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Big Data Center Customers Demand More Solar and Wind

At the close of 2017, several new sites came online by reaching commercial operation, and more are continuing to take shape across the country this spring. Many of these new projects have come online due to the surging number of large corporations in the commercial and industrial sectors that are advancing their renewable power goals as part of their increasing energy demand — Facebook, Amazon Web Services and Google, just to name a few.

It all started with the Amazon Wind Farm North Carolina — Desert Wind project (pictured above), the first commercial wind farm in North Carolina and one of the first in the southeastern part of the U.S. After a rigorous and detailed six-year permitting process, this wind farm's 104 high-tech turbines reached full commercial operation in early 2017. The energy generated and delivered into the electrical grid supplies both current and future Amazon Web Services cloud data centers.

Since then, Avangrid Renewables has continued to lead the market with a number of deals that have opened the door for new partnerships and innovative approaches for both wind and solar.



In late November 2017, we announced the first major wind contracts with Google for 196 megawatts of new South Dakota wind power — the full output from our planned Coyote Ridge and Tatanka Ridge Wind Farms in Brookings and Deuel counties, South Dakota. The additional capacity helps Google reach its goal of purchasing enough renewable energy to match its energy consumption for global operations.

“Renewables from projects like Coyote Ridge and Tatanka Ridge bring value to our business as we scale and accelerate investment in the communities where we operate,” said Gary Demasi, Google’s director of global infrastructure. “With solar and wind declining dramatically in cost and propelling significant employment growth, the transition to clean energy is driving unprecedented economic opportunity and doing so faster than we ever anticipated.”
(continued, pg 2)



“Wind at Hand,” submitted by Janiece K.
A landowner near the Barton Wind Farm in northern Iowa holds up a wind turbine!

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Have a photo you’d like to share?
We’d love to see them, and we’ll publish the best in Landowner News!

To submit your photos, please email your images with a caption and contact information to renphotos@avangrid.com, or mail to: Avangrid Renewables, Attn: Land Management, 1125 NW Couch St., Ste. 700, Portland, OR 97209

(Big Data Center Customers ... continued)

Another recent example is the Gala Solar Plant located in Prineville, Oregon. The site is the largest solar power plant in Oregon by far. At 56 megawatts of output, it's more than four times larger than the second biggest solar facility in the state. Gala reflects a long-term power purchase agreement that provides clean energy for another Fortune 50 high-tech customer's data center in Prineville with additional power headed to the area from another new project of ours — the 202-megawatt Montague Wind Farm.

In our last issue, we updated you on our El Cabo Wind Farm in New Mexico, which is one of the largest projects in our fleet and reached commercial operation late last year. We recently reached an agreement with the New Mexico utility PNM to provide power from an additional wind farm that the utility will deliver to a data center in the state for Facebook.

In Texas, we reached an agreement that will help a large athletic apparel company reach its 100-percent renewable goal for its North American operations, at our new Karankawa Wind Farm. The deal is for 86 megawatts of power from the planned 286-megawatt wind farm just inland from the Gulf Coast city of Corpus Christi. The remaining 200 megawatts will be sold to Austin Energy. This deal is our second with this customer, following our 2016 agreement that provides clean power from existing wind farms in the Columbia River Gorge.

"Working with partners who have relentless focus on driving the development and availability of renewable energy is exciting and inspiring," said Barrett Stambler, Avangrid Renewables' vice president of origination.

Projects like these are great examples of our ardent growth plan. With hundreds of new construction jobs at each site, significant investment dollars in rural American communities, and more renewable energy on the country's grid, we're proud to be leading the transformation to a clean energy economy in the U.S. Stay tuned right here for more project updates. 🌱



Oregon's Gala Solar Plant



New Mexico's El Cabo Wind Farm



The Baffin Wind Farm on the Texas Gulf Coast

First Tax Checks Presented in North Carolina and San Diego

We recently presented the first tax payments from new wind farms in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and East County, San Diego, California. We're proud to support the regional economies and local communities where our wind and solar farms are in operation.

Marking the first anniversary of full commercial operation, we presented the first annual tax checks — totaling more than \$640,000 — to Pasquotank and Perquimans county officials (pictured right), making the Amazon Wind Farm North Carolina at Desert Wind the largest taxpayer in both counties. Joining our CEO, Laura Beane, at the ceremony were county commissioners, local economic development officials, school representatives, and media. We handed over large novelty checks to celebrate the state's first wind farm delivering benefits to the surrounding community. Also on hand for the event was the executive director of the Perquimans County Schools Foundation.

We have funded the foundation's Water Turtles project for the last four years. It teaches every kindergartner in the local school district about water safety by giving them two weeks of swimming and water safety lessons at the YMCA in Elizabeth City.

We also recently presented the first tax payments to several organizations near our Tule Wind Farm in East County, San Diego, California. Two nearly \$100,000 checks were presented **(continued, pg 4)**



5 Questions with Forest Supervisor John Sinclair



Avangrid Renewables began operations at their first wind farm in Vermont late last year. The project is the first in the country on U.S. Forest Service land, making our landowner, well, you. John Sinclair, forest supervisor for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests, answered 5 questions about the USFS role at our 15-turbine Deerfield Wind Farm.



1. Can you describe the role of the USFS as a steward of land, in Vermont and elsewhere?

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. We are a multifaceted agency that manages and protects 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 43 states and Puerto Rico. This includes overseeing 193 million acres of public land while also providing assistance to state and private landowners, and maintaining the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year.

2. The USFS manages multiple uses on their tracts of land. Can you describe some other uses?

The Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) encompasses more than 400,000 acres in southwestern and central Vermont, forming the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Characterized by striking scenery that combines rugged mountain peaks with quintessential Vermont villages, the Forest

is an attraction for many visitors. The GMNF signifies a multiple-use ethic through its role of providing ecological and science-based forestry stewardship, clean water, diverse vegetation, high-value, high-quality forest products, eight wilderness areas, economical and educational contributions, and trail-based backcountry recreation. The forest includes three nationally designated trails, three alpine ski areas, six Nordic ski areas, and approximately 900 miles of multiple-use trails for hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and bicycling. In addition the forest supports many hunting and angler opportunities, and plants and animals of all sizes are part of the attraction for visitors. The forest also supports many local businesses, municipalities and educational institutions through the sale of timber products. The Forest Service does allow for the application of "special use" activity including some powerline transmission corridors, communication towers (radio and cell), reservoirs, wind turbines and maple tapping, to name a few.

3. Was there something about this site in particular that made it well suited for the first wind farm on a USFS property?

The wind farm proposal met GMNF Land & Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) direction for considering wind energy development on the Forest. The Forest Service role was to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts of the proposal and decide if the location was the best place and time was appropriate for this project to be implemented. The project area is identified in the Forest Plan as an area potentially acceptable for wind energy development. The project consists of the issuance of a special use permit to use about 80 acres of National Forest System land.

5 ?

4. In permitting and construction, USFS has a critical role in implementing environmental protections. Can you explain how this will be done in operation?

Implementation of the Deerfield Wind Farm will include standard and adaptive management practices. Standard management practices include the utilization of specific project design criteria, best management practices, and mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts. Adaptive management practices incorporate monitoring the effectiveness of certain project components, analyzing the monitoring data, and determining if changes in project operation or maintenance need to be made in order to further minimize or mitigate project impacts. Specific project components where adaptive management practices will be incorporated include the monitoring of impacts to black bear, bird and bats. Adaptive management practices will also be used to control the spread and introduction of non-native invasive species.

5. What was it like to work with Avangrid Renewables?

The Avangrid Renewables staff has proven to be very professional, compliant and flexible throughout the various phases of the project. This project now stands alone as the first commercial-scale wind energy facility on National Forest System lands. In addition to working well with the Forest Service, the project proponent is required to adhere to all terms and conditions required by the state of Vermont. These types of large-scale projects are very complex in nature and Avangrid has worked well with the public, municipalities, public and private landowners, federal and state agencies, and local businesses and contractors to make this project a reality. 🌱

If you'd like to be considered for an upcoming issue of our 5 Questions series in Landowner News, send us an email at rensoc@avangrid.com.

(First Tax Checks Presented ... continued)



to the Mountain Empire Unified School District and to Mountain Health and Community Services (pictured left). Onsite representing Mountain Health & Community Services was the CEO Judith Shaplin. Representing the Mountain Empire School District were Gary Hobelman, the assistant superintendent of business services, and Kathy Granger, the superintendent.

“We are so pleased to have this opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to growing our partnership with East County and the greater San Diego community. These two organizations strive to keep us healthy and educate our children and we can’t think of two more worthy recipients of these donations. We’re proud of our work to bring clean, renewable power to thousands of California homes — but we also have employees who not only work, but live in this community and will do so for years to come. Thank you for welcoming us and we look forward to a wind-powered future together,” said Avangrid Renewables President and CEO Laura Beane. 🌱

Questions?

Have a story to tell?

Do you have questions or comments about Landowner News? Have a story to tell? Would you rather receive an electronic copy? We'd like to hear from you!

Contact Landowner News via email: landmanagement@avangrid.com or regular mail: Landowner News, Attn: Land Management, 1125 NW Couch St., Suite 700, Portland, OR 97209.

For questions about your land agreement or payments, contact us toll-free at 866-441-4557 or via email at landmanagement@avangrid.com.

Landowner Word Search

Q	W	E	F	G	U	K	I	U	E	Z
I	T	U	R	B	I	N	E	D	N	C
S	H	T	B	X	C	V	K	E	V	E
O	G	M	J	R	P	M	E	J	I	A
L	B	N	E	N	E	R	G	Y	R	H
A	A	R	Z	G	G	D	A	T	O	D
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E	W	A	U	L	N	D	N	C	T	D

- MEGAWATT
- RENEWABLE
- TURBINE
- ENVIRONMENT
- ENERGY
- KWH
- WIND
- GREEN
- SOLAR
- LAND






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