

Editorials

December 5, 2012 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Section: Main | 406 Words Page: A06 OpenURL Link

The force of wind

It did, as Governor Deval Patrick said Monday, take a "long, long time to get here," but the Hoosac Wind Project, nine years in the making, will be providing wind energy for a far longer time to come. The 19-turbine project on a ridge line in Florida and Monroe takes a chunk out of the state's carbon footprint and advances the administration's aggressive and farsighted clean-energy policy.

Governor Patrick was joined by local and state government officials atop Bakke Mountain in heralding the completion of the project by the end of the year. Hoosac Wind is expected to produce enough power for 10,000 homes a year and offset roughly 64 million pounds of polluting carbon dioxide created by fossil fuel generation. It will produce just under \$7 million in tax revenue for Florida and Monroe.

Hoosac Wind had to slog past nuisance lawsuits and appeals made not on merit but on the philosophical opposition of wind energy foes. It is as environmentally irresponsible to be opposed to any and all wind projects as it would be to endorse any and all wind projects. Turbines are not for everywhere in the Berkshires but under the right circumstances and location they are beneficial. Opponents of wind and solar energy make the false argument that green energy won't end U. S. dependence on fossil fuel energy even though advocates are not making the argument that it will. Green energy, however, does lower dependency while reducing destructive carbon emissions.

The town of Otis is assessing the feasibility of a promising plan to finance a wind turbine to power government buildings and generate revenue by the sale of energy to neighboring towns. Bonding the project would not raise property taxes - in reality it should reduce them by bringing in revenue. (See letter on this page from Town Administrator Christopher Morris.) Residents are urged to keep open minds on the project as studies are conducted, and separate facts from propaganda.

State Senator Benjamin Downing, a Pittsfield Democrat in attendance on Bakke Mountain, said he looked forward to the day when green energy installations would be "the norm" rather than a celebratory event. Passage of the Wind Siting Reform Act, which would clear away the bureaucratic red tape that stalls projects like Hoosac Wind, would bring that day closer. Foes have succeed in bottling it up, but Monday's event demonstrated that green energy is a reality and while progress can be delayed it cannot be stopped.

(c) 2012 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup $\,$

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Editorials', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 5 Dec 2012 A06 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/14302BE10FFA6888>



LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Putting the Hoosac Wind Project in perspective

December 5, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: News | 296 Words

Page: A04 OpenURL Link

To the Editor:

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hoosac Wind Project on Dec. 3, Gov. Deval Patrick and others frequently claimed that this project will provide power for 10,000 homes. These projects are always promoted this way.

In truth, residential electricity only accounts for about a third of total electricity consumption. Massachusetts has 2.5 million households. To put this in perspective, this largest wind farm in Massachusetts will produce, on an annual basis, only enough power for one out of every 250 households in the state ... or one 750th of electrical power consumed in Massachusetts.

Electric power consumption, total, only accounts for about a third of anthropocentric green house gas emissions. The best you could say is that Hoosac Wind will offset 1 ton of Massachusetts green house gases for every 2,250 tons that are produced.

However, this large figure needs to be tempered by the fact that a considerable amount of green house gases were emitted in the process of eliminating 75 acres of forest, as well as in manufacturing, transporting and installing massive amounts of concrete and steel. And, of course, the figure assumes that wind energy can be incorporated into the grid without affecting the efficiency of fossil fuel generators needed to offset the erratic nature of wind energy.

Disturbingly, demand for new electricity is growing faster than in-state wind/solar generating capacity. So, contrary to what the governor said to the media, we are actually losing ground.

These facts eclipse all other facets of the debate about wind power in that they challenge the very core of widely held assumptions about what we can really accomplish with wind energy. When so little is gained, why is it worth the massive public subsidies and impact on neighbors, wildlife, etc.?

Lloyd Crawford

Hawley Dec. 4

(c) 2012 North Adams Transcript. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

• Citation (aglc Style)

'LETTER TO THE EDITORPutting the Hoosac Wind Project in perspective', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 5 Dec 2012 A04 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/142FD055287CF5B0



Turbines set to turn

December 4, 2012 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Phil DemersNew England Newspapers | Section: Berkshire | 607 Words Page: B01 OpenURL Link

•

The \$50M Hoosac Wind Project is near completion and should power 10,000 local homes

FLORIDA - Gov. Deval Patrick and state Energy and state energy officials on Monday heralded the 19-turbine Hoosac Wind Power project on a ridge line in Florida and Monroe, the largest on-shore wind energy farm in the state.

Set for completion by year's end, the \$50 million turbine project on Crum Hill in Monroe and Bakke Mountain in Florida will produce enough power for more than 10,000 homes a year and offset about 64 million pounds of carbon dioxide released by traditional electrical generation. The project is also expected to generate about \$6.8 million in tax revenue for the towns of Florida and Monroe. Lease payments to local landowners will total \$3 million.

The project was nine years in the making.

"It took a long, long time to get here," Gov. Deval Patrick said. " ... This progress happened by working together."

Patrick said Massachusetts residents share a "common stake" in reducing carbon emissions and dependence on foreign oil. He said his administration would continue to push wind, solar and clean energy building codes, legislatively and rhetorically.

"It's our generational responsibility," he said.

Monday's celebration at the top of Bakke Mountain included local and state government officials and representatives from General Electric, which manufactured the turbines, and Portland, Ore.-based Iberdrola Renewables, the project's developer. Iberdrola Renewables constructed the project for more than \$50 million and spent more than \$100 million when six years of legal expenses are taken into account. Construction started in July. At its peak, the project employed 140 workers.

"It's very thrilling to see it finally come to fruition," said local resident Stanley Brown, a cousin of a landowner on whose property

three of the Florida turbines are placed.

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan said the administration's initiative has turned smart environmental policy into "a good economic model." Neil G. Olsen, chairman of the Florida Board of Selectmen, said he anticipates his town receiving \$135,000 annually in payments in lieu of taxes from Iberdrola. The lease agreement also guarantees Florida and Monroe another \$3 million through the length of the 35-year lease contract.

NStar, per an agreement with Iberdrola, will be the sole buyer of Hoosac Wind Project energy. NStar has customers in eastern, central and southeastern Massachusetts.

Over the past five years, the Patrick administration's Environmental and Energy Alliance has helped create a 30-fold increase in wind energy, and, thanks in part to the 28.5megawatt Hoosac Wind Project, it grew more in 2012 than every preceding year combined. By 2020, the administration's goal states, the commonwealth's wind power should

be at 2,000 megawatts, three quarters offshore.

State Sen. Benjamin Downing, D-Pittsfield, said he will be "excited for the day when the installation of green energy development isn't a reason to have a press conference" because it will be "the norm."

Patrick's administration aims to streamline the permitting process for municipalities by passing the Wind Siting Reform Act, a law that's been on hold for years with the Legislature, which would effectively eschew the sort of protracted legal battle that put the Hoosac Wind Project on standby for nine years.

But not all local residents are happy. Opponents who formed a group called Friends of Florida and Monroe say they worry the turbines will bring noise and possible adverse health effects, and lower the property values of nearby residents.

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report.

ADVERTISEMENT

Gillian Jones/New England Newspapers

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick addresses the media.

(c) 2012 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup

• Citation (aglc Style)

Phil DemersNew England Newspapers, 'Turbines set to turn', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 4 Dec 2012 B01 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/142F7C16E35FB9A0



NEW ENGLAND IN BRIEF

December 4, 2012 \mid Brattleboro Reformer (VT) Section: New England \mid 1014 Words

Page: 03 OpenURL Link

Texting for 911 starts 4-month trial in Vt.

MONTPELIER (AP) - As part of a four-month trial period, Sprint Wireless customers in Vermont can send a text message to 911 for emergency help.

The service is starting Monday. Sprint Wireless customers must have mobile phones that are capable of sending text messages. It's part of an experimental trial to evaluate the technology.

David Tucker, executive director of the Enhanced 911 Board in Vermont, said this is the second such trial launched during the year. He said the fact that a large number of people who are deaf or hard of hearing already use Sprint means officials will be better equipped to provide access for that population to the Vermont 911 system.

Flags to fly at half-staff in honor of Vermont lawmaker

MONTPELIER (AP) - Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin has ordered flags to be lowered to half-staff on Tuesday in honor of a state lawmaker who was killed when he was hit by a car.

A memorial service also will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday for Rep. Gregory Clark of Vergennes at the Vergennes Congregational Church.

State Police said the 65-yearold Republican lawmaker was killed Friday morning when he was hit by a car along U.S. Route 7 in Waltham.

Police said Clark was driving south when he stopped his car at the edge of the highway to clear his windshield. Clark pulled partially onto the shoulder of the road, but he was hit by another south-bound vehicle while he was outside his car.

Father of Vermont boy who drowned emphasizing safety

BURLINGTON (AP) - The father of a 12-year-old Vermont boy who drowned at a swimming hole last year is starting a campaign to help swimmers take precautions.

Bentley Seifer drowned while swimming at the Bolton potholes in July 2011.

His father, Bruce Seifer, said he's assembled a legal team, mapped out the sites of recent drownings and started meeting with state officials.

He's interested in putting out public messages about when certain swimming areas are particularly dangerous. Seifer says one of the challenges is that many swimming holes in Vermont are on private property, which complicates the implementation of a statewide initiative.

High bail for N.H. couple in child endangerment case

PLAISTOW, N.H. (AP) - A fugitive couple arrested at a Florida theme park have been arraigned in New Hampshire on charges in the beating and burning of the woman's 3-year-old son.

Separate video arraignments were held Monday morning for the two in Plaistow District Court.

The boy's mother, 23-year-old Jessica Linscott, was ordered held on \$100,000 bail. Her boyfriend, 27-year-old Roland Dow, was ordered held on \$500,000 bail.

Both have been ordered not to have contact with each other or with the child.

Linscott and Dow were arrested last week by federal marshals at Universal Studios in Orlando following two weeks on the run. They were jailed in New Hampshire on Saturday. Dow is charged with first- and second-degree assault. He and Linscott face multiple charges of child endangerment.

N.H. officials seek moose poacher(s)

LANCASTER, N.H. (AP) - New Hampshire Fish and Game officials are asking for the public's help in identifying who killed a moose out of season in Berlin and left it to rot in what they are calling the most egregious case of poaching that conservation officers have seen in the North County this year.

A cow moose carcass with bullet holes in it was found off Kilkenny Loop Road on Friday night.

Officials say tracks in the snow show that someone had walked up to the moose, fired a final shot into the animal's head and then walked away. No meat was removed.

Conservation officers believe the moose was shot on Wednesday or Thursday.

Authorities believe that multiple people may have been

involved.

Malloy energy plan pits natural gas against oil

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - An energy strategy proposed by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy encouraging conversion to natural gas is drawing strong opposition from the home heating oil industry.

Malloy's Connecticut Comprehensive Energy Strategy recommends policy changes in energy efficiency, electricity supply, industrial energy needs, transportation and natural gas.

The plan would spur economic development, business growth and reduce energy costs.

Malloy proposes to make natural gas available to as many as 300,000 Connecticut homes and businesses by asking state regulators to allow utilities to collect customer payments that would be extended over longer periods of time to finance furnace conversions to natural gas.

Owners of home-heating oil companies say the state should not favor one fuel over another and give incentives that benefit gas utility companies at the expense of family-run heating oil businesses.

Charges dismissed against lawyer with gun at movie

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) - Authorities have dismissed charges against a Connecticut attorney arrested in August for bringing handgun to a movie theater showing the Batman film.

Sung-Ho Hwang was charged with breach of peace and interfering with police after officers said they found a loaded handgun in his waistband. Police say he had a permit to carry the weapon but didn't comply with their commands.

Hugh Keefe, Hwang's attorney, said a prosecutor agreed to drop the charges Monday because Hwang complied with the commands once he realized it was police and he has a clean record.

During a screening of the same film in Aurora, Colo., in July, a man opened fire, killing 12 moviegoers and wounding 58. James Holmes has been charged with the Colorado killings.

Mass. Gov. celebrates wind energy farm

FLORIDA, Mass. (AP) - The state's largest wind energy farm is nearing completion.

Gov. Deval Patrick and state Energy and state energy officials on Monday visited the 19turbine Hoosac Wind Power project in the western Massachusetts towns of Florida and Monroe.

Officials say the wind farm on track to be completed by year's end will produce enough power for more than 10,000 homes a year and offset about 64 million pounds of carbon dioxide released by traditional electrical generation.

The project is also expected to generate about \$6.8 million in tax revenue for the towns.

But not all local residents are happy. Opponents who formed a group called Friends of Florida and Monroe say they worry the turbines will bring noise and possible adverse health effects, and lower the property values of nearby residents.

(c) 2012 Brattleboro Reformer. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup

• Citation (aglc Style)

'NEW ENGLAND IN BRIEF', *Brattleboro Reformer* (online), 4 Dec 2012 03 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/142F6DBD07C7C688>



Neighbors of Hoosac wind project raise noise concerns

December 4, 2012 | Daily Hampshire Gazette [30 Day Embargo] (Northampton, MA) Author: DIANE BRONCACCIO Gazette Contributing Writer | Section: Environment | 716 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA — Only one of the 19 windmills has been turned on so far, but on Monday, Gov. Deval Patrick and state energy officials celebrated the near completion of what will be the largest wind farm in both Massachusetts and Southern New England.

"Wind energy has so much potential, and when this project is complete, it will be a big step forward in reducing our reliance on volatile, foreign fossil fuels," Patrick said.

But not everyone present was celebrating the imminent completion of the wind project. A group with concerns about noise levels and health consequences stood outside the gates of the wind farm with posters expressing opposition.

According to the governor's office, the 1.5 megawatt wind turbines will generate enough power to run at least 10,000 homes a year. When the Hoosac farm goes online later this year, Massachusetts will be on track toward producing 100 MW of renewable energy.

State Sen. Benjamin Downing, chairman of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, said the towns of Monroe and Florida have worked on this project for years and deserve credit for having the persistence and foresight. "Clean energy, along with efficiency and conservation, is key to solving climate change," he said.

The project has been in the works since 2001, and has already produced economic benefits for the region, says Paul Copleman, a spokesman for Iberdrola Renewables LLC, owner and operator of the project. At the peak of construction, he said, the wind turbine project employed 140 construction workers, with \$3.8 million spent locally during building. He said the project will generate roughly \$6.9 million in payment-in-lieu-of taxes for the towns, with landlease payments to local owners totalling about \$3 million.

"The Hoosac Wind Power Project generates not only clean, renewable energy, but also sustainable jobs and tax revenue for the community," said Martin Mugica, president and CEO of Iberdrola. "We are proud to bring this level of long-term economic development to Massachusetts, and we could not do it without the support of our many partners.

Met with Patrick

After the press conference, Patrick and Sullivan met with representatives of those opponents: Michael Farineny of Florida and Malcom Donald of Falmouth.

"I never anticipated that," said Farineny, who lives about a half-mile from the wind turbines on Crum Hill. His greatest concern is about the potential sound impact once the turbines are turned on. He said he asked the governor for an independent sound-study of the ambient noise, which would set a baseline for the limits of allowable noise once the turbines are turned on, at month's end. Farineny said he has been asking his selectmen for that also, but they have said no.

"I feel like my whole world is going to turn to crap," said Farineny, who has lived in his home for 28 years. "We were told we would never even see these things, and now I'm afraid we're going to hear them."

Farineny said he can see three of the 340-foot turbines from his home and seven of them from the top of his field.

He said about 12 people came to show their opposition to the project, including residents from Falmouth, Savoy, Clarksburg, Hawley and Buckland. Farineny said the group of protestors selected him as their spokesperson and Malcom Donald, because Falmouth's experiences with a noisy wind turbine has caused problems.

Farineny said he is concerned that noise from the turbines will exceed the state law that limits turbine noise to 10 decibels above ambient sound, because the town permits allow a noise level of up to 63 decibels — which Farineny says exceeds state law.

"The town agreed the sound could go up to 63 decibels because they didn't know any better," said Farineny. "That was in 2003. When they proposed this, there was no bylaw in this town for anything like this."

Farineny said he had not expected to get an audience with the governor.

When asked about noise issues, Iberdrola spokesman Paul Copleman said, "In operating this project, we have an obligation to meet the permit requirements of the state and the towns."

According to Copleman, the first wind turbine was turned on Monday, after the governor's departure. He said the project is not yet on line — that testing just began Monday— "but it will be, later on this month," he said.

Copyright 2012, Daily Hampshire Gazette, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

DIANE BRONCACCIO Gazette Contributing Writer, 'Neighbors of Hoosac wind project raise noise concerns', *Daily Hampshire Gazette* (online), 4 Dec 2012 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/142FABD5BA863550>



MASSACHUSETTS BRIEFS

December 4, 2012 | Daily Item, The (Lynn, MA) Section: Obituaries | 426 Words

Page: B3
OpenURL Link

Youth unemployment remains high

BOSTON (AP) - In Massachusetts, nearly one in seven young adults - defined as those between the ages of 16 and 24 - were unemployed last year and the rate has nearly doubled from 2000.

The figures come from the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center and were released Monday in conjunction with a national Kids Count report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Grant will help victims of domestic violence

NORTHAMPTON (AP) - Prosecutors in western Massachusetts have received a \$300,000 federal grant to help prevent domestic violence.

The grant will fund a full-time coordinator position, a victim/witness advocate to be part of a high-risk team and a part-time domestic violence prosecutor. They will work with prosecutors and police on prosecutions and high-risk assessments.

Patrick celebrates wind energy farm

FLORIDA, Mass. (AP) - The state's largest wind energy farm is nearing completion.

Gov. Deval Patrick and state Energy and state energy officials on Monday visited the 19-turbine Hoosac Wind Power project in the western Massachusetts towns of Florida and Monroe.

Officials say the wind farm on track to be completed by year's end will produce enough power for more than 10,000 homes a year and offset about 64 million pounds of carbon dioxide released by traditional electrical generation.

The project is also expected to generate about \$6.8 million in tax revenue for the towns.

Vet who euthanized cat cleared by license board

GARDNER (AP) - A Massachusetts veterinarian who mistakenly euthanized a cat who went in for a flea bath has been cleared by the state licensing agency.

The Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine found that Dr. Muhammad Malik had consent to euthanize Lady, an 8-year-old cat owned by Colleen Conlon of Gardner.

Conlon said her adult son brought her cat to the vet for a flea treatment, but when he returned, he was told Lady had been euthanized.

Exam ordered for man charged in church fire

BREWSTER (AP) - A 29-year Brewster man described as mentally ill has pleaded not guilty to setting a fire that destroyed a local church.

The Cape Cod Times reports a judge ordered a competency examination for Adam Finnegan at his arraignment Monday in Orleans District Court. Finnegan is charged with one count of burning a building. The three-alarm blaze early Friday destroyed the Cape Cod Bible Alliance Church.

1 dead, 1 hurt in Springfield shooting

SPRINGFIELD (AP) - One man is dead and another man is being treated at the hospital following what police say appears to be a gang and drug-related robbery attempt and shooting in Springfield.

Police responded to reports of gunfire at a public housing complex just before 7 p.m. Sunday.

Both victims were taken to Baystate Medical Center.

Copyright, 2012, The Daily Item, All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

'MASSACHUSETTS BRIEFS', *Daily Item, The* (online), 4 Dec 2012 B3 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/142FE80B6732DDC8>



Turbines towering in Florida and Monroe - HOOSAC WIND PROJECT CLOSING IN - Residents express concerns

December 4, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: Main | 487 Words Page: A01 OpenURL Link

By Edward Damon

North Adams Transcript

FLORIDA - While a crowd gathered Monday to hear Gov. Deval Patrick and other officials celebrate the Hoosac Wind Project, about half a dozen people were just steps away protesting the 19 wind turbines scheduled to be turned on by year's end.

Among them was town resident Michael Fairneny, who has lived with his wife on Moores Road for 29 years. Fairneny is concerned about how the turbines have changed his life, and whether he will have more to worry about once they begin to spin.

He claimed he was never given notice he'd be able to see a turbine from his property. Now, he can see three from inside his home and seven from his property.

"I'm very concerned about my family's future," Fairneny said.

One concern Fairneny and others voiced are the turbines' effects on property values.

"It's been shown nationwide that homes near turbine sites can see 25 to 40 percent depreciation," he said.

But Fairneny said the money is the least of his worries.

"I'm worried about my health, and my family's health," he said.

Fairneny points to recent studies that suggest living near wind turbines can cause negative health effects such as headaches, heart palpitations and sleep disturbances.

"We're concerned because there's not enough information to really know how bad living near turbines can be," he said.

Fairneny also expressed concern over payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) to be made to Florida and Monroe by Portland, Ore.-based project developer Iberdrola Renewables. The developer's website, he said, states that \$257,000 will be given to the host towns each year over the life of the project - \$135,000 to Florida and \$122,000 to Monroe. He said the math for how much money each town would

Please see PROTESTS, Page A5

receive was calculated as if each windmill would operate at 100 percent capacity. Similar ones in upstate New York, he said, operate at closer to 25 percent capacity.

Another protester was David Moriarty, of Falmouth. Moriarty related a story of a Falmouth woman who lived in a house for several years before a turbine was built 1,600 feet away.

"After two years of suffering, she abandoned her home," he said.

Lloyd Crawford, of Hawley, is concerned with the new wind turbines not addressing the state's current energy problems.

"This project produces one 1,000th of the electricity used in Massachusetts," he said. "Power demand is expected to grow one percent per year for the next decade. We'd have to put up a project like this once every 5 weeks for the next 10 years just to keep up with demand."

Gillian Jones/North Adams Transcript

One of the 19 wind turbines on Bakke Mountain in Florida towers high above ground level.

(c) 2012 North Adams Transcript. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Turbines towering in Florida and MonroeHOOSAC WIND PROJECT CLOSING INResidents express concerns', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 4 Dec 2012 A01 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/142F78A551E41BD0>



Officials applaud development

December 4, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: Main | 831 Words Page: A01 OpenURL Link

By Phil Demers

North Adams Transcript

FLORIDA - As Gov. Deval Patrick joined state politicians and representatives from General Electric and Iberdrola Renewables on Bakke Mountain to celebrate the Hoosac Wind Project on Monday, resident Stanley Brown and Selectmen's Chair Neil G. Oleson joined the crowd, exuding a simple reality: They'd been there all along, heard nearly every debate, and had now come to acknowledge the nearly completed result, nine years later.

It's become the commonwealth's newest and largest industrial wind development, 19 General Electric (GE) turbines populating Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe. The completed project, expected to be turned on next week, according to Gov. Patrick's press secretary, could pump out enough energy to power 10,000 homes.

"It's very thrilling to see it finally come to fruition," said Brown, a cousin of a landowner on whose property three of the Florida turbines are located. For Brown and Oleson, who like three quarters of town residents, support the project, it was a significant event - just as it was for Gov. Deval Patrick, who identified the development in his address as the latest and greatest achievement of his administration's initiative to marry environmental and energy policy.

"It took a long, long time to get here," Patrick said. "... This progress happened by working together."

Patrick said commonwealth residents share a "common stake" in reducing carbon emissions and dependence on foreign oil, and his administration would continue to push wind, solar and clean energy building codes, legislatively and rhetorically. The turbine project is estimated to offset about 64 million pounds of carbon dioxide released by traditional electrical generation.

"It's our generational responsibility," he said. Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan, who also spoke, said the administration's initiative has turned smart environmental policy into "a good economic model."

Oleson said he could speak to that, as he anticipates his town receiving \$135,000 in annual payments in lieu of taxes from Iberdrola. The project is expected to generate about \$6.8 million in tax revenue for the towns of Florida and Monroe. Lease payments to local landowners are

Please see WIND, Page A5

expected to total \$3 million.

"It's been a long time coming," Oleson said. "The thing that hurts the most is that there's now been nine years of lost revenue for the town. ... I'm looking forward to getting some returns out of it."

But not all local residents are happy. Opponents who formed a group called Friends of Florida & Monroe say they worry the turbines will bring noise and possible adverse health effects, and lower the property values of nearby residents.

Over the past five years, the Patrick administration's Environmental and Energy Alliance has helped create a 30fold

increase in wind energy, and, thanks in part to the 28.5 megawatt Hoosac Wind Project, it grew more in 2012 than every preceding year combined. By 2020, the administration's goal states, the commonwealth's wind power should be at 2,000 megawatts, three quarters of this located offshore.

Gov. Patrick's administration aims to streamline the permitting process for municipalities by passing the Wind Siting Reform Act, a law that's been on hold for years with the Legislature which would effectively eschew the sort of protracted legal battle that put the Hoosac Wind Project on standby for nine years.

State Sen. Benjamin B. Downing, D-Pittsfield, spoke to the point in his address.

"I am excited for the day when the installation of green energy development isn't a reason to have a press conference," Downing said. "It [will be] the norm."

Downing also thanked Gov. Patrick for his continued support of Berkshire County, about which Downing said "we were the green communities before we had a Green Communities Act [of 2008]."

Iberdrola Renewables built the turbines for more than \$50 million and spent over \$100 million when six years of legal expenses are taken into account. Construction of the turbines began in July.

Representatives from GE, Iberdrola and NStar also spoke at Monday's event. NStar, per an agreement with Iberdrola, will be the sole purchaser of energy produced by the Hoosac Wind Project.

Mentioning the \$4 million Iberdrola has already spent locally to see the project through and the continued benefits each town will continue to receive, Kevin Lynch, of policy and regulation with Iberdrola, said, "This is the gift that keeps on giving for the local community."

To reach Phil Demers, email pdemers@thetranscript.com.

Gillian Jones/North Adams Transcript

Northeast Utilities Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Community Relations Jim Hunt speaks during an event to celebrate the Hoosac Wind Project on Monday in Florida.

(c) 2012 North Adams Transcript. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Officials applaud development', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 4 Dec 2012 A01 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/142F78A554E55D80



News

December 4, 2012 | Providence Journal (RI) Section: News | 506 Words

Page: LEGAL_01
OpenURL Link

Gasoline

Pump prices still high but holding steady

Gasoline prices in Rhode Island were unchanged over the last week, according to AAA Southern New England.

The average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is \$3.649, according to AAA's weekly survey.

The average price has dropped nine cents over the last month.

Rhode Island drivers are paying 26 cents more than the national average of \$3.389 and 25 cents more than the \$3.399 they were paying at this time last year.

AAA's survey found a 30-cent range in prices from a low of \$3.499 to a high of \$3.799.

Jack Perry

Energy

Mass. wind farm nearly completed

The largest wind energy farm in Massachusetts is nearing completion.

Governor Patrick and state Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard Sullivan on Monday visited the Hoosac Wind Power project, which is being built in the western Massachusetts towns of Florida and Monroe.

The 19-turbine wind farm is on track to be completed by the end of the year and is expected to generate enough power for 6,000 homes.

The project is being built by Iberdola Renewables. The company estimates that the 340-foot turbines will offset about 100 million pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

Both Florida and Monroe will receive annual payments in lieu of property taxes for hosting the wind farm over the next 20 years.

Associated Press

Retail

Brown to offer free shuttles for shoppers

Brown University has joined the city's Buy Providence/Buy Art promotion for the holiday season and has organized free shuttle service for Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. to transport students, faculty and staff to four Providence neighborhood shopping districts.

The trollies, arranged by Brown's Government Relations & Community Affairs organization, will run in loops between campus and the Wayland Square, Hope Street, Westminster Street and South Main Street areas.

Drop-off sites will be at Hope & Rochambeau, Power & So. Main and others to be announced.

Pawtucket

Fitch affirms BBB rating on city bonds

Fitch Ratings has affirmed its BBB rating on \$16.9 million in general obligation bonds issued by the City of Pawtucket. The ratings outlook is stable.

Fitch said, "Tax increases coupled with departmental cost savings has helped stabilize city operations after deficit results in four of the last five years."

Fitch said it views "management projections for current positive general fund operating results and gradual improvement in reserves as reasonable given its effectiveness in cost cutting, efficiencies gained through attrition, and revenue improvement."

Associated Press

Commodities

Dollar: In trading against major currencies Monday in New York, the dollar ended at 82.24 Japanese yen, down from Friday's close of 82.41 yen. The euro closed at 3:30 p.m. at \$1.3060, up from \$1.2998

Metals: Gold for current delivery closed at \$1,719.60 a troy ounce on the New York Mercantile Exchange, up from Friday's close of \$1,710.90. Silver closed at \$33.681, up from \$33.204 an ounce.

Fuels: January crude finished at \$89.09 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Heating oil finished at \$3.59 per gallon.

Find up-to-date local and national business news at providencejournal.com/business

Copyright © 2012. LMG Rhode Island Holdings, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

• Citation (aglc Style)

'News', *Providence Journal* (online), 4 Dec 2012 LEGAL_01 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/152421971043F4A8>



Gov. visits Hoosac Wind

December 3, 2012 \mid Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) Author: DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff \mid Section: Home \mid 725 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA — Only one of the 19 windmills has been turned on so far, but on Monday, Gov. Deval Patrick and state energy officials celebrated the near completion of what will be the largest wind farm in both Massachusetts and Southern New England.

"Wind energy has so much potential, and when this project is complete, it will be a big step forward in reducing our reliance on volatile, foreign fossil fuels," Patrick said.

According to the governor's office, the 1.5 megawatt wind turbines will generate enough power to run at least 10,000 homes a year. When the Hoosac farm goes online later this year, Massachusetts will be on track toward producing 100 MW of renewable energy.

State Sen. Benjamin Downing, chairman of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, said the towns of Monroe and Florida have worked on this project for years and deserve credit for having the persistence and foresight. "Clean energy, along with efficiency and conservation, is key to solving climate change," he said.

The project has been in the works since 2001, and has already produced economic benefits for the region, says Paul Copleman, a spokesman for Iberdrola Renewables LLC, owner and operator of the project. At the peak of construction, he said, the wind turbine project employed 140 construction workers, with \$3.8 million spent locally during building. He said the project will generate roughly \$6.9 million in payment-in-lieu-of taxes for the towns, with land-lease payments to local owners totalling about \$3 million.

"The Hoosac Wind Power Project generates not only clean, renewable energy, but also sustainable jobs and tax revenue for the community," said Martin Mugica, president and CEO of Iberdrola. "We are proud to bring this level of long-term economic development to Massachusetts, and we could not do it without the support of our many partners.

Unhappy

But not everyone present was celebrating the imminent completion of the wind project. A group with concerns about noise levels and health consequences stood outside the gates of the wind farm with posters expressing opposition.

After the press conference, Patrick and Sullivan met with representatives of those opponents: Michael Farineny of Florida and Malcom Donald of Falmouth.

"I never anticipated that," said Farineny, who lives about a half-mile from the wind turbines on Crum Hill. His greatest concern is about the potential sound impact once the turbines are turned on. He said he asked the governor for an independent sound-study of the ambient noise, which would set a baseline for the limits of allowable noise once the turbines are turned on, at month's end. Farineny said he has been asking his selectmen for that also, but they have said no.

"I feel like my whole world is going to turn to crap," said Farineny, who has lived in his home for 28 years. "We were told we would never even see these things, and now I'm afraid we're going to hear them."

Farineny said he can see three of the 340-foot turbines from his home and seven of them from the top of his field.

He said about 12 people came to show their opposition to the project, including residents from Falmouth, Savoy, Clarksburg, Hawley and Buckland. Farineny said the group of protestors selected him as their spokesperson and Malcom Donald, because Falmouth's experiences with a noisy wind turbine has caused problems.

Farineny said he is concerned that noise from the turbines will exceed the state law that limits turbine noise to 10 decibels above ambient sound, because the town permits allow a noise level of up to 63 decibels — which Farineny says exceeds state law.

"The town agreed the sound could go up to 63 decibels because they didn't know any better," said Farineny. "That was in 2003. When they proposed this, there was no bylaw in this town for anything like this."

Farineny said he had not expected to get an audience with the governor.

When asked about noise issues, Iberdrola spokesman Paul Copleman said, "In operating this project, we have an obligation to meet the permit requirements of the state and the towns."

According to Copleman, the first wind turbine was turned on Monday, after the governor's departure. He said the project is not yet on line — that testing just began Monday— "but it will be, later on this month," he said.

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

Copyright, 2012, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

• Citation (aglc Style)

DIANE BRONCACCIO Recorder Staff, 'Gov. visits Hoosac Wind', *Recorder, The* (online), 3 Dec 2012 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/144C2FB0D24DB310



New wind turbines prompt concerns about noise in Mass.

October 12, 2012 | Bennington Banner (VT) Section: Local/Region | 522 Words

Page: B04 OpenURL Link

PHIL DEMEERS

North Adams Transcript

FLORIDA, Mass. - New wind turbine information still surfacing in the commonwealth and elsewhere has some residents conc erned that their recently constructed, 340-foot neighbors could be noisy ones.

Residents and town officials were joined by representatives from Iberdrola Renewables at a Selectmen's meeting Wednesday night, where conversation about the Hoosac Wind Project, which has constructed 10 turbines on Bakke Mountain, was renewed.

Florida, Mass., meeting

Resident Michael Fairneny, of Moores Road, led the way, reflecting a request many in attendance shared. "All we're asking is that an independent, sound study be done," Fairneny said.

With turbines slated to begin spinning by year's end, Fairneny was joined by several others in wondering what effect their operation may have on residents.

Fairneny cited local and statewide examples of noise complaints from residents near industrial- size turbines, including the Berkshire Wind Project and developments in Plymouth and Falmouth. He asked that "someone approved by us do [the study] to help protect us as residents and taxpayers."

Neil Habig, of Iberdrola, said the company collected ambient sound data - data collected under normal conditions - that covered the entire area during the development process. However, data concerning noise created by a particular wind turbine development can't be gathered until it's operational, Habig said.

Referring to the project's decade-long history, resident Stephanie Pare expressed frustration with the meeting. "We're going back to a debate that went on nine years ago, followed by eight years in court," Pare said. "We've done this and we've been here. The time to talk was nine years ago when they [permitted the project]."

Habig added that the positioning of the turbines was originally detailed to be of "prudent distance" from homes. At the meeting's close, Habig encouraged residents who, once the project is active, still have complaints to register them with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP would then be obliged to investigate and could require Iberdrola to fund a detailed study.

DEP regulates noise and has authority to identify violations. The special permit the town granted Iberdrola states noise must not exceed 65 decibels. If DEP tightens it's still-evolving policy toward noise violations, Iberdrola will be obliged to comply with the new state regulations as well.

Paul Copleman, a spokesman for Iberdrola, added that the noise issue is frequently on the company's radar. "We look at the issue very closely and take it very seriously," Copleman said.

Hoosac Wind Project

Iberdrola recently tested a proprietary noise reduction system for its 37-turbine wind farm in Fairfield, N.Y., after nearby residents complained. The resulting study found that noise from the turbines was consistently over the acceptable level, according to National Wind Watch.

The Hoosac Wind Project comprises 10 turbines in Florida and nine in the adjacent town of Monroe. Iberdrola has leased the land for 35 years. The towns each stand to gain roughly \$10 million through the combined revenues of lease payments and a payment in lieu of taxes contract agreed to by the developer.

DEP funded a January 2012 Wind Health Impact Study, conducted by an expert panel that found "little evidence" regarding wind turbine noise and adverse effects to human health.

(c) 2012 Bennington Banner. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

• Citation (aglc Style)

'New wind turbines prompt concerns about noise in Mass.', *Bennington Banner* (online), 12 Oct 2012 B04 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/141DFE58D53250B8



HOOSAC WIND PROJECT - TURBINES POSE NOISE CONCERNS - Florida residents asking for study

October 11, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: Main| 552 Words Page: A01 OpenURL Link

By Phil Demers

North Adams Transcript

FLORIDA - New wind turbine information still surfacing in the commonwealth and elsewhere has some residents concerned that their recently constructed, 340-foot tall neighbors could be noisy ones.

Residents and town officials were joined by representatives from Iberdrola Renewables at a Selectmen's meeting Wednesday night, where conversation about the Hoosac Wind Project, which recently constructed 10 turbines on Bakke Mountain, was renewed.

Resident Michael Fairneny, of Moores Road, led the way, reflecting a request many in attendance shared.

"All we're asking is that an independent sound study be done," Fairneny said.

With turbines slated to begin spinning by year's end, Fairneny was joined by several others in wondering what effect their operation may have on residents.

Fairneny cited local and statewide examples of noise complaints from residents near industrial-sized turbines, including the Berkshire Wind Project and developments in Plymouth and Falmouth. He asked that "someone approved by us do [the study] to help protect us as residents and taxpayers."

Neil Habig, of Iberdrola, said the company collected ambient sound data - data collected under normal conditions - that covered the entire area during the development process. However, data concerning noise created by a particular wind turbine development can't be gathered until it's operational, Habig said.

Referring to the project's decade-long history, resident Stephanie Pare expressed frustration with the meeting.

"We're going back to a debate that went on nine years ago, followed by eight years in court," Pare said. "We've done this and we've been here. The time to talk was nine years ago when they [permitted the project]."

Habig added that the positioning of the turbines was originally detailed to be of "prudent distance" from homes.

At the meeting's close, Habig encouraged residents who, once the project is active, still have complaints to register them with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP would then be obliged to investigate and could require Iberdrola to fund a detailed study.

DEP regulates noise and has authority to identify violations. The special permit the town granted Iberdrola states noise must not exceed 65 decibels. If DEP tightens it's still-evolving policy toward noise violations, Iberdrola will be obliged to comply with the new state regulations as well.

Paul Copleman, a spokesman for Iberdrola, added that the noise issue is frequently on the company's radar.

"We look at the issue very closely and take it very seriously," Copleman said.

Iberdrola recently tested a

Please see WIND, Page A8

proprietary noise reduction system for its 37turbine wind farm in Fairfield, N.Y., after nearby residents complained. The resulting study found that noise from the turbines was consistently over the acceptable level, according to National Wind Watch.

The Hoosac Wind Project comprises 10 turbines in Florida and nine in the adjacent town of Monroe. Iberdrola has leased the land for 35 years. The towns each stand to gain roughly \$10 million through the combined revenues of lease payments and a payment in lieu of taxes contract agreed to by the developer.

DEP funded a January 2012 Wind Health Impact Study, conducted by an expert panel that found "little evidence" regarding wind turbine noise and adverse effects to human health.

To reach Phil Demers, email pdemers@thetranscript.com.

(c) 2012 North Adams Transcript. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

• Citation (aglc Style)

'HOOSAC WIND PROJECTTURBINES POSE NOISE CONCERNSFlorida residents asking for study', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 11 Oct 2012 A01 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/141E0050007D4A38>



Hoosac Wind Project - Turbines up; one step remains

September 24, 2012 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Scott StaffordBerkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Main| 815 Words Page: A01 OpenURL Link

•

Getting the sites commissioned before 2013 is vital in order to qualify for a federal tax credit.

FLORIDA - All 19 wind turbines are up, and the testing and commissioning process is about to begin on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe - the final step before the Hoosac Wind project can start generating power.

The 28.5- megawatt project has been in various stages of planning and litigation for more than a decade. Now, operators are rushing to get the operation online because the federal energy Production Tax Credit - essential to financing wind turbine projects - expires at the end of the

year. When that happens, any wind turbine project not in operation will face an uncertain future unless Congress extends the production tax credit.

"You only get the tax relief when you are actually producing power by the end of the year," noted Ellen Carey, a spokesperson for the American Wind Energy Association. "They are facing a very hard deadline."

The production tax credit provides 2.2 cents in tax relief per kilowatt hour generated. Without the extension in place, about 37,000 jobs in the wind turbine assembly and construction industry will be lost by the end of the first quarter of 2013: Some U.S. turbine parts manufacturers have already started shuttering plants and laying off workers in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Iowa, Florida, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma.

But officials at Iberdrola Renewables, owner of the Hoosac Wind project, are confident the commissioning process will be concluded and the turbines in operation by the end of autumn.

The local economic benefits have already taken hold: According to figures provided by Iberdrola officials, Hoosac Wind created three to five permanent jobs, nearly 140 temporary construction jobs, and \$3.5 million in local spending generated by 44,000 local labor hours. "It's always great when a company comes in from the outside," said Bigs Waterman, owner of Waterman Excavating, an Adams company that subcontracted with Hoosac Wind to handle some of the drainage work at the construction site. "We probably did between \$300,000 and \$400,000 worth of work. We had eight guys up there along with trucks and equipment. That's a lot of work for us - it allowed us to keep our guys busy right through the winter."

In the coming years, payments in lieu of taxes, or Pilot, contracts approved by the developer and both communities will result in annual payments of roughly \$135,000 to Florida and \$122,000 to Monroe. The payments escalate over time and are expected to total about \$6.8 million over 20 years.

Lease payments to the towns for turbines located on townowned land will result in another \$3 million through the length of the 35-year lease contract.

Hoosac Wind, with a total construction cost now estimated at \$90 million, includes nine 1.5 megawatt GE turbines on Crum Hill in Monroe and 10 turbines on Bakke Mountain in Florida. The project is estimated to have enough capacity to power more than 6,000 average Massachusetts homes.

Economic benefits aside, Hoosac Wind is expected to offset about 100 million pounds of carbon dioxide every year of operation through replacement of energy provided by burning fossil fuels, or the equivalent of emissions from 9,400 cars burning more than 112,000 barrels of oil, according to data provided by Iberdrola.

Hoosac Wind will add to the 64 megawatts of wind energy capacity already operating in Massachusetts, 16.5 megawatts added this year alone. There are another 570 megawatts of wind power under development in the state.

The project had been delayed by litigation from 2004 to 2010. 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.

NStar, the state's second-largest utility, has entered into a power purchase agreement for electricity produced at the Hoosac Wind project. While the actual electricity generated by Hoosac Wind will flow to users closest to the point of generation, NStar will sell the equivalent amount of power to its 1.1 million customers in Central and Eastern Massachusetts, according to NStar spokesman Mike Durant.

Figures provided by the American Wind Energy Association show that in 2011, wind turbines generated 2.9 percent of all electricity generated in the United States - up to 20 percent of electricity in both Iowa and South Dakota. If permitted to continue development, wind could generate 20 percent of the nation's electricity by 2030, providing about 500,000 jobs. In the last five years, wind energy made up 35 percent of all new U.S. power generation capacity.

Iberdrola Renewable wind farms are generating 5,200 megawatts of power in the United States annually on 50 sites using about 3,000 wind turbines.

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

On Twitter: @BESStafford

(c) 2012 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup

• Citation (aglc Style)

Scott StaffordBerkshire Eagle Staff, 'Hoosac Wind ProjectTurbines up; one step remains', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 24 Sep 2012 A01 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/141870C05952CDA8



Winds of change blowing in Florida - Turbines to fire up soon - 28.5-megawatt power project nears completion

September 24, 2012 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Section: News| 788 Words Page: A05 OpenURL Link

By Scott Stafford

New England Newspapers

FLORIDA - All 19 wind turbines are up, and the testing and commissioning process is about to begin on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill inMonroe - the final step before the Hoosac Wind project can start generating power.

The 28.5-megawatt project has been in various stages of planning and litigation for more than a decade. Now, operators are rushing to get the operation online because the federal energy Production Tax Credit- essential to financing wind turbine projects - expires at the end of the year. When that happens, any wind turbine project not in operation will face an uncertain future unless Congress extends the production tax credit.

"You only get the tax relief when you are actually producing power by the end of the year," noted Ellen Carey, a spokesperson for the American Wind Energy Association. "They are facing a very hard deadline."

The production tax credit provides 2.2 cents in tax relief per kilowatt hour generated. Without the extension in place, about 37,000 jobs in the wind turbine assembly and construction industry will be lost by the end of the first quarter of 2013: Some U.S. turbine parts manufacturers have already started shuttering plants and laying off workers in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Iowa, Florida, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma.

But officials at Iberdrola Renewables, owner of the HoosacWind project, are confident the commissioning process will be concluded and the turbines in operation by the end of autumn.

The local economic benefits have already taken hold: According to figures provided by Iberdrola officials, Hoosac Wind created three to five permanent jobs, nearly 140 temporary construction jobs, and \$3.5 million in local spending generated by 44,000 local labor hours. "It's always great when a company comes in from the outside," said Bigs Waterman, owner of Waterman Excavating, an Adams company that subcontracted with Hoosac Wind to handle some of the drainage work at the construction site. "We probably did between \$300,000 and \$400,000 worth of work. We had eight guys up there along with trucks and equipment. That's a lot of work for us- it allowed us to keep our guys busy right through the winter." In the coming years, payments in lieu of taxes, or Pilot, contracts approved by the developer and both communities will result in annual payments of roughly \$135,000 to Florida and \$122,000 to Monroe. The payments escalate over time and are expected to total about \$6.8 million over 20 years.

Lease payments to the towns for turbines located on townowned land will result in another \$3 million through the length of the 35-year lease contract.

Hoosac Wind, with a total construction cost now estimated at \$90 million, includes nine 1.5 megawatt GE turbines on Crum Hill in Monroe and 10 turbines on Bakke Mountain in Florida. The project is estimated to have enough capacity to power more than 6,000 average Massachusetts homes.

Economic benefits aside, Hoosac Wind is expected to offset about 100 million pounds of carbon dioxide every year of operation through replacement of energy provided by burning fossil fuels, or the equivalent of emissions from

9,400 cars burning more than 112,000 barrels of oil, according to data provided by Iberdrola.

Hoosac Wind will add to the 64 megawatts of wind energy capacity already operating in Massachusetts, 16.5 megawatts added this year alone. There are another 570 megawatts of wind power under development in the state. The project had been delayed by litigation from 2004 to 2010. During the sixyear 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.

NStar, the state's secondlargest utility, has entered into a power purchase agreement for electricity produced at the Hoosac Wind project. While the actual electricity generated by Hoosac Wind will flow to users closest to the point of generation, NStar will sell the equivalent amount of power to its 1.1 million customers in Central and Eastern Massachusetts, according to NStar spokesman Mike Durant.

Figures provided by the American Wind Energy Association show that in 2011, wind turbines generated 2.9 percent of all electricity generated in the United States - up to 20 percent of electricity in both Iowa and South Dakota. If permitted to continue development, wind could generate 20 percent of the nation's electricity by 2030, providing about 500,000 jobs. In the last five years, wind energy made up 35 percent of all new U.S. power generation capacity.

(c) 2012 North Adams Transcript. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Winds of change blowing in FloridaTurbines to fire up soon28.5-megawatt power project nears completion', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 24 Sep 2012 A05 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/14186F4C235D63F8>



Knobloch: Without the credits, wind power endangered

September 23, 2012 | Ashland TAB (MA)
Author: Chuck Knobloch/Guest columnist; MetroWest Daily News | Section: opinions | 630 Words
OpenURL Link

When the Hoosac wind project's 19 turbines start generating power by year's end in northwestern Massachusetts, the benefits will go well beyond pollution-free electricity.

American workers fabricated the turbines and blades and installed the towers, and American workers will operate them. The hill towns of Monroe and Florida will be bolstered by annual tax payments equivalent to more than 10 percent of their annual operating budgets. And the equivalent of nearly 10,000 homes will be powered by electricity that isn't saddled by the health or safety risks of coal and nuclear energy.

This story is being replicated across the country as homegrown wind power has doubled over the past four years, to 50 gigawatts, sufficient to power 13 million homes and retire 44 coal power plants. Particularly exciting is the fact that since 2005, the percentage of U.S.-manufactured components in these wind installations has jumped from 25 percent to 60 percent, keeping more than 400 factories in 43 states humming.

A key driver of this phenomenal growth has been a low-profile federal policy called the wind production tax credit.

This surgically-targeted tax incentive, which helps wind compete with coal and natural gas power plants, is critical for financing new projects. Regrettably, it is scheduled to expire at the end of this year and has become a partisan football, prompting Congress to slow-walk its renewal.

Ending this policy could recklessly stall an industry that has grown at an impressive clip through the Great Recession. Other factors share the credit for this explosive growth, including improved turbine design and mandates like the one here in Massachusetts requiring utilities to ramp up their reliance on renewables. But wind power developers will tell you that the production tax credit is essential for signing power purchase agreements with utilities and securing financing.

The consequences of killing the tax credit are dire. A December 2011 study by Navigant Consulting estimated that investment in wind projects would drop 65 percent, from \$15.6 billion in 2012 to \$5.5 billion in 2013, and the industry would have to lay off nearly half of its workforce - about 37,000 people - next year. Here in New England, plans to install nearly 2,800 megawatts of wind power would be jeopardized.

Historically, Congress has spent substantially more to encourage fossil fuels and nuclear power than renewables. A September 2009 study by the Environmental Law Institute, for example, found that between 2002 and 2008, the government gave fossil fuels \$72.5 billion in subsidies and renewable energy only \$12.2 billion. A September 2011 study by venture capital firm DBL Investors, meanwhile, documented that the nuclear industry benefited from an average of \$3.5 billion in subsidies a year from 1947 to 1999. By contrast, the new kid on the block - renewable electricity - averaged \$370 million a year between 1994 and 2009. A third analysis, a January 2011 Harvard Medical School report, showed that in 2008 alone, coal received an estimated \$3.2 billion to \$5.4 billion.

The most relevant question today is whether our government should continue to underwrite extremely profitable, mature industries - especially highly polluting ones - at the expense of nurturing new, cleaner alternatives. The answer is a resounding no.

The second most relevant question is whether the government should stick with a policy, the wind production tax credit, which is producing extraordinary public benefits, including jobs. The answer is an obvious yes.

Fortunately last month the Senate Finance Committee voted by a 19 to 5 bipartisan tally to extend the tax credit for

one year, which has the support of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Congress should finish the job this fall and send an extension to the president to ensure that wind projects and the tens of thousands of jobs dependent on them go forward into next year.

Kevin Knobloch is the president of the Cambridge-based Union of Concerned Scientists.

Copyright, 2012, CP Media Inc. d.b.a. Community Newspaper Company. No content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Chuck Knobloch/Guest columnist, MetroWest Daily News, 'Knobloch: Without the credits, wind power endangered', *Ashland TAB* (online), 23 Sep 2012 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1417AB440E081250>



Knobloch: Without the credits, wind power endangered

September 23, 2012 | Country Gazette, The (Bellingham, MA) Author: Chuck Knobloch/Guest columnist; MetroWest Daily News | Section: opinions | 630 Words OpenURL Link

When the Hoosac wind project's 19 turbines start generating power by year's end in northwestern Massachusetts, the benefits will go well beyond pollution-free electricity.

American workers fabricated the turbines and blades and installed the towers, and American workers will operate them. The hill towns of Monroe and Florida will be bolstered by annual tax payments equivalent to more than 10 percent of their annual operating budgets. And the equivalent of nearly 10,000 homes will be powered by electricity that isn't saddled by the health or safety risks of coal and nuclear energy.

This story is being replicated across the country as homegrown wind power has doubled over the past four years, to 50 gigawatts, sufficient to power 13 million homes and retire 44 coal power plants. Particularly exciting is the fact that since 2005, the percentage of U.S.-manufactured components in these wind installations has jumped from 25 percent to 60 percent, keeping more than 400 factories in 43 states humming.

A key driver of this phenomenal growth has been a low-profile federal policy called the wind production tax credit.

This surgically-targeted tax incentive, which helps wind compete with coal and natural gas power plants, is critical for financing new projects. Regrettably, it is scheduled to expire at the end of this year and has become a partisan football, prompting Congress to slow-walk its renewal.

Ending this policy could recklessly stall an industry that has grown at an impressive clip through the Great Recession. Other factors share the credit for this explosive growth, including improved turbine design and mandates like the one here in Massachusetts requiring utilities to ramp up their reliance on renewables. But wind power developers will tell you that the production tax credit is essential for signing power purchase agreements with utilities and securing financing.

The consequences of killing the tax credit are dire. A December 2011 study by Navigant Consulting estimated that investment in wind projects would drop 65 percent, from \$15.6 billion in 2012 to \$5.5 billion in 2013, and the industry would have to lay off nearly half of its workforce - about 37,000 people - next year. Here in New England, plans to install nearly 2,800 megawatts of wind power would be jeopardized.

Historically, Congress has spent substantially more to encourage fossil fuels and nuclear power than renewables. A September 2009 study by the Environmental Law Institute, for example, found that between 2002 and 2008, the government gave fossil fuels \$72.5 billion in subsidies and renewable energy only \$12.2 billion. A September 2011 study by venture capital firm DBL Investors, meanwhile, documented that the nuclear industry benefited from an average of \$3.5 billion in subsidies a year from 1947 to 1999. By contrast, the new kid on the block - renewable electricity - averaged \$370 million a year between 1994 and 2009. A third analysis, a January 2011 Harvard Medical School report, showed that in 2008 alone, coal received an estimated \$3.2 billion to \$5.4 billion.

The most relevant question today is whether our government should continue to underwrite extremely profitable, mature industries - especially highly polluting ones - at the expense of nurturing new, cleaner alternatives. The answer is a resounding no.

The second most relevant question is whether the government should stick with a policy, the wind production tax credit, which is producing extraordinary public benefits, including jobs. The answer is an obvious yes.

Fortunately last month the Senate Finance Committee voted by a 19 to 5 bipartisan tally to extend the tax credit for

one year, which has the support of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Congress should finish the job this fall and send an extension to the president to ensure that wind projects and the tens of thousands of jobs dependent on them go forward into next year.

Kevin Knobloch is the president of the Cambridge-based Union of Concerned Scientists.

Copyright, 2012, CP Media Inc. d.b.a. Community Newspaper Company. No content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Chuck Knobloch/Guest columnist, MetroWest Daily News, 'Knobloch: Without the credits, wind power endangered', *Country Gazette, The* (online), 23 Sep 2012 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1417AB4647EE4600>



Knobloch: Without the credits, wind power endangered

September 23, 2012 | Dedham Transcript (MA)
Author: Chuck Knobloch/Guest columnist; MetroWest Daily News | Section: opinion_columnists | 630 Words
OpenURL Link

When the Hoosac wind project's 19 turbines start generating power by year's end in northwestern Massachusetts, the benefits will go well beyond pollution-free electricity.

American workers fabricated the turbines and blades and installed the towers, and American workers will operate them. The hill towns of Monroe and Florida will be bolstered by annual tax payments equivalent to more than 10 percent of their annual operating budgets. And the equivalent of nearly 10,000 homes will be powered by electricity that isn't saddled by the health or safety risks of coal and nuclear energy.

This story is being replicated across the country as homegrown wind power has doubled over the past four years, to 50 gigawatts, sufficient to power 13 million homes and retire 44 coal power plants. Particularly exciting is the fact that since 2005, the percentage of U.S.-manufactured components in these wind installations has jumped from 25 percent to 60 percent, keeping more than 400 factories in 43 states humming.

A key driver of this phenomenal growth has been a low-profile federal policy called the wind production tax credit.

This surgically-targeted tax incentive, which helps wind compete with coal and natural gas power plants, is critical for financing new projects. Regrettably, it is scheduled to expire at the end of this year and has become a partisan football, prompting Congress to slow-walk its renewal.

Ending this policy could recklessly stall an industry that has grown at an impressive clip through the Great Recession. Other factors share the credit for this explosive growth, including improved turbine design and mandates like the one here in Massachusetts requiring utilities to ramp up their reliance on renewables. But wind power developers will tell you that the production tax credit is essential for signing power purchase agreements with utilities and securing financing.

The consequences of killing the tax credit are dire. A December 2011 study by Navigant Consulting estimated that investment in wind projects would drop 65 percent, from \$15.6 billion in 2012 to \$5.5 billion in 2013, and the industry would have to lay off nearly half of its workforce - about 37,000 people - next year. Here in New England, plans to install nearly 2,800 megawatts of wind power would be jeopardized.

Historically, Congress has spent substantially more to encourage fossil fuels and nuclear power than renewables. A September 2009 study by the Environmental Law Institute, for example, found that between 2002 and 2008, the government gave fossil fuels \$72.5 billion in subsidies and renewable energy only \$12.2 billion. A September 2011 study by venture capital firm DBL Investors, meanwhile, documented that the nuclear industry benefited from an average of \$3.5 billion in subsidies a year from 1947 to 1999. By contrast, the new kid on the block - renewable electricity - averaged \$370 million a year between 1994 and 2009. A third analysis, a January 2011 Harvard Medical School report, showed that in 2008 alone, coal received an estimated \$3.2 billion to \$5.4 billion.

The most relevant question today is whether our government should continue to underwrite extremely profitable, mature industries - especially highly polluting ones - at the expense of nurturing new, cleaner alternatives. The answer is a resounding no.

The second most relevant question is whether the government should stick with a policy, the wind production tax credit, which is producing extraordinary public benefits, including jobs. The answer is an obvious yes.

Fortunately last month the Senate Finance Committee voted by a 19 to 5 bipartisan tally to extend the tax credit for

one year, which has the support of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Congress should finish the job this fall and send an extension to the president to ensure that wind projects and the tens of thousands of jobs dependent on them go forward into next year.

Kevin Knobloch is the president of the Cambridge-based Union of Concerned Scientists.

Copyright, 2012, CP Media Inc. d.b.a. Community Newspaper Company. No content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Chuck Knobloch/Guest columnist, MetroWest Daily News, 'Knobloch: Without the credits, wind power endangered', *Daily News Transcript, The* (online), 23 Sep 2012 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1417ABE7B3006580>



Without tax credits, wind power endangered

September 23, 2012 | MetroWest Daily News, The (Framingham, MA) Author: Chuck Knobloch; Guest Columnist | Section: Opinions | 664 Words Page: E3 OpenURL Link

When the Hoosac wind project's 19 turbines start generating power by year's end in northwestern Massachusetts, the benefits will go well beyond pollution-free electricity.

American workers fabricated the turbines and blades and installed the towers, and American workers will operate them. The hill towns of Monroe and Florida will be bolstered by annual tax payments equivalent to more than 10 percent of their annual operating budgets. And the equivalent of nearly 10,000 homes will be powered by electricity that isn't saddled by the health or safety risks of coal and nuclear energy.

This story is being replicated across the country as homegrown wind power has doubled over the past four years, to 50 gigawatts, sufficient to power 13 million homes and retire 44 coal power plants. Particularly exciting is the fact that since 2005, the percentage of U.S.-manufactured components in these wind installations has jumped from 25 percent to 60 percent, keeping more than 400 factories in 43 states humming.

A key driver of this phenomenal growth has been a low-profile federal policy called the wind production tax credit.

This surgically-targeted tax incentive, which helps wind compete with coal and natural gas power plants, is critical for financing new projects. Regrettably, it is scheduled to expire at the end of this year and has become a partisan football, prompting Congress to slow-walk its renewal.

Ending this policy could recklessly stall an industry that has grown at an impressive clip through the Great Recession. Other factors share the credit for this explosive growth, including improved turbine design and mandates like the one here in Massachusetts requiring utilities to ramp up their reliance on renewables. But wind power developers will tell you that the production tax credit is essential for signing power purchase agreements with utilities and securing financing.

The consequences of killing the tax credit are dire. A December 2011 study by Navigant Consulting estimated that investment in wind projects would drop 65 percent, from \$15.6 billion in 2012 to \$5.5 billion in 2013, and the industry would have to lay off nearly half of its workforce - about 37,000 people - next year. Here in New England, plans to install nearly 2,800 megawatts of wind power would be jeopardized.

Historically, Congress has spent substantially more to encourage fossil fuels and nuclear power than renewables. A September 2009 study by the Environmental Law Institute, for example, found that between 2002 and 2008, the government gave fossil fuels \$72.5 billion in subsidies and renewable energy only \$12.2 billion. A September 2011 study by venture capital firm DBL Investors, meanwhile, documented that the nuclear industry benefited from an average of \$3.5 billion in subsidies a year from 1947 to 1999. By contrast, the new kid on the block - renewable electricity - averaged \$370 million a year between 1994 and 2009. A third analysis, a January 2011 Harvard Medical School report, showed that in 2008 alone, coal received an estimated \$3.2 billion to \$5.4 billion.

The most relevant question today is whether our government should continue to underwrite extremely profitable, mature industries - especially highly polluting ones - at the expense of nurturing new, cleaner alternatives.

The answer is a resounding no.

The second most relevant question is whether the government should stick with a policy, the wind production tax credit, which is producing extraordinary public benefits, including jobs. The answer is an obvious yes.

Fortunately last month the Senate Finance Committee voted by a 19 to 5 bipartisan tally to extend the tax credit for one year, which has the support of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Congress should finish the job this fall and send an extension to the president to ensure that wind projects and the tens of thousands of jobs dependent on them go forward into next year.

Kevin Knobloch is the president of the Cambridge-based Union of Concerned Scientists.

Copyright, 2012, CP Media Inc. d.b.a. Community Newspaper Company. No content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Chuck Knobloch; Guest Columnist, 'Without tax credits, wind power endangered', *MetroWest Daily News, The* (online), 23 Sep 2012 E3 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1418694C703CE080



Without tax credits, wind power endangered

September 23, 2012 | Milford Daily News, The (MA) Author: Chuck Knobloch; Guest Columnist Section: News | 667 Words Page: 3E OpenURL Link

When the Hoosac wind project's 19 turbines start generating power by year's end in northwestern Massachusetts, the benefits will go well beyond pollution-free electricity.

American workers fabricated the turbines and blades and installed the towers, and American workers will operate them. The hill towns of Monroe and Florida will be bolstered by annual tax payments equivalent to more than 10 percent of their annual operating budgets. And the equivalent of nearly 10, 000 homes will be powered by electricity that isn't saddled by the health or safety risks of coal and nuclear energy.

This story is being replicated across the country as homegrown wind power has doubled over the past four years, to 50 gigawatts, sufficient to power 13 million homes and retire 44 coal power plants. Particularly exciting is the fact that since 2005, the percentage of U.S.-manufactured components in these wind installations has jumped from 25 percent to 60 percent, keeping more than 400 factories in 43 states humming.

A key driver of this phenomenal growth has been a low-profile federal policy called the wind production tax credit.

This surgically-targeted tax incentive, which helps wind compete with coal and natural gas power plants, is critical for financing new projects. Regrettably, it is scheduled to expire at the end of this year and has become a partisan football, prompting Congress to slow-walk its renewal.

Ending this policy could recklessly stall an industry that has grown at an impressive clip through the Great Recession. Other factors share the credit for this explosive growth, including improved turbine design and mandates like the one here in Massachusetts requiring utilities to ramp up their reliance on renewables. But wind power developers will tell you that the production tax credit is essential for signing power purchase agreements with utilities and securing financing.

The consequences of killing the tax credit are dire. A December 2011 study by Navigant Consulting estimated that investment in wind projects would drop 65 percent, from \$15.6 billion in 2012 to \$5.5 billion in 2013, and the industry would have to lay off nearly half of its workforce - about 37, 000 people - next year. Here in New England, plans to install nearly 2, 800 megawatts of wind power would be jeopardized.

Historically, Congress has spent substantially more to encourage fossil fuels and nuclear power than renewables. A September 2009 study by the Environmental Law Institute, for example, found that between 2002 and 2008, the government gave fossil fuels \$72.5 billion in subsidies and renewable energy only \$12.2 billion. A September 2011 study by venture capital firm DBL Investors, meanwhile, documented that the nuclear industry benefited from an average of \$3.5 billion in subsidies a year from 1947 to 1999. By contrast, the new kid on the block - renewable electricity - averaged \$370 million a year between 1994 and 2009. A third analysis, a January 2011 Harvard Medical School report, showed that in 2008 alone, coal received an estimated \$3.2 billion to \$5.4 billion.

The most relevant question today is whether our government should continue to underwrite extremely profitable, mature industries - especially highly polluting ones - at the expense of nurturing new, cleaner alternatives. The answer is a resounding no.

The second most relevant question is whether the government should stick with a policy, the wind production tax credit, which is producing extraordinary public benefits, including jobs. The answer is an obvious yes.

Fortunately last month the Senate Finance Committee voted by a 19 to 5 bipartisan tally to extend the tax credit for one year, which has the support of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Congress should finish the job this fall and send an extension to the president to ensure that wind projects and the tens of thousands of jobs dependent on them go forward into next year.

Kevin Knobloch is the president of the Cambridge-based Union of Concerned Scientists.

Copyright, 2012, CP Media Inc. d.b.a. Community Newspaper Company. No content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Chuck Knobloch; Guest Columnist, 'Without tax credits, wind power endangered', *Milford Daily News, The* (online), 23 Sep 2012 3E https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/14186D2D9F162528



Tax credits power wind

September 19, 2012 | Patriot Ledger, The (Quincy, MA) Author: Kevin Knobloch| Section: News| 633 Words Page: 4 OpenURL Link

When the Hoosac wind project's 19 turbines start generating power by year's end in northwestern Massachusetts, the benefits will go well beyond pollution-free electricity.

American workers fabricated the turbines and blades and installed the towers, and American workers will operate them. The hill towns of Monroe and Florida will be bolstered by annual tax payments equivalent to more than 10 percent of their annual operating budgets. And the equivalent of nearly 10, 000 homes will be powered by electricity that isn't saddled by the health or safety risks of coal and nuclear energy.

This story is being replicated across the country as homegrown wind power has doubled over the past four years, to 50 gigawatts, sufficient to power 13 million homes and retire 44 coal power plants. Particularly exciting is the fact that since 2005, the percentage of U.S. manufactured components in these wind installations has jumped from 25 percent to 60 percent, keeping more than 400 factories in 43 states humming.

A key driver of this phenomenal growth has been a low-profile federal policy called the wind production tax credit.

This surgically-targeted tax incentive, which helps wind compete with coal and natural gas power plants, is critical for financing new projects. Regrettably, it is scheduled to expire at the end of this year and has become a partisan football, prompting Congress to slow-walk its renewal.

Ending this policy could recklessly stall an industry that has grown at an impressive clip through the Great Recession. Other factors share the credit for this explosive growth, including improved turbine design and mandates like the one here in Massachusetts requiring utilities to ramp up their reliance on renewables. But wind power developers will tell you that the production tax credit is essential for signing power purchase agreements with utilities and securing financing.

The consequences of killing the tax credit are dire. A December 2011 study by Navigant Consulting estimated that investment in wind projects would drop 65 percent, from \$15.6 billion in 2012 to \$5.5 billion in 2013, and the industry would have to lay off nearly half of its workforce - about 37, 000 people - next year. Here in New England, plans to install nearly 2, 800 megawatts of wind power would be jeopardized.

Historically, Congress has spent substantially more to encourage fossil fuels and nuclear power than renewables. A September 2009 study by the Environmental Law Institute, for example, found that between 2002 and 2008, the government gave fossil fuels \$72.5 billion in subsidies and renewable energy only \$12.2 billion.

A September 2011 study by venture capital firm DBL Investors, meanwhile, documented that the nuclear industry benefited from an average of \$3.5 billion in subsidies a year from 1947 to 1999. By contrast, the new kid on the block - renewable electricity - averaged \$370 million a year between 1994 and 2009. A third analysis, a January 2011 Harvard Medical School report, showed that in 2008 alone, coal received an estimated \$3.2 billion to \$5.4 billion.

The most relevant question today is whether our government should continue to underwrite extremely profitable, mature industries - especially highly polluting ones - at the expense of nurturing new, cleaner alternatives. The answer is a resounding no.

The second most relevant question is whether the government should stick with a policy, the wind production tax

credit, which is producing extraordinary public benefits, including jobs. The answer is an obvious yes.

Fortunately last month the Senate Finance Committee voted by a 19 to 5 bipartisan tally to extend the tax credit for one year, which has the support of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Congress should finish the job this fall and send an extension to the president to ensure that wind projects and the tens of thousands of jobs dependent on them go forward into next year.

Kevin Knobloch is the president of the Cambridge-based Union of Concerned Scientists.

Copyright y, Massachusetts) The Patriot Ledger(c) 2012 The Patriot Ledger

• Citation (aglc Style)

Kevin Knobloch, 'Tax credits power wind', *Patriot Ledger, The* (online), 19 Sep 2012 4 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/14171673A4767CE8