

Energy

New 49.5 MW wind farm to be constructed in Lamèque (08/01/22)

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LAMÈQUE (CNB) - Acciona Energy has been selected to construct a 49.5 megawatt (MW) wind farm in Lamèque, Premier Shawn Graham and Energy Minister Jack Keir announced today.

A 25-year power purchase agreement for up to 49.5 megawatts of wind power is being finalized between NB Power and Acciona Wind Energy Canada, Inc. Acciona will construct, own, and operate the Lamèque wind farm.

Graham is pleased with what this announcement means for the province's overall goal of self-sufficiency.

"Today's announcement is wonderful news," Graham said. "It will foster economic growth and demonstrate that New Brunswick is an energy hub. We are transforming our province and our economy, and the energy sector is key to achieving this. It is further proof that being an energy hub is beneficial for every region of our province."

Keir said this is the first of many positive announcements to come relating to the request for proposals (RFP) released in May 2007 on wind energy.

"I am very pleased with the progress we are making on renewable energy and even more pleased to say there is more good news to come," Keir said. "By adding more wind energy, we are diversifying our generation mix to include more renewable energy, which is a win for the environment and a win for the consumer."

Keir said wind energy brings greater stability for rates in the future, because it lessens dependency on the uncontrollable prices of foreign oil and coal.

David Hay, president and CEO of NB Power, echoed Keir's sentiments. "Adding more wind energy to our portfolio is a step in the right direction," Hay said. "I am excited to have Acciona in New Brunswick and delighted about our move toward increasing renewable energy in the province."

Today's announcement follows an RFP [released in May 2007](#) by NB Power for the purchase of up to 300 MW of wind-powered generation by November 2010 from potential private sector developers.

The Lamèque wind farm will be in service by November 2009. The facility will have 33 Acciona

Windpower wind turbines, which will provide 154 gigawatt hours of power per year. This will be roughly enough power to meet the electricity needs of about 8,900 homes.

Acciona Energy is a world leader in the renewable energy sector, with 192 wind farms in 12 countries, representing over 5,300 megawatts (MW) of wind power.

It is expected that several hundred jobs will be created through the development, construction and lifespan of the project.

Between 50 and 70 jobs will be created during construction of the site, with a total investment of about \$100 million.

08/01/22

EDITOR'S NOTE: Background information follows. MEDIA CONTACTS: Bonnie Doyle, Department of Energy, 506-658-2410, Heather MacLean, NB Power, 506-458-6618, Lena Stina, Acciona Wind Energy Canada, Inc., 312-673-3021.

Backgrounder

On May 17, 2007 NB Power released a request for proposals (RFP) for the purchase of up to 300 MW of wind-powered generation by November 2010 from potential private sector developers.

This request for proposals accelerated NB Power's original plan to have 400 MW of wind energy online by 2016. There has been a lot of interest by the private sector in developing wind energy. NB Power evaluated proposals based on pricing, schedule for development, yearly production, reliability of supply and added New Brunswick content. Further wind power contracts will be announced this winter.

NB Power will ensure geographical diversity in wind development, enabling the utility to purchase wind energy from generators in areas experiencing high winds, at times when wind in other areas of the province may be too low to generate electricity from a single site. The five wind areas are the Bay of Fundy, Acadie Chaleur, Tantramar, Miramichi Bay and inland New Brunswick.

The Lameque wind farm is expected to be in service by November 2009. The project will consist of 33 Acciona Windpower wind turbines (AW 77 model) rated at 1.5 MW each..

With its home base in Spain, Acciona is the world leader in wind energy development. The company manufactures its own wind turbines, develops and constructs wind projects and is a long-term owner-operator of wind projects globally. Acciona Energy is the largest developer of wind farms in the world, with 192 wind farms in 12 countries, representing almost 5,300 MW of wind power installed, and more than 600 MW under construction.

The Trans - Alta Corporation is currently undergoing construction of a 96 MW wind farm in Kent Hills, Albert County. Electricity production at the site is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2008. The Kent Hills facility will have 32 wind turbines, which will provide 280,000 MW hours of power per year - roughly enough to meet the electricity needs of 17,300 homes.

The Government of New Brunswick accelerated the renewable energy target, which requires that an additional 10 per cent of New Brunswick's electricity comes from renewable sources. The target date initially was 2016. Premier Shawn Graham, in the *Charter for Change*, committed to the public that by

year 2010, at least 10 per cent of New Brunswick's electricity needs would be met by renewable energy, through wind, solar, biomass, small hydro, land fill gas and tidal power.

A typical wind tower has three blades which are positioned to capture the optimal amount of wind available at a given moment; the blades can typically rotate about the tower to position themselves according to the direction of the wind.

The blades turn a shaft inside the nacelle at the top of the tower. The shaft is connected to a gearbox which increases the rotational speed for the generator, which uses magnetic fields to convert the rotational energy into electrical energy. These generators are typical of other forms of electricity generation.

The electrical energy is then carried through the tower to a transformer, typically located on the ground, where the electricity is transformed into the necessary voltage for the transmission system. The electricity is then carried by the transmission system to where it is needed.

Wind energy generation can also help New Brunswick achieve its climate change objectives by reducing green house gas emissions from fossil fueled generating plants.

The development of wind energy projects in New Brunswick will increase the supply of clean, renewable energy in the province, resulting in local economic development, increased diversity of power supply and greater reliance for domestic resources for electricity generated and sold in New Brunswick.

Further information on Acciona Energy, visit the company's website at: <http://www.acciona-energia.com/default.asp>. (English and Spanish only)

For further information on wind energy, visit the Canadian Wind Energy association website at: http://www.canwea.ca/Fact_Sheets_eng.cfm.

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