

## Lowell Ridge Might Support Up To 17 Wind Turbines - PPM Energy:

February 7, 2008 | Caledonian-Record, The (VT) Author: ROBIN SMITH; Staff Writer | Section: News | 934 Words Page: A3 OpenURL Link

The ridgeline in Lowell could support 12 to 17 of the modern taller wind turbines, according to a spokeswoman for PPM Energy, the new company interested in wind energy in Lowell.

However, PPM Energy through its subsidiary Atlantic Wind LLC, won't seek a state certificate of public good for the project for at least a year while waiting for more wind test measurements, according to PPM Energy spokeswoman Jan Johnson.

PPM Energy is already active in Vermont wind developments. Last year, the company applied for a permit to put 17 wind turbines up as part of the Deerfield project in Searsburg and Readsboro, according to the Vermont Public Service Board documents. PPM Energy acquired the Deerfield project assets at the same time as it did the Lowell assets of French company enXco and the Hoosac wind development in northwestern Massachusetts near the Vermont border, Johnson said.

In Lowell, PPM's Atlantic Wind LLC bought wind energy assets from X co that include land rights already negotiated with landowners and meteorological data collected during the past five years from two 50-meter wind measurement towers (about 150 feet tall), Johnson said.

The certificate of public good for the old towers expired on Jan. 29. Atlantic Wind applied for an amendment of the permit on Jan. 28.

The company wants to take down the existing wind measurement towers and replace them with two 60-meter towers in the same locations and two others of the same height in between to better measure wind at the higher elevations that the modern wind turbines can reach, Johnson said.

The application calls the winds in the Lowell area complex, and the current data "insufficient."

"The industry has been evolving," Johnson said. Wind turbines are taller today than five years ago. "We are hoping to get (measurement) towers to show the best data."

The 16 wind turbines planned for a wind development in Sheffield will be 420 feet tall. That project became the first large-scale modern wind project to gain a certificate of public good from the Public Service Board. That project could send enough power to the grid to support all the homes in Caledonia County.

Other projects like Lowell were in limbo until regulators approved the Sheffield wind farm.

Opponents have appealed the Sheffield project to the Vermont Supreme Court. The court has yet to say whether it will hear the appeal.

The Vermont Department of Public Service, which represents the interests of power consumers in Vermont, did a poll in recent months that found that Vermonters support renewable energy and in-state generation of power.

Wind power showed strong support in the poll.

New Towers Atlantic Wind LLC cannot change or add towers or take overen Xco's permit without the approval of the Public Service Board.

Lowell resident Don Nelson said Tuesday that he wanted a hearing about the changes in wind measuring towers and about the new company.

Typically, hearings are not held on permit applications for wind measurement towers, Johnson said.

The Public Service Board is in the process of reviewing the amendment request right now, said board deputy clerk Judy Whitney.

The board will make a determination whether the request is simply an amendment or whether it requires a hearing, she said.

The amendment application says that Atlantic Wind won't need new roads or access to put up the measurement towers.

The towers could be brought in by ATV or helicopter.

Johnson did not expect that the company would hold community meetings right now. Researchers for enXco had held a series of meetings in the Lowell area when the idea of a Lowell wind farm was first broached a few years ago.

"We put up (wind measurement) towers all over the place," Johnson said.

"Sometimes we decide we aren't even going forward with it."

Community meetings would be appropriate if the company decides to go forward with a wind project, she said.

Atlantic Wind LLC wants an amended certificate of public good allowing the new measurement towers to stay up for five years.

Johnson said the company would evaluate wind conditions over the next year.

A full project application for Lowell is at least a year or more away, she said.

International Company PPM Energy is based in Oregon. Its parent company is Scottish Power, now owned by Iberdrola of Spain, which gives the company a financial advantage in the wind energy business, according to PPM Energy's Web site.

The company also says it does all the required environmental impact studies of birds, bats, rare plants and waterways.

The company has more than 2,000 megawatts of wind energy projects in operation or under construction from California to New York, the Web site says.

A wind development in Lewis County, N.Y., north of Syracuse, is called Maple Ridge Wind Farm. It provides 321 megawatts, enough to power 160,000 average homes, the company says.

The wind farm is so named because that area is maple syrup country in New York. The Web site shows pictures of turbines on rolling treed hills with farms nestled below, much like Vermont.

That project spans 21,000 acres, although the turbines take up only a small portion of the land, the Web site says.

The Lowell project, like the Deerfield Wind, is much smaller in scope by comparison.

The Lowell ridgeline under consideration spans 30 to 75 acres on up to three miles of ridgeline, according to

original information fromen Xco at its Lowell Wind Web site. That Web site is now three to four years out of date.

The Lowell ridgeline runs from southwest to northeast in the towns of Lowell, Eden and southern Irasburg and is bounded between Routes 100 and 14 west and east, and Route 58 to the north.

 ${\it Copyright\,2008\,The\,Caledonian-Record\,Publishing\,Company\,Inc.\,All\,\,Rights\,Reserved.}$ 

### • Citation (aglc Style)

ROBIN SMITH, Staff Writer, 'Lowell Ridge Might Support Up To 17 Wind Turbines - PPM Energy:', *Caledonian-Record, The* (online), 7 Feb 2008 A3 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/12408609F35BBC50">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/12408609F35BBC50</a>



## Gaining energy

January 6, 2008 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Editorial | Section: Editorials | 581 Words

OpenURL Link

Monday, January 07 The energy bills making their way to the governor's desk are relatively strong on alternative energy sources, but any bill that includes incentives for the use of coal is negating those strengths. The much-heralded coal gasification technique still generates too many emissions to encourage its use as an energy source.

Utilities should not be required to purchase some power from coal gasification plants because those plants still send greenhouse gases skyward. The gasification technique makes coal cleaner, but it doesn't make it clean. Requiring utilities to purchase a percentage of power from truly clean sources, such as solar, hydroelectric and wind, will reduce pollution while encouraging the growth of those promising industries. The Senate, which has been leading the fight for boosting the coal gasification plants, has made a good faith attempt to tighten the emissions regulations in drawing up its legislation but the bill doesn't, and probably can't, go far enough for acceptance.

We agree with the state Senate's efforts to protect the Renewable Energy Trust, which funds clean energy projects with a 25-cent-a-month tax on utility bills. House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi, supported by Governor Patrick, wants to strip the trust from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative in the face of criticism that it has failed to produce adequate amounts of renewable energy and allow the governor to oversee the \$25 million generated annually. We'd like to see the trust remain independent, and Senate President Therese Murray has made an admirable attempt to address legitimate concerns about its productivity by calling for the creation of an advisory board appointed by House and Senate leaders to offer guidance.

While the Senate's elimination of some tax incentives to encourage greener energy is disappointing, Ms. Murray's contention that the state cannot afford them is hard to argue with. The \$2,000 deduction for the purchase of a new hybrid vehicle may have to wait for better economic times, but the proposed \$300 deduction for homeowners who install a solar water heating system will not make a major dent in the state's revenue while encouraging use of a heating source that doesn't burn expensive, polluting fossil fuels.

Closer to home on the alternative energy front, Savoy voters provided a necessary boost for wind energy by approving a much debated bylaw regulating wind turbines by the required two-thirds majority at Wednesday's town meeting. Minuteman Wind LLC of Framingham plans to build a five-turbine, 12.5-megawatt wind farm on 290 acres of ridgeline owned by Harold "Butch" Malloy.

The Selectmen addressed the concerns of some residents by increasing the distance between each turbine and any other occupied structure, a provision supported by voters. We would hope that a competing Planning Board bylaw will either be withdrawn or defeated at yet another special town meeting. There have been more than ample delays in this and other wind projects. With Minuteman now working on its special permit application, we hope the Savoy wind farm will soon join Jiminy Peak's wind turbine and the long-awaited 20-turbine Hoosac Wind Project in Florida and Monroe in contributing wind energy to the grid.

President Murray says she hopes a quick compromise will be reached in reconciling the House and Senate versions of the energy bill but warned that legislation with few dramatic differences has in the past been stalled for months in the House. We wouldn't single out the House for blame but would agree that a final bill should be arrived at quickly and sent to the governor. To do so in January would set a good precedent for the remainder of the year.

(c) 2008 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

### • Citation (aglc Style)

p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11E08201F89DE968>



## Wind power showing promise

January 6, 2008 | Republican, The (Springfield, MA) Author: STAN FREEMAN; STAFF | Section: News | 1886 Words Page: A01 OpenURL Link

sfreeman@repub.com

The cost of wind power now rivals that of power from fossil fuels.

At Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in the small Berkshire County town of Hancock, they know which way the wind is blowing.

In August, the ski resort dedicated a massive - taller than the 305-foot Statue of Liberty - gleaming white wind turbine that stands on the southwestern shoulder of the mountain.

Historically, an investment in renewable energy has been more symbolic than practical, a gesture to conservation rather than capitalism. Creating power that cost considerably more than that from fossil fuels like coal and oil, the renewables could only be afforded by those who were more interested in political statements than financial statements.

But the winds of change are blowing.

The cost of wind power has fallen so dramatically (80 percent in the last two decades) that in many locations it now matches or beats the price of so-called "grid power," the electricity purchased from utilities. As a result, new wind turbines erected in the United States this year will provide as much electricity as three large nuclear power plants.

By itself, the \$3.9 million General Electric windmill atop Jiminy Peak would be able to generate enough electricity to power nearly 600 homes, but resort officials expect it to supply a third to half of the power needed by the resort through the year.

"We started going down this road with wind power to help control our energy costs. They had doubled in three years, and you can't pass that kind of increase directly to consumers," said James P. Van Dyke, the resort's vice president of environmental sustainability.

"Our payback time with the turbine is seven years," he said. "So for that seven years, we're not paying National Grid for those kilowatt-hours, but we are paying a bank. But after that seven years, the power is free."

The growth in wind power has been rapid.

In 1998, wind turbines accounted for about 2,000 megawatts of power used in this country. (One megawatt powers about a thousand homes.) As of July, the capacity had grown to nearly 12,600 megawatts. However, that is still only a small portion - just 1.2 percent - of the nation's overall capacity, about 978,000 megawatts.

In parts of Europe the rise of wind power has been more striking. In Denmark, wind turbines provide more than 20 percent of the nation's electricity. Germany now has nearly 20,000 megawatts of wind power, nearly 60 percent more capacity than the United States.

Last month, British officials announced they intended to generate enough electricity using offshore wind farms to power every home in England by 2020.

Energy analysts believe wind power could eventually provide 20 percent of the electricity in this country. Indeed, there are regions of the United States that are rich in wind, such as the Midwest prairies and the Texas plains which is home to the largeset wind farm in the world, Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center, where 421 turbines are spread out over 47,000 acres in two counties.

However, where the wind does blow hard and steadily is not usually where the demand for electricity is greatest and therein lies one of the biggest disadvantages of wind power.

"The Dakotas have huge wind resources. But part of the issue is how do you get this energy from distant places that are sparsely populated to industrial centers. There is an inherent loss of energy in the transmission, roughly about 10 percent," said Michael K. Jensen, of the Center for Future Energy Systems at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.

Christine Real de Acua, a spokeswoman for the American Wind Energy Association, said reaching the wind energy potential of this country will be a challenge.

"The wind resources are there, and the technology is proven, but the challenges are whether we can build the transmission lines rapidly enough and whether the manufacturing capability (to make the turbines) can ramp up fast enough," she said.

Wind energy has other disadvantages, though. Wind is whimsical, sometimes gusting to hurricane force but at other times dying out completely. The fact that wind is not predictable means that it can never be relied on entirely for any region's electricity. There have to be a backup power plants fueled by other energy sources, such as natural gas or coal.

In Massachusetts, the richest wind resources are on the coast and offshore. In Western Massachusetts, the peaks of the Berkshire Hills, such as Jiminy Peak, offer opportunities, and to a lesser extent, the Holyoke Range and the Pelham Hills do.

In the mid 1970s, what is considered the nation's first "modern" windmill was installed on the campus of at University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Featuring computer controls and a variable speed rotor (so that a sudden gust of wind doesn't strip the gears), it has since been dismantled and sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Still visible atop Mount Tom is a larger experimental wind turbine that was installed by UMass researchers in the early 1990s. Not operative at the moment, it is used as a teaching tool by the engineering school.

However, in the Connecticut River Valley, a significant investment in wind would make little or no sense, said James F. Manwell, director of the UMass Renewable Energy Research Laboratory. "It's really not a very windy area. You have to get higher up."

Typically, a large wind turbine requires a sustained wind of at least 10 mph to turn the blades, significantly more than the average wind speed in most valley locations. In Westfield, for instance, the wind speed in September averaged 5.3 mph and the maximum wind gust for an entire day reached 20 mph on fewer than a third of the days in the month.

In the Berkshire Hills, aside from the wind turbine atop Jiminy Peak, no other proposal has yet come to fruition. The Hoosac Wind project proposed for Florida and Monroe involves 20 wind turbines about the size of the Jiminy Peak turbine. However, opposition to that project because of its perceived harm to the scenery has kept it bogged down in the permitting stage for the past two years. In June, though, the state approved a wetlands permit that has again put it on track.

The project, if completed, would generate enough electricity to power 10,000 homes. The company that is developing the project, PPM Energy, hopes to have the wind farm operating by the end of 2008, if nothing else halts

While wind turbines find a lot of support because of the clean affordable energy they produce, opposition to them has appeared in other places as well because of their appearance and its effect on scenery. The most glaring example of this has been the reaction of some citizens of Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Cape Cod to the Cape Wind project.

Proposed as the first offshore wind farm in America, Cape Wind would involve 130 wind turbines placed on Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound no closer than five miles from any surrounding shore. As such, the turbines would be barely visible over the horizon from the islands or Cape Cod. They would produce enough power to fill three-quarters of the electricity needs of Cape Cod and the two islands.

Nevertheless, the individuals and groups opposing the project say the turbines would mar the beauty of Nantucket Sound, and they have looked for any and every opportunity in the permitting process to stop the project.

Others see the opposition as a classic case of NIMBY - "not in my back yard." The irony is that some of those who oppose the project, including U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and his nephew Robert S. Kennedy Jr., have been champions for the environment. However, the Kennedy compound in Hyannis is within sight of the wind farm.

Manwell said that opposition to wind turbines is not absolute by those who will be looking at them regularly. Hull owns two wind turbines, very visible in the community, but they provide a significant portion of the town's electricity.

"People there say, 'Aren't my wind turbines pretty?' It's a major issue that gets ignored in the debate. Sometimes it's as simple as who owns the wind turbines. In Hull, it is the residents who own them. So beauty is in the eye of the beholder," he said.

In the early days of commercial-scale wind farms especially, there were complaints from environmentalists about the number of birds killed by the spinning blades. Now, improved turbine design and more appropriate placement of them have cut down on the threat to birds, according to Simon A. Perkins, an ornithologist with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The society has given its approval to the Cape Wind project.

"The basic designs are better because the monopole structure doesn't offer perches to birds the way the old ladder designs did," he said. "The downside of today's designs are that they are many times larger than they were 20 years ago, and with size come an additional threat because the blades take up more air space."

An emerging problem may be the durability of the wind turbines. Most of the largest ones are relatively new, having been built and installed in the last decade. While manufacturers have promised 20 years or more of useful life for them, the average age at which serious problems develop may be much lower.

For the wind turbine on Jiminy Peak, there is a two-year warranty on parts, and General Electric, the turbine's maker, is under contract to do the scheduled maintenance for two years, said Van Dyke. In addition, there is an insurance policy on the wind turbine that covers the cost of replacement parts for major components. However, it does not cover the labor to replace those parts, he said.

To replace a gear box, "It might cost \$400,000 to get a crane up there that would be as tall as (the turbine). So yes, that is something of a concern. But there is really nothing you can do about it at this point but worry. When it happens, then we'll deal with it," he said.

In the end, wind, like other alternative means to fossil fuels of generating power, will not be the solution to our energy problem by itself, said David H. Barclay, the executive director of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association based in Greenfield.

He likens the energy question of today to the transportation question of a century ago. In the early 1900s, horse-

drawn carriages were giving way on local streets to a strange assortment of mechanical devices, some powered by steam, others by electricity and still others by controlled explosions using gasoline.

"For those people, it wasn't clear which one of those technologies would emerge as the leading power source. In some ways it's similar to the energy situation today," he said.

"A hundred years ago, ultimately one source of transportation energy took over from all the others - gasoline. What is different today with energy is that as a country, we will need to use a whole array of power sources - essentially every tool in the toolbox. But what that mix will be is simply not clear at this point," Barclay said.

(COLOR PHOTOS 1) James F. Manwell

(PHOTO 2) The new wind turbine atop the Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in Hancock is expected to help the ski resort cut energy costs.

(PHOTO 3) David H. Barclay

See Microfilm Graphic - Page A16

### POWER UP - Energy in the 21st century - A 6-part series

 $Copyright, 2008, The \ Republican \ Company, Spring field, MA. \ All \ Rights \ Reserved. \ Used \ by \ News Bank \ with \ Permission.$ 

### • Citation (aglc Style)

STAN FREEMAN, STAFF, 'Wind power showing promise', *Sunday Republican* (online), 6 Jan 2008 A01 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11E0FA8FF2EF2F40">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11E0FA8FF2EF2F40</a>



## Weighty decisions

December 31, 2007 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Jack Dew, Berkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Headlines Top Story| 526 Words OpenURL Link

Tuesday, January 01 The PCB debate that has dominated Pittsfield's news for the past decade will spread to South County in 2008 as environmental regulators decide the fate of the Housatonic River.

For the past seven years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and General Electric have been gathering data and analyzing results, building to a decision on how much of the "rest of the river" — the stretches of Housatonic that meander out of Pittsfield and through Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge and Great Barrington — must be cleaned.

In March, GE will release the results of its corrective-measures study, an analysis of dozens of possible clean-ups in the river, and will recommend the company's preferred alternative.

By the end of the year, the EPA is expected to announce a clean-up plan that GE — unless it succeeds in a court appeal — will have to carry out.

Other stories to watch in Berkshire County in 2008:

Electric scrutiny. Attorney General Martha Coakley is examining the charges of the Western Massachusetts Electric Company.

The soaring cost of electricity emerged in 2007 as a major damper on businesses and played a large role in the departure of three paper mills from the county.

School oversight. The Southern Berkshire Regional School District has been unable to pass a budget, and its finances now are under the control of the state Department of Education.

The district's five member towns will try again for a budget in the spring. If they can't resolve their differences, the state will maintain control of the district.

Health care reform. Now that all adult residents of Massachusetts must have insurance, can they afford it? And will the state adjust its rules as penalties on the uninsured grow?

Key positions in Pittsfield. The city will look for a new chief of police and superintendent of schools, and might seek to remove the chief's job from civil service, a move that probably would be opposed by the police officers' union.

Tanglewood comeback. The Lenox performing arts venue will try to rebound from a subpar 2007 season. It will unveil its Berkshire County season pass, giving residents lawn access to every performance for \$75.

Tanglewood's 2008 schedule is heavy with opera and star power, including diva Renée Fleming and back-to-back James Taylor concerts on the Fourth of July weekend.

Murder trial. The trial of Henry E. Dozier Sr. is expected in 2008. He is accused of killing his wife, the Rev. Esther Dozier, in Great Barrington on June 11.

Wind power. The Hoosac Wind Project could clear its final hurdles or face another setback as it seeks to build a 20-turbine wind farm in the towns of Florida and Monroe.

Great Barrington development: The town will receive proposals from developers interested in purchasing the

vacant Searles/Bryant school complex, which could become a major development near the busy downtown.

The view at MoCA: The much-anticipated Sol LeWitt exhibit at Mass MoCA is expected to open in the fall, with 93 of his wall drawings on display until 2033 at the North Adams museum.

(c) 2007 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

### • Citation (aglc Style)

Jack Dew, Berkshire Eagle Staff, 'Weighty decisions', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 31 Dec 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11DEEF424F964F88">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11DEEF424F964F88</a>



## New town administrator starts Jan. 2

December 20, 2007 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Scott Stafford, Berkshire Eagle Staff| Section: Local | 276 Words OpenURL Link

Thursday, December 20 FLORIDA — An employee of a Pittsfield law firm has been named the new town administrator.

Christine Dobbert, 43, currently the administrator at the Campoli & Monteleone law firm, will begin her new duties in Florida on Jan. 2.

She won't have far to drive: A native of North Adams, she now lives about five minutes from Florida Town Hall.

"I'll save about \$50 a week in gas and two hours of driving every day," she said yesterday.

Dobbert has lived in Florida for about eight years, and even applied for the job the last time it was vacant.

"I applied for it four years ago when Sue (Brown) got it," she said. "They told me I was their second choice."

Dobbert takes over for Brown, who took a post as executive assistant to the president at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in September.

"When I heard Sue was leaving, I applied for it again," Dobbert said.

She accepted the job on Dec. 13.

Dobbert said she is looking forward to working for her community.

"I love living there," she said. "I like the remoteness, that it's a small town, the quiet, the nature — but mostly the quiet."

She is aware of the bigger issues facing the town, including the proposed Hoosac Wind project and the rehabilitation of Whitcomb Summit Motel, but she's not quite sure what her duties will be.

Doris Lewis, interim town administrator, has a pretty good idea what the job entails — she was Florida's first town administrator in 1998.

"There are a lot more things going on in town now, like the wind towers, cell towers, technological advances," Lewis said. "So there's a lot more paperwork."

(c) 2007 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

### • Citation (aglc Style)

Scott Stafford, Berkshire Eagle Staff, 'New town administrator starts Jan. 2', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 20 Dec 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11DFD8973809A460">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11DFD8973809A460</a>



# Dobbert named Florida administrator

December 20, 2007 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Scott Stafford, New England Newspapers | Section: Local | 352 Words OpenURL Link

Thursday, December 20 FLORIDA — An employee of a Pittsfield law firm has been named the new town administrator.

Christine Dobbert, 43, currently the administrator at the Campoli & Monteleone law firm, will begin her new duties in Florida on Jan. 2.

She won't have far to drive: A native of North Adams, she now lives about five minutes from Florida Town Hall.

"I'll save about \$50 a week in gas and two hours of driving every day," she said yesterday.

Dobbert has lived in Florida for about eight years, and even applied for the job the last time it was vacant four years ago.

"I applied for the four years ago when Sue (Brown) got it," she said. "They told me I was their second choice."

Dobbert takes over for Brown, who took a post as executive assistant to the president at Massachu- setts College of Liberal Arts in September.

"When I heard Sue was leaving, I applied for it again," Dobbert said.

She accepted the job on Dec. 13.

Dobbert said she is looking forward to working for her hometown.

"I'll feel like I'm giving back to the town," she said. "I love living there. I like the remoteness, that it's a small town, the quiet, the nature — but mostly the quiet."

She is aware of the bigger issues facing the town, including the proposed Hoosac Wind project and the rehabilitation of Whitcomb Summit Motel, but she's not quite sure what her duties will be.

"I'll find out when I get to work on Jan. 2," she said.

Doris Lewis, interim town administrator, has a pretty good idea what the job entails — she was Florida's first town administrator starting in 1998.

"There are a lot more things going on in town now, like the wind towers, cell towers, technological advances," Lewis said. "So there's a lot more paperwork."

She noted that there were 17 applicants for the opening.

"There are a lot of different things developing in town," Lewis said, "and the town administrator is the only person here all day, so it can get lonely. But I think (Dobbert) is the best person for the job. I know she'll enjoy it."

(c) 2007 North Adams Transcript. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

Scott Stafford, New England Newspapers, 'Dobbert named Florida administrator', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 20 Dec 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11DFD86C30F606F0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11DFD86C30F606F0</a>



# Bill seeks to advance clean energy initiatives

November 27, 2007 | Daily Hampshire Gazette [30 Day Embargo] (Northampton, MA) Author: RICHIE DAVIS The Recorder | Section: news | 583 Words OpenURL Link

A recently approved House bill, which is on its way to the Senate, may not set the blades spinning on a proposed 30-megawatt wind project in Monroe and Florida, but could make similar renewable projects easier in the future.

The legislation, co-sponsored by state Rep. Daniel Bosley, D-North Adams, would increase the state's reliance on cleaner, renewable energy and create a Department of Clean Energy charged with replacing 20 percent of the state's electric load with generation from renewable energy and creating a division specifically charged with promoting wind, solar and bio-fuels projects.

Meanwhile, the 20-turbine Hoosac Wind project, proposed five years ago for Monroe's Crum Hill

and neighboring Bakki Mountain in Florida, is still stalled in a superior court appeal by project opponents.

The proposed legislation, which the Senate is scheduled to take up next month, includes a compromise amendment by state Rep. Stephen Kulik, D-Worthington, to a section that would have automatically allowed small renewable projects on industrially zoned parcels. The provision, intended to deflect "not in my backyard" opposition, Kulik said, gives such projects a go-ahead, but requires loc al approval over issues like tower height and other special conditions.

"We're not going to increase our use of renewables if we don't start putting these up," said Kulik. "The bill was concerned with the 'NIMBY' (not in my backyard) attitude that exists, and which has been a problem with the Monroe-Florida project."

That project, proposed by Oregon-based PPM Energy, has been subject to lengthy appeal by the state Department of Environmenta I Protection over complaints about the potential environmental impact of construction of an access road. Opponents filed a court appeal this summer after the DEP appeal process ruled in June that the project - originally proposed by enXco - could procee d.

Kulik said such projects could be helped by having "an advocate in state government" as part of the new legislation. "We can't keep complaining about high electric rates and service disruptions unless we take matters in our own hands."

PPM spokeswoman Jan Johnson said the company is moving ahead with plans for nine turbines in Monroe and 11 in Florida, which she said would be capable of generating 94,600 megawatt hours of electricity a year, enough to provide power to 13,000 average-siz e homes.

"In concept, everyone likes clean energy, but when you go to put it in your backyard, everyone's against it," Bosley said.

"The bill encourages communities to do some zoning to take care of these problems before these projects ever come to town."

The projects in communities that are designated as favoring renewable technologies can be pre-permitted "so that we don't end up spending all of this time should somebody decide to come here," he said, and assures long-term funding to make financing them easier.

Lynn DiTullio, program manager at the Renewable Energy Research Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts,

said that while the proposed legislation may not stop "things going around in circles for years on end, so that proponents wonder why even bother?" Kulik's amendment could provide a way to streamline the process "without violating all of our towns' dearly and closely held rights."

The proposed legislation also includes incentives for proponents of renewable

generating projects - particularly solar and wind - by loosening metering regulations.

One would allow "neighborhood net metering," DiTullio said, so that communities with an attractive wind-power site could share the benefits of a project.

"This

bill addresses in key ways some of the challenges," she said, noting that some definitions in the legislation need clarifying. "Making the economics work has been a huge, huge challenge."

Copyright 2007, Daily Hampshire Gazette, All Rights Reserved.

### • Citation (aglc Style)

RICHIE DAVIS The Recorder, 'Bill seeks to advance clean energy initiatives', *Daily Hampshire Gazette* (online), 27 Nov 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/124B16A74B027B40">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/124B16A74B027B40</a>



Bill could help clear the air for wind projects By RICHIE DAVIS Recorder Staff \*11/26/2007 A recently approved House bill, which is on its way to the Senate, may not set the blades spinning on a proposed 30-megawatt wind project in Monroe and Florida, but it could make similar renewable projects easier in the future.

November 26, 2007 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 565 Words
OpenURL Link

The legislation, co-sponsored by state Rep. Daniel Bosley, D-North Adams, would increase the state's reliance on cleaner, renewable energy and would create a Department of Clean Energy charged with replacing 20 percent of the state's electric load with generation from renewable energy and creating a division specifically charged with promoting wind, solar and bio-fuels projects.

Meanwhile, the 20-turbine Hoosac Wind project, first proposed five years ago for Monroe's Crum Hill and neighboring Bakki Mountain in Florida, is still stalled in a superior court appeal by project opponents.

The proposed legislation, which the Senate is scheduled to take up next month, includes a compromise amendment by state Rep. Stephen Kulik, D-Worthington, to a section that would have automatically allowed small renewable projects on industrially zoned parcels. The provision, intended to deflect "not in my backyard" opposition, Kulik said, gives such projects a go-ahead, but requires local approval over issues like tower height and other special conditions.

"We're not going to increase our use of renewables if we don't start putting these up," said Kulik. "The bill was concerned with the NIMBY' (not in my backyard) attitude that exists, and which has been a problem with the Monroe-Florida project."

That project, proposed by Oregon- based PPM Energy, has been subject to lengthy appeal by the state Department of Environmental Protection over complaints about the potential environmental impact of the construction of an access road. Opponents filed a court appeal this summer after the DEP appeal process ruled in June that the project --originally proposed by enXco -- could proceed.

Kulik said that such projects could be helped by having "an advocate in state government" as part of the new legislation. "We can't keep complaining about high electric rates and service disruptions unless we take matters in our own hands."

PPM spokeswoman Jan Johnson said the company is "still moving ahead" with plans for nine turbines in Monroe and 11 in Florida, which she said would be capable of generating 94,600 megawatt hours of electricity a year, enough to provide power to 13,000 average-size homes.

Bosley said, "In concept, everyone likes clean energy, but when you go to put it in your backyard, everyone's against it. The bill encourages communities to do some zoning to take care of these problems before these projects ever come to town."

The projects in communities that are designated as favoring renewable technologies can be pre-permitted "so that we don't end up spending all of this time should somebody decide to come here," he said, and assures long-term funding to make financing them easier.

Lynn DiTullio, program manager at the Renewable Energy Resarch Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts, said that while the proposed legislation may not stop "things going around in circles for years on end, so that proponents wonder why even bother?" Kulik's amendment could provide a way to streamline the process "without violating all of our towns' dearly and closely held rights."

The proposed legislation also includes several incentives for proponents of renewable generating projects -- particularly solar and wind -- by loosening metering regulations.

One would allow "neighborhood net metering," DiTullio said, so that communities with an attractive wind-power site could share the benefits of a project.

"This bill addresses in key ways some of the challenges," she said, noting that some definitions in the legislation need clarifying. "Making the economics work has been a huge, huge challenge."

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

Copyright, 2007, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

### • Citation (aglc Style)

'Bill could help clear the air for wind projects By RICHIE DAVIS Recorder Staff \*11/26/2007 A recently approved House bill, which is on its way to the Senate, may not set the blades spinning on a proposed 30-megawatt wind project in Monroe and Florida, but it could make similar renewable projects easier in the future.', *Recorder, The* (online), 26 Nov 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11D3C703B8CCDCF0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11D3C703B8CCDCF0</a>



Bill could help clear the air for wind projects By RICHIE DAVIS Recorder Staff \*11/26/2007 A recently approved House bill, which is on its way to the Senate, may not set the blades spinning on a proposed 30-megawatt wind project in Monroe and Florida, but it could make similar renewable projects easier in the future.

November 26, 2007 | Recorder, The [30 Day Embargo] (Greenfield, MA) 545 Words
OpenURL Link

The legislation, co-sponsored by state Rep. Daniel Bosley, D-North Adams, would increase the state's reliance on cleaner, renewable energy and would create a Department of Clean Energy charged with replacing 20 percent of the state's electric load with generation from renewable energy and creating a division specifically charged with promoting wind, solar and bio-fuels projects.

Meanwhile, the 20-turbine Hoosac Wind project, first proposed five years ago for Monroe's Crum Hill and neighboring Bakki Mountain in Florida, is still stalled in a superior court appeal by project opponents.

The proposed legislation, which the Senate is scheduled to take up next month, includes a compromise amendment by state Rep. Stephen Kulik, D-Worthington, to a section that would have automatically allowed small renewable projects on industrially zoned parcels. The provision, intended to deflect "not in my backyard" opposition, Kulik said, gives such projects a go-ahead, but requires local approval over issues like tower height and other special conditions.

"We're not going to increase our use of renewables if we don't start putting these up," said Kulik. "The bill was concerned with the NIMBY' (not in my backyard) attitude that exists, and which has been a problem with the Monroe-Florida project."

That project, proposed by Oregon- based PPM Energy, has been subject to lengthy appeal by the autonomous state Division of Administrative Law Appeals -- which in May recommended denying a 2004 wetlands permit granted by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Kulik said that such projects could be helped by having "an advocate in state government" as part of the new legislation. "We can't keep complaining about high electric rates and service disruptions unless we take matters in our own hands."

PPM spokeswoman Jan Johnson said the company is "still moving ahead" with plans for nine turbines in Monroe and 11 in Florida, which she said would be capable of generating 94,600 megawatt hours of electricity a year, enough to provide power to 13,000 average-size homes.

Bosley said, "In concept, everyone likes clean energy, but when you go to put it in your backyard, everyone's against it. The bill encourages communities to do some zoning to take care of these problems before these projects ever come to town."

The projects in communities that are designated as favoring renewable technologies can be pre-permitted "so that we don't end up spending all of this time should somebody decide to come here," he said, and assures long-term funding to make financing them easier.

Lynn DiTullio, program manager at the Renewable Energy Resarch Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts, said that while the proposed legislation may not stop "things going around in circles for years on end, so that proponents wonder why even bother?" Kulik's amendment could provide a way to streamline the process "without violating all of our towns' dearly and closely held rights."

The proposed legislation also includes several incentives for proponents of renewable generating projects -- particularly solar and wind -- by loosening metering regulations.

One would allow "neighborhood net metering," DiTullio said, so that communities with an attractive wind-power site could share the benefits of a project.

"This bill addresses in key ways some of the challenges," she said, noting that some definitions in the legislation need clarifying. "Making the economics work has been a huge, huge challenge."

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

Copyright, 2007, The Recorder, Greenfield, MA

### • Citation (aglc Style)

'Bill could help clear the air for wind projects By RICHIE DAVIS Recorder Staff \*11/26/2007 A recently approved House bill, which is on its way to the Senate, may not set the blades spinning on a proposed 30-megawatt wind project in Monroe and Florida, but it could make similar renewable projects easier in the future.', *Recorder, The* (online), 26 Nov 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11D413752D1F0680">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11D413752D1F0680</a>



## Blocking the wind

October 17, 2007 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Editorial | Section: Editorials | 547 Words OpenURL Link

Wednesday, October 17 When wind energy projects come forward in Massachusetts, they too often attract the kind of opposition that used to be reserved for nuclear power plant proposals. The Cape Wind project proposed for Nantucket Sound continues to be hamstrung by the bureaucratic delaying tactics that have plagued the Hoosac Wind project for Florida and Monroe in North Berkshire County. These projects should be encouraged, and it is shameful that opponents who cannot defeat them on their merits resort to these strategies.

The 130-turbine Cape Wind project is a pioneering effort to employ heavy off-shore winds to generate electricity. Since it emerged in 2001, Cape Wind has been the victim of NIMBYism, with influential residents of the Cape and nearby islands pressuring state and federal agencies to block the project. The latest attempt comes from a subcommittee of the Cape Cod Commission, which argues that construction of an undersea cable linking the turbines to transmission facilities on the Cape should not be allowed because not enough is known about the cable's impact. That the subcommittee could make such a claim two years after the state's Energy Facilities Siting Board approved the cable following its own three-year study suggests that members don't have a good argument against Cape Wind and are simply seeking to frustrate its backers until they abandon their effort.

While it is not clear why it took the Siting Board three years to reach a decision, it at least got around to approving the undersea cable. In contrast, it took the state's Division of Administrative Law Appeals two years to reject the wetlands permit for the Hoosac Wind Project after opponents filed a protest of the state Department of Environmental Protection's decision to grant the permit. Happily, the state DEP, which after all, is the expert on environmental matters, quickly overruled the division on the grounds that it in essence misinterpreted the applicable culvert design regulations for spanning stream banks.

There is a vast middle ground between what goes on in Washington, where environmental regulations are trashed and ignored, and in Boston, where environmental regulations are used to stall worthy projects. When these projects are wind farms, it is particularly distressing because they are so important to the alternative energy picture.

Opponents argue that wind energy will generate too little energy for the grid to make it worthwhile, but every small amount of energy that can negate the equivalent amount of energy produced by coal or oil is worth it. Yes, roads must be built to the turbines planned for Florida and Monroe, but roadwork is less environmentally damaging than strip mining for coal, to offer one example. And while beauty is in the eye of the beholder, it is difficult to make a case that wind turbines, from the one now standing on Jiminy Peak to the 130 planned for the Cape, are a blight on the landscape or seascape.

Governor Deval L. Patrick wants to step up the state's efforts to exploit alternative energy sources and he wants to trim the bureaucracy that hampers development efforts in Massachusetts. Those two goals meet when it comes to development of wind power. We urge the administration to do whatever it can to help worthy projects like Cape Wind and Hoosac Wind overcome the obstructions that are being placed in their paths.

(c) 2007 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

### • Citation (aglc Style)

Editorial, 'Blocking the wind', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 17 Oct 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11C5808628623220">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11C5808628623220</a>>



## Going green in Berkshires

September 6, 2007 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Letters | Section: Letters to the Editor | 128 Words OpenURL Link

Thursday, September 06 As Massachusetts becomes a nationwide leader in renewable energy ("Massachusetts 'green' jobs are growing," Aug. 23), Western Massachusetts is playing an important role in this regard.

Avoiding the political pitfalls and not-in-my-back-yard opposition which have greatly delayed projects such as Cape Wind, the Berkshire region has supported the 30 megawatt Hoosac Wind project; seen the completion of a wind turbine at Jiminy Peak; and now is in favor of plans for a large-scale biodiesel production facility.

State policy makers could promote such developments by creating additional clean energy incentives for such projects. The end results would benefit the Berk-shires and all parts of the commonwealth with jobs, cleaner air, and more affordable electricity.

JEFFERY NEWTON

**Boston** 

The writer is program coordinator, Massachusetts Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance.

(c) 2007 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

### • Citation (aglc Style)

Letters, 'Going green in Berkshires', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 6 Sep 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11B7F2A874CC1148">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11B7F2A874CC1148</a>



# Environmental Regs All Wet, Some Say - Advocates Speak Out Against Wetlands Decisions; State Officials Considering Amendments as Result

August 13, 2007 | Banker & Tradesman (Boston, MA) Author: Thomas Grillo; Reporter | Section: Commercial | 1147 Words

OpenURL Link

Environmental Regs All Wet, Some Say

Purchase Reprint Printer Friendly Email This

Advocates Speak Out Against Wetlands Decisions; State Officials Considering Amendments as Result

By Thomas Grillo Reporter 08/13/07

State regulations regarding wetlands decisions may be amended because of public opposition. The wetlands above are located along the Charles River in Boston.

Opposition to Gov. Deval Patrick's proposal that would curb citizen appeals on state wetlands decisions has led the administration to reconsider the changes.

"The advocates' voices have been heard loud and clear, and we are considering amending that provision because of the response we've received," said Arleen O'Donnell, acting commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The controversy began earlier this year when O'Donnell joined Patrick and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles to unveil changes that they argued would improve the effectiveness of environmental regulations. The goal was to issue permits "at the speed of business," the governor said.

But at a pair of recent public hearings, activists lined up to oppose at least one of the administration's plans to streamline wetlands permitting. The most contentious amendment would end the ability of 10 or more residents to appeal to the Division of Administrative Law Appeals if they believe the DEP permit decision fails to protect wetlands.

"If DEP proceeds with these changes, it will make an uneven playing field even more uneven," said Stash Horowitz, co-founder of the Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods, who testified against the proposal in Worcester last week. "Business interests seem to be running the governor's agenda."

Thomas Sciacca, a former Wayland Conservation Commission chairman, said he was a member of a citizen group that opposed the town's plan to install artificial turf at an athletic field adjacent to wells and the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The 3,600-acre sanctuary is comprised of freshwater wetlands that stretch along 12 miles of the Concord and Sudbury Rivers in MetroWest and serves as nesting and feeding habitat for wildlife.

"Some town officials were willing to trade football for drinking water," he said. "Many of us did not believe that was a reasonable tradeoff. Our appeal to DALA resulted in major accommodations, including a new draining plan. That would not have happened without this right of appeal."

'Where Is the Fairness?'

Suzanne R. Bass, president of the Mystic River Watershed Association, said while she agrees that cases sometimes take too long, residents often need time to make their case.

"I know of one example where it took 17 months from the last hearing to get permitted, and that's inexcusable," she said. "But developers have all their lawyers, scientists and hydrologists lined up while citizens work in their spare time."

Bass insisted that residents who participate in such appeals cases don't do so lightly.

"It takes an incredible amount of work and lots of money must be raised to pay attorney and consultants," she said.

"These appeals are not frivolous."

Kyla Bennett, director of New England Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, or PEER, said she was shocked to learn that DEP needed a primer on wetlands.

"I never thought that I would find myself lecturing DEP on why wetlands are critical to citizens of the commonwealth," she said.

Bennett questioned why any change was needed in the wetlands-appeal procedure. She noted that only 15 wetlands appeals were heard by DALA in 2005, while four were heard last year.

Stephen Kaiser, a member of the Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods, raised the issue of fairness. He noted that in the recent Chapter 91 case involving Northpoint, the proposed \$2 billion mini-city in East Cambridge, residents who filed the lawsuit were outspent by the developer by a 10-1 margin.

"Where is the fairness in that?" he asked. "There are so many things stacked against citizens. DEP's answer to the issue of fairness is to make it harder for citizens to appeal."

But not everyone is opposed to the governor's plan.

David Begelfer, chief executive officer of the Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, said NAIOP supports efforts to streamline what has become a very lengthy appeals process. He said that some people like the idea of slowing things even if they don't win.

Begelfer rejected the suggestion that the same governor who campaigned on a platform of "citizen involvement" was trying to silence public opinion.

"Citizen engagement doesn't mean that if you lack any basis for your concerns, then you're free to veto a project," he said. "If there's a valid reason to oppose a decision that's one thing, but there are cases where appeals have been rejected locally and consistently and that's an abuse of the system."

In the 1960s, Massachusetts became among the first states in the nation to legislate wetlands protections. The Wetlands Protection Act recognizes that wetlands are the people's water resources, not just the developers' private property, according to Clean Water Action, a national organization whose mission is to lobby for clean water and empower taxpayers to take charge of the environment's future.

Wetlands filter clean drinking-water supplies, prevent flooding and storm damage, and support wildlife. Some compare them to tropical rainforests in their biological productivity. Since Colonial times, nearly a third of the commonwealth's wetlands have been destroyed, according to environmental advocacy groups.

But during the announcement, the governor noted that some of the stalled appeals involve projects that serve the

public good. One such project is the Hoosac Wind Farm, an electricity-generating plant in the Berkshires, he said. DEP had approved a permit for the project in 2004 but opponents filed an appeal of that permit. The case has been under review since February 2005, still awaiting a decision.

O'Donnell, the acting DEP commissioner, noted that there appears to be broad agreement on some of the proposed changes that would make the Bay State more economically competitive and get permits issued in 180 days.

"We took that charge seriously and discovered that wetlands appeals [was] one of four programs that were taking well over six months, with some taking as long as four years," she said. "Everyone seems to agree that some of the wetlands permits, at one year or more, are taking way too long."

O'Donnell disputed claims by activists that the appeals by 10 or more citizens to DALA would end if the governor's proposal were enacted. Residents who are not abutters would have to demonstrate that they are "aggrieved persons," she said.

But activists insist that it is difficult to demonstrate harm before the action causing such damage is done. "The legal hurdle of proving you may suffer an injury is quite high and would eliminate many people who would be harmed by the issuing of a wetlands permit," said PEER's Bennett.

Still, O'Donnell said DEP is trying to reduce the permitting timelines and minimize the number of frivolous appeals by raising the bar slightly for those eligible to file an appeal.

The deadline for public comment on the regulations ends today. DEP expects to issue new guidelines this fall.

Copyright (c) 2007 Banker & Tradesman, All rights reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Thomas Grillo, Reporter, 'Environmental Regs All Wet, Some Say - Advocates Speak Out Against Wetlands Decisions; State Officials Considering Amendments as Result', *Banker & Tradesman* (online), 13 Aug 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/12E7E1144FDA0F48">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/12E7E1144FDA0F48</a>



## Berkshire wind is coming

August 7, 2007 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: John Rogers and Michael Supranowicz | Section: Other Opinions | 657 Words OpenURL Link

Wednesday, August 08 PITTSFIELD

LIKE THOUSANDS of tourists enjoying the Berkshires this summer, global warming has come to town. Unlike the tourists, however, it's here to stay. And it is up to us to decide how severe it will be. That will be determined by the choices we make, most notably by how we produce and use energy.

"Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast," a recent report by more than 50 scientists and economists and the Union of Concerned Scientists, details how global warming could seriously harm the northeastern United States. It looks at temperature and precipitation under two different carbon emissions scenarios: one that assumes a continuing increase in global warming emissions from ongoing heavy reliance on fossil fuels, and another that assumes substantially lower emissions by making changes like increasing our reliance on clean energy sources. The report spells out the consequences for our region if we do not responsibly address climate change.

Scientists project that if we continue to increase our global-warming emissions, the Berkshire climate would no longer be hospitable to such mainstay tree species as maple, spruce, fir, beech and birch. Local orchards could be forced to abandon such popular apple varieties as McIntosh, Empire and Granny Smith. Other crops would suffer from drought and northward-moving pests and weeds. Birds would suffer from habitat loss, dairy cows from heat stress, and local ski resorts from reduced snowfall.

But we do have some control over how bad it will get. Massachusetts has begun to take charge of its energy future. For example, in June the state reinstated the wetlands permit for the proposed Hoosac wind project in Florida and Monroe. And next week Jiminy Peak ski resort will begin spinning its new wind turbine.

Like other renewable energy, wind is more than an environmental solution. It is also good for the state's economy. Projects like Hoosac as well as the Berkshire Wind Project in Hancock will generate income for local property owners who have turbines on their land and result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenues for host towns. Along with displacing 50,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year (the equivalent of taking 7,500 cars off the Berkshires' roads) and producing enough to power 16,000 homes, the Hoosac project would create nearly 100 jobs in construction, operations and maintenance. The Jiminy Peak turbine is projected to provide half of the energy for its snow-making operations, while significantly stabilizing the facility's electricity costs.

Some people object to the look of wind turbines. Our mountains are beautiful, and we wish their peaks could remain capped by only snow and trees. But consider the view we'll have if we do nothing to reduce global warming emissions. Massachusetts will no longer look like Massachusetts.

Some point to energy efficiency as a better choice than wind power. We need both. We should certainly use the most efficient appliances, lights and heating systems in our homes and businesses. But that won't reduce emissions as significantly as needed.

Wind projects in the Berkshires can be an important part of our response to global warming. Wind power also helps stabilize energy prices, diversify our energy supply, and reduce our dependence on imported fuels.

The challenge global warming presents to the Berkshires means that we need projects like Hoosac, Berkshire Wind and Jiminy Peak. The process for considering such projects needs to be thorough but streamlined to ensure that appropriate projects are approved. With good planning, proper siting, careful design and monitoring, wind power can and will play a significant role in our electricity system.

Taking advantage of the Berkshires' wind resources in a responsible, reasoned fashion is a powerful way to respond to global warming right here at home — and keep climate change from wreaking havoc in our backyard.

John Rogers is a senior energy analyst for the Union of Concerned Scientists' Clean Energy Program in Cambridge, Mass. Michael Supranowicz is the president and chief executive officer of the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce.

(c) 2007 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

John Rogers and Michael Supranowicz, 'Berkshire wind is coming', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 7 Aug 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11AE64542FC92398">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11AE64542FC92398</a>



## NStar pushes wind power

July 26, 2007 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Editorial | Section: Editorials | 248 Words OpenURL Link

Thursday, July 26 Boston-based utility NStar is the first in the state to encourage its customers to buy electricity from environmentally-friendly wind farms, and we hope it will not be the last. NStar, which buys power from wind farms in upstate New York, is giving its customers the option of paying \$7.50 to \$15 a month to cover the extra cost of wind-generated electricity. Customers, of course, would not get their power from the wind farms but they would be contributing to the effort to get more wind power on the grid, supplanting oil and coal to a degree that will increase as more wind sources join the grid. NStar chief executive Thomas J. May told The Boston Globe he hopes that the Hoosac Wind project in Florida and Monroe will become an NStar supplier to further boost its renewable-energy efforts. It is impossible to predict how successful this plan by NStar will be, but we hope state utility regulators will give it a chance to succeed.

No funds for Boston pike project

Governor Patrick has been generous in encouraging economic development in Massachusetts, but the \$10 million he has promised the developer of a long-discussed condominium and luxury hotel project over the Massachusetts Turnpike in Boston is a bad investment. A building boom in Boston is producing any number of similar projects that aren't looking for a huge check from the taxpayers for infrastructure costs. Times are tight, and this money can be better spent elsewhere. We hope the Legislature will agree.

(c) 2007 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

### • Citation (aglc Style)

Editorial, 'NStar pushes wind power', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 26 Jul 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11AA1B7535B13188">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11AA1B7535B13188</a>



## Groups appeal windmill decision

July 21, 2007 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Bonnie Obremski, North Adams Transcript | Section: Local | 597 Words OpenURL Link

Saturday, July 21 FLORIDA — Two citizen groups filed an appeal Friday morning in Suffolk Superior Court in Boston seeking to overturn the state Department of Environmental Protection's decision last month to allow the Hoosac Wind Project in Florida and Monroe to move forward.

The 20-page complaint charges that the DEP's June 20 decision to issue a wetlands permit for the 20-turbine wind farm — which overruled a decision of an administrative magistrate with the state Division of Administrative Law Appeals in May — was "procedurally irregular," against state law and not supported by substantial evidence.

The appeal could further stall efforts by PPM Energy of Portland, Ore., to build the \$44 million, 2.3-megawatt wind farm. The DEP approved necessary permits for the project more than two years ago for enXco, an international conglomerate that subsequently sold the rights to PPM.

A judge will hear the case on July 25, at which time the two lawyers representing the citizens groups will request an expedited discovery period to find out when PPM Energy intends to begin construction, according to Eleanor Tillinghast of Green Berkshires Inc., which has consistently tried to stop the project. The attorneys are John C. Bartenstein, of Lexington and Robert O. Lucido II, of Pittsfield. The attorney general's office will represent the DEP.

The 10-person Environmental Group, representing people across the state, and the 10 Local Citizen Group of the town of Florida seek to reinstate a 78-page decision by Administrative Magistrate Natalie S. Monroe in May that rescinded the project's wetlands permit, largely because of concerns about the environmental impact of the access road to the wind farm. The same groups successfully appealed the DEP's wetlands permit for the project in 2005, citing environmental concerns that led to Monroe's decision.

DEP Acting Commissioner Arleen O'Donnell ruled on June 20, however, that the impact would be far less significant than Monroe and the citizens groups claimed.

The Hoosac Wind Project proposes building 20 turbines on Bakke Mountain in Florida and Crum Hill in Monroe. The wind turbines would each measure 340 feet tall from base to the tip of the blades at their highest point, and many would be visible from the Mohawk Trail (Route 2) and parts of North Adams, Clarksburg and Stamford, Vt.

"Our position all along is it will cause unacceptable environmental damage," Tillinghast said Friday of the project.

"This complaint is specific to wetlands issues, but we also believe the wind farm will kill birds and bats, cause forest fragmentation and that the benefits are minuscule."

She said the electricity produced by the turbines would produce just 14 one-hundredths of 1 percent of the state's total electricity use and cost taxpayers and ratepayers upwards of \$17 million.

"Whatever benefits that might be achieved by this project could be achieved with far less cost if we just reduced our use of fossil fuels by increasing energy efficiency," Tillinghast said. "Our mountains, with their vistas and views, are the currency of our local economy. But, our primary concern is environmental."

Tillinghast is supporting the appeal as a member of the 10-Person Environmental Group. She helped found Green Berkshires to advocate for the protection of mountains and ridgelines in the Berkshires. Her organization is also involved in a lawsuit against the Berkshire Wind Project, which intends to build wind turbines on Brodie Mountain in Hancock.

Efforts to reach PPM Energy officials were unsuccessful. The appeal, which was filed on the last day before the time limit for appeals expired, had been expected. Florida voters approved a nonbinding resolution backing wind power 170-47 at its annual town meeting in March 2003.

 $(c)\ 2007\ North\ Adams\ Transcript.\ All\ rights\ reserved.\ Reproduced\ with\ the\ permission\ of\ Media\ NewsGroup,\ Inc.\ by\ NewsBank,\ Inc.\ Produced\ Webster \ NewsBank,\ Inc.\ Produced\ Webster \ NewsBank,\ Inc.\ News$ 

### • Citation (aglc Style)

Bonnie Obremski, North Adams Transcript, 'Groups appeal windmill decision', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 21 Jul 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A8C89D75D1F058">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A8C89D75D1F058</a>



## Reducing reliance on MCAS

June 27, 2007 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Editorial | Section: Editorials | 276 Words OpenURL Link

Wednesday, June 27 Governor Deval L. Patrick has shown welcome signs that he is willing to reduce the importance of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test, a policy that could restore balance to the state's public schools. His budget cut funding for the Office of Education Quality and Accountability, which has pointed out MCAS deficiencies and audited how schools spend state money, and he has appointed a staunch MCAS critic to the state Board of Education, all while questioning whether the MCAS is being properly used. No single test can gauge the educational experience of an entire community. Learning is done in the classroom, on the ballfield, on the stage and in the home. Let the MCAS test whether students have mastered reading, writing and arithmetic, and let educational professionals decide whether our young men and women are learning all that they need.

### Embracing a greener future

Whether by design or by necessity, the future of Massachusetts is green. The announcement on Monday that the state is building a cutting-edge facility to test wind turbines is a welcome sign that Massachusetts is embracing the burgeoning field of alternative energy. While the federal government has dragged its heels on reducing emissions and seeking alternatives to fossil fuels, Governor Deval L. Patrick, the Legislature and the state's Congressional delegation are looking for ways to put Massachusetts on the forefront of green technology. Developments like the proposed \$50 million biodiesel plant in Pittsfield, the wind turbine atop Jiminy Peak, and the Hoosac Wind project in Florida and Monroe make sound environmental and economic sense. By pursuing these projects now, the state will be prepared when oil is replaced by cleaner, greener alternatives.

(c) 2007 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Editorial, 'Reducing reliance on MCAS', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 27 Jun 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A0E17D765A7978">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A0E17D765A7978</a>



## Massachusetts State to test wind power

June 26, 2007 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Author: Hillary Chabot, Eagle Boston Bureau | Section: Headlines Top Story | 486 Words OpenURL Link

Tuesday, June 26 BOSTON — Massachusetts will be one of two states building a state-of-the-art facility to test turbines used in wind power.

The facility will place the state at the forefront of wind power and alternative energy, said U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, who outlined the facility with Gov. Deval L. Patrick at a press conference yesterday.

"This will make Massachusetts a global center for clean energy technology," Patrick said. "This is a big step for us."

Massachusetts and Texas were selected from six semifinalists to build the testing facilities. A collaboration between privately owned Massachusetts Technical Collaborative and the University of Massachusetts, the state office of economic development, and the office of energy and environmental affairs will complete the project.

The \$20 million center will place the 70-meter blades used in wind power on a hangar and test them against wind and vibrations to ensure that they would hold up on the open sea. Located in Charlestown, the facility will receive \$2 million in equipment from federal officials, \$13 million from private and public funds, and \$5 million from established reserve fund.

It would be the biggest facility of its kind in the country, Bodman said.

U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan joined Patrick, Bodman, colleague Rep. Bill Delahunt and UMass President Jack Wilson to announce the center.

Although local legislators welcomed the facility and the state's prominent position in expanding the use of alternative energy, many are still concerned about where the wind farms will go. Cape Wind, a \$900 million wind farm that would be located off Nantucket Sound, has been an extremely controversial project.

The Hoosac Wind project recently won a wetlands permit after it was stalled by procedural appeals for two years. The project would place 20 340-foot turbines in the towns of Florida and Monroe and would generate enough electricity to power 10,000 homes.

"These things are popping up all over, and some are controversial and some are not," said Rep. Denis E. Guyer, D-Dalton. "I think on its face it sounds like a great initiative. This technology is the wave of the future."

Patrick also announced a plan to conserve energy by asking private companies to pay for conservation efforts and allowing them to raise rates for customers in an effort to slow energy use.

The plan would ask Nstar and National Grid to pay for energy conservation efforts, including installing energyefficient fluorescent bulbs and appliances. Customers still would save money because they would be using less energy, Patrick said.

Although some legislators are concerned about allowing energy companies to increase their delivery rates, Senate President Therese Murray, D-Plymouth, and Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi, D-Boston, both back the proposal.

Ian A. Bowles, secretary for the state Department of Energy, said he hopes to have a blueprint for the conservation plan by Sept. 1 so that it can be implemented in 2010.

## "It's an ambitious date, but it's achievable," Bowles said.

(c) 2007 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Hillary Chabot, Eagle Boston Bureau, 'Massachusetts State to test wind power', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 26 Jun 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A039458DA46A98">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A039458DA46A98</a>



### Swift but not sure

June 26, 2007 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: TheTranscript.com| Section: Local| 330 Words OpenURL Link

Tuesday, June 26 The one good thing about the state Department of Environmental Protection's ruling last week that the Hoosac Wind project in the towns of Florida and Monroe could move ahead was that it came relatively swiftly — not in the "several weeks" that DEP had previously predicted.

The bad thing about that is it smacks of political pressure rather than good policy making — political pressure brought to bear, we suspect, by Gov. Deval Patrick, who seems to want to be known as the "environmental governor" as much as he wants to be the "education governor."

But at what cost?

As the Transcript has editorialized before, projects like Hoosac Wind, despite all the hype about their reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuels and contributing to "green energy," don't do much more than line the pockets of out-of-state developers with tax subsidies — which come out of the pockets of taxpayers. Even if every windmill project proposed for Berkshire County and nearby Southern Vermont and the massive Cape Wind project come to fruition, not one fossil-fuel plant would be taken off line. Very few, if any, local jobs would be created.

What would happen, here in Florida and Monroe, is that mountain scenery would be destroyed, trees toppled and fragile ecosystems ravaged by bulldozers to make room for access roads and power lines.

This is helping the environment?

Whatever the case may be, we doubt the Hoosac Wind saga is over. Does anyone believe the non-profit Green Berkshires, which originally tried to halt the project by challenging the DEP's approval of its wetlands permit, will sit idly by and let PPM Energy Inc. steamroll ahead? We smell a lawsuit coming on.

We will await that development with interest because it could shed some light on just how the DEP reached its swift and highly questionable decision to overrule an administrative magistrate's denial of the wetlands permit — a magistrate who was not influenced by politics but by law.

 $(c) \, 2007 \, North \, Adams \, Transcript. \, All \, rights \, reserved. \, Reproduced \, with \, the \, permission \, of \, Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group, \, Inc. \, by \, News Bank, \, Inc. \, and \, Control of Media \, News Group,$ 

### • Citation (aglc Style)

TheTranscript.com, 'Swift but not sure', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 26 Jun 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A08AD221ED5550">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A08AD221ED5550</a>



### Some wind blows ill

June 26, 2007 | North Adams Transcript (MA) Author: Hillary Chabot, Transcript Statehouse Bureau | Section: Local | 614 Words OpenURL Link

Tuesday, June 26 BOSTON — Massachusetts will be one of two states building a state-of-the-art facility to test turbines used in wind power.

The \$20 million facility, to be the biggest in the nation, will place the state at the forefront of wind power and alternative energy, said U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, who outlined the facility with Gov. Deval Patrick at a press conference Monday.

"This will make Massachusetts a global center for clean energy technology," Patrick said. "This is a big step for us."

U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan joined Patrick, Bodman, colleague Rep. Bill Delahunt, and UMass President Jack Wilson at the Statehouse to announce the center.

While local legislators welcomed the facility and the state's prominent position in expanding the use of alternative energy, many are still concerned about where the wind farms will go. Cape Wind, a \$900 million wind farm that would be located off Nantucket Sound, has been an extremely controversial. State Environmental Affairs Secretary lan Bowles signed off on the project in March, opening the way for developers to pursue state and local permits. The project must also go through federal reviews before it can even begin.

Patrick has been an outspoken advocate for the alternative energy project, which would place 130, turbines rising 440 feet above federal waters.

Opponents say it will damage or disrupt the maritime ecology. U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., an early critic of the massive energy development, has said he will await the outcome of the federal studies before planning his next steps, according to the Cape Cod Times.

The 30-megawatt Hoosac Wind project recently won a wetlands permit after it was stalled by procedural appeals for two years, a process that Patrick is pushing to streamline. The \$44 million project would place 20, 340-foot turbines along mountain ridges in Florida and Monroe, and would generate enough electricity to power nearly 10,000 homes.

The development's neighbors and local environmental group Green Berkshires have been fighting the project, saying it will damage the mountains' fragile wetlands ecosystem and pose a hazard for birds and humans. The town, however, signaled its approval of wind power in a nonbinding ballot question in 2003.

In Savoy, Minuteman Wind is planning five, 400-foot tall turbines.

Berkshire Wind, being developed in conjunction with Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, a partner in the planned wind technology center, is currently at a standstill in Hancock over a lawsuit filed by a nearby resort development. The long-delayed project would put 10 turbines on Brodie Mountain. There has been little local opposition to the project.

"These things are popping up all over, and some are controversial and some are not," said Rep. Denis E. Guyer, D-Dalton, who represents Hancock. "I think on its face it sounds like a great initiative. This technology is the wave of the future."

A number of towns in Berkshire County have enacted or are exploring bylaws that would limit the height and visual

impact of wind turbines, along with cellular phone towers.

Patrick also announced a plan to conserve energy by asking private companies to pay for energy conservation efforts and allowing them to raise rates for customers in an effort to slow energy use.

The plan would ask Nstar and National Grid to pay for energy conservation efforts, such as installing energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs and appliances. Customers would still save money because they would be using less energy, Patrick argued.

While some legislators are concerned about allowing energy companies to increase their delivery rates, Senate President Therese Murray, D-Plymouth, and House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi, D-Boston, both back the proposal.

Bowles said he hopes to have a blueprint for the conservation plan by Sept. 1 so that it can be implemented in 2010.

"It's an ambitious date, but it's achievable," he said.

(c) 2007 North Adams Transcript. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

### • Citation (aglc Style)

Hillary Chabot, Transcript Statehouse Bureau, 'Some wind blows ill', *North Adams Transcript* (online), 26 Jun 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A08AD1154F6220">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/11A08AD1154F6220</a>



# Read & Interact

June 23, 2007 | Berkshire Eagle, The (Pittsfield, MA) Section: Community | 50 Words OpenURL Link

Saturday, June 23

Green in the Berkshires

Yesterday's results:

Apparently the Hoosac Wind project's

a 'go' ... are you glad to hear it?

Yes, wind energy is renewable 33 votes 72%

No, too many birds will die 6 votes 13%

I'm ambivalent 7 votes 15%

(c) 2007 The Berkshire Eagle. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

'Read & Interact', *Berkshire Eagle, The* (online), 23 Jun 2007 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/119F8EDEBA1E9DC8>