

## Local utility eschews Cape Wind

February 25, 2011 | Cape Codder, The (Orleans, MA) Author: Rich Eldred; reldred@cnc.com| Section: News| 522 Words Page: 11 OpenURL Link

NStar is looking far beyond the waves of Nantucket Sound to purchase its share of renewable energy, leaving Cape Wind still seeking a buyer for half its power.

NStar filed contracts last Friday with the state Department of Public Utilities to purchase 108.9 mw of renewable energy from three sources: Hoosac Wind in the Berkshires, Groton Wind in New Hampshire and Blue Sky East of Maine.

The contracts were signed Dec. 23, and the DPU has 180 days from the Friday date of filing to approve the deal.

"Clearly, that shows that there are readily available alternatives at a much lower cost than Cape Wind that make much more sense for Massachusetts ratepayers," said Audra Parker of Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound.

"Cape Wind is hard pressed to find a buyer willing to pay two to three times market [value] and other green energy costs."

Not that hard-pressed, they say.

"If you combine Cape Wind and all of the other planned land-based wind and solar projects, they still don't equal the required demand for clean energy as mandated by state law in Massachusetts and the other New England states," declared Cape Wind spokesman Mark Rodgers.

"There is still considerable market out there."

Under the state's Green Communities Act, power companies must provide 3 percent of their power from renewable resources. The deal with the three wind energy facilities would cover 1.6 percent of NStar's energy generation.

"We still need 94 megawatts to get to our 3 percent obligation," said NStar spokesman Caroline Allen. "The legislation allows up to four or five years from mid 2009 to fulfill the requirement."

So there is a market there, but Cape Wind must sell 234 megawatts more. National Grid has purchased half the output for 18.7 cents a kilowatt with a 3.5 percent annual increase after 2013. The price for traditional power is around 10 cents a kilowatt.

"There are a number of potential buyers at the end of the day," Rodgers said. "The characteristics of our product, which are different, is that we have stronger performance at the times of peak demand, that we are geographically close to the grid that needs power and not behind a transmission bottleneck as is the case in Maine, and with a Massachusetts buyer, there is jobs creation in the state, making it of interest to buyers."

Parker disagrees.

"I think NStar, despite outrageous pressure from the Patrick administration to have NStar purchase Cape Wind power as a condition for the approval of the merger (with Northeast Utilities) clearly did not succumb to the pressure and is doing the right thing for ratepayers by bypassing Cape Wind," she said.

Allen said NStar won't disclose their purchase price.

"Pricing terms are confidential," she said. "But we believe the contract represents good value as an onshore wind resource for our customers."

NStar provides power for all of mainland Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard.

If they are unable to sell the power, Cape Wind might have to scale back its plans.

"We're confident we can sell more in addition to the 50 percent National Grid has already approved," Rodgers said.
"Our preference is to sell in Massachusetts but there is a New England-wide market."

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JAY LINDSAY Associated Press \*2/24/2011 BOSTON -- The second-largest utility in Massachusetts has agreed to buy electricity from three wind power companies to help it meet renewable power mandates, but it won't be buying from a high-profile wind farm off the coast of Cape Cod.

February 24, 2011 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 770 Words
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On Friday, NStar filed contracts with the Department of Public Utilities to buy power from Hoosac Wind in Massachusetts, Groton Wind in New Hampshire and Blue Sky East in Maine.

Cape Wind, the nation's first offshore wind farm, is still trying to find a buyer for half its power. It agreed last year to a 15-year deal to sell the first half to National Grid starting at 18.7 cents per kilowatt hour, and increasing 3.5 percent annually.

If Cape Wind doesn't sell the rest of its power within the next several months, it may be forced to move ahead with a project smaller than the 130-turbine, 468-megawatt wind farm planned in Nantucket Sound.

NStar is the only other Massachusetts utility big enough to buy a large portion of Cape Wind's power. Its three deals, if approved by state regulators, would eliminate any chance that it would buy all of the power Cape Wind still has on the market, though it could conceivably buy a portion of it.

Gov. Deval Patrick's administration has backed Cape Wind vigorously, but NStar said months ago it had decided to pursue cheaper renewable energy sources.

The three contracts NStar signed, ranging from 10 to 15 years, equal about 109 megawatts of power. The prices NStar has agreed to pay for the power weren't disclosed, and NStar said such pricing is confidential.

"The contracts represent a good value for onshore wind resources for our customers," said NStar spokeswoman Caroline Allen.

Cape Wind spokesman Mark Rodgers said the deals satisfy just a small part of the region's growing demand for renewable power, which exceeds what could be supplied by Cape Wind and all planned land wind and solar projects combined.

"Today's announcement represents only a modest portion of the total quantity of clean power that will need to be purchased," he said.

"We remain confident that the unique features of Cape Wind, such as strong production during times of peak electric demand and its close proximity to a region that needs its electricity, will continue to make it attractive to other potential buyers," Rodgers said.

NStar signed all three contracts Dec. 23 and filed them within a required 60-day window Friday. NStar is asking state regulators to approve the contracts within 180 days.

Though the prices on the recent deals weren't disclosed, a 10-year deal NStar has with TransCanada to buy power from a Maine wind farm is a flat 10.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

The three new contracts represent about 1.6 percent of NStar's demand, and the utility is required to secure 3 percent of its electricity demand through long-term contracts with renewable power producers by mid-2014. The company will be trying to secure more deals to meet that requirement in the coming years, Allen said.

According to court filings, the roughly 29-megawatt Hoosac project, in Monroe, Mass., and Florida, Mass., is set to be running by July 2012, the 32-megawatt Blue Sky East wind farm in Eastbrook, Maine, is scheduled to be operating by May 2012, and the 48-megawatt Groton project in Groton, N.H., is scheduled to be operating by December 2012.

The Blue Sky deal is for 15 years, while other two are both for 10. All are fixed-priced deals, meaning the price per kilowatt hour won't increase over time. The Hoosac and Groton projects are owned by the Spanish power utility lberdrola SA. Blue Sky is owned by Boston-based First Wind.

In a separate transaction, NStar is also seeking approval for a merger with Northeast Utilities, which would create the largest utility in New England with 3.5 million electric and gas customers in three states.

Recent comments and court filings indicate NStar's decision about Cape Wind could be a factor when the merger goes before Massachusetts regulators.

For instance, just before he left office in December, the state's former energy chief, lan Bowles, argued that large utility mergers needed a "new standard of review" that guarantees certain public benefits, including advancing "the development of the commonwealth's solar and offshore wind resources."

Cape Wind, which hopes to begin generating power by 2013, is by far the state's largest offshore wind and renewable power project and been repeatedly touted by officials as a cornerstone of its emerging renewable energy industry.

A spokeswoman for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs declined to comment, citing the ongoing state review of the NStar merger with Northeast Utilites.

NStar's Allen also cited the merger review and said it would be inappropriate to comment on whether its recent contracts could affect it.

She did say the merger would be good for the state's renewable energy goals.

"A combined company will be better able to advocate on a national level and a state level for green policies," Allen said.

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## MaSSachuSettS BRiefS

February 23, 2011 | Daily Item, The (Lynn, MA) Section: State News | 526 Words

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Ex-Bay State pol gets three months on harassment charges LOWELL - A former state senator was sentenced Tuesday to three months in jail after he pleaded guilty to sexually harassing four women in a single day in a series of events a judge called "bizarre" and "potentially dangerous." James Marzilli was sentenced in Lowell Superior Court after he admitted making lewd remarks to four women on June 3, 2008, in downtown Lowell. He was also sentenced to five years of probation. Prosecutors had asked for a year in jail while Marzilli's lawyer had asked for three years of probation. Judge Paul Chernoff noted that Marzilli had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder shortly after his arrest and said it appears his illness was "a causative factor" in his actions.

But Chernoff said he also considered the impact on Marzilli's victims and the "undermining impact" on public confidence in government when a crime is committed by a public official "who should be setting an example for the community." The 52-year-old Marzilli pleaded guilty to four counts of annoying and accosting a person of the opposite sex, and one count each of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Big utility signs deals, bypasses Cape Wind BOSTON - The second-largest utility in Massachusetts has agreed to buy electricity from three wind power companies to help it meet renewable power mandates, but it won't be buying from a high-profile wind farm off the coast of Cape Cod. On Friday, NStar filed contracts with the Department of Public Utilities to buy power from Hoosac Wind in Massachusetts, Groton Wind in New Hampshire and Blue Sky East in Maine.

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Home sales up, prices down BOSTON - Sales of single-family homes in Massachusetts were up in January when compared to the same month last year, good news according to two groups that track the market.

The boost in sales was likely in response to a drop in the median price.

The Massachusetts Association of Realtors reported Tuesday that sales jumped 13 percent year-over-year, while median prices dropped more than 5 percent to \$284, 500.

The Warren Group, a Boston-based company that tracks the market, reported 5 percent boost in sales and a 7 percent drop in median price to \$270, 000.

The groups use slightly different methods to make their calculations.

The Warren Group said January sales were at the highest level in four years.

Condominium sales and median prices both dropped when compared to January 2010.

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## Cape Wind is bypassed by N Star, the state's second-largest utility

February 23, 2011 | Enterprise, The (Brockton, MA)

Section: News 408 Words

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#### - THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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'Cape Wind is bypassed by N Star, the state's second-largest utility', *Enterprise, The* (online), 23 Feb 2011 11 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1359960AA19F19F8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1359960AA19F19F8</a>



February 23, 2011 | Falmouth Bulletin (MA) Author: Rich Eldred; Cape Codder | Section: features | 639 Words OpenURL Link

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Under the state's Green Communities Act, power companies must provide 3 percent of their power from renewable resources. The deal with the three wind energy facilities would cover 1.6 percent of NStar's energy generation.

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If they are unable to sell the power, Cape Wind might have to scale back its plans.
"We're confident we can sell more in addition to the 50 percent National Grid has already approved," Rodgers said. "Our preference is to sell in Massachusetts but there is a New England-wide market."  Copyright 2011 Provincetown Banner. All Rights Reserved.
• Citation (aglc Style) Rich Eldred, Cape Codder, 'NStar eschews Cape Wind power - will buy elsewhere', <i>Provincetown Banner</i> (online), 23 Feb 2011

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February 23, 2011 | Register, The (Yarmouthport, MA) Author: Rich Eldred; Cape Codder | Section: features | 639 Words OpenURL Link

NStar is looking far beyond the waves of Nantucket Sound to purchase its share of renewable energy, leaving Cape Wind still seeking a buyer for half its power.

NStar filed contracts last Friday with the state Department of Public Utilities to purchase 108.9 mw of renewable energy from three sources: Hoosac Wind in the Berkshires, Groton Wind in New Hampshire and Blue Sky East of Maine.

The contracts were signed Dec. 23, and the DPU has 180 days from the Friday date of filing to approve the deal.

"Clearly, that shows that there are readily available alternatives at a much lower cost than Cape Wind that make much more sense for Massachusetts ratepayers," said Audra Parker of Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound. "Cape Wind is hard pressed to find a buyer willing to pay two to three times market [value] and other green energy costs."

Not that hard-pressed, they say.

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Rich Eldred, Cape Codder, 'NStar eschews Cape Wind power - will buy elsewhere', *Register, The* (online), 23 Feb 2011 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/135987A8B5D45D70">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/135987A8B5D45D70</a>



February 23, 2011 | Sandwich Broadsider (MA) Author: Rich Eldred; Cape Codder | Section: features | 639 Words OpenURL Link

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## Mass. utility deals spurn Cape Wind

February 23, 2011 | Westerly Sun, The (RI) Section: Commentary | 351 Words Page: A05 OpenURL Link

Mass. utility deals spurn Cape Wind

BY JAY LINDSAY

**Associated Press** 

BOSTON - The secondlargest utility in Massachusetts has agreed to buy electricity from three wind power companies to help it meet renewable power mandates, but it won't be buying from a high-profile wind farm off the coast of Cape Cod.

On Friday, NStar filed contracts with the Department of Public Utilities to buy power from Hoosac Wind in Massachusetts, Groton Wind in New Hampshire and Blue Sky East in Maine.

Cape Wind, the nation's first offshore wind farm, is still trying to find a buyer for half its power. It agreed last year to a 15-year deal to sell the first half to National Grid starting at 18.7 cents per kilowatt hour, and increasing 3.5 percent annually.

If Cape Wind doesn't sell the rest of its power within the next several months, it may be forced to move ahead with a project smaller than the 130-turbine, 468-megawatt wind farm planned in Nantucket Sound.

NStar is the only other Massachusetts utility big enough to buy a large portion of Cape Wind's power. Its three deals, if approved by state regulators, would eliminate any chance that it would buy all of the power Cape Wind still has on the market, though it could conceivably buy a portion of it. Gov. Deval Patrick's administration has backed Cape Wind vigorously, but NStar said months ago it had decided to pursue cheaper renewable energy sources.

The three contracts NStar signed, ranging from 10 to 15 years, equal about 109 megawatts of power. The prices NStar has agreed to pay for the power weren't disclosed, and NStar said such pricing is confidential. "The contracts represent a good value for onshore wind resources for our customers," said NStar spokeswoman Caroline Allen.

Cape Wind spokesman Mark Rodgers said the deals satisfy just a small part of the region's growing demand for renewable power, which exceeds what could be supplied by Cape Wind and all planned land wind and solar projects combined.

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Labor union members from Rhode Island rally in support of Wisconsin's embattled public employees Tuesday at the Statehouse in Providence.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

'Mass. utility deals spurn Cape Wind', *Westerly Sun, The* (online), 23 Feb 2011 A05 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/135960951B4A57E8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/135960951B4A57E8</a>



RICHIE DAVIS Recorder Staff \*2/18/2011 MONROE -- After being stalled for six years of court challenges, construction has started on a 30-megawatt, 20-turbine windmill project on Crum Hill and Bakke Mountain in neighboring Florida.

February 18, 2011 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 351 Words
OpenURL Link

The Hoosac Wind Power project, proposed in early March 2003 by Danish wind-energy company enXco with a projected \$30 million price tag, was held up by legal challenges over wetlands issues for six years. A Supreme Judicial Court decision last July cleared the way for its new owner, Spanish-based Iberdrola Renewables, to begin work on what's now projected to be a \$90 million project.

Everett-based Bond Brothers Construction's Civil and Utility Division began work about six weeks ago, removing trees and building five miles of access roads and preparing the roughly 14 acres for the 1.5 megawatt General Electric turbines, nine in Monroe and 11 in Florida. The company will also be responsible for all land clearing, environmental controls and drainage systems, as well as building the wind farm's operations and maintenance facility and two gravel access roads to the ridgelines that would house the turbines, one of which will cross 12 streams.

Work has been temporarily halted because of winter weather, but will resume as soon as conditions allow.

The turbines will be placed atop towers, with 250-foot diameter rotors and ancillary systems. The project, with completion expected in 2012, will have the capacity to power about 9,500 homes in the region, and will be the largest wind power facility in New England, according to press information provided by Bond.

The turbines will be about 340 feet high, from the base to the tip of the turbine blade at its highest point.

Residents in the two neighboring towns, which approved the project in 2004, approved last fall a \$9,000-permegawatt payment in lieu of taxes over the next 20 years. Monroe's fewer than 100 residents expect to see about \$121,000 per year in new revenue while the fewer than 700 residents in the Berkshire County town of Florida expect their town will get about \$162,000 per year.

New England Wind, which will own and maintain the wind farm, is a subsidiary of Iberdrola Renewables, which owns 40 wind farms around the country, including the Deerfield Wind Project in Readsboro and Searsburg, Vt.

You can reach Richie Davis at: rdavis@recorder.com or (413) 772-0261 Ext. 269

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'RICHIE DAVIS Recorder Staff \*2/18/2011 MONROE -- After being stalled for six years of court challenges, construction has started on a 30-megawatt, 20-turbine windmill project on Crum Hill and Bakke Mountain in neighboring Florida.', *Recorder, The* (online), 18 Feb 2011 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1357BA10AEF0E438>



#### At what cost wind?

January 31, 2011 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: News| 745 Words

Page: A04 OpenURL Link

#### To the Editor:

For some time I had thought industrial wind projects were a good idea in helping the world rid itself of facilities that pollute the environment to produce electricity. That is, until I looked into the claims of the builders of Hoosac Wind.

The reality of wind being so variable and not dependable means that wind turbines connected to the grid, conventional plants, must continue to spin because it takes some time to start generating electricity with conventional generation. This means conventional plants must continue operating to provide base and peak loads to the grid.

The proponents say Hoosac Wind will generate enough power for 22,000 homes. Peak capacity of the combined turbines is rated at 30 mw of power, but it will never be able to actually add that amount of power to the grid. Power is lost on the way to the substation, then conditions must be perfect in order to generate peak capacity, and that can be only a fraction of the time, as not only too little, but too much wind means little to no power generated.

Ice collection on the blades is an issue as well. Then consider that wind turbines do in fact use electricity to control the blades, orientation of turbine and shutting down for whatever reason, taking away from capacity.

According to statistics from Searsburg and other projects, less than 25 percent of total capacity can be expected and over time even less. Hoosac Wind will never provide electricity to power 22,000 homes, and a more realistic figure is about 5,500 homes. Then we still have the issue of needing electricity that is dependable and varies with demand, not wind.

Things don't always go right. Not too long ago, one of the turbines was destroyed at Searsburg Wind in Vermont, and that was just after 10 years of operation. Also, in 2003, a turbine fell down at Princeton Wind. I might add that facility was shut down in 2001, far short of the projected life span of 30 years, with only about 16 years online.

Other environmental concerns are; burning up from malfunctions, getting struck by lightning, disruptions to flora and fauna, not to mention tearing up the mountain top.

How can the state not require a complete environmental study for a project of this scope? There are issues about the bridges on Route 2 and curves to transport 210-plus loads, some over 120 feet in length and up to 195,000 pounds up the mountain. Who will be responsible for the impact to the roads? So far there has been no formal transportation plan submitted, in spite of the project getting the green light.

Iberdrola, headquartered in Spain, will be compensated in various forms of tax breaks and incentives of close to \$94 million, yet projections to build the facility is said to be about \$40 million. Something on the order of \$50 million would be left as profit for building it, compliments of U.S. taxpayers. So much for not giving multinational companies money to reduce the trade imbalance.

The town of Florida decided to accept payments based on electric production instead of taxing based on value, which would be much higher, making the deal even sweeter.

We can expect electric bills increasing as a result of the Hoosac Wind Project. In Denmark, wind power provides approximately 20 percent of total electric generation, yet not one conventional plant has come off-line, and the cost

of electricity is 3 times the U.S. average.

While Hoosac Wind will be able to add some electricity to the grid, is the cost really worth it? We all need to do our part in living greener and having less impact on the environment, but Hoosac Wind doesn't do that for us. A small fraction of electricity boasted by Iberdrola will make it on the grid, and not one power plant will be able to be shut down as demand requires a dependable power source - something wind will never be.

I feel for the residents living nearby the project as their lives are about to change dramatically and not for the better. Many residents living near similar projects regret having these industrial projects in their neighborhoods.

This letter is not about it being on the ridge near my home, but about generation being economically, scientifically and environmentally sound, and if you go past the rhetoric, Hoosac Wind won't do that. The big winner of Hoosac Wind is Iberdrola, and I think we are giving up too much for a pittance.

#### Larry Lorusso

# Clarksburg Jan. 29

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'At what cost wind?', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 31 Jan 2011 A04 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1351A7B20667D8C8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1351A7B20667D8C8</a>



### Present all views on wind

January 31, 2011 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: News 276 Words

Page: A04
OpenURL Link

To the Editor:

Scott Stafford's article about the Hoosac wind project [Hoosac wind project to be done this year, Jan. 24] left me feeling more chilled than the recent weather because it was so one-sided.

In this article. Mr. Stafford blames residents in Monroe and Florida who oppose the turbines, and Greenberkshires for delaying the project, cost overruns and the Wind Energy Siting Reform Act, which was before the state Legislature last year. But he does not give any of these people a chance to present their side of this issue.

I firmly believe that proponents of wind turbines have every right to hold and express their views, but what about those with a different point of view? Some of us feel that it is a very bad idea to industrialize this lovely area. We feel that we are being badly exploited by huge international wind companies like General Electric and Iberdrola, who at great cost are selling us a technology that will do nothing to combat global warming or solve our energy problems.

Mr. Stafford seems happy to accept the word of an Iberdrola spokesperson about the capacity of the 20 wind turbines to be installed and the number of homes they will power.( I hope he won't buy a used car solely on the advice of the salesperson). But he was unwilling to even consider views from the other side of this issue.

Of course Mr. Stafford has his own ideas about wind projects to which he has every right. But as a journalist, he has a duty to at least give the other side a chance to be heard. Otherwise news becomes merely propaganda.

Trina Sears Sternstein

Hawley Jan. 27

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

'Present all views on wind', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 31 Jan 2011 A04 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1351A7B20514CBE8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1351A7B20514CBE8</a>



# Optimism over Hoosac Wind - • INSIDE: Mass. Audubon Society builds solar panels to help power sanctuary. Bl

January 24, 2011 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Scott StaffordBerkshire Eagle Staff | Section: Main | 538 Words Page: A01 OpenURL Link

FLORIDA - If the weather cooperates and 20 wind turbines can be delivered on time, the Hoosac Wind project could be up and operating by the end of the year or in early 2012, according to Paul Copleman, communications manager for Iberdrola Renewables, owner of the 30megawatt wind farm in Florida and Monroe.

Already, he said, there has been preliminary clearing and preparation work to prepare for construction of the access roads, and geo-technical and engineering work is ongoing.

The now \$90 million project had been delayed by litigation since 2004. During the six-year legal battle, the cost of the project soared past the former estimate of \$45 million. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court cleared the way for work to begin in July 2010.

The 30- megawatt wind farm includes 20 turbines to be built on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe. The 20 General Electric 1.5-megawatt wind turbines have the capacity to power more than 22,500 homes.

The goal, Copleman said, is to have construction complete by the end of the year. But aspects beyond control of the developer, such as weather and availability of wind turbines, could delay completion.

In any case, work is expected to start in earnest after the ground thaws, Copleman said.

He noted that construction of the access road would take about six months, and installation of the 20 concrete turbine foundations will take about three months, with the

interconnectivity process expected to last another month or two.

" Even this preliminary construction work is an exciting step forward for us," Copleman said. "Years of work are just now starting to come to something more tangible in a state and a community that have been so supportive of our efforts. So we look forward to the progress in the months ahead."

The payment in lieu of taxes agreement has been approved by the developer and both communities, Copleman noted.

According to Christine Dobbert, town manager of Florida, the agreement is expected to generate between \$250,000 and \$300,000 yearly for the community's general fund. Florida's annual operating budget totals about \$2 million.

Once the turbines begin generating electricity into the utility grid, she said, "it will definitely put some money into our budget. Maybe that's why we're not too worried" about expected cuts to local aid coming from the state.

Whenever possible, local contractors will be used in construction, Copleman said. At peak construction, he estimated that more than 120 workers will be involved.

The project includes two gravel access roads to the ridgelines that would house the turbines, one of which would cross 12 streams.

In 2004, a group of nearby residents and the local environmental group Green Berkshires sued, later seeking review of a decision that the project complied with the Wetlands Protection Act.

It was largely due to this litigation delay that the Patrick administration championed the socalled wind-siting bill to streamline the permitting process and avenues of challenge for renewable energy projects.

The bill was passed by both the state Senate and House, but did not gain final approval before time ran out on the 2010 session. The administration is expected to propose a similar bill during the 2011 session.

To reach Scott Stafford: sstafford@berkshireeagle.com or (413) 496-6241.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Scott StaffordBerkshire Eagle Staff, 'Optimism over Hoosac Wind• INSIDE: Mass. Audubon Society builds solar panels to help power sanctuary. B1', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 24 Jan 2011 A01 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/134F5B3FDC8B4BF8>



## Iberdrola: - Wind farm to be done this year

January 24, 2011 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Scott StaffordNew England Newspapers | Section: Main | 528 Words Page: A01 OpenURL Link

FLORIDA - If the weather cooperates and 20 wind turbines can be delivered on time, the Hoosac Wind project could be up and operating by the end of the year or in early 2012, according to Paul Copleman, communications manager for Iberdrola Renewables, owner of the 30-megawatt wind farm in Florida and Monroe.

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

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## **MONDAY**

January 23, 2011 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Section: Main | 54 Words Page: A01 OpenURL Link

Iberdrola Renewables may be ready to discuss their construction of the Hoosac Wind project in Florida. They have agreed to a PILOT that will bring in up to \$300K to the town's coffers.

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## Wind's great potential

January 7, 2011 | Bennington Banner (VT) Section: Editorial | 361 Words

Page: A06
OpenURL Link

Even if wind energy doesn't reach the full potential outlined in a report on New England's current and potential output, it is apparent that wind will play an important role in the region's energy mix.

This should be the case for the four Berkshire County wind turbine projects in various states of development.

Opponents argue that wind won't provide energy to be of significance, even though the smallest amount of wind energy is valuable if it negates a comparable amount of energy generated by polluting sources like coal and oil. A study commissioned by regional grid manager ISO New England, however, determined that land and ocean winds in New England are strong enough to supply 24 percent of New England's power by 2020.

An Eagle analysis contained in a Scott Stafford story concluded that the four Berkshire wind projects could provide more than enough electricity to power all the homes in the Berkshires.

The Berkshire Wind Project in Hancock and New Ashford, which may power-up this winter, has a capacity of 15 megawatts. The other project that may begin this year is the much-delayed 30- megawatt Hoosac Wind farm in Florida and Monroe. The 12.5 megawatt Minuteman Wind LLC project is still stuck in the permitting process in Savoy and Patriot Renewables' 40-megawatt Savoy project is early in the study phase.

The Wind Siting Reform Act that would have cleared the needless hurdles that plagued Hoosac Wind unfortunately stalled in conference committee after passing both houses and the return to the private sector of Energy and Environmental Affairs secretary Ian Bowles deprived the bill of a major advocate.

Wind energy is progressing locally, however, and those who fear wind turbines dotting every mountain top should consider that not every mountain is ideal for wind generation and Berkshire County may be at or approaching turbine capacity.

And even if the \$25 billion can't be found to upgrade transmission lines to carry the new energy production forecast by the ISO study, wind will have an increasing role in the energy grid in the years ahead. Along with its emphasis on solar, Berkshire County can be at the forefront of this green energy movement.

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## Wind's great potential

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