
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Sept. 28, 2004

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL FOR KNOB HILL WIND FARM PROJECT

Note: links to audio and photos are at end of release

VICTORIA – Sea Breeze Energy Inc. has received an environmental assessment certificate for its proposed wind farm project on northern Vancouver Island, North Island MLA Rod Visser announced today.

“Wind power on Vancouver Island is a brand new industry that can create many economic benefits in an environmentally sustainable manner,” said Visser. “The north island in particular offers excellent opportunities to generate electricity by harnessing the wind. It’s good news for our residents as this type of industry could be the catalyst needed to create even more direct and indirect jobs, both during construction and when wind farms are in operation.”

The project includes building and operating a 450 megawatt wind energy production facility at Knob Hill, eight km north of Holberg. When complete, it will include 150 wind turbines, access roads and bridges, a substation and a transmission line, all with a capital cost of about \$700 million.

The environmental assessment review established that Sea Breeze Energy adequately describes all potential significant adverse effects and that commitments have been made to mitigate those impacts. The review identified and assessed the potential impacts of the project on hydrology, water quality, fish and fish habitat, wildlife and wildlife habitat, vegetation, cultural and heritage resources, social and economic issues, health and safety and First Nation interests.

In keeping with the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation, this project was also assessed federally. Natural Resources Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the responsible authorities, have determined the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects with the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the assessment report.

“This is the first wind farm project reviewed under the BC Environmental Assessment Act,” said Sustainable Resource Management Minister George Abbott. “The company has addressed all issues during the environmental assessment review. It has consulted interested parties and has made further commitments during design, construction and operation to ensure the project is environmentally sound.”

Consistent with every environmental assessment process, this project has undergone comprehensive and timely consultations with government agencies, First Nations, residents and the public.

Download sound clips of Minister Abbott and MLA Visser describing the project at:
http://www.mediaroom.gov.bc.ca/events/September28_04e1/ online.

Download a high-resolution photo of Minister Abbott at:
http://mla2.governmentcaucus.bc.ca/media/Abbott_600.jpg online.

Download a high-resolution photo of MLA Visser at:
http://mla2.governmentcaucus.bc.ca/media/Visser_600.jpg online.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BACKGROUNDER

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COMPANY COMMITS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Knob Hill wind farm project includes construction and operation of a 450 megawatt wind energy production facility at Knob Hill, eight km north of Holberg on northern Vancouver Island. When complete, it will include 150 wind turbines, access roads and bridges, a substation and a transmission line, all with a capital cost of about \$700 million.

As part of the environmental assessment on the project, Sea Breeze Energy Inc. has made a number of commitments to be carried out during the planning phase of this project. Some of the key commitments include:

- Submitting a detailed environmental protection plan for agency review and approval before construction begins. This will include plans for fisheries and fish habitat, erosion and sediment control, vegetation and wildlife protection, archaeology monitoring and access management.
- Developing a science-based wildlife monitoring plan to mitigate impacts to wildlife, particularly birds and bats.
- Involving agencies, First Nations and the public to help develop an Access Management Plan to prevent damage to the bog.
- Ongoing consultation with First Nations and the public at all phases of the project development.

Sea Breeze Energy Inc. has recently reached an agreement with the holders of overlapping mineral claims to purchase these claims.

Sea Breeze Energy Inc. has applied for funding for the project from the federal government's Wind Power Production Initiative. As a result, the project was also subject to a federal screening review under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). A joint federal/provincial review was undertaken to meet the requirements of both processes. Natural Resources Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada should issue the federal decision under CEAA shortly.

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