



*Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **MMWEC agrees to purchase assets of Berkshire Wind Power**

LUDLOW, Mass. – February 4, 2008 – The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) has entered into an agreement to purchase the assets of Berkshire Wind Power, L.L.C., in Hancock and Lanesboro, Mass. The purchase is planned for closing by late May 2008 or when various conditions of the agreement are satisfied.

Under the agreement, MMWEC will pay Berkshire Wind \$4 million for all of its assets, including the easements, permits, agreements, engineering documents, developed property and other assets that enable the owner to build and operate the approximate 15-megawatt Berkshire Wind project. An access road and some excavation work has been completed at the project site, which is being developed by Distributed Generation Systems, Inc. (Disgen), an affiliate of Berkshire Wind.

MMWEC's involvement in the project is being funded through agreements with 15 Massachusetts municipal utilities that initially agreed to purchase all of the project's output but recently authorized MMWEC to pursue outright ownership of project assets. MMWEC expects to finance the purchase with a bank loan.

The municipal utilities participating in this initiative are based in the communities of Ashburnham, Belmont, Boylston, Groton, Holden, Hull, Ipswich, Marblehead, Paxton, Peabody, Shrewsbury, Sterling, Templeton, Wakefield and West Boylston.

"MMWEC is excited about this opportunity to purchase the Berkshire Wind Project, which represents a terrific source of clean, renewable energy for municipal utilities and the Commonwealth as a whole," said MMWEC Chief Operating Officer Ronald C. DeCurzio. "Berkshire Wind has worked diligently over the past decade to develop the existing project assets, and it is MMWEC's intent to complete the project and bring it into operation," DeCurzio said.

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Disgen President Dale Osborn said costs incurred in developing the Berkshire project over the past 10 years exceed \$6 million.

“While this project has taken a very long time and the resulting economics have not been favorable to Disgen, we are pleased to be the first entity to complete the development process for a utility-scale, commercial wind system in Massachusetts,” Osborn said. Disgen also has developed wind projects in Colorado and Pennsylvania.

“Several entities besides MMWEC have provided long-term, significant support for the Berkshire project’s development, including the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust, the Rhode Island State Energy Office and Northeast Utilities,” Osborn said.

Going forward from its purchase of project assets, MMWEC will make the contractual and financial arrangements needed to finance the project, including the purchase and installation of wind turbines at the site. The current project design includes 10, 1.5-megawatt wind turbines, for a total project capacity of 15 megawatts. Depending on the availability of wind turbines and other factors, the project could provide additional megawatts and be in operation by 2010.

At its January 2008 meeting, the MMWEC Board of Directors approved formation of a municipal lighting plant cooperative for the purposes of financing, owning and operating the Berkshire Wind Project. Members of the yet-to-be-established co-op would include MMWEC and the municipal utilities currently involved with the project. MMWEC and the Princeton Municipal Light Department created a similar co-op last year to develop a 3-megawatt wind project in Princeton, Mass.

“Pursuit of this project is consistent with MMWEC’s efforts to make renewable energy and demand management resources an integral part of the municipal power supply,” DeCurzio said. “It also is consistent with MMWEC’s commitment to addressing climate change issues and finding alternatives to fossil fuels for power generation,” he said.

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 state’s consumer-owned, municipal electric utilities.