



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2004EM0031-000891
Nov. 1, 2004

Ministry of Energy and Mines

ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL FOR HOLBERG WIND FARM PROJECT

VICTORIA – The provincial government has issued an environmental assessment certificate to Holberg Wind Energy GP Inc. for their proposed wind farm project on northern Vancouver Island, Minister of Energy and Mines Richard Neufeld and North Island MLA Rod Visser announced today.

“The North Island’s economy will get a much-needed shot in the arm when this project is completed,” said Visser. “Clean energy projects like the wind farm Holberg Wind Energy GP Inc. is proposing are innovative and will ensure British Columbians have environmentally responsible energy in the future.”

“This project will produce enough B.C. clean energy to supply 20,000 homes per year on the Vancouver Island power grid,” said Neufeld. “Independent power projects like this wind farm support our Energy Plan goal to create more private sector opportunities and ensure a secure, environmentally responsible supply of energy for British Columbians.”

The project is located on northern Vancouver Island, eight km west of the town of Holberg, on the ridge tops of Mt. Brandes and Mt. Hansen. The project includes the construction and operation of a 58.5 megawatt wind energy production facility as well as 45 wind turbines, access roads and bridges, a substation and transmission lines. Project construction will create up to 100 person years in employment, as well as six permanent full-time jobs once the wind farm is in operation.

This project is the first wind energy project in B.C. to have a purchase agreement between the proponent and BC Hydro. The agreement terms are for 20 years and 176 gigawatt hours of energy per year.

“The environmental assessment process ensures that environmental issues of projects are identified and addressed before approval is given,” said Minister of Sustainable Resource Management George Abbott. “This project has been approved as it is a significant step towards embracing a renewable energy, supplying homes with clean electricity and bringing local economic benefits.”

The environmental assessment review identified and assessed the potential effects 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 Co-operation, this project was also assessed by the federal government. Natural Resources Canada, the responsible authority, has determined the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects with the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the assessment report.

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

Media contact: Tamara Little
Communications Director
Ministry of Energy and Mines
250 952-0621

Visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca for online information and services.