



Photo courtesy of Vestas

IN THIS ISSUE:

North Carolina Reaches Full Commercial Operation	2
Wind Tech Is Nation's Fastest-Growing Job	2
5 Questions With Frank Potenzano	2
From Cussing to Praising	3
Safety First: Visiting a Wind Farm	4

Manufacturing in America

Does America still make stuff? Thanks to the growth of the wind industry, which now employs more than 100,000 Americans, that answer is a resounding "Yes." As we move to a more digital world with an ever-increasing focus on machines and automation, the success of the wind energy supply chain means Americans from coast to coast are at work "making stuff."

Wind energy is an American success story, but not just because of the benefits it provides to farmers, local schools, and communities hosting wind farms. The factories, workers and companies that build wind turbines increasingly do so in the United States. Companies like GE, Vestas and Gamesa have international supply chains, but there are more than 500 factories in 43 states making everything from nacelles, blades, towers and gearboxes to bearings, slip rings and fasteners. Our new investments in Vermont, North Carolina, New Mexico and California, and the ongoing operation of our fleet, mean we're supporting a supply chain of these manufacturing facilities around the country. As the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) has pointed out, more than 60 percent of a modern wind turbine's value is made in America, up from 25 percent only 10 years ago.

- Ohio, with more than 60 wind-related manufacturing facilities, leads Texas (38), Illinois (35), North Carolina (27) and Michigan (26).
- Building just one of our wind farms—Streator Cayuga Ridge in Illinois—required 80 Midwest-based suppliers for parts or services.
- GE's footprint includes turbine manufacturing in Florida, a blade facility in Louisiana, a research center in South Carolina and a recently acquired blade manufacturer with facilities in Arkansas and North Dakota.
- The world's biggest wind turbine manufacturer, Siemens, which is in the process of acquiring Gamesa, makes blades in Iowa and builds turbines in Arkansas.
- An Arizona company makes blades at an old Maytag appliance factory in Iowa.

AWEA continues to track more announcements of new facilities, facility expansions and other signs of job growth in an industry that has proven to provide opportunities for workers and their families to proudly engineer and build high-tech machines here in America. 🏠



Photo courtesy of Greg Alvarez, AWEA, at Broadwind Towers, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

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

North Carolina Reaches Full Commercial Operation



North Carolina's first commercial wind farm is now fully operational. We're delighted to share this positive news and highlight the team and partners responsible for bringing this project to light.

In addition to opening up a new part of the country for the wind industry, our contract with Amazon Web Services (AWS), has brought the project a lot of positive attention, as the commercial and industrial appetite for renewable energy has really expanded the market. Like all our wind farms, the project formerly known as the Desert Wind Farm will be an economic windfall for this rural area, injecting

more than \$1.1 million into the community each year through local tax and land lease payments. The local support and praise for the project speaks to the positive impact.

"Farms have been growing corn, soybeans and wheat for a long time here, and the wind farm revenue means a lot of families are protected from pricing swings, floods or droughts going forward," says Horace Pritchard, one of nearly 60 landowners associated with the project. "We're just adding another locally grown crop to our fields, with very little ground taken out of production, and the improved roads really help with access, so it's a great fit here."

Thank you to the many employees, partners and local landowners who shepherded this project since we began land acquisition work in 2009. 🌱

Wind Tech Is Nation's Fastest-Growing Job

It's no surprise that with more than 50,000 wind turbines in the country, there's a lot of operations and maintenance work needed to keep things moving. More and more men and women across the nation are looking to wind for their career. With great pay and benefits, a beautiful landscape to call your office and cutting-edge technology all around, what's not to love?



Demand and intense competition for wind technicians is accelerating as states move away from traditional fossil fuels for renewable energy. Wind turbine technicians occupy a job category projected to expand more than any other, outpacing healthcare and technology, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Growth in the field is expected to increase by 108 percent over the next decade, and the U.S. Department of Energy says wind power could support up to 380,000 jobs by 2030.

Working with giants and occasionally in extreme weather is the norm for these renewable rock stars. Many of the wind technicians employed by Avangrid Renewables are local men and women are eager to support the local economy and stay active in the community where they were raised. **(continued on page 3)**

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5 Questions With Frank Potenzano From North Ridge

Landowner News recently caught up with Frank Potenzano, from our North Ridge project under development in upstate New York. Frank has been working with landowners and developers in the region where he and his wife, Kelly, raised their daughters on a horse farm.



Landowner News: Where is your land and how long has your family been there?

Frank: Our land is located in St. Lawrence County in northern New York, in the town of Hopkinton. The land is 141 acres and a combination of woodland, tillable acreage and grassland, on which my wife and I raised three daughters and 15 horses in the 45 years that we've lived here. The girls and the horses are gone and the land is rented to neighbors for crops and grazing. My wife and I are in the final stages of remodeling our house, which was built in 1823, that has taken 11 years of blood, sweat and tears on our part.

Landowner News: What brought you to the area and what do you love most about it?

Frank: We moved to this area because of visits to family in Potsdam, 13 miles away. My wife and I were born and raised in New York City and knew Long Island was not where we wanted to raise our family, so "we bought the farm" and it's been a great area to raise a family. Fresh air, friendly neighbors and a great local school. It had it then and still does today.

► Landowner News: What are your thoughts on renewable energy?

Frank: We heated our house with wood for 27 years, and when we started our renovations we thought about something cleaner than wood and fossil fuels. Kelly and I decided on geothermal heat and did the research, so in 2006 we had the first system installed. It's been upgraded for the larger house and we couldn't be happier: 74 degrees in winter and a dry 78 degrees in the summer, as it's also a central air system. We have saved approximately 285 barrels of crude oil in the 11 years of geothermal heating. We believe in renewable resources for energy, such as wind, solar and geothermal, as a way of preserving our environment for our next generations. This earth needs all the help she can get.

Landowner News: What makes North Ridge a good fit for a wind farm?

Frank: Our location here in Hopkinton is ideal for Avangrid's North Ridge Wind Farm because of our topography and wind. We are still in the early stages of planning and siting, and the people of Avangrid have been exceptional in sharing information and [having] patience with those with questions.

Landowner News: How would a wind farm support the area economy?

Frank: The benefits from the wind farm would be a boon for our local businesses and contractors, as well as increased revenue for our town, school and county, during the construction phase and after completion. We are looking forward to a long relationship with the people of Avangrid and we feel Mother Nature is too. 🌱

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.

(continued from page 2)

Avangrid Renewables' wind technician Brian H. says, "What I like most about my job is that every day brings on new challenges. I'd have to say the toughest challenge for me when I first started was not having the turbine and electrical knowledge to be able to effectively troubleshoot and repair turbines. The best advice I'd give someone who is interested in becoming a wind tech is to keep a positive attitude and take every opportunity given to them when it comes to learning corrective repairs."

To learn more about the important work of wind turbine technicians and available opportunities at Avangrid Renewables, see our jobs page online or find us on LinkedIn. 🌱

From Cussing to Praising

by Pete Farrell, landowner, Elk River Wind Farm



I admit it. I used to cuss the wind. That was before I saw its many benefits. In 1995, I was approached by a developer about building a wind farm on my ranch, which turned out to be smack dab in the middle of a class 6 wind zone. Ten years later, the Elk River Wind Farm was completed and then purchased by Iberdrola Renewables in 2006. When I became acquainted with the company that is now Avangrid Renewables, it was hard to imagine that I would come to our nation's capital to talk about the benefits of wind with Kansas' congressional delegation and help keynote a wind-power rally. But that someday occurred this year, right after Valentine's Day. Regardless of your reasons for going there, Washington, DC, is an impressive place. I found the experience enlightening and inspiring.



AWEA is the national trade organization for the wind industry, and they had heard of our community-related efforts tied into the local wind farm here in Beaumont, Kansas. Elk River, owned by Avangrid Renewables, was a key player in helping us build a much-needed community center in the heart of our small town. So AWEA invited me to participate in its annual Lobby Day in Washington—helping tell the numerous

personal stories of how wind has had such a positive impact on rural America, bringing jobs and dollars to our challenged communities.

- They also invited me to a rally before Lobby Day, where I told a bunch of pro-wind enthusiasts about the benefits I had personally witnessed.
- Additional income going to farmers and ranchers, which is especially critical during a drought.
- Ten additional jobs on a piece of land that otherwise supported only two agricultural jobs.
- A community center that would not have been possible without funding from our wind farm.
- An uptick in business at our local hotel from tourists who come to see the wind farm.
- And finally, you won't rut your pastures because you can use wind farm roads!

The next day, following a dinner with the Avangrid Renewables crew that included a number of their plant managers who also happen to be military veterans, we visited the halls of Congress. I personally visited with Senator Jerry Moran and assistants to Representatives Lynn Jenkins and Kevin Yoder. It was very encouraging to hear that they were all well acquainted with the benefits of wind power and how it is now playing a crucial role in the restoration of our rural economies. 🌱





Safety First: Visiting a Wind Farm

With winter's thaw in the rearview and spring upon us, many sites will see an influx of visits from landowners and guests, taking advantage of hospitable weather before the dog days of summer. Please be continually mindful of personal safety while in the vicinity of wind turbines and other plant-related equipment.



Here are a few safety measures to keep in mind:

- Never park on the gravel "pad" at the base of the wind turbine tower. Park as far away from the turbine as practical; a good rule of thumb would be a minimum of 100 yards, if possible. When parking, please do not block the turbine access roads.
- Be cautious when plowing or tilling near the collector system underground cables. The cable locations should be visibly staked; if they aren't, contact the site's plant manager to verify underground cable locations. Before any digging, always call 811 so the site management can clearly mark any cables and clear the area for work.
- When driving on access roads, please ensure any closed gates are closed again after you travel through. This is for security as well as livestock or animal containment on-site.
- If you have guests on-site, please ensure they are aware of these safety rules as well.

Thank you for your participation as a landowner and valuable member of the Avangrid Renewables family! 🌱

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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: leasing@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: leasing@avangrid.com



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