



WIND ENERGY COMPANY ANALYZING ROANOKE SITE FOR VALLEY'S FIRST RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

ROANOKE, Va.-(March 2, 2010) Invenergy LLC, a leading wind energy development company, is currently reviewing a site on Poor Mountain in western Roanoke County for a potential wind energy project. The project would be the first significant renewable energy resource for the Roanoke Valley.

Invenergy project manager Don Giecek emphasized that one of the company's first steps will be to file an evaluation request with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to determine if placing turbines at the site could create any issues for aircraft in the area. "At this point, we are reaching out to community, environmental and governmental leaders to introduce Invenergy and brief them on the company's desire to evaluate the Poor Mountain site through the FAA filing. While this is preliminary, we want the community to hear the facts of the project from us, not the rumor mill."

If the site passes the FAA review, the company would then begin an extensive evaluation process and seek additional community input.

The project would be one of the smallest developed by Invenergy with no more than 15 turbines, but would be more compatible with the surrounding area. A project this size can generate 37.5 megawatts of energy. Based on direct electricity data from AEP for Roanoke Valley homes, this translates into enough energy generation to power the equivalent of 8,000 average households in the Roanoke Valley annually.

The site is under consideration due to the excellent wind speeds and the ability to co-locate the turbines with existing TV, radio and other telecommunications structures for minimal environmental, community and visual impacts. Energy generated from the project can be tied into the power grid through existing electrical transmission lines at the site, resulting in minimal impacts to wildlife due to habitat fragmentation. Additionally, road access to the site currently exists, resulting in minimal road construction impacts.

Wind energy is a key component of the Virginia Energy Plan that grew out of legislation passed by the 2006 General Assembly. Virginia's Energy Plan calls for energy conservation, greater use of renewable energy and a 20 percent increase in Virginia's indigenous energy production. The goal for electricity generation from renewable resources is 15 percent or more by 2025. Renewables such as wind and solar power currently provide only a very small portion of the energy generated for use in the Roanoke Valley.

"As a Roanoke County resident and a supporter of private property rights, I am keenly interested in responsible land management and environmental stewardship," said Frank Terry, primary owner of the project parcel. "I am hopeful that our community will share the vision of producing zero emission green energy while honoring the natural and cultural resources in the region."

Developing wind power in Virginia will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, reduce CO2 emissions and conserve water. Every kilowatt-hour generated by wind energy displaces electricity that would have been produced by burning fossil fuels (usually coal or natural gas) – thereby reducing fuel consumption and the resulting air pollution that would have

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otherwise occurred. Using the Roanoke Valley Cool Cities carbon footprint calculator, a wind facility of this size can reduce carbon emissions by 85,000 tons per year in Roanoke County. Roanoke County's carbon emissions reduction goal is 3 percent annually. This wind facility, alone, would offset Roanoke County carbon emissions by 4.6 percent per year. This represents an offset of emissions equivalent to 15,000 cars each year. Additionally, while conventional forms of electricity generation consume large amounts of water, wind turbines require minimal amounts of water to produce power.

"Our goal is to work with the community on the best way to move forward if the project receives FAA approval. We want to understand what concerns there might be and how we can work together to develop the project in a way that provides clean, renewable energy in a manner that is acceptable to the community," said Giecek.

About Invenergy

Invenergy is the largest independent wind developer in the United States. Nineteen wind generating facilities, representing an aggregate generation capacity of nearly 2,000 MW, have been developed by Invenergy and are now operating in North America and Europe. Invenergy has another 400 MW of projects currently under construction, plus 600 MW of projects under contract and nearly 100 projects in active development in the United States, Canada and Europe.

Invenergy's focus is on the development, operation, and long-term ownership of utility scale wind projects. With a long-term perspective, Invenergy takes a proactive approach to building strong relationships with project stakeholders including landowners, host communities and power purchase customers.

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