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## Extreme Weather Creates Big Challenges in Texas

In February, a once-in-a-generation winter storm swept across the United States from the Pacific Northwest, where hundreds of thousands lost power, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico, where record low temperatures strained the Texas grid and left millions in the dark.

The causes of the 2021 Texas energy crisis are likely to be under investigation for some time. Fundamentally, extreme weather conditions, which saw temperatures across the Lone Star State sink into the single digits, were the primary driver.

The severe cold that gripped Texas for days affected electricity generators of all types. A significant majority of generation losses were due to fossil fuel generators going offline. Natural gas infrastructure froze, coal plants were negatively affected and even one of the reactors at the South Texas Nuclear Power Station in Matagorda County was forced offline due to cold weather-related issues. Wind generators were affected by cold as well, but the root cause of the energy crisis was unprecedented winter weather in a region unaccustomed to it.

Some may wonder why wind turbines in Texas would be negatively affected by extreme cold when wind facilities in cold, northern climates are able to operate successfully. It comes down to a question of design: wind turbines are equipped differently depending upon the climate in which they will be used. In most cases, it is not possible to equip turbines to operate equally well in both hot and cold climates. Those in use farther north are more likely to have cold weather packages which include larger heaters to prevent the freezing of critical components. Many turbines in hot climates, such as Texas, are optimized to operate in the high heat and humidity most prevalent in those regions.

Even in extreme conditions, Avangrid Renewables' agile, innovative and dedicated Texas teams safely maximized generation and delivered power to our customers. Our employees worked throughout the weather crisis even as they were affected at home by the same power outages, frozen pipes and challenging conditions as their fellow Texans. Our trading and National Control Center teams also went above and beyond to facilitate our operations and manage the commercial aspects of this challenging situation. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of our employees and applaud their hard work and dedication in this incredibly trying time. 🌱



**"A rainbow emerges after a spring storm"**  
submitted by wind technician Colin S. at the  
Klondike Wind Farm in Sherman County, Oregon.

## 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](mailto:renphotos@avangrid.com), or mail to Avangrid Renewables, Attn: Land Management, 1125 NW Couch St., Ste. 700, Portland, OR 97209.

## Offshore Wind Projects Make Progress



*Pictured: ScottishPower East Anglia I Offshore Wind Farm.*

Offshore wind is poised to be a significant part of our clean energy future, and Avangrid Renewables is leading the way to build this industry in the U.S. Through its joint venture, Vineyard Wind, and wholly owned project, Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind, Avangrid Renewables has an offshore wind pipeline of almost 5 gigawatts.

The offshore wind industry will deliver significant benefits to coastal communities, providing plentiful clean energy and huge economic opportunities. The American Clean Power Association projects that the offshore wind industry will deliver \$25 billion in economic output and over 83,000 jobs in the next decade.

Vineyard Wind is preparing to deliver those benefits to communities in New England. Vineyard Wind 1, the joint venture's first project, could begin construction before the end of 2021. Once operational, the 800 megawatt project will deliver enough clean electricity to power approximately 400,000 homes in Massachusetts.

Further south, Avangrid Renewables is making progress on the Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind project. Kitty Hawk is a proposed 2.5 gigawatt project to be located 27 miles off the Corolla, N.C. coastline and is expected to be complete by 2030. In December, the company took the important step of filing a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) with the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for the first phase of the project. The COP is the main permit required to build and operate an offshore wind project in federal waters and marks a major milestone towards the project's development.

"We're proud to be the first to submit a federal permit for a commercial scale offshore wind project in Virginia and the Carolinas," said Bill White, Avangrid Renewables' head of U.S. offshore wind. "Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind will deliver clean energy to customers in the region and significant economic benefits and quality jobs for decades to come."

Avangrid Renewables commissioned an economic impact study (EIS) for the Kitty Hawk project. The EIS found that Kitty Hawk will deliver \$4 billion in total economic impact through construction spending, sales, net household earnings, and local and state taxes in Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. The analysis was completed by the [\(continued, pg. 4\)](#)

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## Five Questions with Kevin Spencer from Prineville, Oregon

Recently, *Landowner News* had the opportunity to sit down with Kevin Spencer, one of our landowners at the Gala Solar facility in Prineville, Oregon. Gala Solar broke ground as the largest solar facility in Oregon when it was built, and Mr. Spencer was a key partner in making the project a success. See below for a lightly edited transcript of our conversation about his experience:

**Thank you for taking the time to speak with us today. Let's start at the beginning – how long have you and your family been in the area?**

We've been here about 40 years and moved to Prineville from western Oregon.

**What do you like most about the region?**

The weather! We have four seasons and lots of sunshine.

**What led you to consider hosting a solar facility and how did you come to work with Avangrid Renewables?**

In 2007/2008, the economy was in rough shape and I had some spare time, so I decided to see what I could do with solar. Solar was not popular in Oregon then, especially not in Prineville. When I started, I looked at purchasing "meg-in-a-box" kits – which came with everything you needed to install a megawatt of solar capacity. We had a good site for solar and the kits seemed pretty straightforward, though I didn't realize how much was involved in building a substation and getting the power to the utility grid. That's when I started looking around and found what was then known as Iberdrola Renewables.



▶ I met Brian Walsh (director of development for the west) and after his team surveyed the site, we figured we could use about 400 acres. He helped us work with public officials to change the permitting process so that solar projects were a possibility here. The state of Oregon hadn't planned for large scale solar previously; the maximum allowed was 20 acres. After a change in the state land use laws, we were able to proceed with the project.

#### **How would you describe your experience working with Avangrid Renewables?**

I've been working with the company since before it was even known as Avangrid – throughout the years, it's been really great.

#### **What would you say to other landowners considering a similar partnership?**

Be patient. The process takes time – longer than you might be used to for other construction projects. Keep in mind that the company is putting together a complex, long-term arrangement to not only procure land but also to sell the power. It takes time, but it's worth it.



#### **Any last thoughts?**

Solar is a great use for land with unproductive grazing inventory. There is a lot of that in Central Oregon and solar presents a big opportunity. 🌱

**If you'd like to be considered for an upcoming Five Questions series in *Landowner News*, send us an email at [rensosocial@avangrid.com](mailto:rensosocial@avangrid.com).**

## **New Projects and Agreements Build Onshore Renewables Momentum**

### **Avangrid Renewables and Portland General Electric Team Up Again, This Time to Power Intel in Oregon**



Avangrid Renewables is again partnering with its hometown energy utility, Portland General Electric (PGE), to build a utility-scale solar project in central Oregon. The 138 MWac project will power Intel's advanced technology and manufacturing facilities in Hillsboro, Oregon through PGE's Green Future Impact (GFI) program. This is the second solar facility that Avangrid Renewables has announced to power the GFI program;

the first was announced in February 2020 and is expected to be operational by late 2021.

The proposed facility will be located in Wasco County, Oregon on 1,100 acres of privately-owned land. During peak construction, it will create an estimated 150 to 200 jobs in partnership with local unions. When the facility begins operating in 2022, it will produce enough power to serve the equivalent of over 32,000 homes. It will benefit the local economy for years to come by generating an estimated \$30 million in taxes and property owner lease payments over the life of the project. 🌱

### **Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm Achieves Commercial Operation**

Northeast of Brookings, South Dakota, the new 154.8 megawatt Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm achieved commercial operation on January 6th, 2021. Tatanka Ridge's 56 GE wind turbines span approximately 18,000 acres of corn and soybean farmland and cattle ranching land leased from approximately 100 landowners. The facility is owned by Tatanka Ridge Wind, LLC, which is jointly owned by Avangrid Renewables (15%) and WEC Energy Group (NYSE: WEC) (85%).

The Dairyland Power Cooperative purchases 51.6 MW of the project's capacity; the balance of the project's generation is sold to a large commercial customer. The portion sold to Dairyland Power is enough to power approximately 16,000 homes.



This project marks the third collaboration between Dairyland and Avangrid Renewables. Two other Avangrid Renewables facilities currently supply Dairyland Power: Barton Wind in Kensett, Iowa and Winnebago Wind in Thompson, Iowa.

Tatanka Ridge will deliver significant economic opportunities in South Dakota. Between land lease payments and taxes, the wind farm will provide \$1.7 million in local economic benefits annually over the life of the project. 🌱

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Contact us today to update our records:  
landmanagement@avangrid.com  
or 866.441.4557

## Let's Keep in Touch

We value your feedback and welcome any comments you may have to help improve our communications. Whether you talk to our staff in person or contact us by telephone or email, we evaluate all suggestions, compliments or complaints. We look forward to hearing from you.

Contact *Landowner News* via email at landmanagement@avangrid.com or regular mail at *Landowner News*, Attn: Land Management, 1125 NW Couch St., Ste. 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.

## (Offshore Wind Projects Make Progress ... continued)

Public Strategy Group (PSG). PSG developed a custom input-output economic model and used data from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and Labor Statistics, and Avangrid Renewables to complete the analysis.



Once the project is fully built-out, operation will generate nearly \$100 million in new household earnings annually, totaling an additional \$2 billion in economic benefit during the project's lifetime.

The project will also create hundreds of jobs. During construction, it is expected to support over 700 jobs in Virginia, with over 500 of those in the Hampton Roads region. Once operational, the project is expected to support over 900 jobs.

Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind is a huge win not only for clean energy, but for the Virginia/Hampton Roads region. Avangrid Renewables looks forward to playing an even larger role in the clean energy economy of the mid-Atlantic for decades to come. 🌱



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Avangrid Renewables is on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. Follow our Twitter account (@AvangridRen), the AvangridRen Facebook page or the Avangrid Renewables LinkedIn page to find news and information on wind power trends, activities, new facilities and more.

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Attn: Land Management  
1125 NW Couch St., Ste. 700  
Portland, OR 97209