



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

Contact: David Tuohey, Corporate Communications Manager
(413) 308-1392
dtuohey@mmwec.org

State officials praise municipal utilities' Berkshire Wind Power Project initiative

LUDLOW, Mass. – September 15, 2008 – The Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative (Cooperative), a non-profit corporation that is developing a 15-megawatt wind project in Western Massachusetts, is at the forefront of renewable energy development in the state, according to state officials attending a recent reception at the project site atop Brodie Mountain.

“You are on the front lines and doing the hard work of implementing the state’s energy policy,” Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Tim Murray told members of the Cooperative following the reception. Murray said the Berkshire Wind Power Project, planned for operation in 2010, exemplifies the state’s initiatives to capture the energy and economic benefits of renewable energy development.

Members of the Cooperative, several state legislators and a representative of the Division of Energy Resources (DOER) gathered on Sept. 10 at the site where one of the project’s 10, 1.5-megawatt wind turbines will be installed. With the sky clear, attendees could see the excavated site for another turbine as well as the recently commissioned wind turbine at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort turning gracefully in the distance.

Dwayne Breger, manager of the DOER’s Renewable Energy and Climate Change Group, praised the Cooperative members, which include 14 Massachusetts municipal utilities and the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), for recognizing the value of wind energy in diversifying electricity sources and stabilizing costs. Forming the Cooperative and taking outright ownership of the project “has allowed the project to continue financially and provides additional and sustained economic benefits directly to Cooperative members and the people of the Commonwealth,” he said.

more

Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, P.O. Box 426, Ludlow, MA 01056

Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative - 2

Sen. Michael Morrissey (D-Braintree), chairman of the legislature's Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, said the Berkshire Wind Power Project is the largest wind project currently under development in Massachusetts. "This project represents a significant piece of the state's renewable energy portfolio, and I commend members of the Cooperative for their initiative in purchasing and developing this important resource," Morrissey said.

Other legislators attending the reception included Rep. Lori Ehrlich (D-Marblehead) and Rep. Angelo Puppolo (D-Springfield). Ludlow Selectman Aaron Saunders, chief of staff for Sen. Gale Candaras (D-Ludlow), also attended.

State Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian A. Bowles, while unable to attend the reception, also applauded the Cooperative's activities.

"I congratulate the Cooperative and its municipal light company members for bringing the Berkshire Wind Power Project to the next stage and moving Massachusetts toward a clean energy future," Secretary Bowles said. "I look forward to seeing wind turbines up and running on Brodie Mountain in 2010," he said.

Cooperative President H. Bradford White, manager of the West Boylston municipal utility, said the cooperative is in the process of ordering wind turbines for the project and that additional site work will be completed before the turbines are delivered.

"Here at the top of Brodie Mountain, we're looking at one of the most promising sites for wind power development in Massachusetts," White said. "The wind here is stronger and steadier than almost anywhere else in the state, and the Cooperative is committed to putting that wind to work for electricity consumers."

The municipal utility members of the Cooperative are based in the communities of Ashburnham, Boylston, Groton, Holden, Hull, Ipswich, Marblehead, Paxton, Peabody, Shrewsbury, Sterling, Templeton, Wakefield and West Boylston. All provide electricity at retail to their customers. MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that provides a wide range of power supply, financial and other services to the municipal utilities.

Members of the Cooperative began their association with the Berkshire Wind Project in 2004 when they entered into agreements to purchase the entire output of the project. In 2007, they decided to pursue outright ownership of the project and completed the purchase of project assets in June 2008. The current assets include the easements, permits, agreements, engineering documents, developed property and other items that enable the Cooperative to build and operate the project.