



## **New York State Wind Energy News Bulletin      October 2010**

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**

#### **10/26: Public Hearing—Henderson Town Council**

The Henderson Town Council has scheduled a public hearing on a proposed law that would ban commercial wind farms and define standards for construction of small, on-site wind turbines in the municipality. The town's moratorium on wind development has been extended until April 30. The public hearing is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. on October 26 at the community center. Source: Watertown Daily Times.

#### **10/26: Debate—Litchfield**

Patrick Doyle, President of NorthWind and Power, will debate Jonathan Knauth, a member of Save Sauquoit Valley Views, at 7 p.m. on October 26, at the Litchfield Town Hall. NorthWind and Power, located in Albany, has proposed construction of eight to ten wind turbines on Dry Hill. The town has declared a moratorium on wind development until March 2011, at which time a law governing wind development is expected to be in place. Questions for the debate must be submitted in writing at least 24 hours prior to the event. Questions may be emailed to town board member Kate Entwistle, who will moderate the debate, at [klentwistle@gmail.com](mailto:klentwistle@gmail.com). Source: Utica Observer-Dispatch website.

#### **11/01: Meetings—Hammond Wind Committee**

The Hammond Wind Committee will hold a series of meetings to formulate its recommendations to the town council, which will consider them when writing the town's wind energy ordinance. The next committee meeting will be held on November 1; future meetings are scheduled for November 15 and 29, and December 6 and 20. All meetings will be held at the Village Hall, at 7 p.m. Source: Watertown Daily Times.

#### **11/03: Public Hearing—Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency**

The Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency will hold a public hearing on a proposed uniform tax-exempt policy on Wednesday, November 3, at 7 p.m. at the Jefferson Community College amphitheater on Coffeen Street. The agency recently lifted its moratorium on applications from wind developers. Source: Jefferson County IDA website.

## **11/16: Public Meeting—Niagara County Legislature**

The Niagara County Legislature will consider a proposal to revoke its support of potential wind energy projects in Lake Ontario. A similar proposal was introduced in July, but the legislature opted at that time to form a committee to study the issue. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers, Lockport Courthouse. Sources: BuffaloNews.com, Niagara County website.

## **Local Developments**

### **Lake Erie Region**

#### **PILOT Approved For Lake Erie Wind Project**

The Frontier District School Board has approved a 15-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement that will allow Erie Wind to add six new wind turbines to the existing 8-turbine Steel Winds project on the Lake Erie shoreline. Under the agreement, an annual payment of \$100,000 will be divided three ways, with Frontier receiving \$38,500, the town of Hamburg receiving \$41,500, and the county receiving \$20,000. According to First Wind development manager David Velez, construction on the additional turbines should begin before the end of the year. The new turbines are to be identical to the ones already in place, with each rated at 2.5 MW capacity. Source: BuffaloNews.com.

### **Lake Ontario Region**

#### **Irondequoit Opposes Lake Ontario Wind Development**

Irondequoit Town Board members have adopted a non-binding resolution opposing offshore wind development in Lake Ontario. Irondequoit is the third town in Monroe County to officially oppose the proposed development, which is being pursued by the New York Power Authority (NYPA). NYPA is considering a number of bids for wind projects in Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, but has not released any details of the proposals. Details on the winning bids are expected from NYPA in early 2011. Source: WXXI online.

#### **Lyme Wind Moratorium Extended Again**

The Lyme Town Council has voted to extend the town's existing moratorium on wind development for the seventh time. The moratorium, first adopted by the town in April 2007, is now in its fourth year. The town council has appointed two wind committees to gather information and survey town residents regarding wind development, but members of the committees have not yet been appointed. Source: The Watertown Daily Times.

#### **Cape Vincent Wind Economics Committee Issues Recommendations**

The Cape Vincent Wind Economics Committee has released a report recommending that the risks and rewards of wind development be shared equitably among town residents. To

achieve this, the report's recommendations include creating a zoning law that considers all effects of wind power development; establishing a planned development district for wind; requiring compensation to individuals for negative effects that can't be mitigated; requiring property value protection assurance, with a buyout plan for properties negatively affected; requiring a reserve fund to cover town-incurred project costs; requiring a decommissioning plan; and negotiating a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) plan from the developer that fairly and fully compensates the town. The report also expresses the committee's belief that, contrary to the results of several recent studies, property values in Cape Vincent would likely be negatively impacted by the presence of wind turbines. The report can be viewed online at [http://www.townofcapevincent.com/images/Economic\\_Impact\\_Report.pdf](http://www.townofcapevincent.com/images/Economic_Impact_Report.pdf). Source: Watertown Daily Times; Town of Cape Vincent.

## **Northern Tier Region**

### **SUNY To Incorporate Wind Power On Canton Campus**

The New York Power Authority has issued a request for proposal (RFP) for a wind turbine installation on the State University of New York (SUNY) campus in Canton. The turbine will be owned by SUNY, and electricity generated by it will offset SUNY Canton's power consumption. The capacity of the turbine is expected to be between 200 kW and 2 MW. The deadline for RFP submissions is November 10. Source: North American Windpower.

### **Jefferson County Airfield May Restrict Turbine Construction**

A Fort Drum official has notified the Indian River Central School District that it may not be able to site a 350-foot tall wind turbine near Wheeler-Sack Army Field in Jefferson County, due to potential impacts on flight patterns and radar operations. Potential impacts from wind project proposals near airfields are considered on a case-by-case basis by the FAA and the military; neither has established setbacks for Fort Drum. In general, any developer building a structure taller than 201 feet must file a notice with the FAA, after which the development proposal is reviewed by the FAA's eight air traffic divisions and an obstruction evaluation specialist. Source: Watertown Daily Times.

### **Clinton Approves Horizon Turbine Variance**

After months of review, the Clinton Wind Facility Planning Board has approved a project variance sought by Horizon Wind Energy for its proposed Marble River wind farm. The project will now comprise 74 Vestas V112 turbines, rather than the previously proposed 109 Suzlon S88 turbines. The new turbines will be taller, at 492 feet rather than 407 feet, and will be capable of producing 3 MW each, as compared to 2.1 MW for the Suzlon turbines. The use of fewer, but larger turbines will result in a smaller overall footprint for the wind farm, with total acreage decreasing from 17,000 acres to approximately 11,500 acres. The approval also hinged on a new noise study, which concludes that most nearby homes will experience less noise with the new plan, and a new 600-foot setback requirement. Source: [pressrepublican.com](http://pressrepublican.com).

### **Public Service Commission Concludes Turbine Collapse Investigation**

The New York Public Service Commission has concluded its investigation into the collapse of one wind turbine, and damage of another, at the Noble Environmental Power wind farm in Altona. The investigation found that incorrect wiring resulted in an electrical failure that prevented controls from spinning down the turbines safely when they lost power, causing one to collapse when its rotor spun at three times the operational design speed. The PSC has stated that it is satisfied with the steps Noble has taken to improve turbine safety since the accident. The turbine manufacturer, General Electric, has also put process improvements in place to prevent a similar incident in the future. The PSC's report on the investigation is available online, at <http://documents.dps.state.ny.us/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={42D99852-A091-4D1E-BOCE-369A929E5439}> Sources: Syracuse.com website; The Watertown Daily Times; New York Public Service Commission.

## **Capitol Region**

### **Saratoga TEC-SMART Installs Turbines**

Hudson Valley Community College's TEC-SMART facility, located in the Saratoga technology and energy park, has installed two 120-foot, 5kW wind turbines, which will be used as classroom tools as well as sources of renewable energy. The turbines were purchased and installed with funding assistance from NYSERDA. TEC-SMART, which opened in January, offers classes in photovoltaic, geothermal, alternative fuels, wind energy, and energy efficiency technologies. Sources: The Saratogian; NYSERDA.

## **Hudson Valley Region**

### **USDA Funds Community Wind Development in Sullivan County**

Congressman Maurice Hinchey has announced a \$221,077 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support proposed community-owned wind energy projects in Sullivan County. The Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development will use the grant to fund a study by Sustainable Energy Development, a company that specializes in community wind projects. The study will identify the best shovel-ready locations for community-owned wind projects in the county. Source: The Catskill Chronicle website.

## **Industry News**

### **Report Says NY Grid Can Handle More Wind Energy**

A study conducted by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) finds that New York could safely increase reliance on wind energy from its current level of 1,275 MW to 8,000 MW by 2018. Because wind is an intermittent resource, the state can only rely on wind to supply a portion of its total electricity demand. However, the NYISO study finds that this limit can be increased through transmission upgrades, implementation of a wind forecasting system, and installation of quick-starting energy generation sources that can provide power when wind levels drop. The report is available online, at

[http://www.nyiso.com/public/webdocs/newsroom/press\\_releases/2010/GROWING\\_WIND\\_-\\_Final\\_Report\\_of\\_the\\_NYISO\\_2010\\_Wind\\_Generation\\_Study.pdf](http://www.nyiso.com/public/webdocs/newsroom/press_releases/2010/GROWING_WIND_-_Final_Report_of_the_NYISO_2010_Wind_Generation_Study.pdf) Sources: Mother Nature Network website; NYISO.

### **Study Finds Significant Potential From East Coast Offshore Wind**

A recently released study indicates that offshore wind energy on the East Coast has potential to supply nearly half of the East Coast states' total electricity demand. The study was sponsored by Oceana, an environmental group. The study finds that offshore wind resources from the Atlantic states could potentially provide more energy than the oil and gas resources of these states. The study defines viable offshore areas as those between three and 24 miles from the coast, less than 30 meters deep, and free from competitive uses (such as shipping). The report concludes that potential offshore wind energy production from the Atlantic states could total 127 GW of power. According to the report, wind power development would cost \$36 billion less than fossil fuel development, and create three times the number of jobs. Sources: The New York Times; North American Windpower; Oceana.

### **Cape Wind Signs Lease For Nantucket Sound Project**

U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has signed a 28-year lease granting Cape Wind access to 25 square miles of federal waters off the coast of Massachusetts, in Nantucket Sound. Cape Wind, which plans to build the nation's first offshore wind farm, will pay \$88,000 per year, plus a variable operation fee of up to 7%, based on the project's energy generation. Cape Wind must still navigate a number of regulatory hurdles; for example, regulators must approve a power purchase contract between National Grid and Cape Wind by mid-November, and Cape Wind must acquire an additional permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Sources: Renewable Energy World; New York Times.

### **Proposed Atlantic Offshore Wind Connection Attracts Big Investors**

Three companies (Google, Good Energies, and Marubeni Corp.) have announced an agreement to fund development of a proposed transmission line that would serve to connect future Atlantic coast offshore wind projects to the grid by laying transmission cables through federal waters. The \$5 billion Atlantic Wind Connection project, proposed by Maryland-based Trans-Elect, would begin off the coast of southern Virginia and terminate 350 miles to the north, in northern New Jersey. The underwater cables, located 15 to 20 miles offshore, would have a capacity of 6,000 MW and would connect to the onshore grid at four points along the coast: in southern Virginia, Delaware, southern New Jersey and northern New Jersey, close to New York City. Investors and supporters of the project see it as a way to lower barriers to future offshore wind development. Being able to connect to an existing transmission infrastructure would reduce permit and administrative hurdles developers must navigate when adding wind power to the grid, and would also reduce the cost for offshore wind developers, since they would no longer have to build a new transmission line for every new offshore wind project. The project could also reduce the variability of offshore wind electricity production, because storms tracking up the coast, hitting one offshore wind farm after another, would have all of their energy funneled to the same four connection points onshore. The first phase of the project, an offshore transmission line connecting northern New Jersey to Rehoboth, Delaware, could go into

service by early 2016. Even before a single offshore wind project is built, the transmission line would allow southern producers of cheap electricity to sell into pricier northern markets, bypassing congested land-based transmission lines and lowering prices for northern customers. Sources: The New York Times; The Wall Street Journal.