TOWERS OF POWER DRAWING NEAR / ELECTRICITY WILL BE PRODUCED BY THE GIANT TURBINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP.

October 29, 2005 | Times Leader, The (Wilkes-Barre, PA)
Author: RON BARTIZEK rbartizek@leader.net | Section: BUSINESS | 526 Words
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OpenURL Link

Slowly but surely, but a bit behind schedule, wind-generating turbines are being erected atop Bald Mountain. The first 267-foot tall tower should have been assembled by the time construction crews knocked off work Friday, said Brent Alderfer, president of Community Energy, Inc.

Generators and rotors will be installed next. When the rotors begin to spin and power flows into the electric grid that serves seven states and the District of Columbia, the company will add electricity generation to its established business as a reseller of wind power produced by others.

Supported by a multimillion-dollar combination of private and public financing, the Bear Creek project and a smaller one in Atlantic City are the company's first venture into power generation.

"It's like surf and turf; the wind is either on the ridge tops or near the coast," Alderfer said.

The Bear Creek turbines and a power substation occupy about 15 acres within a 700-acre tract that sits roughly 2,000 feet above sea level.

Community Energy co-owner Eric Blank said in September the company will have $30 million to $40 million invested in the Bear Creek wind farm before it's finished. Twelve Gamesa 2-megawatt turbines are spaced a few hundred yards apart along the ridge.

The electricity will be carried from the turbines along underground cables to a new substation that is being built below existing high-tension wires about two miles from the generation site. There it will be measured and uploaded into the lines, then distributed through the power grid.

The turbines will pump out an average of 24 megawatts of electricity per hour, enough to power approximately 8,700 homes. PPL EnergyPlus has agreed to buy the power for 20 years.

That kind of deal, Alderfer said, is the key to success, and current high prices of traditionally generated electricity make wind power more competitive. "The real question with wind energy is who will commit for a long term to buy wind-generated electricity at a fixed price that is closer to what prices are now compared to a year ago."

Alderfer said there have been times in recent months when the wholesale cost of electricity has been above the cost to generate wind power. So Alderfer is hoping to find buyers that will bet on prices staying high or rising further.

Since wind generation is not affected by fuel costs, Community Energy can commit to selling at a set price over several years, protecting buyers from unpredictable price swings.

For now, the company is hoping to conduct generating tests by Thanksgiving and have all 12 turbines in production by year end.

"That's the goal. To have it in commercial operation and delivering power by Dec. 31," Alderfer said.

Each tower is firmly tied to a 14-foot-diameter pedestal base by 144 bolts, each 1.5 inches in diameter. Only a few

inches of the pedestal are visible. The rest - nearly 4 feet deep - is tied into a gargantuan below-ground anchor of sorts that is more than 30 feet across, and is made with nearly 300 yards of reinforced concrete.

Each base will support a 267-foot-tall tower. Sitting atop it will be a three-bladed propeller with a radius of 135 feet. Thus, the tip of the blades will not get closer than 130 feet to the ground.

SPANISH TURBINE MAKER BUILDING POWER PLANT IN PENNSYLVANIA

September 11, 2005 | Times Leader, The (Wilkes-Barre, PA)
Author: Staff and wire reports | Section: BUSINESS | 241 Words
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Gamesa Eolica, the Spanish company that is supplying the generating turbines for the Bear Creek wind farm, has broken ground on a manufacturing plant in Pennsylvania. The 204,000-square-foot factory, being built at the Cambria County Industrial Park near Ebensburg, will be Gamesa's first production facility in the United States. Carbon-fiber blades, towers and nacelles will be produced there.

In 2004, Gamesa ranked second worldwide in the manufacture, sales and installation of wind turbines. It has 21 manufacturing facilities worldwide. Its turbines range in power from 850 kilowatts to 2 megawatts, the size being installed in Bear Creek.

The Ebensburg facility, operating under the name Fiberblade LLC, is expected to employ 234 workers when up to full production in three years.

The first production line will open near the beginning of 2006, and will employ 100 workers. A second production line is targeted to begin by April, Gamesa executives have said.

Gamesa officials say the factory will be able to support two more lines, if the wind-energy market continues to grow.

State funds of $9.3 million are helping to pay for the plant, expected to cost more than $25 million.

Gamesa's U.S. operations, called Gamesa Wind US, are headquartered in Philadelphia.

A strong wind-energy market, boosted by the federal tax credit for wind production, influenced Gamesa's decision to build here, said Alberto Gros Isla, plant manager.

In addition to making equipment, Gamesa generates electricity from wind energy by running wind farms, mostly in Europe.

WIND POWER PROJECT GETS OFF THE GROUND

September 11, 2005 | Times Leader, The (Wilkes-Barre, PA)
Author: RON BARTIZEK rbartizek@leader.net | Section: BUSINESS | 1420 Words
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Last week a continuous stream of concrete mixer trucks wound their way up Bald Mountain Road, turned right onto a new gravel road, then lumbered 2 1/2 miles before dropping their loads. Their cargo was used to build the last of 12 mammoth pads for wind generators at the Bear Creek wind farm being constructed by Community Energy, Inc.

Nearly 30 truckloads of concrete has been poured over tons of reinforcing steel to form each pedestal that will support a 267-foot-tall tower. Shortly after Thanksgiving, the developers hope three-bladed propellers will slowly spin atop the towers, marking a new day for the company and its partners.

"This is just an ideal site for a wind farm," said Eric Blank, Community Energy vice president and co-owner.

Wayne, Pa.-based Community Energy took over the project in 2004 from Global Winds Harvest, a Massachusetts-based firm. Community Energy had planned to be up and running by now, but the December 2003 expiration of a tax credit that benefits investors in wind energy projects delayed the financing arrangements. The credit was restored a year ago, and the company announced Tuesday that it had lined up $50 million in financing.

Community Energy President Brent Alderfer described the package as "market-grade investments ranging from secure debt to long-term equity."

Financing came from Central Hudson Energy Group Inc. and Babcock & Brown, an investment firm. The private investments are backed by other public and private funding, including a $1 loan from the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority. Community Energy retains an ownership interest in the project.

Executive Vice President Eric Blank said the tax credit - 1.8 cents per kilowatt hour as long as electricity generation continues - would amount to $1.6 million next year and will escalate with inflation during its 10 year life.

Until now, for-profit Community Energy has been acting as broker for wind power generated by other companies. This will be its first generating facility. A smaller project near Atlantic City, which is described as "the first coastal wind farm in the U.S.," is being built on a similar schedule.

When completed, the Bear Creek wind park is expected to generate 24 megawatts of electricity per hour, enough to power approximately 8,700 homes. Community Energy has a 20-year agreement with PPL EnergyPlus to buy the power, which is then made available through a power grid that serves seven states and the District of Columbia.

"As long as we produce it, they'll buy it," Alderfer said.

Blank sees little risk in the wind energy industry. "It's a very predictable, increasingly mature business," he said. There is no volatility in the cost of the power source - wind - and an analysis of four years' data shows a consistent level of breezes.

Community Energy is so encouraged by the economic potential of wind generation that it is considering more farms in Pennsylvania. But they must be producing before Dec. 31, 2007, when the tax credit is scheduled to expire. Projects completed by that date qualify for 10 years of credits starting on the date they are put into commercial service.

More than windmills

The electricity will be carried from the turbines along underground cables to a new power substation that is being built under existing high-tension wires about two miles from the generation site. There it will be measured and uploaded into the lines, then distributed through the power grid.

The original plan for the project called for 14 turbines generating 20 megawatts hourly. But using new turbines manufactured by Gamesa Eolica of Spain, more power can be produced by fewer turbines.

"These are a little bit larger turbines, so it takes fewer of them," Alderfer said.

The 2-megawatt turbines turn more slowly and power generation starts at lower wind speeds, he said. "That's the technology edge on this project."

While new to the United States, similar turbines have been used extensively in Europe, Blank said. "This is certainly the first installation on the East Coast." Gamesa sees more of a market in the years ahead; the company is building a plant to manufacture wind turbines in Ebensburg, outside Johnstown. (See separate story.)

The Bear Creek turbines and the substation occupy about 15 acres within a 700-acre tract that sits roughly 2,000 feet above sea level. "It covers a lot of ground, but doesn't take up that much," Blank said.

He projected the total investment at $30 million to $40 million. If the ridge was longer, the project would be even larger, he said, which would allow the "mobilization cost" to be spread out over more turbines.

Aside from generating clean energy, the project has created a number of construction jobs and will employ up to three full-time maintenance workers, Alderfer said.

About 50 construction workers were on the site last week as the pads were being finished. The number varies depending on the work being done, said Joe Lillion, Senior Project Manager for M.A. Mortenson Co., the Minneapolis-based general contractor that is a specialist in wind farm construction. Overall, 100 different tradespeople will work on the project, Lillion said.

Mortenson has been working at the site since April, and also is building the Atlantic City facility.

Another project lags

A separate wind farm, proposed by Energy Unlimited, will not break ground this year.

"If we're lucky, next spring. It's not going to be this fall," said John Connelly, a company representative. "We're still doing all the due diligence that we have to do for all the permits."

That project, on former watershed land near Crystal Lake, has drawn complaints that it will harm a precious natural resource.

"We're complying with anything we can think of," Connelly said. He planned this week to accompany a researcher looking for rattlesnake habitat.

Concerns were raised about the Bald Mountain farm's effect on wildlife, particularly birds that might be killed flying into turbine blades. "We finished a bunch of avian work," Blank said, and more is ongoing. "No one anticipates a significant adverse impact."

Energy Unlimited has submitted an erosion and sedimentation plan to county, but still must get final planning approval from the Bear Creek Planning Commission.

Connelly said the company was hoping to complete the permitting within the next month. "But not construction.

This other project is going to be finished before we start."

The actual construction won't take very long, Connelly said.

"You don't do anything other than a concrete pad for the turbines. It's a pretty easy situation," he said, since it doesn't require amenities like water and sewer that a housing development would entail.

Once they begin commercial operation, the wind farms will provide a substantial revenue boost to Bear Creek Township, said supervisors chairman Ed Benkoski. The companies will pay the township $3,000 each year per turbine, plus a cost-of-living increase.

That works out to $2.7 million over 20 years, Benkoski said. "As long as those wind turbines are running, Bear Creek Township realizes the money."

Benkoski says critics do not understand the wind farms. "When they're done, the roadways and sites must be reseeded," he said. Roads that are now big enough to allow access by huge cranes and other construction equipment will be reduced to 15 feet wide.

Community Energy, Inc., headquartered in Wayne, Pa., was founded in 1999 as a marketer of wind-generated energy. It now has more than three billion kilowatt-hours of wind energy sales and 40,000 residential customers. The Bear Creek and Atlantic City wind farms will be the company's first generation projects. Bear Creek was acquired from Global Winds Harvest.

CH Energy Group, Inc. has two primary subsidiaries. Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. is a regulated transmission and distribution facility serving approximately 358,000 customers in eight counties of New York's Hudson Valley region and delivering natural gas and electricity in a 2,600-square-mile service territory. Central Hudson Enterprises Corp. includes business units delivering energy and related services to nearly 85,000 customers in eight states and the District of Columbia.

Babcock & Brown is a global investment and advisory firm dealing with real estate, infrastructure and project financing, operating leasing, structured finance and corporate finance.

The base for the last of 12 Gamesa turbines at the Bald Mountain wind farm was poured Thursday. The 267-foot tall tower is tied to a 14-foot diameter pedestal on the base by 144 bolts, each 1.5 inches in diameter. The pedestal is melded into a gargantuan below-ground anchor that is more than 30 feet across, and is made with nearly 300 yards of heavily reinforced concrete. "It's not going to break," said Joe Lillion, senior project manager.

Sitting atop the tower will be a three-bladed propeller with a radius of 135 feet. The tip of the blades will not get closer than 130 feet to the ground.

CRITICS OF BEAR CREEK WIND TOWERS ARE BEING HYPOCRITES

June 26, 2005 | Times Leader, The (Wilkes-Barre, PA)
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Page: 4B
OpenURL Link

I agree with Casey Jones' comments about wind towers and their advantages. I have said for some time that they would eventually become tourist attractions akin to light houses.

Isn't it interesting that the same people who run around harping about our need for alternative sources of energy, including wind power, are also the first in line to deride the placement of wind towers? They say they are so concerned about environmental damage, yet they virtually ignore true threats to the environment, especially in the areas where said towers are usually proposed and built.

These threats include, but are by no means limited to: hikers, campers, hunters, geo-cachers, mountain bikers, and especially ATV riders. A single ATV does far more damage in a few minutes, especially when run through wetlands or used to create trails leading to erosion, than all the wind towers will do in years.

Where were these environmental crusaders when all the communication towers that scar the mountaintops were being built? Before you know it these towers will become this generation's coal breakers, obsolete technology left to rust. At least the wind towers will continue producing for many years, generations even, to come.

David Kveragas Newton Township

Wind energy catches on at colleges ** Lehigh looks to join list of schools diversifying their power sources.

November 3, 2004 | Morning Call, The (Allentown, PA)
Author: Christina Gostomski Of The Morning Call | Section: LOCAL | 693 Words
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A gust of student support for wind energy at Lehigh University will put the Bethlehem campus on a rapidly expanding list of colleges relying on one of the country's newest power industries.

University officials say they could begin contracting from Community Energy Inc., a wind energy broker in Wayne, Delaware County, by the spring semester. How much power the college purchases depends on student support.

Lehigh's transition to a diversified utility portfolio is part of a growing trend among colleges, one that has found a niche in Pennsylvania thanks partly to the deregulation of the utility industry.

More than 28 Pennsylvania colleges, including Dickinson, Swarthmore and Penn State, buy power from Community Energy. Additionally, the 14 state-run universities, including Kutztown and East Stroudsburg, buy wind energy from Community Energy through the state.

College officials say supporting the fledgling wind industry will help lower wind energy prices, reduce the country's reliance on other types of power that emit greenhouse gases, and help create new jobs.

"It's a good fit with the learning mission of the colleges," said Kathy Belyeu, a spokeswoman for the American Wind Energy Association, the national trade association of the U.S. wind power industry.

About 15 percent of Community Energy's customers are colleges and universities, company spokesman Paul Copleman said.

At Lehigh, the drive for wind power came from a student initiative led by senior Alex Grosskurth, coordinator of the Lehigh Wind Energy Coalition, which collected more than 750 signatures supporting the plan. The university has more than 6,600 students.

"This is important for the environment. A lot of universities are already doing it, and I thought it was time Lehigh caught up," he said.

Those reasons are echoed by officials at colleges across the state, where wind energy purchases make up 2 percent to 40 percent of energy costs.

"We're looking in the long term, not the short term," said Paul Ruskin, spokesman for Penn State's physical plant, where wind energy is 5 percent of the college's energy fees. "The university and the state are better situated if we have a diversity of power sources. You pay a little more, but you help the Pennsylvania economy by helping a new industry gain a foothold."

Ralph Thayer, director of maintenance at Swarthmore, puts it another way: "Sometimes good things just cost more."

The more consumers who agree to financially support the wind facilities, the lower the price and the more wind farms that can be built. Over 20 years, the cost of electricity from utility-scale wind systems has dropped by more than 80 percent, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

In the early 1980s, when the first utility-scale turbines were installed, wind-generated electricity cost about 30 cents per kilowatt hour. Now, state-of-the-art wind power plants can generate electricity for less than 5 cents per kilowatt hour, the association reports.

Wind energy typically costs one to two cents more per kilowatt hour than other forms of energy, Copleman said.

The colleges don't physically receive the wind energy they purchase. Instead, they pay a fee -- in addition to their regular utility bills -- to the broker, which in turn pays the wind farm where windmills produce the energy. That energy is directed to the power grids that supply energy to the utility companies, which in turn provide power to consumers.

Consumers such as colleges "pay a premium to put wind energy into the electricity mix," Copleman explained.

Lehigh officials said they will offer students the option of helping with the wind energy purchase. If students participate, they will be charged an additional $10 per semester on their college bills.

The money raised from students will subsidize the premium that Lehigh would pay for wind energy; the university will not pay for the initiative, bursar Mike King said. He said the university will buy the energy regardless of how many students sign up, but the amount Lehigh buys will be based on the number of participating students.

Lehigh, which receives its power from PPL Corp., could receive wind energy directly by next year, when PPL begins incorporating wind energy in its power mix. PPL has contracted to buy all of the wind energy produced by the Bear Creek Wind Energy Project, a wind farm being built near Wilkes-Barre.

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PPL plant invests in wind power -- About 5,500 homes will be eligible - to receive alternative energy source.

May 31, 2003 | Express-Times, The (Easton, PA)
Author: ANTHONY SALAMONE | Section: Business | 490 Words
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ALLENTOWN - One day after PPL Corp. announced it will clean up and eventually shut down two coal-fired power plants, one of its subsidiaries said Friday it plans to add more wind power to its energy mix.

PPL EnergyPlus LLC has signed an agreement with Community Energy Inc. of Wayne, Pa., to purchase about 20 megawatts of wind power, or enough electricity to power about 5,500 homes, according to PPL Energy.

The electricity will be generated at Bear Creek Wind Power Project for 20 years once the project starts up, which is expected in December.

Bear Creek is near the Bear Creek exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike's Northeast Extension, southeast of Wilkes-Barre in Luzerne County.

The price of the agreement or the price of the power was not being disclosed, PPL's Constance Walker said.

"This agreement is one more component in PPL's strategy to maintain a well-rounded, diverse energy portfolio," said Paul T. Champagne, president of PPL EnergyPlus, in a statement.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has been encouraging the development of clean energy sources and expansion of the so-called "Green Power" program so utilities can meet 10 percent of their energy needs through renewable sources.

PPL said it generates or purchases about 10 percent of the energy it markets from renewable sources like hydroelectric generation, biomass

and municipal solid waste facilities. PPL produces 11,500 megawatts overall in the U.S., with about 8,500 megawatts coming from Pennsylvania plants.

Walker said the wind electricity will go through the PJM Interconnection power grid, which transmits electricity through seven states and the District of Columbia.

She said the deal does not require regulatory approval from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. Power purchases are deregulated under the state's electric utility restructuring.

PPL EnergyPlus announced the news about a cleaner source of power a day after its Allentown-based corporate parent agreed to close the two coal burners at the Martins Creek power plant by 2007.

Walker indicated that the timing of the announcements so close to each other was purely coincidental, adding that both items had been worked on for months.

The agreement, which PPL reached with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, also calls for PPL to begin burning cleaner coal and fuel beginning in May 2004.

In return, New Jersey agreed to withdraw its appeal of Pennsylvania's approval of PPL's 600-megawatt natural-gas-fired plant.

The facility is now being built near the coal-burning facility and should be ready by next year. PPL also reserved the right to repower the coal-fired plants with an alternate form of fuel, but it has no plans to do that at this time.

The Martins Creek plant is in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, across the Delaware River from Warren County. Studies by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have identified sulfur dioxide

emissions from the Martins Creek plant as the main cause of the poor

air quality in Warren County, according to a New Jersey DEP statement.

PPL to buy wind farm's output ** Scranton area windmills will produce enough energy to power 5,500 homes.

May 31, 2003 | Morning Call, The (Allentown, PA)
Author: Kurt Blumenau Of The Morning Call | Section: BUSINESS | 411 Words
Page: A21
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PPL Corp. of Allentown will add wind power to its electric mix for the first time, announcing Friday a deal to buy electricity from a Scranton area windmill project.

PPL's energy marketing subsidiary, PPL EnergyPlus, signed a 20-year deal to buy all the electricity created by the Bear Creek Wind Power Project, a PPL representative said. The 20-megawatt Bear Creek wind farm could generate enough electricity to power 5,500 homes, PPL said.

Construction will start in July about 10 miles southeast of Wilkes-Barre. The plant should be ready in December, according to Community Energy Inc. of Wayne, which is building the wind turbines in conjunction with a Boston company.

PPL has never produced or bought wind power, though it uses other environmentally friendly power sources, PPL spokeswoman Constance Walker said.

About 10 percent of the company's electricity comes from renewable sources, such as hydroelectric generation. The Bear Creek deal will not substantially increase that number, Walker said.

The deal also is unique for developer Community Energy. The company has experience selling wind energy from operating turbines, but this is its first project built from scratch, spokesman Paul Copleman said.

"This is certainly a notable achievement for us," he said.

Community Energy sells power from seven wind farms in New York state and the mid-Atlantic region under the NewWind Energy brand. It has its own projects under way in New England, New Jersey, Illinois and Ohio, the company said.

The wind energy from Bear Creek will not directly power homes in the Lehigh Valley, due to the way the region's power industry is structured, Walker said.

PPL and other energy companies feed electricity into a shared power grid that serves seven states and the District of Columbia. The electricity each company takes out of the power pool is not necessarily the same power it put in.

Other electric providers already supply the regional grid with wind power, Walker said.

Financial terms of the contract were not released.

Walker declined to say whether more wind-power contracts are on the way for PPL.

"We're always looking for these types of opportunities," she said.

The Bear Creek project will include about a dozen wind turbines, which will be visible from the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Copleman said.

PPL stock rose 64 cents a share Friday on the New York Stock Exchange, closing at $40.44 a share in average

volume of trading.

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IN BRIEF

May 31, 2003 | Times Leader, The (Wilkes-Barre, PA)
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PPL to buy wind power

PPL EnergyPlus will purchase energy from the Bear Creek Wind Power Project for 20 years once the project begins producing electricity, PPL announced Friday.

Bear Creek is a 20-megawatt wind power project located near the Bear Creek exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It is within the PJM regional transmission and wholesale electricity market area, which serves seven states and the District of Columbia.

The project, which could produce enough electricity to power 5,500 homes, is expected to be operational in December.

``The PPL announcement is exciting for wind energy in the region,'' said Brent Alderfer, president of Community Energy of Wayne, the company developing the project.

``Wind energy purchases by our customers - like the University of Pennsylvania - created the demand for the Bear Creek wind farm, and this forward-looking commitment by PPL brings it on line.''

Utility declares dividend

PPL Corp. has declared a quarterly dividend on its common stock of 38.5 cents per share, payable July 1 to shareowners of record June 10.

Earlier this year, PPL increased its quarterly common stock dividend by 6.9 percent from 36 cents per share.

In addition, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, a subsidiary of PPL Corp., has declared the following quarterly dividends on its preferred stock, payable July 1 to shareowners of record June 10: 4-1/2%, $1.125; 3.35% Series 83.75 cents; 4.40% Series, $1.10; 4.60% Series, $1.15; 6.125% Series, $1.53125; 6.33% Series, $1.5825; and 6.75% Series, $1.6875.

Lawyers await fee ruling

Plaintiffs lawyers could collect more than $31 million in fees in a proposed $125 million settlement from accounting firm KPMG involving its audits of Rite Aid Corp. of Camp Hill.

U.S. District Judge Stewart Dalzell praised the lawyers' work in the case during a Friday hearing but delayed ruling until next week on the settlement or the lawyers' request for 25 percent fees.

The plaintiffs firms - Berger & Montague of Philadelphia and Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach of New York - represent shareholders in a class-action suit stemming from Rite Aid's $1.6 billion restatement of earnings.

Dalzell, responding to the lone objection to the fees from an individual investor's lawyer, said the percentage did not seem excessive given the difficult nature of the case.

``(KPMG) had the very obvious defense that they were victims too,'' Dalzell said. ``It's not a sure thing.''

KPMG was not charged in the case and has acknowledged no liability. Lawyers for the accounting firm declined comment.

Grocery files bankruptcy

The Penn Traffic Co., which operates grocery stores in six states, including BiLo supermarkets in Northeastern Pennsylvania, filed for bankruptcy Friday for the second time in four years and said it had arranged for $270 million in financing to help it reorganize.

The Syracuse-based company said it intended to reorganize and emerge from Chapter 11 as quickly as possible. It filed for bankruptcy protection in U.S. Court in White Plains, N.Y.

Fleet Capital Corp. and a syndicate of lenders will provide $270 million in financing. The company said that would be sufficient to operate and pay all vendors during the reorganization process.

Penn Traffic has asked for an interim order from the bankruptcy court to immediately access $70 million of that financing, Fisher said. That request was approved by the court Friday, Penn Traffic spokesman Joe Ramirez said.

All of the company's 212 stores remain open and serving customers.

Unlike 1999 when it filed for bankruptcy with a prearranged reorganization plan, this time Penn Traffic did not offer any specific details about how it will restructure.

Work force cuts, store closings and the sale of some of its divisions are all options that will be reviewed, said Marc Jampole, a company spokesman.