



*MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY*

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## **Hancock Wind Project to Double Output of MMWEC/Member Wind Resources**

LUDLOW, Mass. -- December 15, 2016 -- Seventeen Massachusetts municipal utilities are adding electricity from a new windfarm in Downeast Maine to their power supply, increasing the amount of wind power owned or under contract by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) and its member utilities to 63.5 megawatts, enough to power more than 25,000 homes.

MMWEC signed a 25-year contract to purchase 37.5 megawatts of electricity from the Hancock Wind Project, Maine's newest wind project, which started commercial operation yesterday. The electricity will be sold at MMWEC's cost to 17 MMWEC member municipal utilities, which are owned and operated by the communities they serve.

Power from the Hancock Wind Project will more than double the current output of wind resources owned or under contract by MMWEC and its members, adding more than 90,000,000 kilowatt hours annually of carbon-free energy to their robust and growing clean energy portfolio. That portfolio consists of more than 20 utility-scale solar projects; the Berkshire Wind Power Project, the second largest wind farm in Massachusetts; hydroelectric power from the Niagara Project in New York; and various other hydro, wind and solar projects serving municipal utility consumers.

"The addition of Hancock Wind Project energy increases the non-carbon footprint of MMWEC and its member utilities to almost 50 percent of their energy requirements," said MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ronald C. DeCurzio. He said municipal utilities have and will continue to support that state's clean energy objectives, guided by local officials.

"With their power supply decisions made at the local level, and their operations governed by local officials, municipal utilities are uniquely positioned to advance clean and emerging energy technologies," DeCurzio said.

Hancock Wind is a 17-turbine wind project with a total capacity of 51 megawatts located in rural Hancock County, Maine. Turbine installation began in May. According to the project constructor, Reed & Reed, the Hancock Wind turbines are the largest in The Americas, in terms of rotor diameter and tower height. The height of the turbines is 574 feet to the tip of the blade.

The municipal utilities that have contracted with MMWEC to purchase Hancock Wind Project output include municipal utilities serving the communities of Boylston, Chicopee, Groton, Holden, Holyoke, Ipswich, Mansfield, Marblehead, Paxton, Peabody, Russell, Shrewsbury, Sterling, Templeton, Wakefield, West Boylston and Westfield.

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