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Meet and Greet Picnic with WPS

On July 22, High Country Energy and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) held a picnic to celebrate four months of working together to build 150 megawatts of community wind in Dodge County. The weather could not have been better at the Oaks Country Club on Tuesday evening. The atmosphere, like the weather, was warm and inviting. With no speeches or programming scheduled, the picnic was an excellent opportunity for WPS representatives, High Country board members, National Wind developers, and local landowners to informally chat about the project and get to know one another better.

About fifty landowners made it out to the picnic. Many had already signed with High Country Energy, but a fair number had not yet signed and were interested in learning more about the project.

“It was great to see some unsigned folks there,” said Dana Christie, Advisory Board Member. “The picnic felt like a genuine community gathering, and I think that represents our company and our model of development well.”

About ten representatives from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation flew or drove down from Green Bay to attend the picnic. Landowners and board members alike were encouraged to see WPS’s commitment to project and to the community model. As work with WPS will continue to increase in the coming months, the picnic was a perfect occasion for High Country members and WPS representatives to form personal relationships with each other. These relationships are sure to be valuable as the partnership with WPS moves forward.



Feedback from the Footprint

With Wisconsin Public Service Corporation co-developing the first 150-Megawatt phase of the project, there has been a lot of excitement this summer about High Country Energy’s wind development in Dodge and Olmsted Counties.



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GREETINGS FROM YOUR BOARD FOR ADVISORS AND NATIONAL WIND, LLC

On behalf of your Board of Advisors and National Wind, we are proud to provide this exciting quarterly progress update. Summer has been a great time for our development activities. Our field specialists have been out meeting with landowners to finalize the 150MW Wisconsin Public Service footprint. Meanwhile, the nice weather has allowed us to host and take part in several community

events, including the Dodge County Free Fair and two celebratory picnics.

The Advisory Board was refreshed at the end of the summer with the addition of John Meyer and Lisa Heggedahl to the board. John and Lisa join Barry Rogne, Dan Hoffman, Bryant Hokeness, Eric Lee, Dana Christie, and Ken Binkley on the board. Kevin Green

and Larry Larson, meanwhile, will retire their seats on the board after more than a year of hard work and invaluable input.

More information on the changes to the board is included inside this newsletter. Read on for details on High Country Energy’s continued involvement with the community and with Wisconsin Public Service Corporation.



Wind Energy: Out and About at the Dodge County Fair

High Country Energy representatives increased their sun exposure while also increasing the company's exposure at the Dodge County Free Fair on July 16th to the 20th. Field specialists, developers, and board members manned the High Country Energy booth all five days of the fair. Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) shared the booth to meet with locals and talk about the exciting 150-megawatt WPS phase of the High Country project.

future of wind development both within the High Country footprint and outside of it. "Our community model for wind farm development really has people interested and excited," said Tiff Thompson, wind developer for High Country Energy. "Lots of people paused to learn more about community-based wind and High Country's latest developments. Reactions were favorable."

The High Country booth received a lot of foot traffic and our members had the chance to discuss the project with landowners in the project footprint. In addition to landowners, several local politicians stopped by to learn more about High Country's proposed wind developments. The casual atmosphere made for comfortable conversations about the

"Our presence at the fair really helped drive home the benefits of our community-based model," said Barry Rogne, Chairman of the High Country Energy Board of Advisors. "We got to take part in a great summer tradition and an important event on the community calendar. I think people really appreciated seeing how committed Wisconsin Public Service and National

Wind are to our community, too."

In addition to chatting with community members at the High Country booth, High Country Energy and WPS sponsored the popular Spamettes musical performance at the fair. The group was a hit, and High Country was happy to give local entertainment its support.

Overall, High Country Energy's Fair experience rated far better than "fair." Based on the resounding success, everyone at High Country is excited to continue and expand the company's involvement at community events like the Dodge County Free Fair.

WIND SPEED MONITORING CONTINUES AND SHOWS PROMISE

National Wind Assessments, the wind data collection and monitoring arm of National Wind, has been measuring wind speeds and other meteorological data in the High Country footprint for almost one year. After one full year of data collection, the accuracy of wind measurements increases greatly.

"With the one-year mark approaching, we are looking at some promising wind speeds and expect the data will continue to be encouraging," said Kevin Romuld, President of National Wind Assessments.

High Country Energy is applying for permitting for a third met tower to be put up in the footprint. Adding a third point of data collection helps verify the older data and creates another level of analysis with the new data. Because the new data will be compared with the last year of data, it will be reliable from the first day of collection.

Working Together: High Country Energy and Wisconsin Public Service

In March, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) announced a letter of intent to co-develop and acquire the first 150 MW phase of High Country Energy's wind development. High Country and WPS held a press conference at the Oaks Country Club in Hayfield on March 14, 2008 to announce the exciting partnership. The press conference was well-attended both by landowners and by local media. Since then, Wisconsin Public Service and High Country have been tirelessly working together to finalize important project details.

Both National Wind and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation are optimistic about acquiring the wind rights in the most-favored footprint area.

"The High Country project will be an essential part of our renewable energy portfolio," said Eric Corroy, Renewable Energy Manager at WPS, "We are committed to this project because we wholeheartedly believe in its potential for success."

High Country and WPS have come to a conclusion on the final lease terms for the Wisconsin Public Service portion of our footprint. With final lease terms in hand, National Wind field specialists have been meeting with landowners in the potential footprint area to sign up the final landowners for this phase of the project.

Wisconsin Public Service's commitment is also apparent in the utility's continued negotiations with High Country Energy to purchase this phase of development. According to the letter of intent, WPS plans to acquire the 150 MW phase of High Country through an asset sale.

Meanwhile, National Wind Assessments has been measuring and assessing the wind resource for the High Country footprint. Thorough study and assessment is necessary to capture the best winds in the footprint and contribute to the project's electricity production and income.

The WPS footprint will likely be the first phase of High Country Energy to be constructed, so many landowners are eager to find out if they will be included in the final project footprint. High Country and Wisconsin Public Service expect to finalize the footprint for High Country's first 150 MW before the end of this year.

High Country Energy Board Announces Two New Members

by Barry Rogne, Chairman of the Board of Advisors



Barry Rogne, Chairman

Last month, High Country Energy encouraged more landowners to join our Board of Advisors. We opened two new spots on the board and advertised it to High Country members in the project footprint. Lisa Heggedahl of Hayfield Township and John Meyer of Rock Dell Township stepped up to run for those two slots.

The board has implemented a schedule to rotate out members once a year and fill the newly opened seats through an election. Each year, one or more board member(s) will retire their seats on the board. This will open up seats for new members and help keep fresh input on the board. This year, Kevin Green and Larry Larson have graciously given up their seats on the board. We wish them the best and we're sure to keep

receiving invaluable feedback from them as continued members of High Country Energy.

Lisa and John will join me and five other community members who serve on the High Country Energy Board of Advisors. The mission of the board is to make the development process possible by encouraging local support. All eight of us are committed to bringing clean, renewable energy to Dodge and Olmsted Counties.

However, we don't just want to bring wind turbines to our area. We want to share in the economic benefits of the booming wind industry and we want as many people in the area to benefit as possible.

National Wind, our project manager, bases every project around open communication and local participation. High Country Energy is no exception. We incorporate landowner representation as part of our business structure and maintain it as one of the most important facets of our wind project.

We strongly believe that the input we get from landowners facilitates the development process and helps High Country meet our community development goals. The board has always been dedicated to working with landowners and getting them aware of and involved with the project. We look forward to continuing our work with Sherm and John on the board.

Wind Power & the Environment

As with the construction of any man-made facility, wind energy developments do change the area environment. But wind power's impacts on the environment are not as negative as other energy developments. Let's take a quick look at how wind power developments compares to other energy generation facilities with regards to environmental impact.

Wind energy is a clean energy. It does not adversely affect air or water quality as many other energy production plants, such as coal-fueled plants, do. Clean air is important for plant and animal life – and for human life, too!

No cooling is needed, so thermal water pollution, a common side effect of nuclear and fossil fuel power plants, does not occur. Thermal water pollution reduces the solubility of oxygen in water and can lead to fish deaths in the lakes surrounding nuclear and coal-burning power plants.

No waste is produced, so there is no need to dump unused portions of input as in the case of coal and nuclear power. Wind energy avoids the unpleasant task of finding areas to store harmful radioactive material from nuclear power plants.

Wind energy developments involve few changes to the landscape, unlike mining for coal or drilling for natural gas & oil.

In the long-run, wind energy helps us avoid the possible impacts of global warming by reducing fossil fuel use. Possible changes in climate from global warming, though not certain nor immediate, could outpace the ability of many plant and animal species to adapt or migrate. Wind energy is an important preemptive step in preserving species diversity, particularly in northern latitudes.