



## New York State Wind Energy News Bulletin

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This free monthly wind news bulletin is produced and distributed by Pace Energy and Climate Center, in association with Citizens Campaign for the Environment and Alliance for Clean Energy New York, Inc. To subscribe or unsubscribe, email Todd Olinsky-Paul at [tolinskypaul@law.pace.edu](mailto:tolinskypaul@law.pace.edu).

## Wind Events & Actions

### 1/17: Hammond Wind Committee Meeting

The Hammond Wind Committee will meet Monday, January 17, at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall, to discuss a previously tabled project management proposal. The committee will also revisit the setback issue, discuss a decommissioning proposal, consider turbine lighting and radar interruption, discuss conflict resolution, and review information on required safety measures. Source: The Journal (Ogdensburg) ([www.ogd.com](http://www.ogd.com)).

## Local Developments

### Lake Ontario Region

#### Hammond Wind Committee Recommends Property Guarantee

The Hammond Wind Committee has voted to include a Residential Property Value Guarantee as part of the wind zoning law it is recommending to the town council. The guarantee would require wind developers to compensate nearby property owners if property values dropped due to the presence of wind turbines. In addition, the law would require wind developers to purchase the properties of homeowners opposed to living next to a wind turbine. During the committee meeting, a representative from Iberdrola suggested a good neighbor agreement as an alternative to the guarantee. Good neighbor agreements are sometimes used by developers as a way to offer compensation to non-lease-holding landowners in the vicinity of turbines. Iberdrola had previously stated that it would abandon plans for a wind farm in Hammond if the property value guarantee became law. Source: The Watertown Daily Times; The Journal (Ogdensburg) ([www.ogd.com](http://www.ogd.com)).

#### WindTamer Receives \$1.5M For Rochester Expansion

WindTamer Corp., a small manufacturer of wind turbines and renewable energy storage and management systems headquartered in Rochester, will receive approximately \$1.5 million in incentives from state and local governments, to acquire new machinery and

develop employee training. The company expects to create 91 additional jobs in the next five years. WindTamer received \$900,000 in tax credits through the Empire State Development's Excelsior Jobs Program, and sales tax incentives and low interest loans from the Monroe County Department of Planning and Development worth up to an additional \$400,000. Source: DemocratAndChronicle.com; AreaDevelopment.com.

### **Iberdrola Submits Scaled-Down Horse Creek Proposal**

Wind developer Iberdrola Renewables has submitted a revised application to the Clayton Planning Board to develop a scaled-down version of the Horse Creek wind farm. The new proposal would locate 50 turbines within the town of Clayton, producing up to 100 MW, but does not include any turbines in the neighboring town of Orleans. Previous proposals, featuring more turbines in both Clayton and Orleans, were suspended to allow Iberdrola to find a way to protect the endangered Indiana bat. The developer says the new proposal achieves this goal. Iberdrola will work for the remainder of the year on securing necessary permits, while the town Planning Board reviews the proposal under New York's State Environmental Quality Review process. Source: Watertown Daily Times.

## **Lake Erie Region**

### **Winery Sues Cambria**

The owners of Arrowhead Spring Vineyards are suing the Town of Cambria over the town Planning Board's denial of their application to install a 132-foot wind turbine to power both the winemaking operation and the owners' home, which share a single electric meter. The suit also seeks a court order overturning the town's wind turbine law, which the petitioners say violates state law. No date has been set for a hearing. Source: BuffaloNews.com.

## **Northern Tier Region**

### **Maple Ridge Pays Communities \$8.9 Million**

Flat Rock Windpower, the developer of the Maple Ridge Wind Farm, has made an \$8.94 million payment to participating towns and school districts in Lewis County. Revenues are split among the towns of Martinsburg, Harrisburg, Lowville and Watson and the school districts of Lowville, South Lewis and Copenhagen. In the summer of 2009, Flat Rock was decertified from the Empire Zone Program, but was recertified in April 2010. Flat Rock had decreased payments due to the uncertainty of its designation and associated property tax reimbursement from the Empire Zone Program. In July 2010, Flat Rock and the participating towns reached a settlement and the funds were released. Source: Watertown Daily Times.

### **Hammond Committee Recommends Sound Regulations**

The Hammond Wind Committee has voted to recommend a wind turbine sound ordinance that would set three separate limits on sound levels, depending on the time of day. The

recommendation from the committee is to limit turbine sound levels to 45 decibels (dB) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; 40 dB from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and 35 dB from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. The committee also discussed recommendations for setback requirements, but was unable to reach an agreement. That discussion will be continued at the committee's next meeting (see Wind Events and Actions, above). Source: The Journal (Ogdensburg) (www.ogd.com).

## **Hudson Valley Region**

### **Port Jervis To Assess Wind Power Potential**

The city of Port Jervis has received proposals from six firms bidding to conduct a feasibility assessment of wind power potential as an alternative energy source for the city. The feasibility assessment is intended to advance the city's goal of using renewable energy to achieve cost savings and a cleaner environment. An advisory panel will review the proposals and recommend a firm to the city's Common Council. The city expects to have selected a firm by the end of February, and to have the project completed by the end of 2011. Source: RecordOnline.com (Middletown).

### **Wind Turbine Planned For Warwick Valley School**

The Warwick Valley School Board has approved a \$4.8 million energy project, \$770,000 of which is expected to pay for a 120-foot wind turbine planned for the Sanfordville Elementary School. The energy project is in line with the town's Sustainable Warwick campaign, which aims to reduce energy consumption by at least 10% in 2011. Savings in energy costs from the turbine are expected to total \$10,000 to \$12,000 annually, or about 1/3 of the school's total electricity costs. Additional energy saving measures include upgrades to more efficient lighting systems, heating systems, windows, and a gas-fired combined heat and power system that will produce both electricity for the school and heat for its pool. To pay for the upgrades, the district took out a bond, which will be paid back over 18 years out of the energy savings created. In addition, Warwick will apply for a grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to help pay for the turbine, which is expected to be constructed and operational by this summer. Source: RecordOnline.com (Middletown).

## **Fingerlakes Region**

### **Aurora Adopts Wind Power Code**

The Town of Aurora has approved a Small Wind Energy Conservation System code that will regulate wind turbines built for residential use. Under this new law, construction and use are limited to small onsite wind turbines primarily intended to reduce residential electricity purchases. New turbine construction requires a safety certification and review by the Town Board and Planning Board. The code establishes a setback of 1.5 times the height of the wind tower and a minimum distance of 500 ft between the tower and buildings not owned by the individual constructing the turbine. The code also regulates potential noise, electrical interference, and shadow flicker on neighboring residences. Regulations

are somewhat different for turbines intended for farm use in state-certified agricultural districts. Currently, the town code does not list utility-scale wind farms as a permitted use. Source: East Aurora Advertiser.

## **New York City Region**

### **Empire State Building To Purchase Wind Power**

The Empire State Building has announced that it will purchase wind-generated electricity from the Green Mountain Energy Company as part of an energy efficiency retrofit. The Empire State Building has signed a two year contract for 55 million kWh of renewable energy, enough to meet all its electricity needs. According to Green Mountain, the contract will prevent 100 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions each year. Source: USA Today

## **Industry News**

### **Federal Government To Speed Offshore Wind Development Process**

The U.S. Department of the Interior has announced its “Smart from the Start” initiative designed to shorten the siting, leasing, permitting and construction process for the development of offshore wind on the Atlantic seaboard. The government hopes to reduce the time required from a period of 10 years to two years by identifying priority wind energy areas and coordinating with state and local governments, utilities, and wind developers to streamline the leasing process. A regulatory change will also contribute to what is intended to be a significantly streamlined process. Source: EnergyBiz.com.

### **Cape Wind Gets Final Permit**

The Cape Wind project, the nation’s first offshore wind project, has received its final permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, just 24 hours after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued Cape Wind its Section 10 Permit. The entire permitting process spanned 10 years and involved the coordination of 17 Federal and State agencies. The next step for Cape Wind will be to secure financing. The proposed 468 MW wind farm, consisting of 150 offshore turbines, is expected to create more than 1,000 new jobs. Source: EnergyCentral.com.

## **Resources**

### **Wind Turbines May Be Good For Crop Growth**

Researchers from the Department of Energy’s Ames Laboratory and the University of Colorado at Boulder have presented preliminary findings from the first phase of a study that indicates that the presence of wind turbines may improve the microclimates around crops and thus boost overall crop yields. Turbines channel air downwards, which creates turbulence and increases the rate of gas exchange between plants and the atmosphere. Greater gas exchange leads to increased rates of photosynthesis and plant growth.

Increased gas exchange may also help to dry crops, reducing threats from fungus and toxins that prefer moisture. Increased turbulence may keep plants cooler on hot days and warmer during cool nights. Source: RenewablesBiz.com.