of the land leased for the project.

Each Hoosac Wind turbine measures 340 feet high from the top blade to the base. In contrast, the 900-kilowatt turbine at Berkshire East is 277 feet tall.

The power generated by the turbines will go through National Grid and be purchased by NSTAR, which is getting renewable energy credits for the carbon-neutral energy.

According to Iberdrola officials, the Hoosac Wind Power Project will offset about 100 million pounds of carbon dioxide per year -- the equivalent of the annual emissions produced by 9,400 cars.

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#### DEP enforcement actions for region

September 5, 2012 | Daily Hampshire Gazette [30 Day Embargo] (Northampton, MA) Author: THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE; Staff Writer | Section: Environment | 529 Words OpenURL Link

The following is a selection of state Department of Environmental Protection consent orders for July and June, the most recent period for which full reports are available.

# WETLANDS VIOLATIONS, WIND PROJECT, July 31: Entered into a consent order with a \$5,750 penalty involving Iberdrola Energy Projects Inc., the construction contractor for the Hoosac Wind Project, for wetlands violations in Florida and Monroe. An inspection report dated May 8 found noncompliance in the form of unauthorized discharges to resource areas on the site. The violations were, in part, attributed to the failure of the contractor to properly monitor the site, control erosion and to start a pump that was part of the site controls. The order requires that Iberdrola not allow additional sediment-laden stormwater discharges into resource areas and to re-evaluate stormwater construction management practices to avoid additional discharges

In a related action, the agency entered into a consent order with a \$7,184 penalty involving New England Wind LLC, the permit holder for the Hoosac Wind Project, for wetlands violations. NE Wind is required to evaluate impacts to adjacent and lower resource areas, and submit a restoration plan providing for the restoration to the DEP.

# AIR QUALITY VIOLATIONS, July 5: Entered into a consent order with a \$10,647 penalty involving South Hadley Landfill, LLC for air quality violations in South Hadley. The company is the operator of a landfill owned by the town of South Hadley. As a result of confirmed odor nuisance complaints and failure to apply adequate daily cover, SHL has agreed to apply adequate daily cover, implement a comprehensive odor mitigation plan and conduct a supplemental environmental project valued at \$12,352. Under this, the company will purchase of 1,030 recycling bins and two multi-gas detectors for the town of South Hadley.

# WATER SUPPLY VIOLATIONS, June 29: Entered into a consent order with Foundry Acres Association for Water Supply violations in Colrain. Foundry Acres is a public water system that is a small community public water system serving several homes in Colrain. The order addresses the use of a certified operator, source water quality, metering, emergency response plans, and secondary sources and storage.

# ILLEGAL OPEN BURNING, June 20: Issued a \$258 penalty assessment notice to Scott and Helga Nielson for air quality violations for illegal open burning in Easthampton. The penalty was prompted by a complaint from the Easthampton Fire Department, which had twice responded to the Nielsons' residence June 8 and observed open burning of pallets and construction material.

# WATER SUPPLY VIOLATION, JACOB'S PILLOW, June 18: Entered into a consent order with a \$9,057 penalty involving Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inc. for water supply violations in Becket. The DEP determined that the festival's public water system expanded without prior approval and without proper operator oversight. Under the order, new sources will have adequate protection, or will have the required water quality monitoring. Under the order, Jacob's Pillow will pay \$1,250 of the penalty, with \$7,807 suspended pending compliance.

# BOIL WATER ORDER, June 1: Issued a boil water order to the Academy at Swift River, in Cummington and Plainfield. The Academy at Swift River was issued the order due to high counts of total coliform bacteria within its system. The order requires notice to users, disinfection, follow-up bacteria samples and chlorine residual monitoring and correction of the cause of the contamination.

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THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, Staff Writer, 'DEP enforcement actions for region', *Daily Hampshire Gazette* (online), 5 Sep 2012 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1411FDDD1B6123D8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1411FDDD1B6123D8</a>



#### Don Carrier de la Mancha

September 4, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: News | 656 Words Page: A03 OpenURL Link

By Johnnie Carrier

Like my morals, they've been called scar on our horizon.

But in reality, wind turbines are going to be a functional part of our perspective for the next generation to enjoy. I'm going to enjoy them, that's for sure.

Some have called it a new technology, but they have been in use since a Greek engineer named Heron of Alexandria used them to grind wheat in the first century (which, incidentally, is the year my father-in-law was born).

The windmills looking down on us from the Hoosac Wind Project in Florida and Monroe are beautiful, functional and just pretty darn cool. It's really nothing to be afraid of; they're just windmills.

Some say they will kill birds like a 12-year-old boy with a BB gun. Birds getting sucked into a vortex created by windmills - now that's something I would like to see. It would be like throwing feathers into a fan.

But trust me, the birds will be OK.

The wind turbines looking over our shoulders are a functional part of our current state of affairs. With fossil fuels declining, global warming and increased energy needs, the windmill is creating an economical alternative to, say, a coal-powered electric plant.

You didn't know I was this smart, did you? Well, I'm sexy too.

The wind turns the blades, which turn a generator that creates the power we need to charge our cell phones. It's simple, clean and just plain attractive. Maybe it's the fact that I spent much of my youth smoking what Paul McCartney called jazz cigarettes, but I just love watching things spin. This is why I got kicked out of the Laundromat. And you thought I was stealing ladies' underwear (again).

The windmill is the power plant of the future and we are on the ground floor. It's kind of like the time they announced the plan for creating a contemporary art museum in an abandoned factory. Look at Mass MoCA now.

People didn't like change then and they don't like it now. I don't like change, but I had to or I would be eating a can of beans in a ratty apartment lit by a single light bulb, wife-free. The process of turning kinetic energy to mechanical energy is now a reality, kind of like diagonal parking on Main Street in North Adams. Whether you accept it or not, it's a fact of our life.

The windmill has a romantic past. Men and women have chased windmills for centuries. As if I were Don Quixote de la Mancha, I have been watching their progress since the first cranes were erected. I know the spots where they can be viewed and I watch with the intrigued awareness of a sailor on shore leave. I wait with bated breath for them to be fully functional to watch their majestic beauty swoop over us like a giant bird. They are a clean form of energy production and they are more pleasing than the mining going on at the base of the state's highest peak.

Enjoy the sights of our future. Wind farms have been cropping up all over the country and our hills are not immune.

Embrace the technology as if it were a baby in a pink bassinet, because it's here. That's right, sports fans: The future is now overlooking us like a higher power spinning its splendor for us down below.

Relax and lighten up. It's not lowering your property taxes and it's not really in anyone's backyard that I can see. Enjoy them as if they were giant pinwheels sold at a parade, spinning our cares away.

Chasing windmills? Sure, I'm guilty. I'm a dreamer lost in a world where people say dreams can't come true. But the windmill is here to stay, and we might as well get used to them and not let them wreck our day. I'm in favor and I hope to see more of them.

Johnnie Carrier is a freelance writer who still chases the windmills in his mind.

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#### Reader: Wind turbines are indeed blight

August 23, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: News | 509 Words

Page: A04 OpenURL Link

To the Editor:

When I read Mr. Moreau's letter (Aug. 11) calling industrial wind turbines (IWTs) majestic and not blight, he really gored my ox.

If by "majestic" he means big like the Grand Canyon, he may be correct. That they are man-made is certain.

According to my Random House Dictionary of the English Language, "blight" is defined as "any cause of impairment, destruction, ruin or frustration ... ." "Blighter" is defined "as a contemptible, worthless man; a rascal."

As energy producers, windpower machines just don't work. They can't make more that 25 percent in a good year of their megawatt ratings. They are weather dependent and intermittent in their operation. They never replace any fossil fuel or nuclear power generating stations, and as a matter of fact, they require the construction of new gasfired plants to keep up grid voltage when they are not working. The gas-fired plants cannot run at peak efficiency, as they must quickly shut off when the wind blows. Le Pair, et al, Dutch physicists, studying this marriage of wind and natural gas power, concluded that more CO2 was created by the stop and go operation of the gas-fired plants, than if the windturbines were never there.

And so, the windpower mantra of clean, sustainable power simply goes up the stack. Isn't this a form of blight?

Yes, IWTs are good tax shelters, ask any developer or their investors.

Oh, and what about the stream of wind turbine refugees, all over the world, who are having to abandon their homes to escape the terrible hammering that they have taken from the IWTs located two to three miles from their residences?

Do you mean to tell me that they are just imagining their medical problems that range from sleeplessness, to chronic anxiety, suicidal depression, to catastrophic hypertension, arrhythmias, heart failures, metabolic dysfunction like diabetes, cognitive dysfunction similar to attention deficit disorder (ADD), and even the loss of a second trimester fetus in Ontario, Canada?

Oh, and then we have the kids in Fairhaven coming home from their school - located about 2,000 feet from two 1.5 MW windturbines - with migraine headaches, earaches and tummy aches.

The most likely culprit for many of these physiological problems are the ILFNs, (infra-sound and low frequency noise) that is inaudible and only measurable on the dbC and dbG scales, something the state never looks at. ILFNs exist in the 0-200 hertz range. They are propagated by the huge blades of the wind turbines as pressure waves, the same force that causes bats' lungs to implode and smooth muscle organ systems in humans, like arterial blood vessels in brain, and gut linings, to malfunction.

If this isn't blight, Mr. Moreau, what would you call it? If the proponents are not blighters, rascals and liars, what are they?

Mr. Moreau, I pity you. If you are indeed a resident of Clarksburg, you stand to receive the full pounding of the Hoosac Wind Project that is being erected next door to you in Florida-Monroe; 19, 1.5 MW windturbines, slated to begin operation this November.

#### Marshall Rosenthal

## Savoy Aug. 21

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#### Lauren R. Stevens

August 20, 2012 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Section: Main | 587 Words Page: A05 OpenURL Link

Wind is part of package

#### WILLIAMSTOWN

The Hoosac Wind turbines on the ridge east of North Adams have been popping up like this summer's mushrooms. They are visible when driving on Route 8 in Clarksburg or on the Mohawk Trail over Florida Mountain.

The view is finer from the summit of Mount Greylock. Ten of the 340-foot-tall towers will grace Bakke Mountain in Florida and nine, Crum Hill in adjacent Monroe. Each turbine will generate 1.5 megawatts.

Individual electrons can't be tracked, of course, but since I am signed up for the GreenUp program whereby half my electricity comes from renewable sources, when I see those turbines, I like to think that they will power my computer. In any case, due to Massachusetts' renewable energy portfolio, each year more of the energy we all use will be from renewables. Seeing the Hoosac towers, or those on Brodie, it is exciting to realize that they are playing their part in progress.

Gov. Deval Patrick's remarks earlier this summer favoring wind power in the Berkshire County have drawn a gust of rebuttals in letters to The Eagle - containing some thoughts that, in my opinion, miss the point that creating energy by renewables is better for the planet than creating it with carbon-based fuels.

It is probably true, as has been charged, that wind developers exaggerate. Maybe Hoosac Wind, except perhaps under the best of circumstances, won't power 22,500 homes. My Prius is now getting 51.5 miles per gallon, but as the weather is cools, when it has winter tires, or especially when I drive over 55 miles an hour, that average won't hold. Still, it will get better mileage than most automobiles.

•

Wind power development is subsidized. No question about it. So has the government subsidized the start-up of many technologies, including the Internet. And the fossil fuel industries are heavily subsidized, even while they accrue enormous profits.

Does wind power endanger human health? Although we can find anecdotes to prove almost any hypothesis, scientific studies do not support any threat to health. A form of carbon fuel extraction in nearby New York, hydraulic fracturing, which may threaten groundwater, would seem to be a more obvious health risk.

I find the movement of wind turbine blades artistically engaging, but I sympathize with those who prefer unadorned ridges. Not all ridges should or will have turbines which, in fact, require an unusual conjunction of accessibility, power lines and - above all - wind. Still, I would rather see a wind turbine on Bakke Mountain than, say, its summit removed to mine coal.

All energy creation is in some way offensive; are we therefore going to stop using electricity? And despite all our conservation efforts - screwing in the funnylooking light bulbs, hanging out the wash, setting back the thermostat - as a nation we are in fact using more power, as we bring on line more electronics, large-screen televisions and, no doubt this summer, more air conditioning units. Even in the Berkshires.

The hotter we get, the more power we tend to use. Cf. "air conditioning" above. Another feedback loop. So then the question is one of environmental justice or, more simply, morality. If we're going to use the stuff, shouldn't we share some of the mess of its creation? The overriding issue, after all, is mitigating climate change here and everywhere on this precarious but still blue/green globe.

At least, that's how it looks from the White Oaks.

A writer and environmentalist, Lauren R. Stevens is a regular Eagle contributor.

Hydraulic fracturing, which may threaten groundwater, would seem to be a more obvious health risk.

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#### 220-foot turbines rising on two hilltops in Western Massachusetts

August 14, 2012 | Daily Hampshire Gazette [30 Day Embargo] (Northampton, MA) Author: LARRY PARNASS; Staff Writer | Section: Local News | 285 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA - The prospect of harnessing wind power on Bakke Mountain, high up in the state's northwestern corner, has been discussed since the 1980s.

Then came a six-year legal fight.

Today, one of the world's largest electricity companies is actually putting up 20 wind turbines on two hills in the towns of Florida and Monroe and is on its way - after much controversy - to creating the capacity to generate 30 megawatts of power. The work comes after challenges to the Hoosac Wind Project ended in July 2010 when the state's Supreme Judicial Court gave the project a green light.

The wind farm, which had been approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection in 2004, will be the largest to date in Massachusetts.

The project is valued today at \$100 million - double its original cost. Work on the sites in Berkshire County began last November and a spokesman for Iberdrola Renewables, its owner, says the power could start flowing by early next year. Such turbines are a sight common in Spain, home to Iberdrola Renewables, a division of Iberdrola, which claims to be one of the world's top five electricity companies. It operates gas and electricity businesses in 28 countries.

Thirty megawatts of power is considered enough to power 9,500 average homes in the New England region. The electricity generated will be purchased by NStar, the state's second-largest utility.

Some of the new 220-foot turbines can be seen from Route 2 in the town of Florida. Nine are located on Crum Hill in Monroe, with 10 more on Bakke Mountain in Florida.

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p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/140A94132991A9A0>



## Wind farm taking shape off Route 2 after long legal battle

August 13, 2012 | Daily Hampshire Gazette [30 Day Embargo] (Northampton, MA) Author: Larry Parnass; Larry Parnass| Section: Gazetteer | 259 Words OpenURL Link

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## Tight turn

August 2, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA)

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DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*7/27/2012 NORTH ADAMS -- Massachusetts only uses about 4 percent of its total, land-based wind energy potential, according to the National Renewable Energy Lab. And with the clock ticking on government goals to boost wind energy power by 2030, a National Science Foundation-funded study has come to western Massachusetts to find out "why people have different views" when it comes to wind turbine proposals.

July 27, 2012 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 961 Words OpenURL Link

Seven Franklin County residents and 18 Berkshire County residents participated in an all-day symposium Thursday at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts -- both to learn more about wind energy and to air their hopes and concerns about wind turbines. They were culled from 77 applicants for this project.

"We're not advocating for or against wind energy," stressed Roopali Phadke, a Macalester College, Minn., environmental studies professor who led the program.

Phadke said the northeastern states have fewer wind turbine facilities but more activist groups that have been involved in wind controversies.

"We try not to call them NIMBY' (not in my backyard) or anti-wind,' but more groups are in areas that have less wind energy -- or no wind energy -- installations," she said.

She said there are about 200 organizations, and researchers are also interested in tracking "the social concerns about wind energy."

Phadke said the Obama administration's goal is to have 20 percent of the nation's energy generated by wind-power by 2030. She said the goal for Massachusetts is to produce between 5,000 and 10,000 megawatts of wind energy by then.

"Massachusetts now has 46 megawatts -- that is a fraction of the wind power installed in California, which has 4,200 megawatts," said Phadke.

Texas leads the nation in terms of how much wind-powered energy is produced, with 10,648 megawatts produced there. Iowa and California are next in line with 4,419 and 4,287 respectively.

The Franklin County representatives came from hill towns that have considered wind turbine proposals or wind turbine bylaws within the past year: Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Heath and Rowe.

In the morning session, the participants were given multiple-choice questions about their own feelings about wind energy. As soon as all 25 had submitted their answers, percentages for each possible answer were presented on the screen.

Among the findings were that:\* About 63 percent of the participants had seen a wind turbine up close; 25 percent could see a wind turbine from their property, and 17 percent were not familiar with wind turbines.

- \* One participant owned a wind turbine; 30 percent had participated in public hearings about turbines, and 36 percent had sought out more information about them.
- \* When asked what the most important potential energy benefit of wind turbines are, and to list the top three benefits, 65 percent said it would increase the nation's energy resources, and 61 percent said it would have an

effect on climate change, as a carbon-neutral system. But 39 percent marked "other," as their answer. Several participants said they didn't agree with any of the benefits that were given as choices.\* When asked about the drawbacks of wind energy, and given a choice of up to three answers, 63 percent mentioned the scenic impact; 75 percent mentioned noise concerns and 63 percent chose the possible impact on wildlife and habitat.

- \* When asked their overall attitude toward wind energy in the nation, 8 percent strongly supported it, 33 percent supported it; 25 percent were neutral, 17 percent opposed it, and 17 percent strongly opposed it.
- \* However, when asked what they thought about wind power within their own communities, 13 percent "strongly" supported it; 13 percent "supported" it; 33 percent were neutral, 8 percent were opposed and 33 percent "strongly opposed" it.

"More folks are strongly opposed in my town,'" observed Patrick Field, managing director of the Consensus Building Institute of Cambridge, who did the polling.

The rest of the symposium was closed to the press and public, so that participants would feel free to discuss their views. Later in the day, the group was to discuss the social and economic impacts of wind turbines, and to create a "consensus statement" at the end of the program. Also, the researchers wanted to learn if their views on wind had changed as a result of the discussions that day.

Most of the participants gave their views on wind energy earlier in the morning. One man from Florida, Mass., who was in favor of wind energy, said the nearby Hoosac Wind Project will generate \$150,000 more in payment in lieu of tax revenues yearly for that town.

Several said they supported small-scale wind development and would have like to deal with that issue separately from "industrial scale" wind.

Several said they have already lived "off the grid." When asked to name an advantage of wind power, participants listed turbines as a chance to break away from fossil-fuel dependence, to help farmers increase productivity, to increase income and to provide "small-scale self-sufficiency. Others said they thought the economic benefits would all go to the developers, while the public would pay for the infrastructure. Health issues were a big concern for some, while others said the issue "will take us away from pursuing good energy policy" that should include using energy more wisely and improving energy efficiency.

The Western Mass. symposium will be the last of four National Science Foundation-funded studies; and the results from all four studies will be compared. A report of the findings based on Thursday's forum is expected to be released in October.

Among those present was Peggy Sloan, director of planning and development for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Planner Lauren Gaherty. Both planning agencies cosponsored the symposium.

"You are here to help us to understand what our communities are thinking," Gaherty told the participants, who were paid \$100 each to spend the day at the symposium. "Our job is to help our communities in planning and provide technical assistance, when its requested. Often we hear about wind energy at public meetings and when people are polarized. We want you to tell us what people think about wind and how they want (wind turbines) to be sited -- if they want them at all."

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#### Citation (aglc Style)

'DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*7/27/2012 NORTH ADAMS -- Massachusetts only uses about 4 percent of its total, land-based wind energy potential, according to the National Renewable Energy Lab. And with the clock ticking on government goals

to boost wind energy power by 2030, a National Science Foundation-funded study has come to western Massachusetts to find out "why people have different views" when it comes to wind turbine proposals.', *Recorder, The* (online), 27 Jul 2012 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1406B0078E2FC660">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1406B0078E2FC660</a>



# Hoosac Wind project nears reality - Turbine parts finally arriving - Trucks making deliveries to construction sites

July 12, 2012 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA)
Author: Phil DemersNew England Newspapers | Section: Berkshire | 554 Words
Page: B01
OpenURL Link

FLORIDA - Residents this week are catching a glimpse of what upward of \$50 million buys as 135-foot trucks carrying massive wind turbine parts have started rumbling through several Northern Berkshire communities en route to the Hoosac Wind construction sites in Florida and Monroe.

The trucks are unloading at one of two destinations, Bakke Mountain in Florida or Crum Hill in Monroe, where construction will commence this summer.

Litigation delayed the Hoosac Wind project from 2004 to 2010, when Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in favor of allowing the project to proceed. A local environmental group, Green Berkshires, had sued seeking review of the decision that the project complied with the Wetlands Protection Act.

The total cost of the project - in excess of \$50 million for materials and construction and with the additional legal expenses incurred during litigation - is estimated at \$100 million. The completed project could pump out as much as 30 megawatts of power into the local grid - enough to power 22,500 homes.

According to Paul Copleman, a spokesman for Iberdrola Renewables, owners of the wind project, delivery of each of the project's 19 turbines - nine to be constructed at the Monroe site and 10 in Florida - comprises eight truckloads of material.

"The schedule calls for roughly three turbine deliveries per week over the next six to eight weeks," Copleman said. "That's based on coordination with local state police and the Department of Transportation [MassDOT]. ... We have large cranes at each site to start erecting the component parts as they arrive, and all the foundations are poured, so we'll start work this week."

Parts will be delivered Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Mihir Patel, a wind logistics specialist with General Electric's Schenectady, N.Y., plant, said deliveries will occur between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and will hold up traffic due to extremely slow travel speed.

"There are trucks coming from Albany through Hancock, Williamstown and North Adams, and those will be carrying materials and hardware for the wind turbines," Patel said. "The trucks carrying the towers are coming down from Canada, and the trucks carrying blades from Vermont over [ Route] 91 through Greenfield."

Patel said definitive times and estimated traffic delays are unavailable.

Copleman said construction of the turbines moves relatively quickly once the components are delivered.

"The anticipated completion of the whole project will be the end of the year, but the turbines will be standing and turning well before the end of the year," Copleman said. "Even when they are standing and spinning, though, there is still a whole lot of testing of the inner workings of the structures before they're ready."

The major components include blades, hubs, towers and nacelles - or, the box-shaped objects located at the point of rotation that house the electricity-generating parts. Copleman says these components were purchased from factories in New York, Texas and Florida.

"The supply chain for this project reaches out to manufacturing facilities all over the country, but also includes a lot of Massachusetts services," he said. " ... There's a pretty significant economic impact in state."

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

Phil DemersNew England Newspapers, 'Hoosac Wind project nears realityTurbine parts finally arrivingTrucks making deliveries to construction sites', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 12 Jul 2012 B01 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/140FA0486DDB0B50>



DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*7/12/2012 Components for the 19 wind turbines of the Hoosac Wind Project have started arriving this week, and motorists on Route 2, west of Greenfield, may occasionally see the mammoth trucks carrying the 125-foot-long rotor blades to Monroe and Florida.

July 12, 2012 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 270 Words
OpenURL Link

The first of the delivery trucks arrived Tuesday, and trucks with key components of the windmills will be on the roads Tuesdays through Thursdays for the next six to eight weeks, said Iberdrola Renewables Inc. spokesman Paul Copelman.

"The delivery of components for three turbines per week is planned," he said. "That includes one truck for each of the three rotor blades, one truck for each tower, one truck for the nacelle (which houses the gearbox and electricity generator) and one truck for each hub, which is the nose cone for the rotor."

"I know the blades are coming on Route 2, from Texas," he said.

He said the eight trucks for each turbine are "the most visible part" of the transport, although other equipment will be arriving on more conventionally sized trucks.

The nacelles are to come from New York and the hubs are coming from the state of Florida. He said all those components are manufactured in the U.S. by General Electric.

When completed, the Hoosac Wind Project will have nine 1.5-megawatt turbines on Crum Hill in Monroe and 10 turbines installed on Bakke Mountain in Florida. It is expected to cost around \$90 million and to produce enough energy to power 9,500 homes.

The project was first proposed in 2003, but construction was held up by several legal battles over the past eight years.

The turbines will be about 340 feet high, from the base of the turbine to the highest point of the rotors, which are 250 feet in diameter.

The Hoosac Wind Project is owned by, and will be operated by, Iberdrola Renewables.

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'DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*7/12/2012 Components for the 19 wind turbines of the Hoosac Wind Project have started arriving this week, and motorists on Route 2, west of Greenfield, may occasionally see the mammoth trucks carrying the 125-foot-long rotor blades to Monroe and Florida.', *Recorder, The* (online), 12 Jul 2012

<a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13FFC0EAD12290F0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13FFC0EAD12290F0</a>



#### TURBINES ROLL INTO THE NORTH

July 11, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: Main | 582 Words

Page: A01 OpenURL Link

By Phil Demers

North Adams Transcript

Some area residents caught a glimpse of what upward of \$50 million buys Tuesday, as 135-foot trucks carrying massive wind turbine parts rumbled through several Northern Berkshire communities, headed for the Hoosac Wind construction sites in Florida and Monroe.

The trucks unloaded at one of two destinations, Bakke Mountain in Florida or Crum Hill in Monroe, where a wind turbine project formerly fought out for years in the courts will see construction this summer.

Litigation delayed the project from 2004 to 2010, when Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in favor of allowing the project to begin as early as July of that year. A local environmental group called Green Berkshires had sued, seeking review of the decision that the project complied with the Wetlands Protection Act.

According to Paul Copleman, communications manager for Iberdrola Renewables, owners of the wind project, delivery of each of the project's 19 turbines - nine to be constructed at the Monroe site and 10 in Florida - comprises eight truckloads of material.

"The schedule calls for roughly three turbine deliveries per week over the next six to eight weeks," Copleman said Tuesday. "That's based on coordination with local state police and the Department of Transportation [MassDOT]. ... We have large cranes at each site to start erecting the component parts as they arrive, and all the foundations are poured, so we'll start work this week."

Parts will be delivered Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The total cost of the project - in excess of \$50 million for materials and construction with the additional legal expenses incurred during litigation - is estimated at \$100 million.

The completed project could pump out as much as 30 megawatts of power into the local grid - enough to power 22,500 homes.

Wind Logistics Specialist Mihir Patel, of General Electric out of Schenectady, N.Y., said deliveries will occur between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., holding up traffic due to extremely slow travel speed.

"There are trucks coming from Albany through Hancock, Williamstown and North Adams, and those will be carrying materials and hardware for the wind turbines," Patel said. "The trucks carrying the towers are coming down from Canada, and the trucks carrying blades from Vermont over [Route] 91 through Greenfield."

Patel said definitive times and estimated traffic delays are unavailable, contingent as they are upon coordination with police and MassDOT.

Copleman said construction of the turbines moves relatively quickly once the components are delivered.

"The anticipated completion of the whole project will be the end of the year, but the turbines will be standing and turning well before the end of the year," Copleman said. "Even when they are standing and

#### Please see WIND, Page A5

spinning, though, there is still a whole lot of testing of the inner workings of the structures before they're ready."

The major components include blades, hubs, towers and nacelles - or, the box-shaped objects located at the point of rotation that house the electricity- generating parts. Copleman says these components were purchased from factories in New York, Texas and Florida.

"The supply chain for this project reaches out to manufacturing facilities all over the country, but also includes a lot of Massachusetts services," he said. " ... There's a pretty significant economic impact in-state."

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

'TURBINES ROLL INTO THE NORTH', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 11 Jul 2012 A01 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13FF577A26F5A9D0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13FF577A26F5A9D0</a>



#### Iberdrola a major player in wind power

June 27, 2012 | Brattleboro Reformer (VT) Section: Main | 341 Words

Page: 01 OpenURL Link

By MIKE FAHER

Reformer Staff

WINDHAM - As an executive for Iberdrola Renewables, Jenny Briot knows something about wind power.

"We're operating over 5,000 megawatts across the country," Briot said. "We're the second largest producer of wind in the United States and the largest in the world."

But as the company looks to add to that portfolio in Windham County, administrators also are familiar with the controversy that sometimes accompanies talk of commercial turbines.

In fact, they've spent eight years trying to develop the 15turbine Deerfield Wind Project in neighboring Bennington County. Envisioned as a sort of companion to the existing, 6-megawatt Searsburg Wind Facility operated by Green Mountain Power, Deerfield was designed to extend into Green Mountain National Forest.

The U.S. Forest Service approved the project, and developers already have a certificate of public good from Vermont Public Service

Board.

But in late February, a nonprofit called Vermonters for a Clean Environment appealed the Forest Service's decision. The group - which is concerned about the environmental impact of turbine construction and operation - calls the government's approval "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion and contrary to law." Legal arguments are expected later this year, said Iberdrola Renewables spokesman Paul Copleman.

"The Forest Service decision has been appealed, and the court process for that is ongoing as we speak," Copleman said.

It is unclear whether there could be similar legal wrangling over Iberdrola's newly disclosed plan to place meteorological towers on privately owned land in the towns of Windham and Grafton. Data from those towers could determine - possibly as soon as next summer - whether turbines are feasible on that property.

Iberdrola Renewables, a subsidiary of Spain-based Iberdrola S.A., is no stranger to this part of the country. The company operates the 24megawatt Lempster Wind Power Project in Sullivan County, New Hampshire. The site began producing power in November 2008.

Copleman said the company also has two New England wind projects under construction - Groton Wind in Groton, N.H. and Hoosac Wind Project in northern Massachusetts.

Mike Faher can be reached at mfaher@reformer.com or 802254-2311, ext. 275.

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'Iberdrola a major player in wind power', *Brattleboro Reformer* (online), 27 Jun 2012 01 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13FAB0315A7BF3F8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13FAB0315A7BF3F8</a>



DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*6/20/2012 MONROE -- Twenty voters came out to approve 34 annual town meeting warrant articles and adopt a \$235,003 operating budget for this town of 121 residents.

June 20, 2012  $\mid$  Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 213 Words OpenURL Link

At Monday's annual town meeting, they unanimously granted easements on town-owned land for the installation of poles, power lines and related equipment for the Hoosac Wind Project, which is to include nine 1.5-megawatt turbines on Crum Hill in Monroe and 10 turbines for Bakke Mountain in Florida. That project is now under construction, and the easement rights will enable Iberdrola Renewables to connect the wind farm to the electric grid.

Voters agreed to let selectmen to apply for a grant of up to \$1 million to upgrade the town's wastewater treatment plant. If the town gets a grant/loan from the USDA Rural Water and Waste Disposal Utilities Program, the town would pay for 25 percent of sewer upgrade costs.

Other approved expenditures included:\* \$195,483 for public school education for children in kindergarten through high school, and \$37,258 for operating expenses at the Northern Berkshire Vocational School.

- \* \$31,602 for salaries and compensation for elected and appointed town officers.
- \* \$1,405 for its Franklin Regional Council of Governments core assessment and \$468 for FRCOG s regional health agent services.
- \* \$52,000 for the salaries and operations at the sewer treatment plant.
- \* \$16,000 for a full municipal audit.
- \* \$32,000 for construction, maintenance and repair of roads.
- \* \$16,542 for the Franklin County Retirement System.
- \* \$18,000 for fuel for the Highway Department.

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'DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*6/20/2012 MONROE -- Twenty voters came out to approve 34 annual town meeting warrant articles and adopt a \$235,003 operating budget for this town of 121 residents.', *Recorder, The* (online), 20 Jun 2012 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13F8D1C796AB48A0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13F8D1C796AB48A0</a>



DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*6/14/2012 MONROE -- In this town of 121 people, annual town meeting voters will be asked to approve a \$235,003 operating budget, and \$31,602 for elected and appointed town officials. They'll also be asked to grant easements on town-owned land for the installation of poles, power lines and related equipment for the Hoosac Wind Project.

June 14, 2012 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 349 Words
OpenURL Link

The meeting takes place Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

The \$235,003 budget request is a \$4,000 increase over this year's spending plan, which was \$231,000. The salaries and benefits spending is a \$1,552 increase.

Besides budget items on the 34-article warrant, residents will be asked to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant "perpetual" easement rights to the Massachusetts {c.q.Electric Co. for placement, operation, maintenance and replacement of poles, lines and related structures and improvements for electricity and communications transmission on town-owned land.

The purpose of the easement requests pertains to the Hoosac wind farm now under construction, said Paul Copleman, a spokesman for Iberdrola Renewables. "They are for a path to interconnect the wind farm to the electric grid," he said.

Work began November on putting in some access roads needed for the installation of a 19-turbine, \$90 million Hoosac Wind Project -- with nine of the 1.5-megawatt turbines to be installed on Crum Hill in Monroe and 10 to be installed on Bakke Mountain in Florida.

At this point, the road work is continuing. The components of the 220-foot wind towers are expected to arrive later this summer. The Hoosac Wind Project is owned by, and will be operated by, Iberdrola (cq. Renewables.

Residents will also consider whether to allow selectmen to apply for a grant of up to \$1 million to upgrade the town's wastewater treatment plant. If the town gets a grant/loan from the USDA Rural Water and Waste Disposal Utilities Program, the town would pay for 25 percent of sewer upgrade costs.

Other cost requests are:

- \* \$195,483 for public school education for children in kindergarten through high school, and \$37,258 for operating expenses at the Northern Berkshire Vocational School.
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DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*4/9/2012 SHELBURNE FALLS -- Last week's unexpected special permit application for a wind farm has left town officials in a quandary over whether a new, four-turbine facility proposed for Mount Massaemet could legally be put on hold by a wind turbine moratorium that might be approved at May's annual town meeting.

April 9, 2012 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 441 Words
OpenURL Link

However, the wind farm application may have to wait until residents decide the outcome of a town meeting article submitted by petition -- to ban commercial wind farms altogether.

Public hearing Tuesday at 7

A public hearing on the ban will be held Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School. The petition seeking the ban was signed by 46 residents,.

Meanwhile, some of the petitioners are holding what they say will be a press conference this afternoon, near Bridge and State streets, to explain their reasons for the petition. That meeting will be held at |3 p.m.

The new application for Mount Massaemet Windfarm Inc. arrived before the Planning Board could post a public hearing notice on an article calling for a year-long moratorium on windmills. The planned moratorium was intended to give the board time to develop a comprehensive wind turbine bylaw ahead of proposals.

"The point is, the application was filed before public notification of a moratorium," Joseph Palmeri, chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, told ZBA members Thursday night. He said "It looks like (the applicant, Frederick "Don" Field) beat the moratorium, but he didn't beat the citizens' petition."

"That said," Palmeri continued, "I don't want to set a hearing on this tonight, because we need to send (the application) to the other board and talk to legal counsel."

Under existing town bylaws, after a special permit application has been filed, the ZBA must give other town boards -- including the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Board of Health -- at least 30 days to review the proposal before a public hearing can be scheduled.

New plan

The smaller wind farm proposal calls for four turbines that would produce 1.5 megawatts of electricity each (for a total of 6 megawatts). The new turbines, with blades that are 253 feet in diameter, would be about 338 feet high.

In contrast, the old proposal that was withdrawn last fall called for eight turbines that would have produced 20 megawatts of power and would have been about 488 feet high. They would be required to have red lights on at night, in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

An access road would be designed, and the wind farm would be sited to the east of the Shelburne State Forest, on land owned by the Dole and Gould families, with a substation on land owned by Field.

The application says the project, over the 25 years of its life span, would produce about \$54,000 in new taxes, or payment in lieu of taxes for the town, based on anticipated revenues from Hoosac Wind Project to the town of Florida.

You can reach Diane Broncaccio at:dbronc@recorder.com or (413) 772-0261, Ext. 277

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'DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \*4/9/2012 SHELBURNE FALLS -- Last week's unexpected special permit application for a wind farm has left town officials in a quandary over whether a new, four-turbine facility proposed for Mount Massaemet could legally be put on hold by a wind turbine moratorium that might be approved at May's annual town meeting.', *Recorder, The* (online), 9 Apr 2012 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>?
p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13E12688E2E82458>



#### Turbine concerns will be considered

February 29, 2012 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Amanda KormanBerkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Main| 550 Words Page: A01 OpenURL Link

LEE - Facing a barrage of criticism from wind- turbine opponents, state officials promised to take into account citizens' concerns as they form plans for the future of the contentious alternative energy source in Massachusetts.

Anxieties about how sounds produced by wind turbines affect the health of those who live nearby dominated the last of three public forums the state held Tuesday night at Lee Middle and High School.

Representatives from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Public Health (DPH) were seeking the public's responses to a recent report they commissioned from an independent panel of

scientists that dispelled the notion that turbines pose significant health risks. Officials said that those reactions, as well as personal anecdotes from those who live near turbines, were an important part of deciding how to proceed with wind energy.

"Right now our minds are open," said DEP Commissioner Ken Kimmell.

In zealous and sometimes vitriolic testimonies, several dozen residents of Western Massachusetts and beyond expressed deep dissatisfaction with the report, which was a literature review of current research. Several people called for the DEP to initiate an independent study of the effects of wind turbines in Massachusetts, rather than relying on a compilation of previous studies. Many also felt that the report's suggestion for the maximum sound level that turbines should produce was too high.

Several residents of Falmouth who'd made the drive from Cape Cod for the meeting enumerated the headaches, vertigo and loss of sleep that wind turbines have caused in their neighborhood, stirring the concern of others in the audience.

"I think it's time we stopped putting human beings at risk for technology," said Lee resident Deidre Consolati.

Calling the problem " a modern Holocaust" and a " man- made plague," Savoy resident Marshall Rosenthal demanded that all turbines in the state be shut down immediately.

Others asked for more stringent siting regulations to diminish the whooshing and thumping they say contributes to "Wind Turbine Syndrome," the existence of which the scientific report denies.

Michael Fairneny of Florida, who lives nearby where the 19 Hoosac Wind Project turbines are slated for construction, said he was worried about turbines cropping up without the public's consent.

"I'm trying to stress the importance of local municipalities playing a part in this process," Fairneny said. "I'm very concerned for our Berkshires. [I hope] you site these things as far away from residential areas as possible."

A handful of representatives from wind companies, nonprofits and towns expressed the desire to find a way to push forward with turbines.

Peter Rothstein, a West Stockbridge resident and president of the New England Clean Energy Council, pointed out that wind energy can help to curb the health problems that are a result of the burning of fossil fuels.

" We need wind, and we need wind to be developed in a highly responsible way," he said.

Touching on ideas broached throughout the evening, Nathaniel Karns, executive director of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, suggested that new research could begin to answer questions that linger.

"There really is very little information on health impacts, and I'm very concerned that once things are built they're pretty hard to remove," Karns said. "We need to be extremely careful. Some real studies with our topographies need to be done."

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Amanda KormanBerkshire Eagle Staff, 'Turbine concerns will be considered', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 29 Feb 2012 A01 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13D379F3365A3AF8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/13D379F3365A3AF8</a>



WEST NOTEBOOK \*2/9/2012 Colrain Democrats caucus Feb. 25 COLRAIN -- Democrats in Colrain will hold a caucus on Feb. 25 at 9:30 a.m. at Colrain Central School, 22 Jacksonville Road, to elect one delegate and one alternate to the Massachusetts Democratic Party's nominating convention.

February 9, 2012 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 539 Words
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The convention will be held on June 2 in Springfield.

All registered Democrats in Colrain are eligible to participate.

For caucus information, contact Chairman Michael Slowinski at 624-3748.

Special town meeting Monday

MONROE -- A special town meeting that was postponed on Jan. 23, due to icy weather, has been rescheduled for Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall.

The primary warrant article is to see if the town will accept a conditional assignment of easement-granting rights of access, in case there is a default of the decommissioning agreement between the town and New England Wind LLC.

New England Wind is the developer for the 19-turbine, Hoosac Wind project. Nine of the 1.5-megawatt turbines are to be built on Crum Hill. Ibertrola Renewables will own and operate the turbines. The project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Nomination papers with Buckland clerk

BUCKLAND -- Nomination papers for the annual town election, on May 7, are now available from Town Clerk Janice Purington.

The town offices on the ballot include the following:

Moderator (one-year term); selectmen; assessor; Board of Health; library trustee (all three-year terms).

There are two Finance Committee positions up for election, for three-year terms, and a one-year position available on that board.

The Recreation Committee has a two-year and a three-year term up for election.

Voter registration deadline Wednesday

BUCKLAND -- Feb. 15 is the last day residents may register to vote if they wish to vote in the presidential primary election on March 6. It is also the last day voters can change party affiliation in time for the primary election.

Town Clerk Janice Purington will hold special voter registration hours on Feb. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 8 p.m. in Town Hall.

Mark holds office hours on Thursdays in Charlemont

CHARLEMONT -- State Rep. Paul Mark holds office hours on Thursday mornings from 9 to noon at the Town Hall.

Either Mark or his aide will available to meet and speak with residents. No appointment is necessary.

Absentee ballots for presidential primary available

CHARLEMONT -- Absentee ballots for the presidential primary election on March 6 are now available in the town clerk's office.

The last day to apply for an absentee ballot for that election is March 5 at noon. Residents may vote at the town clerk's office or request an absentee ballot be sent by mail. Absentee ballots are available to residents if they are going to be out of town, are unable to travel due to illness or physical disability, or religious beliefs prevent voting at the polls.

The last day to register to vote or change party affiliation for the primary is Feb. 15. The town clerk's office will be open on that day from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 8 p.m.

Dog owners: Mark your calendar

BUCKLAND -- A rabies clinic will be held on Feb. 25 at the Shelburne Falls Veterinary Hospital on Route 2. The clinic will be from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$20 per animal.

The deadline to license your dog and avoid the late fine of \$25 per dog is March 31. Dog licenses are available at the town clerk's office, which is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call first, at 625-8572.

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