

Proposed Higgins Mountain 100MW Wind Farm Expansion

Wind Energy

- Wind systems capture energy using large blades mounted on tall towers called turbines. The wind turns the blades and the blades rotate a generator which produces electricity.
- Harnessing the wind for energy is key to reducing our production of greenhouse gases (GHGs), as well as other air pollutants.
- In Canada, it is estimated that every 1,000 MW of installed wind energy capacity will reduce annual emissions of carbon dioxide by a minimum of 1.2 million tonnes.
- Achieving the stated government goal of 10,000 MW of installed wind energy capacity in Canada by 2015 would mean that an equivalent of about 3 million homes would be powered by wind energy.
- Global capacity for wind power is expected to exceed 150,000 MW by 2010. Current estimates of installed wind power projects account for about 50% of this total.

Proposed Expansion

- Sixty-six 1.5MW turbines north of the existing turbines.
- Turbine total height approximately 120 m (80 m to hub height and rotor diameter of 77 m).
- Additional infrastructure includes access roads with collector lines and a substation and transmission line to connection point to NSPI grid.
- If this project is successful in the competitive bidding process, additional design, field work and consultation will be completed.
- Many field studies are completed, underway or planned, including wetlands, watercourses, birds, bats, plants, and cultural resources.
- Environmental approvals and permits are required before project commences, including a federal-provincial environmental assessment process.
- Construction is expected to begin in late summer 2008 with the wind farm producing 10MW of renewable energy by end of 2009.

Anticipated Benefits

- 100MW of “green energy” could power up to 30,000 homes or have the same positive impact as planting 1.3 million trees.
- Substantial economic benefits through investment and local job creation in project development, operations and maintenance, lease income for landowners, and a new tax base for municipal governments.
- Complimentary land use as most of site consists of actively harvested forestry lands.

Issues of Potential Concern

- Questions have been raised by residents on potential impact to the community, such as noise, aesthetic impact, shadow flicker, land use, and property value.
- Key environmental issues include wetlands, watercourses, birds, bats, rare and sensitive species, flora and fauna.

Community Input

- Consultation is a key input into the design of the wind farm.
- Your input will be included in next stages of planning and design.
- For further information, please contact:

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