

# Searsburg expansion under new ownership

February 22, 2006 | Bennington Banner (VT) Author: CLOVER WHITHAM, Staff Writer | Section: News | 410 Words OpenURL Link

Wednesday, February 22 SEARSBURG — Though the ownership has changed hands, those working on bringing up to 32 new wind turbines to Bennington County say the project will remain largely the same.

PPM Energy of Portland, Ore., recently bought the rights to the proposed expansion of a wind farm on Searsburg Mountain.

The company is part of Scottish Power, which is based in the United Kingdom. It purchased the Searsburg rights from a French company, EnXco, along with the rights to the Hoosac Wind project in Florida, Mass.

"The idea is to keep things pretty much the same as they were," said John Zimmerman of Deerfield Wind, a consultant to the project.

He called the purchase a standard commercial transaction.

"I think the project will be just as strong, if not stronger," Zimmerman said.

Jan Johnson, a spokeswoman for PPM Energy, said the project sale price is not being disclosed. Johnson said the company has worked with EnXco in the past, citing the purchase of a 150-megawatt project in Northern California.

In the past five years, PPM Energy has gained ownership in 12 operating wind farms. Most of the farms are significantly larger than the Deerfield Wind project, which is proposed to generate between 33 and 45 megawatts.

"We have a long track record of bringing projects online. We have a long track record of working closely with the community and we have been very well received in those communities where the wind farms are located," said lohnson.

Johnson said the new ownership will bring expertise, experience and financial backing to the projects.

Currently, PPM Energy has ownership in 1,600 megawatts of operating or proposed wind power. The purchase of the two New England projects are part of the company goal to generate 2,300 megawatts of wind power by 2010, said Johnson.

The Deerfield Wind and Hoosac Valley projects will be the first for PPM Energy in New England.

Deerfield Wind applied in July for a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service because the entire project, about 80 acres, will be built on National Forest land. Pending permit approval, Johnson hopes construction of the Searsburg and Readsboro wind farm would begin in 2008, with the facility coming online within a year.

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## Hoosac Wind sold

February 19, 2006 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz, Berkshire Eagle Staff | Section: Headlines | 636 Words OpenURL Link

Sunday, February 19 FLORIDA — An Oregon-based company has purchased the proposed Hoosac Wind project, an effort to put 20 wind-power turbines atop hills in Florida and Monroe that has been in the planning stages for years but held up by appeals.

PPM Energy spokeswoman Jan Johnson would not say what price the company paid for the project, but confirmed that the deal was completed last week with California-based enXco, which first proposed the project in 2001 and had guided it up to now.

'Not surprising' say opponents

Opponents of the Hoosac project, who are raising objections to their environmental permits in an appeals proceeding in Boston, say the sale was not unexpected.

"It's not at all surprising," said Eleanor Tillinghast of the group Green Berkshires, which is part of the opposition. "It is a reminder these companies are not interested in doing good, but in making huge amounts of money off taxpayers."

The \$40 million project to install 20 wind turbines on ridges in Florida and Monroe would generate about 30 megawatts of power. Originally planned to be up and running in 2004, the project has been delayed frequently by concerns about impacts on the hills. PPM Energy said it hopes to have the project running in 2007.

Johnson said the company controls about 1,600 megawatts of current or in development wind power. Its goal is to reach 2,300 megawatts by 2010.

Most projects in the West

Most of its projects are in the West. The nearest operating wind project it is involved with is the Maple Ridge project, which is 75 miles northeast of Syracuse, N.Y.

"We entered the Northeast in January 2005, and the Hoosac Wind project is a promising one that fits with our overall strategy of wind power development," Johnson said.

She said the company's interest in the Northeast is both because of the size of the market and the regulatory commitment to adding wind to the energy mix. She noted that several states — including Massachusetts — have "robust public policies" such as renewal portfolio standards that require utilities to purchase a portion of their electricity from renewable generation sources.

Hoosac Wind is currently subject to an appeals process of its environmental permit issued in November 2004. In particular, opponents are concerned about the impact of access roads to the sites on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe.

The case is being heard by the Division of Administrative Law Appeals. More rounds of briefs and oral arguments are planned this spring, after which a magistrate will issue a written opinion.

Tillinghast said news of the sale confirms that the companies have profit rather than community interest at heart, and that towns where these projects are considered should beware.

"They should be very concerned about being pawns," she said. "I think the communities should be very wary about getting pulled into these deals between these huge corporations."

PPM Energy is the unregulated North American markets division of Scottish Power, which is based in Glasgow, Scotland. It specializes mainly in wind power and natural gas storage facilities.

But PPM Energy's future is in some doubt. Scottish Power, which is Britain's fifth-largest energy supplier, is in the process of selling most of its American assets to MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co., a subsidiary of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway. That deal is valued at \$9.4 billion and is awaiting regulatory approval.

However, PPM Energy is not part of that deal. Scottish Power CEO Philip Bowman told The Independent newspaper in the United Kingdom that PPM Energy's future is still up in the air.

"When I go out to look at the U.S. business (in March), that is clearly something that will be on my mind," he said. "It is a well-managed business but a bit of an orphan."

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

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# Quotes of the day

February 19, 2006 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Section: Community | 145 Words OpenURL Link

Sunday, February 19 "They should be very concerned about being pawns... I think the communities should be very

wary about getting pulled into these deals between these huge corporations."
— Eleanor Tillinghast, regarding the sale of the Hoosac Wind project
"We have now a group of artists with whom I share a common vocabulary, not only about the plays we do here but other plays as well."
<ul> <li>Kate Maguire, executive director of the Berkshire Theatre Festival, on the group of directors putting together this season's shows</li> </ul>
"The Berkshires are branded. People want to come here for our quality of life."
— Rep. Daniel E. Bosley, D-North Adams, on the area's reputation as a cultural destination

"Ten years ago, it was this frickin' cold, too."

— Tor Krautter, commenting on the Reverend Tor Band's first gig, played exactly 10 years ago at LaCocina in Pittsfield

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# Hoosac Wind sold to Ore. energy firm

February 18, 2006 | Bennington Banner (VT) Author: SHAW ISRAEL IZIKSON, North Adams Transcript| Section: News | 662 Words OpenURL Link

Saturday, February 18 FLORIDA, Mass. — An international energy company with a proven track record in massive wind-power projects has purchased the rights to the Hoosac Wind Project, despite its current legal limbo.

The sale to Portland, Ore.-based PPM Energy, part of the energy group Scottish Power, was announced through the Web site of California energy company enXco, the \$40 million project's current developer. The sale also includes the rights to the 30 to 45 megawatt Deerfield wind project, an expansion of the Searsburg (Vt.) wind farm. It will be PPM's first venture in New England.

PPM Energy spokeswoman Janet Johnson said enXco is no longer involved with the turbine projects' development.

"We are going to go forward with the project, and I don't think it's going to change any aspect of it," she said.

PPM Energy declined to state the purchase price. EnXco spokesman Samuel Bittman would not comment on the sale, and forwarded all questions to PPM Energy.

PPM and its sister companies, Pacific Power and Utah Power, are to be sold this year to MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co., a Berkshire Hathaway company.

According to PPM's Web site, it has the expertise to build and operate wind farms from the site planning stage through construction. Its goal is to generate 2,300 MW of wind power by 2010; as of November, when the 50 1.5 MW turbines in its Klondike II project near Wasco, Ore., came online, it was up to 1,600 total MW.

The company also provides coal-fired, natural gas, geothermal, solar and hydroelectric power, and operates mostly in the West.

Its operating wind farms overshadow the region's proposed projects in size and power generation: It opened a 100 MW facility with 67 turbines in Trimont, Minn., in November that can power 30,000 homes a year and announced the construction of the \$270 million Big Horn Project in Bickleton, Wash., with 133 300-foot wind towers, for this year.

In contrast, the Hoosac Wind proposal is for 20 turbines along a ridge in Florida and Monroe that would produce about 30 MW.

Last month, PPM opened one of the largest wind facilities in the eastern United States - the 198 MW Maple Ridge Wind Farm in Lewis County, northeast of Syracuse, N.Y. The project quadrupled the amount of wind power in New York under the state's new renewable energy plan, according to WWTI Newswatch50 in Watertown, N.Y.

The project also received the enthusiastic backing of a broad range of public health and environmental groups, members of which were on hand to celebrate the facility's opening Jan. 10.

Twenty-two public health and environmental leaders, which included the heads of the Sierra Club's Atlantic Chapter, the American Lung Association of New York and Greenpeace USA, also released a public statement supporting the need for renewable wind energy.

Hoosac Wind, on the other hand, has come up against opposition from the start, despite Florida residents' overwhelming backing of the project.

Concerns have been raised over the 340-foot tall turbines' effects on bats and birds and wetlands, over noise and property values, and over despoiling the mountain scenery.

The project received the required state and town permits, but construction has been in limbo since August when nonprofit environmental group Green Berkshires, as well as a group of Florida residents, appealed a decision by the state's Department of Environmental Protection that said enXco's plans were sufficient to protect or remediate wetlands around the site.

The hearings have been held at the Division of Administrative Law Appeals in Boston, an independent body that reviews appeals of decisions by some 20 state agencies.

The hearing is expected to continue until at least May, with all sides filing closing briefs.

Eleanor Tillinghast, spokeswoman for Green Berkshires, said she was confident that the magistrate would rule in the group's favor.

"We presented a very strong case, but I don't know how long it will take to make a final decision," she said.

EnXco, which constructs and operates wind projects throughout the United States, had hoped to have the project online in 2004.

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

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# Hoosac Wind project sold

February 17, 2006 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Shaw Israel Izikson, North Adams Transcript Section: Local 683 Words OpenURL Link

Friday, February 17 FLORIDA — An international energy company with a proven track record in massive wind-power projects has purchased the rights to the Hoosac Wind Project, despite its current legal limbo.

The sale to Portland, Ore.-based PPM Energy, part of the energy group Scottish Power, was announced through the Web site of California energy company enXco, the \$40 million project's current developer. The sale also includes the rights to the 30 to 45 megawatt Deerfield wind project, an expansion of the Searsburg (Vt.) wind farm. It will be PPM's first venture in New England.

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Green support

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Staff writer Tammy Daniels contributed to this article. Shaw Israel Izikson can be reached at sizikson@thetran scr ipt.com.

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# **Expert: Road for turbines is harmless**

January 25, 2006 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Erik Arvidson, Eagle Boston Bureau | Section: Headlines | 687 Words OpenURL Link

Wednesday, January 25 BOSTON — A wetlands expert for the proponents of a 20-turbine wind power project on a mountaintop in the town of Florida said that a proposed access road to the site would not disturb the ecosystem in streams that flow down the mountain.

Jeffrey S. Simmons, a wetlands scientist hired by California-based enXco Inc., said there isn't enough vegetation along the streams to be concerned about once the gravel access roads are built up the 2,500-foot Bakke Mountain.

"In essence, you have a channel that lacks vegetation," said Simmons, who works with the firm Woodlot Alternatives Inc. of Topsham, Maine. "The vegetation is not significant to any wildlife habitat."

Hearings are continuing in Boston on the proposed \$40 million wind turbine project proposed for Bakke Mountain and Crum Hill in Monroe.

The Division of Administrative Law Appeals is considering an appeal filed by Green Berkshires, a group of opponents to the project, of a permit issued by the state Department of Environmental Protection in November 2004 that gave the project a green light.

Green Berkshires is alleging that a proposed 35-foot wide access road to the top of the ridge would harm vegetation and wildlife along 12 different points where the access road would cross intermittent streams that flow down the mountain.

At 10 of those points where the proposed road crosses a stream, the developer has proposed installing a newly designed type of culvert, known as an "open bottom culvert," which the proponents say does less damage to the stream bed and retains the natural habitat for aquatic life.

Green Berkshires alleges that that the project would result in 475 linear feet of stream banks being altered so that plant life would be destroyed. Under the Wetlands Protection Act, if a project alters more than 50 feet of stream bank, the developer is required to mitigate those impacts by studying the issue further or replicating the bank area that was changed.

But enXco has insisted that because the project is using open-bottom culvert technology at 10 of the stream crossings, less than 50 feet of stream bank would be altered.

Eleanor Tillinghast, president of Green Berkshires and a Great Barrington resident, said that the appeal is narrowly focused on the superseding order of conditions by the DEP, and not on the merit of the project as a whole.

"We're saying that the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act have not been satisfied by the review and the decision by the DEP," Tillinghast said after the hearing. "We feel as though there wasn't a sufficient review of the site."

Gregory McGregor, the attorney for enXco, said after the hearing that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requires that open bottom culverts be used for streams that flow year-round. However, the streams at the project site are intermittent, only flowing during periods of heavy rain or during the snow melt in the spring, which means that enXco is exceeding the requirements, McGregor said.

"We're using them where we don't have to," he said. "The issue here is whether the appellant can prove whether

there is anything wrong with the open-bottom culvert technology. They have the burden of proof."

The matter is being argued before an administrative law judge, who will then make a recommendation to DEP Commissioner Robert Golledge as to whether the DEP permit should be approved, rejected or amended.

The DEP is also a party to the case, and lawyers for the agency plan to call their own witnesses, including wetlands chief Robert McCallum. There are two hearing dates tentatively scheduled for February, and it's not known when the matter will be concluded.

The Hoosac Wind project was originally proposed in 2001. It has received subdivision permits from both Florida and Monroe, in addition to approvals from both local conservation commissions.

In addition, the project has a "general access permit" from the state Highway Department, and a stormwater permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Erik Arvidson can be reached at earvidson@lowellsun.com.

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But enXco has insisted that because the project is using open-bottom culvert technology at 10 of the stream crossings, less than 50 feet of stream bank would be altered.

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The matter is being argued before an administrative law judge, who will then make a recommendation to DEP Commissioner Robert Golledge as to whether the DEP permit should be approved, rejected or amended.

The DEP is also a party to the case, and lawyers for the agency plan to call their own witnesses, including wetlands chief Robert McCallum. There are two hearing dates tentatively scheduled for February, and it's not known when the matter will be concluded.

The Hoosac Wind project was originally proposed in 2001. It has received subdivision permits from both Florida and Monroe, in addition to approvals from both local conservation commissions.

In addition, the project has a "general access permit" from the state Highway Department, and a stormwater permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Erik Arvidson can be reached at earvidson@lowellsun.com.

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# Wind hearings focus on wetlands

January 25, 2006 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Erik Arvidson, Transcript Statehouse Bureau | Section: Local | 653 Words OpenURL Link

Wednesday, January 25 BOSTON — A wetlands expert for the proponents of a 20-turbine wind-power project in the town of Florida said a proposed access road to the site would not disturb the ecosystem along streams that flow down the mountain.

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## Permit appeal filed

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Green Berkshires is alleging that a proposed 35-foot-wide access road to the top of the ridge would harm vegetation and wildlife along 12 different points where the access road would cross intermittent streams.

At 10 of those points, the developer has proposed installing what is known as an "open bottom culvert," which the proponents say does less damage to the stream bed and retains the natural habitat for aquatic life.

Green Berkshires alleges that the project would result in 475 linear feet of stream banks being altered, destroying the plant life. Under the Wetlands Protection Act, if a project alters more than 50 feet of stream bank, the developer is required to mitigate those impacts, including by replicating the bank area changed.

But enXco has insisted that because the project is using open-bottom culvert technology at 10 of the stream crossings, less than 50 feet of stream bank would be altered.

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"We're using them where we don't have to," he said. "The issue here is whether the appellant can prove whether there is anything wrong with the open-bottom culvert technology. They have the burden of proof."

# Project proposed in 2001

The matter is being argued before an administrative law judge, who will then make a recommendation to DEP Commissioner Robert Golledge as to whether the DEP permit should be approved, rejected or amended.

The DEP is also a party to the case, and lawyers for the agency plan to call their own witnesses, including wetlands chief Robert McCallum. There are two hearing dates tentatively scheduled for February, and it's not known when the matter will be concluded.

The Hoosac Wind project was proposed in 2001. It has received subdivision permits from both Florida and Monroe, in addition to approvals from both local conservation commissions.

In addition, the project has a "general access permit" from the state Highway Department, and a storm-water permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The appeal hearings began in August.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

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# Hearings to continue on Hoosac Wind plan

January 17, 2006 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Shaw Israel Izikson, North Adams Transcript Section: Local 376 Words OpenURL Link

Tuesday, January 17 FLORIDA — More testimony on the long-planned Hoosac Wind power project will be given next week in Boston.

A hearing, which is being held before the state Division of Administrative Law Appeals, is scheduled to continue on Tuesday, Jan. 24, and Wednesday, Jan. 25, and will be heard by Administrative Magistrate Natalie Monroe.

The hearing be-gan in August when the environmental group Green Berkshires, as well as a local Florida citizens' group, appealed a wetlands permit granted by the state Department of Environ-mental Protection to enXco, the California-based company that is developing the project.

According to a company press release, enXco believes that the appeal is running its course. "We hope for a favorable ruling early in the new year," the release said.

Hoosac wind spokesman Samuel Bittman said he was cautiously optimistic about Monroe's pending decision. "There is no legal guideline for when she needs to make a ruling, but we are hoping that the magistrate remains as sensitive as possible to the testimony," he said. "We haven't been able to launch any construction while the appeal has been going on, so we've been on hold since then."

Green Berkshires spokeswo-man Eleanor Tillinghast said that she and the citizens' group are appealing the DEP decision because it did not meet the requirements of the state's wetlands protection act. "They are planning to build nearly four and a half miles of new roads, crossing many streams, clear-cut many parts of both mountains — all just to create huge turbines; yet (enXco) believes that they are going to have minimal environmental impact," she said. "I never want to predict what the judge will do, but I think we built a strong case."

Bittman said that, despite the project being delayed, the developers have not had to make alterations to its construction plan. "The project is as it was," he said. "All we're waiting for is the green light to begin the first phase of construction so we can build the roads to the ridge lines in order to transport equipment there."

If the project goes forward, 20 wind turbines, each 340 feet tall, will be constructed, 11 on top of Bakke Mountain in Florida, and nine on Crum Hill in Monroe. The project has been in the planning stages since 2003.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Shaw Israel Izikson, North Adams Transcript, 'Hearings to continue on Hoosac Wind plan', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 17 Jan 2006 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10F359B3C6A2E210">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10F359B3C6A2E210</a>



## Hoosac Wind still on hold

December 24, 2005 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz, Berkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Headlines | 502 Words OpenURL Link

Sunday, December 25 FLORIDA — An appeal being heard in Boston that has blocked construction of the proposed Hoosac Wind Project here was continued last week into the new year.

And while the project remains on hold, the Selectmen this week approved extending the building permit for the proposed project, and a Connecticut agency approved using the project to help meet that state's renewable energy target.

Hoosac Wind is a wind power development proposed by California-based company enXco. It would put eleven 340-foot-tall wind turbines on Bakke Mountain in Florida, and another nine on Crum Hill in neighboring Monroe.

The project is opposed by a group of Florida residents, with the help of environmental group Green Berkshires, who filed an appeal with the state Division of Administrative Law Appeals in Boston earlier this year.

The details pertains to the state Department of Environmental Protection's superseding order of conditions for wetlands issues at the project.

Eleanor Tillinghast of Green Berkshires said these issues are critical because the project involves building 4 1/2 miles of road and crossing several streams.

The hearings themselves have involved filling, as well as rebuttals, and testimony from experts on both sides.

"It is not something that would capture the interest or attention of most people, but it is a vital part of an environmental review," she said.

Administrative Magistrate Natalie Monroe, who is hearing the appeal, has not yet set a date for the next round of hearings.

Hoosac Wind Project Manager John Zimmerman said they hope for a decision soon, which would allow construction to begin next year.

"An awful lot depends on when the final decision is made," he said. "The construction season here is weather-dependent, so we may be able to begin on some facets of construction very soon thereafter, and that's what we hope to do."

The first DALA appeal hearing was heard in August, and was continued to December.

The project was first permitted to go ahead by town officials in fall 2003. On Monday, the Florida Board of Selectmen extended Hoosac Wind's two-year special permit for the project another two years.

Last week, the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, which is administered by a ratepayer-supported, quasi-public agency, approved the Hoosac Wind project as one of three renewable energy projects that Connecticut utilities could purchase from to meet the state's renewable energy targets.

The energy fund collects proposals from developers, screens them, and forwards them to the two utilities — Connecticut Light and Power Company and United Illuminating Company — that will negotiate long-term power purchasing contracts from projects.

Hoosac Wind is just one of several proposed wind power projects working their way to fruition around the area. They include a proposed the seven-turbine Berkshire Wind project in Hancock, and an 11 turbine project at Brodie Mountain.

Most recently, in October, Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort announced it would construct a single 320-foot high wind turbine on its property. The power generated would be used on site for lighting, chair-lifts and snowmaking.

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

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

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# PLUG FOR 'CLEAN' POWER - RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS CHOSEN

December 16, 2005 | Hartford Courant, The (CT)
Author: JOHN MORAN; Courant Staff Writer | Section: BUSINESS | 531 Words
Page: E1
OpenURL Link

Electric plants driven by wind, biomass and fuel cells are the first three projects to win approval under a state program designed to boost the amount of ``clean'' electrical power generated for Connecticut.

The plants, the first of which could begin operation as soon as next year, would generate a combined 34 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 25,000 homes, according to the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, which administers the program known as Project 100.

The projects approved by the Clean Energy Fund include:

- \* A 5-megawatt wind project proposed by enXco LLC, which is developing a wind-power plant known as Hoosac Wind in Florida, Mass. Electricity generated there would be imported to Connecticut.
- \* A 4-megawatt fuel-cell project planned for Wallingford by PPL Energy Services, working in conjunction with Danbury-based FuelCell Energy.
- \* A 15-megawatt biomass plant by GDI Renewable Power in Watertown. The plant would run on gas derived from wood and other biological materials.

Completion of the projects would represent a substantial boost to the amount of electricity in Connecticut generated from nontraditional power plants using so-called ``clean'' technologies, according to Charlie Moret, a managing director for Connecticut Innovations, a state agency that oversees the Clean Energy Fund.

The wind power project could come on line as early as 2006, with the others reaching completion between 2007 and 2009, he said.

The three projects were chosen from 13 proposals from companies seeking to develop renewable power generation plants. Eligible projects had to produce at least a megawatt of power and not more than 15 megawatts.

Promotion of clean energy projects was approved by the legislature as part of a 2003 law restructuring the state's electricity market. The law permits power generators working under the Project 100 program to receive a premium of as much as 5.5 cents per kilowatt hour over the regular wholesale electric rate.

That higher rate is aimed at making such projects more competitive with traditional power plants, which typically generate electricity more cheaply than clean alternatives.

``This legislation creates a strong viable market for energy generated by clean and renewable-energy technologies," said Lise Donde, the Clean Energy Fund's chief operating officer.

The final rate available to Project 100 participants is to be negotiated between the generators and the state's two largest electric utilities, Connecticut Light & Power and United Illuminating.

Under state law, the higher rate would be available for a decade. In addition, the Clean Energy Fund, which receives money from a surcharge on electric bills, is contributing \$50,000 toward development of each of the three plants.

The projects are still subject to approval by the state Department of Public Utility Control, which will consider them

after the generators negotiate final proposals with the electric utilities.

In addition to boosting the amount of clean energy available in the state, Project 100 also would provide a lift for FuelCell Energy, which has been looking to multi-megawatt fuel cell power plants as a way to increase its production and drive down costs.

The Project 100 program eventually aims to promote construction of 100 megawatts of clean power for the state. Consideration of a second round of projects representing another 34 megawatts of power is scheduled to begin in mid-2006, Moret said. The third round and final round of projects would be considered in 2007.

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

JOHN MORAN; Courant Staff Writer, 'PLUG FOR `CLEAN' POWER - RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS CHOSEN', *Hartford Courant, The* (online), 16 Dec 2005 E1 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10E8C86279B41C28>



# Testimony taken on wind plans

December 13, 2005 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Shaw Israel Izikson, North Adams Transcript | Section: Local | 414 Words OpenURL Link

Tuesday, December 13 FLORIDA — More testimony on the long-planned Hoosac Wind power project will be heard this week at a hearing at the Division of Administrative Law Appeals in Boston.

Natalie Monroe, an administrative magistrate, will be taking testimony today through Thursday from both sides concerning Green Berkshires' appeal of the permit granted by the state Department of Environmental Protection to enXco, the California-based company that is developing the project.

## 20 turbines planned

The project would see a total of 20 wind turbines constructed, 11 on top of Bakke Mountain in Florida, and nine on Crum Hill in Monroe; it has been in the planning stages since 2003.

The DEP ruled that Hoosac Wind's plans were sufficient enough to protect wetlands around the site. Green Berkshires, a local environmental group, contends that DEP made the wrong decision, said member Eleanor Tillinghast.

#### Review at issue

"Our argument has been that the DEP has failed to do an adequate environmental review of the impact of the project, and that is the basis of the appeal that we're making," she said. "They are planning to build nearly 4 1/2 miles of new roads, crossing many streams, clear cut many parts of both mountains, all just to create huge turbines, yet (enXco) believes that they are going to have minimal environmental impact."

John Zimmerman, enXco project manager, said the company previously made modifications to the project to address wetland concerns.

"We are staying out of the wetlands more with the small modifications that we made, and now the overall project has a much smaller impact on wetlands resources," he said. "The changes we made are very small and are related to road alignment to the project."

The Division of Administrative Law Appeals began to consider Green Berkshire's appeal in late August; the agency decided to extend the process because of the massive amount of testimony, said Tillinghast.

A public hearing will be held Monday, Dec. 19, by the Selectmen to consider whether to extend the special building permits the town granted for the project. Zimmerman said enXco is seeking a 24-month extension.

"We need to get an extension because the project cannot be built within the original time frame due to the appeals launched against the project," he said.

The project, if completed, is expected to cost \$40 million and to provide about 30 megawatts of electricity.

The appeal was filed in January after enXco and the project's opponents failed to reach a compromise.

Shaw Israel Izikson can be reached at SIzikson@thetranscript.com.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Shaw Israel Izikson, North Adams Transcript, 'Testimony taken on wind plans', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 13 Dec 2005 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10E7D0B868E97320">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10E7D0B868E97320</a>



## Ski resort employs green power

November 9, 2005 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Letters | Section: Letters to the Editor | 297 Words OpenURL Link

Wednesday, November 09 To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

The Eagle's recent articles on plans to build a wind turbine at Jiminy Peak show that the resort continues to provide enlightened leadership in technology and the local environment. It was the engineering group at Jiminy that pioneered the efficient methods for making, grooming and protecting snow. And Jiminy long has been a leader in recycling and efficient use of resources, including electricity.

Making snow and running lifts require substantial amounts of electricity, generated regionally by the burning of fossil fuels. And fossil-fuel combustion contributes to the global warming that could eventually ruin the ski industry. The National Ski Areas Association reacted to this sorry fact two years ago and began their "Keep Winter Cool" initiative, which urges skiers and snowboarders to help stop climate change through individual choices, by lobbying for controls on emissions of greenhouse gases and by purchasing electricity generated by renewable energy sources.

Jiminy's first turbine will serve as another demonstration of the wind energy available on our local ridges. Modern wind machines are large, highly efficient producers of electricity when the wind is blowing, and they do not cause air pollution or add to greenhouse gases. Electricity generated by wind is an important component of new renewable energy sources in Massachusetts and we should do what we can to encourage carefully sited, low-impact sites such as Jiminy and the nearby Brodie and Hoosac Wind Projects.

Electricity from the wind may not slow our local demand for gasoline and natural gas — we need to do that as individuals, as a region and as a nation! But I bet that as we gain more experience with the environmental benefits of renewable energy sources, conservation and fuel-efficient vehicles, we'll demand more.

DAVID P. DETHIER

Williamstown, Nov. 8, 2005

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Letters, 'Ski resort employs green power', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 9 Nov 2005 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10DC9B910D769FF0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10DC9B910D769FF0</a>



# Jiminy Peak plans turbine

October 28, 2005 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Christopher Marcisz, Berkshire Eagle Staff | Section: Headlines | 718 Words OpenURL Link

### CORRECTION NOV. 2, 2005

Due to incorrect information pro vided to Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort by a national trade group, The Eagle incorrectly reported on Friday that the proposed 320-foot wind turbine they plan to build to offset a third of their electricity is the "first ever by an American ski resort."

In fact, nearby Brodie Mountain Ski Area in New Ashford built a wind turbine in 1981. Theirs was 70 feet high, met between two and five percent of their electric needs, and operated for several years.

Friday, October 28 HANCOCK — Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort announced plans yesterday to install a 320-foot-high wind turbine on the top of its property. The resort hopes the project — which could be online by next fall and would be the first ever by an American ski resort — will offset a third of its total electricity costs.

The project is the latest to be proposed for Berkshire County, where several wind projects are in various stages of planning. There has been strong opposition to wind projects from those who fear that their impact on birds, forests, and unspoiled views are not worth the benefit.

The project was announced yesterday afternoon at the resort's Crane Lodge by Jiminy Peak owner Brian Fairbank.

"The beauty of it is I know we are doing the right thing in the long haul," he said.

The project will cost roughly \$2.1 million, part of which will be offset by a \$582,875 grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. Fairbanks said he expects it will take about seven years for the turbine to pay for itself.

The turbine at Jiminy Peak will be located about 300 feet west of the topmost chair lift, in the southwest corner of Summit Reservoir.

If completed, it would be partially visible to skiers on some of the top trails, but not at the base.

Off the mountain, the turbine would be partially visible along a stretch of Route 43 from roughly the New York border to Brodie Mountain Road.

"I'm not going to hide the fact that this will be visible," Fairbank said.

He added that he fully expects there will be opposition to the project, but that he feels most people will realize the small scale of the project and the importance of Jiminy Peak to the Berkshire economy as a whole.

"Our purpose isn't to become a generating plant," he explained.

He added that the turbine will be brought up and installed using existing trails, minimizing the impact on surrounding areas. The power lines from the turbine to the base connection would be underground.

The project comes at a time when the growth and development of wind power has emerged as a major point of contention in the Berkshires. At least two major projects — the Hoosac Wind project proposed for Florida and Monroe and the Berkshire Wind project also in Hancock — are currently under appeal or awaiting financing.

Last week, the board of selectmen in Lenox shot down a proposal to build a single test tower at Yokun Ridge to power the town's water plant.

Fairbank said the resort began looking into the possibility of using renewable energy to help manage the rapidly rising costs of electricity. The resort uses large amounts of electricity for lighting, chair-lifts, and in particular, snowmaking.

According to Fairbank, the resort spent \$782,766 on energy in fiscal 2004. In fiscal 2005 that figure had leapt to \$948,421, and the resort projects it will grow to \$1,451,100 this year.

Few of the cost savings will be passed onto visitors though, Fairbanks said. The hope is that after the project is paid for in seven years they will enjoy "a long-term benefit in stabilization of prices."

Fairbank said they have obtained a building permit for the project. They will file soon with the Hancock and Lanesborough Conservation Commissions, as well as submit a voluntary environmental notification form to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

In addition, the project needs approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, and an interconnection deal will need to be worked out with Massachusetts Electric so that any surplus power they generate can be sent back onto the grid.

Fairbank said if the turbine is successful, they may consider putting another one up on a patch of land east of the resort in Lanesborough.

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, 'Jiminy Peak plans turbine', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 28 Oct 2005 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10D8A38959E7F540">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10D8A38959E7F540</a>



# Wind project opponents are stalling a beneficial project

August 30, 2005  $\mid$  North Adams Transcript (MA)

Section: Letters | 116 Words

OpenURL Link

#### To the editor:

Opponents of the Hoosac Wind Project have expressed their opinions in letters. Rather than comment on the shallowness of reasoning by the opponents, I would like to point out the following facts: A very large amount of income is being lost by the two towns and the private property owners on whose land the wind site is planned, also by the town's citizens who will benefit.

That is due to stalling practices by protesters. More than 70 percent of the voters have approved the concept of using a nonpolluting natural resource in their area to produce electric energy. The proponents seem to have a superior understanding of a sensible trade-off.

Hans Bakke

Ridge, N.Y.

### Aug. 27

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## • Citation (aglc Style)

'Wind project opponents are stalling a beneficial project', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 30 Aug 2005 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10C52F4E570D61E8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10C52F4E570D61E8</a>



## **Our Towns**

August 25, 2005 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Community | Section: Community | 1472 Words OpenURL Link

Thursday, August 25, 2005

#### Adams

The town wraps up its popular "Movies Under the Stars" season tomorrow night with a showing of "Because of Winn Dixie." The movie starts at dusk on the lawn in front of Town Hall. As always, moviegoers are urged to bring blankets or chairs, and the rain date will be on Saturday.

### **Becket**

The Becket Volunteer Fire Department will hold an open house on Sept. 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Station No. 1, on the corner of Lyman and Washington streets in the Becket Village. Becket firefighters will be on hand to answer questions and concerns, demonstrate equipment and discuss emergency procedures.

Smokey the Bear will arrive at 2 p.m. Children and adults of all ages are welcome to come and have their pictures taken with the fire engines. Bring cameras or have pictures taken for a nominal fee.

Becket Police and Ambulance personnel will also participate in the event. Free refreshments will be available.

## Cheshire

The Cheshire community calendars have arrived and can be picked up at Reynold's store during store hours. For more information, call 743-9512.

## Clarksburg

Police Chief Michael Williams told the selectmen last week that the town could use a new police cruiser, the North Adams Transcript reports. The department's only vehicle is a 2000 Jeep Cherokee, which has needed repairs recently. The department hopes for a new Chevrolet Impala, which costs up to \$26,000, and will use the Cherokee as a reserve vehicle.

## Dalton

The Dalton Cooperative Nursery School, at 514 Main St., is currently accepting admissions for its pre-school programs for the 2005-06 school year. Spaces are still available in the Tuesday/Thursday, and Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes. The school has more than 35 years of experience and is NAEYC accredited. Information: Chris at 684-1064.

## Egremont

The Egremont Historical Commission is sponsoring a tag sale on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Archives Room in the upstairs of the Egremont Free Library at 1 Buttonball Lane in South Egremont.

### Florida

U.S. Rep. John Olver, D-Amherst, signalled his support for wind power projects in North County during an interview

with the North Adams Transcript last week. He said he thought the eastern mountain ridge has "really good potential" for a wind farm, and that the turbines could be kept "virtually out of sight." The environmental permits for the proposed Hoosac Wind project in Florida and Monroe are currently being appealed in Boston, but Olver said he believes that concerns over protections for wetlands and bird migration patterns can be addressed.

**Great Barrington** 

WBCR-LP FM 97.7 and Club Helsinki announce the sixth in their acoustic brunch series to benefit WBCR, taking place on Sunday, Sept. 4, at Club Helsinki, 284 Main St., from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The featured performer will be Steve Tilston, a singer/songwriter and guitarist from England.

A brunch menu will be offered during the concert.

Proceeds will benefit WBCR, Berkshire Community Radio, a new low-power independent community radio station, which is volunteer-run and financed by donations and fund-raising events.

Reservations: 528-3394.

Lee

Resident Rod House has a gallery show at the Lee Library through Aug. 30 titled "Birds Eye View: Exhibition 2" with paintings and drawings from 1970-2005. All works are for sale. For viewing times, call the library at 243-0385. For further information and/or to speak with the artist directly, call House at 243-0212 All other inquiries should be directed to: Carl Bowlby, www.carlbowlby.com.

Lenox

The Lenox Council on Aging will begin a lending library program for homebound or disabled seniors. Lenox residents who would like books or music tapes delivered to their home by a volunteer can call the COA at 637-5535. Volunteers are also needed.

Monterey

The Select Board has announced that all homeowners are required to post a 911 house number, which must be visible from the road. Beginning Oct. 1, the town will enforce the Town Bylaw requiring a fine for non-compliance with this regulation. Questions: Operations Director Maynard Forbes, 528-1734.

New Ashford

The Berkshire Vegetarian Network will present an evening with Howard Lyman, Thursday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m., at the Historic New Ashford Church, 199 Mallery Road, off Route 7.

Lyman will be on hand to show his new documentary film, "Mad Cowboy," and to release his new book, "No More Bull." The event is free and open to the public.

Lyman is a fourth-generation, 40-year cattle rancher from Montana, now a vegan consumer and food safety activist. He is noted for his appearance on the Oprah Winfrey Show, which landed he and Oprah in a Texas court. DVD copies of the film and copies of the book will also be available.

Vegan (no animal ingredients) snacks to share would be appreciated.

New Marlborough

The Music and More performance series will host Jon Swan on Saturday at 4:30 p.m., as he leads the annual

Berkshire Writes Free-for-All at the New Marlborough Meetinghouse in the village.

The event, which is supported with a grant from Berkshire Bank, is free to the public, and includes readings by poets, playwrights, novelists and journalists who make their homes in the Berkshires.

For more information or reservations, contact www.newmarlborough.org, or call 229-2785.

#### North Adams

The First Congregational Church of North Adams will wrap up its free summer movie series tomorrow, with a showing of "Kiki's Delivery Service" on the Church lawn at dusk. The movie is free and open to the public, and in case of rain it will be shown inside the Assembly Hall.

## Otis

A new post of AMVETS is forming in Otis for those who have served their country. Veterans who would like to join as charter members should contact George Mengel at 413-269-4014.

#### Pittsfield

The Women's Club of the Berkshires is planning a trip to the Johnson and Wales Inn on Oct. 20. The cost is \$65 and covers round-trip motorcoach, a luncheon, a one-man show and all taxes and gratuities. The show will feature Father Patrick Aloysius Misgivings sharing stories and one-liners about growing up Catholic. The interactive comedy includes a collection, raffle and a bingo game. A \$10 deposit is needed to secure a seat. The event is open to both men and women. Reservations and information: Women's Club at 447-7641.

### Richmond

Resident Thomas Frelinghuysen, a student at Berkshire Country Day School, was one of 65 students selected from 98 applicants from across the United States and Canada to attend the Oregon Shakespeare Festival from Aug. 1 to 13. The Summer Seminar is a program designed for a select group of theatre students who have recently completed their junior year of high school. Students attend forums and workshops on topics such as theatre administration, stage management, costume construction, scenic painting, sound, lighting, Renaissance dance and stage combat.

### Sandisfield

The Double String Duo will perform a benefit concert at the American Legion on Saturday at 8 p.m., with special performer jazz and fusion guitarist Chad McLoughlin.

The concert features renaissance, baroque, classical music and jazz and is sponsored by The Music Store in Great Barrington to benefit the Sandisfield Historical Society's Building Fund.

Tickets are \$10. For tickets or information: call 258-4520 or 258-2898. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

### Sheffield

The Sheffield Historical Society will hold its third annual old-fashioned pig roast and second annual craft fair Saturday on the American Legion grounds located on the corner of Cook Avenue and Route 7.

The crafters will exhibit their wares on the lawn from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some will be demonstrating their crafts during the day. The homemade fruit pie judging will take place at 3 p.m. The meal will be served from 4 to 6 p.m.

The menu includes roast pig or fried turkey, baked beans, corn on the cob, salads, fruit pies and all the fixings.

Adults cost \$17, prepaid \$15; children \$8; children under 8, free. Adult take-outs will be available.

Reservations and information: 229-2694.

### Stockbridge

The Saturday Chesterwood Museum sculpture demonstration of clay modeling and plaster casting with John Kingston at 1:30 p.m. has been postponed and will be rescheduled at another time. For more information: The museum at 298-3579.

### Washington

Town law enforcer Victor Breen has asked that residents keep their eyes open for people dumping trash along the roads in Washington. The town is particularly vulnerable to littering since there are many secluded areas to unload large amounts of trash and large appliances. Breen asks those who witness dumping to write down the license plate number and contact him with the information. Residents should not get out of their vehicles and confront anyone.

#### Williamstown

A major construction project at Williams College should be completed by the time students return to campus next week. The most visible one to motorists along Route 2 has been a \$2.3 million project to extend electrical, sewer, water, drainage, and data lines through the north part of campus.

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### • Citation (aglc Style)

Community, 'Our Towns', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 25 Aug 2005 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/10C38BA98237CF60>



# 20-turbine wind project appealed

August 18, 2005 | Bennington Banner (VT) Author: ERIK ARVIDSON North Adams Transcript | Section: Region | 783 Words OpenURL Link

BOSTON -- A Pittsfield civil engineer on Tuesday testified against a proposed 20-turbine wind power project in the town of Florida, saying it would likely harm wetlands in the vicinity of the ridge where the turbines were planned.

James Scalise, president and owner of SK Design Group, said he did not think the developer of the Hoosac Wind Power project, California-based enXco, had an adequate plan to prevent erosion and storm-water runoff into streams over which project officials plan to build an access road.

#### Access roads

Project officials said their plan meets all the conditions required by the state Department of Environmental Protection, which granted a permit for the project.

The state Division of Administrative Law Appeals is considering an appeal by Green Berkshires Inc., a group of opponents of the wind project, who want the DEP's permit rescinded.

The DEP ruled that Hoosac Wind's project plans were sufficient to protect the wetlands around the site on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe.

### 20 wind turbines

In total, 20 wind turbines are planned on the two ridges, for a project cost of \$40 million.

Scalise, who was hired as an expert by Green Berkshires to review the project, said it would require an "enormous" piece of excavating equipment to build the abutments to support the stream crossings.

Under questioning from the attorney for Green Berkshires, Robert Lucido of Pittsfield, Scalise said it was likely that contractors would have to use a 20-ton hoe-ram vehicle to remove boulders around the stream bed.

## 'Aggressive methods'

"These aggressive methods have a high potential for altering the resources nearby," Scalise said. "There is no way to predict exactly what will happen, but to say there would be zero impact would be idealistic."

He estimated that the excavation machine would have to be 18 feet long and 12 feet wide; "I'm concerned that you would remove a connected root system that would tear away the edge of the stream bank."

The contractor would likely build a temporary timber bridge over the stream, and Scalise said that left the potential of the stream sediment being stirred up and fish and other aquatic life being disturbed.

Scalise also criticized Hoosac Wind's proposal for a construction yard, which would be outside the so-called "buffer zone" around the wetlands but which would still create a potential for water runoff into the streams.

He described the gravel yard as an area where "the vegetation would be removed and replaced with gravel material for staging equipment."

In addition, Scalise estimated that the contractor would have to transport about 30,000 yards of fill material to the

site in 10-wheel dump trucks traveling on gravel roads. That equated to about 1,200 truckloads of fill being driven onto the site, he estimated.

Proponents have said the construction of roads for the project will affect 3,900 square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands and 375 feet of stream bank, which will cross nine streams that run intermittently.

Project officials said all of the affected areas will be replaced.

Scalise was cross-examined by the attorney for enXco, Gregory McGregor, and the DEP's chief legal counsel, Robert Bell. McGregor pointed out to Scalise that the DEP's "superseding order of conditions" for the project, which is the order being appealed by Green Berkshires, prohibited the use of equipment inside the streams' beds or on their banks.

#### **Erosion control**

McGregor said DEP's order mandated erosion-control methods to be installed prior to any work being done around the streams.

In addition, he said the project calls for "open-bottom culverts" under stream crossings, which allow for wildlife to pass through, and which is a design preferred by state and federal regulatory agencies.

Sam Bittman, a spokesman for enXco, said after the hearing that the DEP only approved the project after "spending months reviewing the engineering plans for building access roads up to the ridge."

## Months reviewing plan

Bittman added, "Our position is what [DEP's] is: Yes, there will be an impact, and you are disturbing a certain amount of land. But we are providing stream crossings that use state-of-the-art technologies. We put together a plan that does minimize the negative impact on the site."

Bittman said the plan also calls for the vegetation around the access roads to come back partially. The developers will still be required to get vehicles up the ridge to maintain the turbines, he said.

Natalie Monroe, an administrative magistrate, is expected to take up to three days of testimony from both sides this week. The Division of Administrative Law Appeals is an independent body which reviews appeals of decisions by some 20 state agencies.

It's not clear when Monroe will issue a decision, but Bittman said project officials are hoping for one by this fall.

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# 20-turbine wind project appealed

August 18, 2005 | Bennington Banner (VT) Author: ERIK ARVIDSON North Adams Transcript | Section: Region | 783 Words OpenURL Link

BOSTON -- A Pittsfield civil engineer on Tuesday testified against a proposed 20-turbine wind power project in the town of Florida, saying it would likely harm wetlands in the vicinity of the ridge where the turbines were planned.

James Scalise, president and owner of SK Design Group, said he did not think the developer of the Hoosac Wind Power project, California-based enXco, had an adequate plan to prevent erosion and storm-water runoff into streams over which project officials plan to build an access road.

#### Access roads

Project officials said their plan meets all the conditions required by the state Department of Environmental Protection, which granted a permit for the project.

The state Division of Administrative Law Appeals is considering an appeal by Green Berkshires Inc., a group of opponents of the wind project, who want the DEP's permit rescinded.

The DEP ruled that Hoosac Wind's project plans were sufficient to protect the wetlands around the site on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe.

### 20 wind turbines

In total, 20 wind turbines are planned on the two ridges, for a project cost of \$40 million.

Scalise, who was hired as an expert by Green Berkshires to review the project, said it would require an "enormous" piece of excavating equipment to build the abutments to support the stream crossings.

Under questioning from the attorney for Green Berkshires, Robert Lucido of Pittsfield, Scalise said it was likely that contractors would have to use a 20-ton hoe-ram vehicle to remove boulders around the stream bed.

## 'Aggressive methods'

"These aggressive methods have a high potential for altering the resources nearby," Scalise said. "There is no way to predict exactly what will happen, but to say there would be zero impact would be idealistic."

He estimated that the excavation machine would have to be 18 feet long and 12 feet wide; "I'm concerned that you would remove a connected root system that would tear away the edge of the stream bank."

The contractor would likely build a temporary timber bridge over the stream, and Scalise said that left the potential of the stream sediment being stirred up and fish and other aquatic life being disturbed.

Scalise also criticized Hoosac Wind's proposal for a construction yard, which would be outside the so-called "buffer zone" around the wetlands but which would still create a potential for water runoff into the streams.

He described the gravel yard as an area where "the vegetation would be removed and replaced with gravel material for staging equipment."

In addition, Scalise estimated that the contractor would have to transport about 30,000 yards of fill material to the

site in 10-wheel dump trucks traveling on gravel roads. That equated to about 1,200 truckloads of fill being driven onto the site, he estimated.

Proponents have said the construction of roads for the project will affect 3,900 square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands and 375 feet of stream bank, which will cross nine streams that run intermittently.

Project officials said all of the affected areas will be replaced.

Scalise was cross-examined by the attorney for enXco, Gregory McGregor, and the DEP's chief legal counsel, Robert Bell. McGregor pointed out to Scalise that the DEP's "superseding order of conditions" for the project, which is the order being appealed by Green Berkshires, prohibited the use of equipment inside the streams' beds or on their banks.

#### **Erosion control**

McGregor said DEP's order mandated erosion-control methods to be installed prior to any work being done around the streams.

In addition, he said the project calls for "open-bottom culverts" under stream crossings, which allow for wildlife to pass through, and which is a design preferred by state and federal regulatory agencies.

Sam Bittman, a spokesman for enXco, said after the hearing that the DEP only approved the project after "spending months reviewing the engineering plans for building access roads up to the ridge."

## Months reviewing plan

Bittman added, "Our position is what [DEP's] is: Yes, there will be an impact, and you are disturbing a certain amount of land. But we are providing stream crossings that use state-of-the-art technologies. We put together a plan that does minimize the negative impact on the site."

Bittman said the plan also calls for the vegetation around the access roads to come back partially. The developers will still be required to get vehicles up the ridge to maintain the turbines, he said.

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It's not clear when Monroe will issue a decision, but Bittman said project officials are hoping for one by this fall.

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# Wetland damage foreseen Engineer testifies on wind project

August 17, 2005 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Erik Arvidson, Eagle Boston Bureau | Section: Local | 788 Words OpenURL Link

BOSTON — A Pittsfield civil engineer testified yesterday against a proposed 20-turbine wind power project in the town of Florida, saying it would likely harm wetlands in the vicinity of the ridge where the turbines were planned.

James Scalise, president and owner of SK Design Group, said he did not think the developer of the Hoosac Wind Power project, California-based enXco Inc., had an adequate plan to prevent erosion and stormwater runoff into streams over which the project officials planned to build an access road.

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\$40 million project

The DEP ruled that Hoosac Wind's project plans were sufficient to protect the wetlands around the site, which is on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe. In total, 20 wind turbines are planned on the two ridges, for a project cost of \$40 million.

Scalise, who was hired by Green Berkshires to review the project as an expert, said it would require an "enormous" piece of excavating equipment to build the abutments to support the stream crossings.

Under questioning from the attorney for Green Berkshires, Robert Lucido of Pittsfield, Scalise said it was likely the contractors would have to use a 20-ton hoe ram vehicle to remove boulders around the stream bed. He estimated that the excavation machine would have to be 18 feet long and 12 feet wide.

"These aggressive methods have a high potential for altering the resources nearby," Scalise said. "There is no way to predict exactly what will happen, but to say there would be zero impact would be idealistic."

"I'm concerned that you would remove a connected root system that would tear away the edge of the stream bank," he said.

The contractor would likely build a temporary timber bridge over the stream, and Scalise said that created the potential for the stream sediment to be stirred up and to disturb fish and other aquatic life.

Scalise also criticized Hoosac Wind's proposal for a construction yard, which would be outside the so-called "buffer zone" around the wetlands, but which would still create a potential for runoff to enter the streams. He described the gravel yard as an area where "the vegetation would be removed and replaced with gravel material for staging equipment."

In addition, Scalise estimated that the contractor would have to transport about 30,000 yards of fill material to the site in 10-wheel dump trucks traveling on gravel roads. That equated to about 1,200 truckloads of fill being driven onto the site, he stated.

The proponents have said that the project will result in 3,900 square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands and 375 feet of stream bank being impacted by the construction of the roads, which will cross nine streams that run intermittently. The officials said that all of the impacted areas will be replaced.

Scalise was also cross-examined by the attorney for enXco, Gregory McGregor, and the DEP's chief legal counsel,

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McGregor pointed out to Scalise that the DEP's "superseding order of conditions" for the project, which is the order being appealed by Green Berkshires, prohibited the use of equipment inside the stream bed or on the banks of the stream. He noted that the DEP's order mandated erosion control methods to be installed prior to any work being done around the streams.

## Wildlife passages

In addition, McGregor said that the project calls for "open-bottom culverts" under stream crossings, which allow for wildlife to pass through, and which is a design preferred by state and federal regulatory agencies.

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### Six days of testimony

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