



January 18, 2012

Town of Sheffield Selectboard
37 Dane Road
Sheffield, VT 05866

Dear Town of Sheffield Selectboard:

As we start 2012, it is an exciting time at the Sheffield Wind Project. For the first time, we're proud to write to the Selectboard as an operating wind energy project and look forward to a long-term, fruitful relationship with the Town of Sheffield and surrounding communities.

The Sheffield Wind project began operating on October 19, 2011 after a year of construction. Since the project began operating, it has exceeded expectations, generating more than 22 million kilowatts of clean, renewable electricity that has been delivered to homes and businesses in Vermont with no associated emissions or pollution. Since October 19, the Sheffield project has generated enough energy to power the equivalent of 16,500 homes daily (based on Washington Electric Coop average daily use of 18kWh; <http://www.washingtonelectric.coop/energy-services-safety/understanding-electric-usage/>).

The Sheffield Operation's Team

The permanent Sheffield Operation's Team includes Adam Young, assistant operations manager, Catherine Morrell, wind farm support specialist and me, Andy Doak, operations manager. Our offices are located at the operations and maintenance building located at the base of the project on Duck Pond Road and we live in the area. Our daily work is focused on ensuring the Sheffield wind facility is running as efficiently as possible, while ensuring all environmental requirements are followed. We also have remote operations centers located in Boston, MA and Temecula, CA which monitors the site 24 hours a day through computer and control systems. Our on-site operation's team is supplemented by our Commercial Asset Managers, Matt Birchby and Erich Mettler. Erich and Matt are based in Boston and oversee operating revenues and expenses of this project. Matt can be reached at 207-228-6881 and mbirchby@firstwind.com, while Erich can be contacted at 617-960-9583 and emetler@firstwind.com

In addition, we work closely with the four staff members from Clipper Windpower, the manufacturer of the Sheffield turbines, who are also onsite and ensure the turbines are operating efficiently. Jeff Holbrook is the Clipper site supervisor and is supported by three permanent technicians: Jim Slicer, Frank Nedobity, and Mike Lee.

We're all excited to be a part of the Sheffield community and we look forward to answering your questions about the project. Please don't hesitate to call us anytime from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week at 617-960-2888. We also have a 24-hour phone line to report immediate concerns at 617-960-9501 or 1-866-342-7183. We plan to make project updates and facts available on www.sheffieldwind.com.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who are Vermont Wind and First Wind?

Vermont Wind is a subsidiary of First Wind and is the legal entity of the Sheffield Wind project. .

2. What financial compensation does the Town of Sheffield receive from the Sheffield Wind Project?

As part of an agreement signed with the Town of Sheffield during the development of this project, Vermont Wind is obligated to pay \$520,000 annually to the Town of Sheffield during the life of the project. Per this agreement, the project will be put on the grand list and pay municipal taxes and supplemental payments to ensure the total annual payments are \$520,000. The supplemental payments will be made at the close of each quarter within the town's fiscal year (i.e., July 1, October 1, January 1 and April 1) . The municipal taxes will be paid in accordance with the town's tax schedule each November. The first year of operations is prorated for the number of days in operation. With the commercial operations date of October 19, 2011, Vermont Wind will have 165 days of operation in fiscal year 2011, and therefore owe the town \$235,068.49. The town received Vermont Wind's first scheduled tax payment of \$117,534.25 before January 1, 2012, and a second payment of \$117,534.24 is due by April 1, 2012. Please contact either Matt or Erich at the numbers above if there are any concerns or questions about this payment schedule or our agreement with the Town.

3. Why aren't all the turbines operating when the wind is blowing?

Part of operating a commercial wind facility is conducting routine inspections and maintenance on the turbines. During a maintenance or inspection activity the turbines are shutdown so that our technicians can perform the required work. This process is similar to turning off a car to conduct an inspection or maintenance activity. At a wind project, inspections and maintenance activities occur more frequently during the initial years to ensure the new equipment is functioning properly. In addition, turbines can also be shut down due to a part failing or when a repair is needed, as is similar with any power generation equipment. Our remote operation's center informs us of any required repairs or issues with the turbines, enabling us to quickly respond to a situation with the help of the Clipper team and quickly return the turbine to an operational state. Even with the scheduled operational shutdowns, the Sheffield Project has been operating beyond our expectations.

4. Where does the power from the project go?

All of the Project's power is sold to three Vermont Utilities (Vermont Electric, Burlington Electric and Washington Electric) through long-term power contracts. In turn, these utilities sell the power to residents and businesses throughout Vermont.

5. Why are there red lights on the turbines?

The Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") requires that we have red-lights operating at night on nine of the sixteen turbines, so the turbines are visible to pilots.

6. Are there any scheduled tours of the Project?

We plan on holding an open-house / bus tour of the site for residents of Sheffield and the surrounding communities in the spring when the roads are easier to travel. I will be in touch with the Selectboard regarding logistics in the next couple of months and then we will provide a date and sign-up sheet at the

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Town Office for this event. We're proud of the project and would like the opportunity to provide people an up close look at the turbines.

For those who would like to see the project this winter, we're planning our first Vermont Snowmobile Ride-In for Saturday, March 3 at noon. Snowmobilers in the area will be able to ride through the project, and stop in for a barbecue at the operations and maintenance building. We've had a similar event at one of our projects in Maine, and it's been great fun, so we're excited to try it here in Vermont. Information about the ride-in is available now and we'll be advertising the event in the coming weeks.

6. Are there scholarships available for local students?

In 2010, a local high school student received a \$3,000 scholarship from First Wind, as part of our company's scholarship program. We encourage local high school seniors from Sheffield, Wheelock, Barton and the region to apply for the First Wind scholarship which is currently available. Information regarding this scholarship opportunity is available at: www.firstwind.com/firstwindscholars.

We're excited to be new members of the Sheffield community and look forward to being good citizens and partners. Please don't hesitate to contact me at the information provided previously with questions or suggestions.

Thank you for welcoming us to town. We look forward to a working partnership in the years to come.

Regards,
Andy Doak

