

# Wind farm signs deal to sell its electricity

December 8, 2004 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz Berkshire Eagle staff| Section: Local Headlines| 566 Words OpenURL Link

HANCOCK -- Although a proposed 10-turbine wind power farm on Brodie Mountain is still awaiting one more permit to proceed, its developers have signed a 22-year contract to sell their electricity, giving the project a long-term customer as it prepares to secure financing for construction.

In a contract signed last week and announced Tuesday, Berkshire Wind Power LLC agreed to sell its electricity once it goes online to the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Co., a Ludlow-based nonprofit power buyer representing 14 public-owned electric utilities across the state.

"We do whatever we can to meet the needs of our member utilities, at the lowest cost possible," MMWEC spokesman David Touhey said Tuesday. "Having a diverse fuel supply helps keep costs down."

Into the grid All of the new power from the Hancock project will be sent to the region's power grid, which is managed by the Independent System Operator-New England. Touhey likened the power grid, a network of transmission wires, as similar to a garden hose attached to many different spigots and with many different spouts. The power goes in from several points and comes out at several points.

"You really can't distinguish between power from one project or another," he said. "It goes into the system, and it is withdrawn at another point."

As part of the deal, MMWEC will purchase all the power at a fixed price of 3.65 cents per kilowatt-hour. That price is significantly lower than the group's current and projected costs. Touhey said that while the price varies, electricity produced by natural gas has been selling for about five cents a kilowatt-hour.

By purchasing power from multiple sources, including fossil fuel, nuclear and hydroelectric facilities, MMWEC manages the risk that may come from volatility in fuel markets.

Berkshire Wind, a subsidiary of Colorado-based Distributed Generation Systems Inc., hopes to have the project online by the end of next year.

"I would say we're 99 percent of the way there," Berkshire Wind communications director William Sheperdson said.

The project is awaiting final approval from the state Department of Environmental Protection. Last month, the developers appealed to the state to consider some wetlands issues, principally involving access roads at the top of the mountain.

"That's the last permit the project requires," Sheperdson said. The company hopes to receive it sometime in January. Once completed, it will be able to pursue financing for the project.

MMWEC will resell the power at cost to its 14 utility participants, which serve Ashburnham, Boylston, Groton, Hull, Marblehead, Paxton, Peabody, Shrewsbury, Templeton, Wakefield, Belmont, Holden, Ipswich and Sterling.

The annual output of the project is about 42,700 megawatt-hours. The project includes 10 turbines, with a 1.5-megawatt capacity each. And while the total generating capacity is 15 megawatts, ISO-NE estimates that its initial capacity will be about 3.75 megawatts. That figure is based on the fact that wind turbines do not work at full capacity all the time, and will be revised as the project develops a track record.

MMWEC did not purchase the project's renewable energy credits -- its so-called "green tags." Those are a separate product that can be sold to utilities to meet renewable energy portfolio standards set by the state.

The other wind power project that may come online next year in the county, the Hoosac Wind project proposed for Florida and Monroe, has not yet signed any sales contracts.

Hoosac Wind spokesman Sam Bittman said Tuesday it was pursuing "several promising options" with a number of interested parties.

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# Misguided 'defense' of environment

December 1, 2004 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA)

Section: Letters | 348 Words

OpenURL Link

#### To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

I am writing in response to the news items this past week regarding the last-minute filing of an appeal on the latest set of environmental guidelines on the Hoosac Wind Project. I understand this appeal has been filed by people who stated prior to the ballot vote in the town of Florida in May of 2003 that if the vote was in favor of the project they would no longer oppose it. That vote resulted in 48 percent of our registered voters voting, with 170 in favor and 47 against. I also understand that this appeal was filed with the assistance of an organization quite removed from the town that considers itself a defender of the environment.

In the Eagle of Nov. 27, Alan Chartock laments the number of organized e-mails he has received decrying wind turbines and states that "too much of this seems to come from so-called environmentalists who apparently don't want alternative energy suppliers in their back yard." He goes on to say "you have to walk the walk after years of talking the talk. Anyone can call himself an environmentalist, but sooner or later, you have to realize that choices must be made."

Also on the editorial page of Nov. 27, mention is made of the possible new education facility at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams that will be called the Berkshire Environmental Resources Center. It will "serve the community by promoting environmental awareness and preservation." and would be the training ground for the next generation of wildlife biologists, hydrologists and environmental advocates in law and journalism. Let us hope the new generation will be aware that renewable energy such as wind power is necessary if we are to loosen our dependence on the use of fossil fuels.

The people appealing would better serve the environment by working to ban illegal ATV trails and the proper placement of "McMansions" with their long "private" roads and clear cuts for the "view" that depends on which direction you are viewing it.

STANLEY L. BROWN

Florida, Nov. 28, 2004

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# The fight against drunk driving

November 30, 2004 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Section: Editorials | 260 Words OpenURL Link

Pittsfield High School sophomore Christopher Tassone's ambitious efforts to educate his school and his community in the perils of drunken driving, which included his participation in the Mothers Against Drunk Driving's national convention in Dallas, are admirable and could pay off in a big way. The SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) chapter at his school is a large one, and we hope city law enforcement officers will be responsive to Mr. Tassone's suggestion that they work closely with area young people to fight drunken driving by setting up a "youth track" program he learned about in Dallas. This cause would be helped immeasurably if the Berkshire courts would pitch in. When inebriates with multiple drunken driving convictions are hauled into local courts it means the courts have been too soft on them. Let's not wait until more innocents are killed or injured before drunken drivers lose their licenses permanently and/or spend some time behind bars.

## Wind project should go forward

That 10 Florida residents, the minimum necessary, have filed an appeal of a state ruling earlier this month allowing construction to begin next spring on a 20-turbine, 30-megawatt wind farm is disappointing but hardly surprising. NIMBYism is a common affliction in the Berkshires and lawsuits are the favored tactic of obstructionists. The Hoosac Wind Power project is a good one that will play a part in reducing the need for power sources that pollute the environment. The state was right in giving it the go-ahead and we hope the Division of Administration Law Appeals will dismiss the appeal quickly so the project can begin on schedule.

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# Florida turbine project delayed

November 24, 2004 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz Berkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Headlines | 547 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA -- Acting just before the deadline, a group of town residents have appealed a state ruling earlier this month that had paved the way for construction to begin next year on a proposed 20-turbine, 30-megawatt wind farm

Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Eva Tor confirmed yesterday that the department had received the appeal of the state's decision to issue a superseding set of conditions that would have allowed the project to proceed.

10 residents file appeal

Yesterday was the deadline for the filing of an appeal. It included the names of 10 residents -- the minimum necessary to file.

This month's set of conditions was issued by the DEP after a group of 29 residents challenged the town Conservation Commission's order of conditions because of concerns about wetlands protections.

Tor said the basis of the appeal is again that the state has not adequately addressed wetlands protections concerns. The residents' group representative, Monica Wissman, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The Hoosac Wind Power project is proposed by California-based wind energy company enXco, and is estimated to cost about \$40 million in total. Major construction work would have begun next May, and the project would have been supplying power to the New England power grid as early as next fall.

Earlier this month, the DEP issued a superseding order of conditions for the project in response to the first appeal by a group of residents. The new conditions reduced the proposed impact area from its original 3,900-square-foot area to 1,506 square feet, and reduced the length of culvert piping from 375 feet to 50 feet.

'Part of the process'

Hoosac Wind spokesman Sam Bittman said the superseding order of conditions comes from the highest state environmental officials, and is based on five months of review and several changes to the project.

"We have 10 people who are saying no," he said. "That's part of the process. People can appeal, but at some point the clock runs out on appeals, too. I tell you with the conviction of the entire [Hoosac Wind] team that we intend to build this project."

The appeal will be screened by DEP, and will be passed on to the Division of Administrative Law Appeals. The appeal requests a legal review, which would be handled by an administrative law judge who would decide how it will proceed

Bittman said the delay in starting is moot because significant construction was not scheduled to begin until late spring.

Eleven of the project's turbines are proposed for Florida's Bakke Mountain, with the rest placed on Crum Hill in Monroe. The turbines would be 213 feet from the ground to the blade hub, and 320 feet at the vertical extension of the rotor blades.

## Source of tax revenues

The project is supported by town officials and many residents, as it would bring in tax revenues to the town as well as annual lease payments for construction on land leased from the town.

In the May 2003 annual town election, a nonbinding resolution on wind power received 170 votes in favor and 47 against, with 48 percent of residents voting.

Christopher Marcisz can be reached at cmarcisz@berkshireeagle.com or at (413) 664-4995.

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# Winds of gridlock

November 24, 2004 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Ben Rubin North Adams Transcript | Section: Local Headlines | 423 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA -- Any winds of change won't blow for now as an appeal against a local wind power project has sneaked in before the appellant deadline Tuesday.

Eva Tor of the state Department of Environmental Protection verified that an appeal against the Hoosac Wind Power Project was sent to the department office on Tuesday, the last possible day to appeal. The appeal was sent by 10 Florida residents, headed by Monica Wissman, said Tor. She added the group was appealing on the grounds of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, but didn't yet have any specifics.

The project, proposed by a California company called enXco, would build 20 wind turbines on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe. The wind turbines -- priced at \$40 million -- would add 30 megawatts of energy into the regional grid.

The residents -- headed by Wissman -- previously appealed the Florida Conservation Commission's approval of the project in August, on the grounds of the Wetlands Protection Act, as well. The case was sent to the department, and it approved the project after facilitating a reduction to planned environmental impacts to wetlands.

After a department screening for legality, the appeal will be sent to Division of Administrative Law Appeals, a state adjudicating agency. The division will hold a pre-hearing conference to see if a settlement can be reached without litigation, said Tor.

If not, a court-style hearing will take place at the division office in Boston. The division Web site stated these hearings usually happen between two parties -- one a state agency, the other a person, business or organization.

The division's decision can be appealed, and could either go to a higher court or back into the division, the Web site states.

Wissman said the group's primary concern was maintaining the beauty of the mountains in the area.

"I'm hopeful that the mountains will remain the way they are. Anyone who walks them would understand," she told the Transcript previously.

She said the environmental activism group, Green Berkshires, will help the group with the appeal. Wissman lives on Tilda Hill Road, the road the would be closest to the turbines.

Simon Zelazo, spokesman for Florida's pro-wind project Citizens Using Renewable Energy, said some people "will be opposed to [the project] until the sun sets."

He said the project is a great way to increase renewable energies, reduce America's energy dependence and increased funds to the town. He said there is a large support for the project in town.

Zelazo said, "The minority doesn't rule, but they deserve to be heard. I hope they're satisfied with the ruling." (c) 2004 North Adams Transcript. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

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# Florida project spins to a halt

November 23, 2004 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Ben Rubin North Adams Transcript | Section: Today's Headlines | 537 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA -- Anyone waiting for a new wind farm in Florida will just have to wait a little longer.

Today, a group of town citizens plan to submit an appeal against building the Hoosac Wind Power Project, narrowly squeaking past a Nov. 23 deadline for appeals.

A spokesperson for the appealing group, who asked to remain unnamed, said the group's primary concern was in maintaining the pristine nature and beauty of the surroundings.

"I'm hopeful that the mountains will remain the way they are. Anyone who walks them would understand," said the spokesperson.

The wind project proposes 20 wind turbines on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe, some of them on town property. The project was submitted by enXco, a private wind energy company from California, and would add 30 megawatts of energy to the area grid.

The same group appealed the Florida Conservation Commission's approval of the project guidelines in August. The case was sent to the state Department of Environmental Protection, which approved modified guidelines for the project on Nov. 8. An appeal could be submitted within 10 business days of that decision, or the project would be able to begin.

Instead of final approval, more deliberations apparently will ensue.

The spokesperson would not discuss the specifics of the new appeal. Eva Tor, spokeswoman for the department, said the new appeal should go to the Division of Administrative Law Appeals, an independent adjudicatory agency for the state.

As of Nov. 22, Tor said the department had not received any appeals against the project and was not informed that one was coming.

The appeal in August looked into the environmental impact of building the turbines and new roads through provisions in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

The Florida commission subsequently required changes to reduce the impact of the project, shrinking the initially proposed impact area on wetlands from 3,900 square feet to 1,506 square feet. The commission also reduced the amount of proposed inland piping from 375 linear feet to less than 50 linear feet, a department release stated.

The appealing group's spokesperson said, "As I see it, the power goes to the grid. We're still paying the same for the power."

Though the exact revenue figures for land use and energy royalties are still unknown, Stanley Brown, 70, chairman of the town finance committee and a proponent for the wind farm, put it at "\$150,000 to \$200,000 a year."

Outside of the appeals, other views from the town sound positive.

Town Administrator Susan Brown said, "The select board is definitely for the wind turbines."

At the May 2003 town elections, a non-binding resolution about the wind project received 78 percent of the votes for the project, with about half of the residents voting.

Simon Zelazo, 16, spokesperson for the town's Citizens Using Renewable Energy, said the project would help usher in a new age of renewable energy.

"I respect quite a few of the people in town who oppose the project," said Zelazo. "I came to the conclusion that wind power was going to help our community, our region, our state and to one extent or another, our earth."

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# Wind farm nearly over final obstacle

November 15, 2004 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz Berkshire Eagle staff| Section: Local Headlines| 853 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA -- A set of state environmental guidelines issued earlier this week may have removed the final obstacle for the proposed construction of 20 wind power turbines in the towns of Florida and Monroe.

The state Department of Environmental Protection Nov. 8 issued guidelines for access roads to the proposed project on Florida's Bakke Mountain and Monroe's Crum Hill.

The Hoosac Wind Power Project, proposed by California-based wind energy company enXco, includes at least 20 turbines. It would generate up to 30 megawatts of electricity to the regional power grid.

The estimated \$40 million project includes the construction of the turbines, plus access roads to the sites, transmission lines, an electrical substation and equipment facilities.

Construction could begin next spring, and the turbines could come online next fall.

"We're all agreed on the project team that [the new order] is better and the review process is ultimately a good thing," said Hoosac Wind spokesman Sam Bittman. "We're happy with the [DEP] order."

The DEP began its review of the wetlands implications of the project in August after a group of 29 Florida residents challenged the Florida Conservation Commission's order of conditions.

DEP spokeswoman Eva Tor said the residents have until Nov. 23 to appeal the DEP's proposed guidelines, and that no work can begin until then.

A representative for the residents could not be reached.

The proposed DEP guidelines reduce the proposed impact area from its original 3,900-square-foot area to 1,506 square feet. Also, the length of culvert piping was reduced from 375 feet to 50 feet.

In addition, the developers will use open-bottomed aluminum culverts for most of the crossings. DEP describes that method as "consistent with the department's highest standards of minimization" of impacts.

Bittman said that once the appeal period has passed, the developers could begin "very preliminary, phase-one construction work" at the site, which would include cutting some trees and removing stumps.

He said the major construction work would begin when the ground dries in May, and the construction period would last about five months.

"By this time next year, the interconnection to the grid could be completed or near completion," Bittman said.

Eleven of the project's turbines will be located on Bakke Mountain in Florida, and another nine will be on Crum Hill in Monroe. The structures will be 213 feet from the ground to the blade hub, and 320 feet at the vertical extension of the rotor blades.

Throughout the approval process, the project apparently has enjoyed the support of most Florida residents. In the May 2003 annual town election, a nonbinding resolution on wind power received 170 votes in favor and 47 votes against, with 48 percent of residents voting.

The project would be built in part on land leased from the towns. Last year, project officials said the facility would bring in \$320,000 in annual tax revenues to the two towns, as well as \$120,000 in annual lease payments.

In December, state Secretary of Environmental Affairs Ellen Roy Herzfelder announced a full environmental impact report was not necessary for the project, because the impacts had been adequately addressed according to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act.

Meanwhile, the developers of the Berkshires' other possible wind project, the 10-turbine Berkshire Wind Power LLC project planned for Brodie Mountain in Hancock, hope to begin construction sometime next year. In October, the developers asked the state to take over the review of its notice of intent because the town conservation commission did not schedule a public hearing in the required amount of time.

Hoosac Wind is not the only major wind project to receive good news this week. On Nov. 8, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a favorable draft report on the Cape Wind project that is proposed for Nantucket Sound, saying it would have few harmful environmental impacts.

That \$770 million plan to install 130 turbines to generate up to 420 megawatts has come under intense opposition from some residents of Cape Cod and the islands.

The Alliance to Preserve Nantucket Sound contends that the proposal on the grounds that it is for-profit development of public land, would threaten an ecologically sensitive resource area, and would endanger sea and air traffic as well as be a giant eyesore.

The draft environmental impact statement is now in a public comment period, which is scheduled to include a series of public hearings beginning in December. That process could take up to six months, to be followed by permitting. The developers hope to begin construction in winter 2006.

If the Hoosac Wind power project is completed according to schedule next year, it could be a part of what wind power advocates believe will be a good year for wind power, buoyed by the renewal last month of federal wind power production tax credit.

The American Wind Energy Association, an industry advocacy group, said it expects 480 megawatts of new wind power capacity will come online in 2004, which is far below the 1,696 MW that came online in 2001, and the 1,687 MW in 2002. AWEA says that some in the industry predict more than 2,500 MW could be built next year.

On the Web: Hoosac Wind Power Project, at www.hoosacwind.com .

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### A fresh breeze

November 13, 2004  $\mid$  Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Section: Editorials  $\mid$  227 Words

OpenURL Link

The development of alternative sources of energy is a matter of national survival, and Berkshire County can play a key role, and benefit economically as well, through wind power. So we welcome the appearance of state environmental guidelines for access roads on Florida's Bakke Mountain and Monroe's Crum Hill, which appears to clear the way for the Hoosac Wind Power Project to start construction on its 20 turbines next spring. There's no denying that the windmills will be a visible presence, and their attractiveness or lack of same is in the eye of the beholder, but wind power certainly beats drilling for oil in the pristine Arctic.

### Reviving the Lenox VFW

It's a good thing the national chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars wasn't in charge of D-Day. If it had taken as long to get to France as it has to get the charter for the Lenox Veterans of Foreign Wars post renewed after it was dissolved for falling behind on its paperwork, we'd all be speaking German today. It appears that the bona-fides of the 25 charter veterans must be scrutinized to make sure no goldbrickers are sneaking in under the radar. State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli and former veteran's agent Marie Field are on the case. No doubt they'll have all the official papers in line by next Memorial Day, and we can all celebrate.

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# Wind farm nearly over final obstacle

November 12, 2004 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz Berkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Headlines | 879 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA -- A set of state environmental guidelines issued earlier this week may have removed the final obstacle for the proposed construction of 20 wind power turbines in the towns of Florida in Berkshire County and Monroe in Franklin County.

The state Department of Environmental Protection on Monday issued guidelines for access roads to the proposed project on Florida's Bakke Mountain and Monroe's Crum Hill.

The Hoosac Wind Power Project, proposed by California-based wind energy company enXco, includes at least 20 turbines. It would generate up to 30 megawatts of electricity to the regional power grid.

The estimated \$40 million project includes the construction of the turbines, plus access roads to the sites, transmission lines, an electrical substation and equipment facilities.

Construction next spring

Construction could begin next spring, and the turbines could come online next fall.

"We're all agreed on the project team that [the new order] is better and the review process is ultimately a good thing," said Hoosac Wind spokesman Sam Bittman. "We're happy with the [DEP] order."

The DEP began its review of the wetlands implications of the project in August after a group of 29 Florida residents challenged the Florida Conservation Commission's order of conditions.

DEP spokeswoman Eva Tor said that the residents have until Nov. 23 to appeal the DEP's proposed guidelines, and that no work can begin until then.

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The project would be built in part on land leased from the towns. Last year, project officials said the facility would bring in \$320,000 in annual tax revenues to the two towns, as well as \$120,000 in annual lease payments.

In December, state Secretary of Environmental Affairs Ellen Roy Herzfelder announced that a full environmental impact report was not necessary for the project, because the impacts had been adequately addressed according to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act.

Meanwhile, the developers of the Berkshires' other possible wind project, the 10-turbine Berkshire Wind Power LLC project planned for Brodie Mountain in Hancock, hope to begin construction sometime next year. In October, the developers asked the state to take over the review of its notice of intent because the town conservation commission did not schedule a public hearing in the required amount of time.

Hoosac Wind is not the only major wind project to receive good news this week. On Monday, the US Army Corps of Engineers released a favorable draft report on the Cape Wind project that is proposed for Nantucket Sound, saying it would have few harmful environmental impacts.

That \$770 million plan to install 130 turbines to generate up to 420 megawatts has come under intense opposition from some residents of Cape Cod and the islands.

The Alliance to Preserve Nantucket Sound contends that the proposal on the grounds that it is for-profit development of public land, would threaten an ecologically sensitive resource area, and would endanger sea and air traffic as well as be a giant eyesore.

The draft environmental impact statement is now in a public comment period, which is scheduled to include a series of public hearings beginning in December. That process could take up to six months, to be followed by permitting. The developers hope to begin construction in winter 2006.

If the Hoosac Wind power project is completed according to schedule next year, it could be a part of what wind power advocates believe will be a good year for wind power, buoyed by the renewal last month of federal wind power production tax credit.

The American Wind Energy Association, an industry advocacy group, said it expects 480 megawatts of new wind power capacity will come online in 2004, which is far below the 1,696 MW that came online in 2001, and the 1,687 MW in 2002. AWEA says that some in the industry predict more than 2,500 MW could be built next year.

On the Web: Hoosac Wind Power Project, at a href=http://www.hoosacwind.com. www.hoosacwind.com.

Christopher Marcisz can be reached at cmarcisz@berkshireeagle.com or at (413) 664-4995.

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# • Citation (aglc Style)

Christopher Marcisz Berkshire Eagle Staff, 'Wind farm nearly over final obstacle', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 12 Nov 2004 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10654A00B3DBF4B6">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10654A00B3DBF4B6</a>



RICHIE DAVIS Recorder Staff MONROE -- The state cleared the way Monday for construction of a 20-turbine wind farm for Monroe and Florida, following an appeal of a wetlands permit to allow construction of the 30-megawatt Hoosac Wind project.

November 10, 2004  $\mid$  Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 413 Words OpenURL Link

The Department of Environmental Protection issued an order of conditions for a Florida Conservation Commission wetlands permit, which had been appealed by a citizens' group in May.

But Monica Wissman, a representative of a group of Florida residents, said they have already asked the state to resolve some lingering issues, including the definition of what constitutes a wetland. Wissman said a formal appeal is possible, adding, "There are still orders we weren't happy with."

In response to concerns raised that wetlands and streams were not being adequately protected, the state agency requested additional information and called for a nearly five-hour site visit, on Florida's Bakke Mountain and Monroe's Crum Hill, in July.

As a result of the amendment, the proposed impact on bordering wetlands would be reduced from 3,900 to 1,506 square feet, and culvert piping would be reduced from 375 to less than 50 feet.

According to Eva Tor, a spokeswoman for the agency's Bureau of Resource Protection, the state order agreed to by project proponents EnXco Inc., the Florida commission and the state, calls for use of "environmentally sound use of open-bottom aluminum culverts" crossings.

The state action, which allows the project in Florida and Monroe to proceed, comes as a federal report paints a generally favorable picture for the controversial 130-turbine Cape Wind project on Nantucket Sound, and as a three-turbine project is proposed for Orange. A preliminary permit to allow a weather tower is scheduled to be discussed by the Orange Planning Board tonight at 7:30.

According to Hoosac Wind project spokesman Sam Bittman, Monday's approval allows for construction of roads to the work site to begin next spring, although some trees could be cut and stumps removed in preparation this year.

Although there are some minor additional engineering costs, Bittman said, any delays in permitting were made moot by federal delays in approving an extension of a production tax credit for renewable energy sources that make costs comparable to fossil-fuel subsidies for generating plants. The 1.8-cent-per kilowatt credit, which was originally targeted for a federal energy bill, Bittman said, was passed last month as part of a corporate tax bill, and applies to all projects that are completed on site by the end of 2005.

Bittman said construction is scheduled to take five months.

The project will include nine 1.5-megawatt turbines on Crum Hill in Monroe and Florida, with another 11 on Bakke Mountain in Florida, with turbine blades extending to 320 feet above grade on a 48-acre plot north of Route 2.

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

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

'RICHIE DAVIS Recorder Staff MONROE -- The state cleared the way Monday for construction of a 20-turbine wind farm for Monroe and Florida, following an appeal of a wetlands permit to allow construction of the 30-megawatt Hoosac Wind project.', *Recorder, The* (online), 10 Nov 2004 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>

p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10C794A47039F668>



# Windmill power project gets OK to build road

November 10, 2004 | Republican, The (Springfield, MA) Author: BETSY CALVERT; STAFF | Section: News | 409 Words

Page: B02 OpenURL Link

ecalvert@repub.com

The enXco project is to include 20 windmills, generating about 30 megawatts.

FLORIDA - State and federal decisions have cleared the way for the Hoosac Wind Project, a windmill power project here in the Berkshire Hills.

Yesterday, the state issued a superseding order of conditions outlining how the Hoosac Wind Project can proceed with building a mile-long access road through protected wetlands to the top of Bakke Mountain.

A group of residents in Florida, as well as from other parts of the county, had objected to an order issued in the spring by the town's Conservation Commission. Residents in an abutting residential area filed an appeal to the favorable commission decision, requiring the state to step in and review the project.

As a result of the appeal, the controlling company, enXco, proposed changes to the road construction that will reduce the wetlands impact from 3,900 feet to 1,506 feet. The number of feet of culvert piping will be reduced from 375 to less than 50.

The spokeswoman for the local group that appealed could not be reached for comment about the new orders.

With the new orders, project construction can begin in the spring, project spokesman Sam Bittman said yesterday. The turbines should be up and running by this time next year, he said.

In Florida, the project calls for 11 turbines running about a mile and a half along a ridge. Another nine turbines will be set up in neighboring Monroe on the ridge called Crum Hill.

The delay from the appeal did not end up affecting the start date of the project, Bittman said. That's because enXco, was waiting for a corporate tax credit bill to pass in Congress. It finally did in early October, he said, attributing the delay to election-year politics.

The tax credit applies to wind energy projects and is intended to level the financial playing field between alternative energy and petroleum industries. The credit is 1.8 cents per kilowatt produced. The Hoosac project is designed to produce 30 megawatts of peak capacity - enough electricity for 9,500 homes.

The tax credits, legislated annually, are a make or break part of any wind energy project, Bittman said, including the larger and more disputed off-shore project proposed off Cape Cod.

That project had a good day earlier this week as well, Bittman said. An Army Corps of Engineers study was released that concluded the project had no ill environmental affects, other than disturbing the view for vacation home owners on Cape Cod and neighboring islands.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)



# Brodie turbine developer seeks state review

October 18, 2004 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz, Berkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Local Headlines| 844 Words OpenURL Link

HANCOCK -- The developer who wants to build 10 wind-powered turbines on Brodie Mountain has asked state officials to take over review of its notice of intent from the town Conservation Commission, because the town did not set a public hearing in time.

Company officials, though, say they are still confident the project will get under way next year.

Meanwhile, the Hoosac Wind project in Florida and Monroe expects to receive the state's final set of conditions by early next month and to have its turbines will be online next year.

The Conservation Commission is set to meet Monday to discuss the Brodie project. Commission Chairman Robert Ronnow said the meeting was originally supposed to include a public hearing for the new notice of intent submitted by Berkshire Wind Power LLC on Sept. 14, but instead it will be just an informational meeting.

Ronnow said the issue dates back to incomplete information the commission had received about the project. Last July, the five-member board refused to renew its order of conditions for the original notice of intent, which it had issued three years earlier. He said that was because of changes to the project, such as the exact number of turbines the project would entail.

The commission asked the developer to submit a single application to cover all activities in Hancock, both for access roads and at the site of the turbines. The board was required to schedule a public hearing within 21 days of the application but failed to do so, in part because the company could not send a representative to town until the day before the 21 days expired, said Ronnow. The issue was then scheduled for discussion at the board's regularly scheduled meeting on Monday.

"It would have been impossible to hold a productive public hearing anyway," he said.

He said the issue of a state takeover of the review is important to the town because of the scale and possible effects of the project. "It would be good if the public hearing process wasn't circumvented, at least not for a trivial reason," he said.

State Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Elizabeth Stinehart confirmed her agency had received the appeal. She said state officials would make a site visit, but had no additional details on how the matter will proceed.

The developer remains optimistic about construction and an opening in 2005, according to Krista Gordon, the engineering manager at Colorado-based Distributed Generation Systems, or DisGen, which is developing the Berkshire Wind project.

"We're pretty confident about it right now," she said. "The stars are aligned. We have the agreements signed, we have the permits, we have the [production tax credits]. All the elements are in place."

DisGen has developed wind projects in Colorado, Pennsylvania and South Dakota, but after being on the books for about six years, the Hancock project has given the company the most trouble. "This has been a distinctly longer one," Gordon said.

Among the reasons the project was delayed was a long-running dispute between town officials and two landowners

who had leased property to the developers for the turbine.

In a lawsuit, the Selectmen claimed the town had the right to buy the leased land because it was taken out of a state-managed forest program. Building wind turbines, they alleged, was a change of use that would give the town right of first refusal. The landowners disagreed on the grounds that the land was not being sold, so the right of first refusal did not apply. After four years of legal wrangling, both sides backed away from the lawsuit in October 2002.

## Florida project

Meanwhile, the other major wind project in the county appears to be on track. The Hoosac Wind project, being developed by California-based enXco, would place 20 wind turbines on Bakke Mountain and Crum Hill ridge lines in the towns of Florida and Monroe.

"We're very hopeful that by this time next year we'll be very close to commissioning those turbines," said project spokesman Sam Bittman.

He said his company expects to receive its final order of conditions from the state by Nov. 9. After that, it would need to obtain building permits, as well as permits from MassHighway to transport the turbine components on state roads. Neither of those should present problems, he said, and the five- to six-month construction process could begin by late spring.

While the details of town and state permitting continue to occupy their thoughts, officials for both projects were enthusiastic about developments at the national level that they say will help the entire wind power industry.

President Bush last week signed into law a reinstatement of the wind-energy production tax credit, which had expired at the end of last year. Energy companies will get a 1.8-cent tax credit for every kilowatt of wind power they produce.

Bittman said the credit is "a very important piece of playing field-leveling for wind to compete with the fossil fuel power industry, whose fuels are so heavily subsidized by the government."

Gordon of DisGen said the credit affects the entire industry. "2005 is going to be a boom year for the industry as a whole," she said.

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

Christopher Marcisz, Berkshire Eagle Staff, 'Brodie turbine developer seeks state review', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 18 Oct 2004 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/105D09CC1F6D5E7C">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/105D09CC1F6D5E7C</a>



# Week's News Highlights

October 17, 2004 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Section: Life/Arts | 353 Words OpenURL Link

Monday

Hawthorne draws 600

LENOX -- Quintessential 19th-century American author Nathaniel Hawthorne came into his own as a 21st-century celebrity over the weekend in a benefit gala bicentennial celebration of his life at Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall.

More than 600 persons attended the Saturday night event, which raised approximately \$110,000 for Shakespeare & Company.

Tuesday

## Christopher Reeve dies

MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. -- Christopher Reeve, the chiseled, strapping "Superman" of celluloid who became another kind of hero as a force for spinal cord research after a near-fatal horse-riding accident, has died at age 52.

Reeve, a quadriplegic for the last nine years of his life who vowed that he would one day walk again, died Sunday of complications from an infection caused by a bedsore.

Wednesday

### AMT facade razed

WILLIAMSTOWN -- The familiar facade of the Adams Memorial Theatre was razed yesterday, as work progresses on a new theater and dance complex, one of several big construction projects changing the face of the Williams Collge campus.

The old theater, which has been the longtime home of the Williamstown Theater Festival, will be incorporated into the new, \$50 million Class of 1962 Center for Theater and Dance, which is scheduled to host its first performances next spring.

Thursday

#### State limits flu shots

BOSTON -- State public health officials yesterday issued an unprecedented order that limits all health care providers to distributing precious doses of flu vaccine only to those patients at high risk of contracting the potentially deadly disease.

The shutdown of a British company that manufactures the flu vaccine has interrupted the delivery of vaccine across the U.S.

Friday

## Wind advocates appeal

Berkshire Wind Power, which wants to build up to 10 wind power turbines atop Brodie Mountain in Hancock, has appealed to the state DEP to help resolve the latest impasse with the town Conservation Commission over access roads to the site.

The project, which has been in the works for close to six years, has suffered countless setbacks.

Meanwhile, the Hoosac Wind project in Florida and Monroe could get its final order of conditions from the state by Nov. 9.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

'Week's News Highlights', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 17 Oct 2004 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/105C0C73590635D3>



# Brodie turbine developer seeks state review

October 16, 2004 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz Berkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Local Headlines | 844 Words OpenURL Link

HANCOCK -- The developer who wants to build 10 wind-powered turbines on Brodie Mountain has asked state officials to take over review of its notice of intent from the town Conservation Commission, because the town did not set a public hearing in time.

Company officials, though, say they are still confident the project will get under way next year.

Meanwhile, the Hoosac Wind project in Florida and Monroe expects to receive the state's final set of conditions by early next month and to have its turbines will be online next year.

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Ronnow said the issue dates back to incomplete information the commission had received about the project. Last July, the five-member board refused to renew its order of conditions for the original notice of intent, which it had issued three years earlier. He said that was because of changes to the project, such as the exact number of turbines the project would entail.

The commission asked the developer to submit a single application to cover all activities in Hancock, both for access roads and at the site of the turbines. The board was required to schedule a public hearing within 21 days of the application but failed to do so, in part because the company could not send a representative to town until the day before the 21 days expired, said Ronnow. The issue was then scheduled for discussion at the board's regularly scheduled meeting on Monday.

"It would have been impossible to hold a productive public hearing anyway," he said.

He said the issue of a state takeover of the review is important to the town because of the scale and possible effects of the project. "It would be good if the public hearing process wasn't circumvented, at least not for a trivial reason," he said.

State Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Elizabeth Stinehart confirmed her agency had received the appeal. She said state officials would make a site visit, but had no additional details on how the matter will proceed.

The developer remains optimistic about construction and an opening in 2005, according to Krista Gordon, the engineering manager at Colorado-based Distributed Generation Systems, or DisGen, which is developing the Berkshire Wind project.

"We're pretty confident about it right now," she said. "The stars are aligned. We have the agreements signed, we have the permits, we have the [production tax credits]. All the elements are in place."

DisGen has developed wind projects in Colorado, Pennsylvania and South Dakota, but after being on the books for about six years, the Hancock project has given the company the most trouble. "This has been a distinctly longer one," Gordon said.

Among the reasons the project was delayed was a long-running dispute between town officials and two landowners

who had leased property to the developers for the turbine.

In a lawsuit, the Selectmen claimed the town had the right to buy the leased land because it was taken out of a state-managed forest program. Building wind turbines, they alleged, was a change of use that would give the town right of first refusal. The landowners disagreed on the grounds that the land was not being sold, so the right of first refusal did not apply. After four years of legal wrangling, both sides backed away from the lawsuit in October 2002.

## Florida project

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While the details of town and state permitting continue to occupy their thoughts, officials for both projects were enthusiastic about developments at the national level that they say will help the entire wind power industry.

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Christopher Marcisz Berkshire Eagle Staff, 'Brodie turbine developer seeks state review', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 16 Oct 2004 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/105C6095EDE85A8D">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/105C6095EDE85A8D</a>



# Hancock wind power developer turns to state

October 15, 2004 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz Berkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Headlines | 842 Words OpenURL Link

HANCOCK -- The developer who wants to build 10 wind-powered turbines on Brodie Mountain has asked state officials to take over review of its notice of intent from the town Conservation Commission, because the town did not set a public hearing in time.

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### News

September 6, 2004 | Journal Inquirer (Manchester, CT)

Section: News 119 Words

OpenURL Link

AIRING THINGS OUT Here is a list of some of the wind power projects that are in various stages of planning in Massachusetts compiled by the Associated Press:

- \* Berkshire Wind project: 10 turbines on Brodie Mountain in the western Massachusetts towns of New Ashford and Hancock.
- \* Hoosac Wind project: 20 turbines on hills in the western Massachusetts towns of Florida and Monroe.
- \* Princeton Municipal Light Department proposal: replacement of eight older windmills on Wachusett Mountain with two new taller, more efficient turbines.
- \* Hull Municipal Light proposal: a taller and more powerful turbine based at the town's landfill that would join the current turbine located on Boston Harbor.
- \* Smaller municipal wind proposals in 23 towns, mostly in coastal areas.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

'News', *Journal Inquirer* (online), 6 Sep 2004 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10D15F21CB768F9D>



# Group: Wind turbines' impact greater than claimed

August 25, 2004 | Bennington Banner (VT)

Author: SUSAN BUSH North Adams Transcript | Section: City & Town | 683 Words

OpenURL Link

FLORIDA, Mass. -- Construction of the 20-turbine Hoosac Wind project planned for the town's Bakke Ridge and Crum Hill in Monroe is stalled as state Department of Environmental Protection officials consider an appeal filed by a grass-roots town group.

The appeal was filed after the town's conservation commission approved an environmental impact plan submitted by the Hill Engineering firm on behalf of enXco, the South Burlington, Vt.-based company developing the project.

Group spokeswoman Monica Wissman of Tilda Hill Road said on Tuesday that the appeal is based on what group members believe to be incomplete and incorrect information supplied by the engineering firm.

Wissman said the plan claimed only 45 acres in the town would be disturbed during construction, but in reality, there would be impact to 50 acres. Department involvement is mandatory when 50 or more acres are affected by a project, she said.

The group also is questioning the width of an access road leading to the construction area. Wissman said the plans show the road will be 16-feet wide.

"We were unclear about (how) these big trucks will make it up these hills," she said.

The group claims that additional impact will occur when power transmission lines are erected because that construction is slated for areas that do not already host power lines, she said.

"And we are claiming that they will be disturbing more plant life than they claimed," she said.

Wissman said the department is asking for a complete and accurate accounting of all property that stands to be disturbed by the project and also has asked for a more detailed report about the plant life that could be impacted.

A Tilda Hill Road site visit with department officials, group members, and enXco representatives occurred on July 23, said Wissman and enXco spokesman Sam Bittman.

"It was a roadside debate, if you will," Bittman said on Monday.

A department decision about the appeal is expected in late September, Bittman and Wissman said. Wissman said that a decision was expected this month but Hill Engineering asked for an extension so it could gather the information needed by the department.

Bittman said the state agency could allow the town conservation commission approval to stand, could add its own conditions for proceeding, or could deny the permit all together.

An outright denial is unlikely, Bittman said.

"We have faith in the engineering team," he said.

Similar plans submitted to Monroe officials were approved by town officials and department officials, Bittman said. No appeals were filed in Monroe.

Steps are being taken to ease concerns, Bittman said. Officials with enXco are preparing a large-leafed goldenrod conservation plan to protect the species, which grows in the area, he said. Bittman said the plants will be moved and stored, and then replanted when the project is complete.

The construction may benefit the plant, he said.

"The more sun they have, the better they like it," Bittman said of the goldenrod. "So the clearing likely would help them."

The company is also seeking a minimal lighting approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, Bittman said. Under FAA guidelines, structures that stand over 200 feet tall should be illuminated with white lights during the day and red lights at night. The enXco proposal asks that about one-third of the proposed turbines carry red lights that would function from dusk to dawn, Bittman said. The FAA currently is reviewing similar proposals from other wind projects, he said.

"We think that bodes well for our plan," he said.

The proposed Hoosac Wind turbines would have 200-foot-tall towers; at their peak reach, the circling blades, known as rotors, would bring the total height to 320 feet, he said. The proposal calls for 11 turbines sited at Bakke Ridge and nine at Crum Hill, he said.

Bittman said that in many ways, the company benefits from the scrutiny of the project.

"Our goal for this project is to create a gold standard for all wind projects," he said.

Despite the appeal, the about \$40 million project is "pretty much on schedule," Bittman said.

"We're still confident that turbines will be installed and commissioned during the fall of 2005," he said.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

SUSAN BUSH North Adams Transcript, 'Group: Wind turbines' impact greater than claimed', *Bennington Banner* (online), 25 Aug 2004 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/104B3D10739B2E2A">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/104B3D10739B2E2A</a>



# Florida group tries to stop wind project

August 25, 2004 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Susan Bush, North Adams Transcript | Section: City & Town | 596 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA -- Construction of the 20-turbine Hoosac Wind turbine project planned for the town's Bakke Ridge and Crum Hill in Monroe is stalled as state Department of Environmental Protection officials consider an environmental appeal filed by a grass-roots town group.

The appeal was filed after the town's Conservation Commission approved an environmental impact plan submitted by the Hill Engineering firm on behalf of enXco, the South Burlington, Vt.-based company developing the project.

Group spokeswoman Monica Wissman of Tilda Hill Road said yesterday that the appeal is based on what group members believe to be incomplete and incorrect information supplied by the engineering firm.

Wissman said the plan claimed only 45 acres in the town would be disturbed during construction, but in reality, about 50 acres would be affected.

Department involvement is mandatory when 50 or more acres are affected by a project, she said.

The group also is questioning the width of an access road leading to the construction area. Wissman said the plans show the road will be 16 feet wide.

"We were unclear about [how] these big trucks will make it up these hills," she said.

The group claims that an additional impact will occur when power transmission lines are erected because that construction is slated for areas that do not already host power lines, she said.

"And we are claiming that they will be disturbing more plant life than they claimed," she said.

Wissman said the department is asking for a complete and accurate accounting of all property that stands to be disturbed by the project and also has asked for a more detailed report about the plant life that could be impacted.

A Tilda Hill Road site visit with department officials, group members, and enXco representatives occurred on July 23, said Wissman and enXco spokesman Sam Bittman.

"It was a roadside debate, if you will," Bittman said Monday.

A department decision about the appeal is expected in late September, Bittman and Wissman said. Wissman said that a decision was expected this month but Hill Engineering asked for an extension so it could gather the information needed by the department.

Bittman said the state agency could allow the town Conservation Commission's approval to stand, add its own conditions for proceeding, or deny the permit entirely.

An outright denial is unlikely, Bittman said.

"We have faith in the engineering team," he said.

Similar plans submitted to Monroe officials were approved by town officials and department officials, Bittman said. No appeals were filed in Monroe.

Steps are being taken to ease concerns, Bittman said. EnXco officials are preparing a large-leafed goldenrod conservation plan to protect the species, which grows in the area, he said. Bittman said the plants will be moved and stored, and then replanted when the project is complete.

"The more sun they have, the better they like it," Bittman said of the goldenrod. "So the clearing likely would help them."

EnXco is also seeking a minimal lighting approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, Bittman said. Under FAA guidelines, structures that stand over 200 feet tall should be illuminated with white lights during the day and red lights at night.

The enXco proposal asks that about one-third of the proposed turbines carry red lights that would function from dusk to dawn, Bittman said. The FAA is reviewing similar proposals from other wind projects, he said.

The proposed Hoosac Wind turbines would have 200-foot-tall towers; at their peak reach, the circling blades, known as rotors, would bring the total height to 320 feet, he said. The proposal calls for 11 turbines sited at Bakke Ridge and nine at Crum Hill, he said.

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# Hoosac Wind facility appealed by watchdogs

August 24, 2004 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Susan Bush North Adams Transcript | Section: Today's Headlines | 681 Words OpenURL Link

FLORIDA -- Construction of the 20-turbine Hoosac Wind project planned for the town's Bakke Ridge and Crum Hill in Monroe is stalled as state Department of Environmental Protection officials consider an environmental appeal filed by a grass-roots town group.

The appeal was filed after the town's conservation commission approved an environmental impact plan submitted by the Hill Engineering firm on behalf of enXco, the South Burlington, Vt.-based company developing the project.

Group spokeswoman Monica Wissman of Tilda Hill Road said on Tuesday that the appeal is based on what group members believe to be incomplete and incorrect information supplied by the engineering firm.

Wissman said the plan claimed only 45 acres in the town would be disturbed during construction, but in reality, there would be impact to 50 acres. Department involvement is mandatory when 50 or more acres are affected by a project, she said.

The group also is questioning the width of an access road leading to the construction area. Wissman said the plans show the road will be 16-feet wide.

"We were unclear about [how] these big trucks will make it up these hills," she said.

The group claims that additional impact will occur when power transmission lines are erected because that construction is slated for areas that do not already host power lines, she said.

"And we are claiming that they will be disturbing more plant life than they claimed," she said.

Wissman said the department is asking for a complete and accurate accounting of all property that stands to be disturbed by the project and also has asked for a more detailed report about the plant life that could be impacted.

A Tilda Hill Road site visit with department officials, group members, and enXco representatives occurred on July 23, said Wissman and enXco spokesman Sam Bittman.

"It was a roadside debate, if you will," Bittman said on Monday.

A department decision about the appeal is expected in late September, Bittman and Wissman said. Wissman said that a decision was expected this month but Hill Engineering asked for an extension so it could gather the information needed by the department.

Bittman said the state agency could allow the town conservation commission approval to stand, could add its own conditions for proceeding, or could deny the permit all together.

An outright denial is unlikely, Bittman said.

"We have faith in the engineering team," he said.

Similar plans submitted to Monroe officials were approved by town officials and department officials, Bittman said. No appeals were filed in Monroe.

Steps are being taken to ease concerns, Bittman said. enXco officials are preparing a large-leafed goldenrod conservation plan to protect the species, which grows in the area, he said. Bittman said the plants will be moved and stored, and then re-planted when the project is complete.

The construction may benefit the plant, he said.

"The more sun they have, the better they like it," Bittman said of the goldenrod. "So the clearing likely would help them."

enXco is also seeking a minimal lighting approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, Bittman said. Under FAA guidelines, structures that stand over 200 feet tall should be illuminated with white lights during the day and red lights at night. The enXco proposal asks that about one-third of the proposed turbines carry red lights that would function from dusk to dawn, Bittman said. The FAA currently is reviewing similar proposals from other wind projects, he said.

"We think that bodes well for our plan," he said.

The proposed Hoosac Wind turbines would have 200-foot-tall towers; at their peak reach, the circling blades, known as rotors, would bring the total height to 320 feet, he said. The proposal calls for 11 turbines sited at Bakke Ridge and nine at Crum Hill, he said.

Bittman said that in many ways, the company benefits from the scrutiny of the project.

"Our goal for this project is to create a gold standard for all wind projects," he said.

Despite the appeal, the about \$40 million project is "pretty much on schedule," Bittman said.

"We're still confident that turbines will be installed and commissioned during the fall of 2005," he said.

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Susan Bush North Adams Transcript, 'Hoosac Wind facility appealed by watchdogs', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 24 Aug 2004 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/104AE8227026BFF9">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/104AE8227026BFF9</a>>



# Citizens oppose 12-turbine farm

July 18, 2004 | Republican, The (Springfield, MA) Author: BETSY CALVERT; STAFF | Section: News | 370 Words

Page: C02 OpenURL Link

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Opponents believe the plan to build two roads would damage wetlands.

FLORIDA - Opponents of the proposed Hoosac Wind project will meet here with state regulators 9 a.m. Friday to view the land where California-based enXco wants to build roads to future turbines.

Also next week, the Greenfield Town Council will vote on whether to schedule a binding referendum vote on a disputed zone change.

The proposal is to rezone 45 acres on French King Highway from industrial to commercial, paving the way for a discount department store.

The session is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Greenfield Community Access Television studios on Main Street.

On the other side of Franklin County, including the Berkshire County border town of Florida, an energy project of regionwide significance is developing.

The private company, enXco, has already jumped a number of regulatory hurdles toward building 12 wind turbines in Florida and eight in neighboring Monroe.

Last month, however, 10 residents of Florida filed an appeal with the state Department of Environmental Protection.

They are appealing a Conservation Commission decision to approve enXco's plans to construct turbines on a ridge called Bakke Mountain.

The plans also call for two 16-foot-wide access roads coming out of Tilda Hill Road.

One road heads up Bakke Mountain, the other up to Crum Hill in Monroe.

The residents believe the company cannot build the two roads without significantly disturbing wetlands in the area, said group spokeswoman Monica Wissman.

"You can't get these huge trucks into a road that's only 16 feet wide," she said.

Wissman said that some in the group oppose the project entirely because of the expected change in the scenic view from the valley below.

Others are concerned that the project is not proceeding with enough caution for environmental concerns, she said.

There has been no similar appeal from residents in Monroe.

Construction could start as early as next year if enXco does not run into too many roadblocks, said John Zimmerman, the Vermont-based head of the company's northeastern operations.

The project, if constructed, is expected to generate 30 megawatts, or enough energy to power 9,500 homes. It would give the two tiny towns about \$320,000 in annual tax revenues, plus about half of \$120,000 annually to lease the land.

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# • Citation (aglc Style)

BETSY CALVERT, STAFF, 'Citizens oppose 12-turbine farm', *Sunday Republican* (online), 18 Jul 2004 C02 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/103FB3F3A66A15CB">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/103FB3F3A66A15CB</a>