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Teamwork, Communication Pay Off in Superstorm Sandy Preparations

When Superstorm Sandy struck the Northeast United States in late October and pelted the region with record flooding and gale-force winds, the Iberdrola Renewables Operations, Meteorology, Construction and National Control Center (NCC) teams banded together to prepare for one of the worst storms in recent memory.

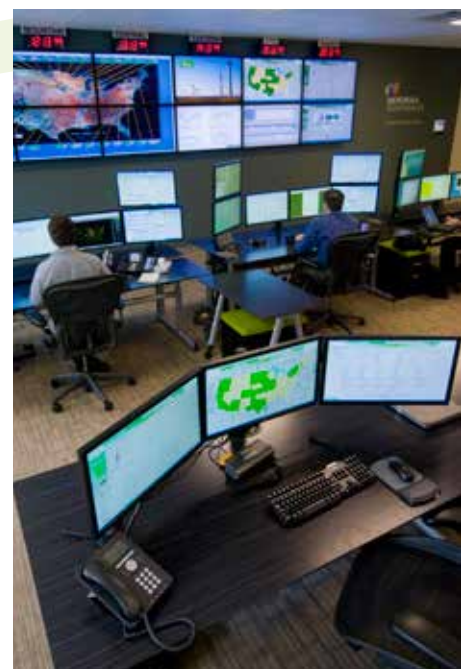
"We deal with bad weather all the time in every region of the country, and one thing we are very good at is preparation," said Gary Lemoine, director of environment, health, safety and security at Iberdrola Renewables. "Being a national operator is an advantage in this capacity. Hurricane Irene hit the same region last year, and we went through Hurricanes Gustav and Dolly in the Gulf Coast, so we drew upon all that experience to help us during Sandy."

Four days before the storm made landfall, Iberdrola Renewables experts from coast to coast worked closely together and implemented a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan: securing heavy equipment and loose materials, covering windows, laying down extra erosion control measures, notifying staff and visitors about evacuation plans, halting construction at new facilities, and fortifying overhead power lines.

As the storm was about to hit the coast and winds picked up, the NCC consulted with local power transmission companies and shut down the company's wind turbines to avoid potential damage and an overflow of energy to the system.

"The key to NCC's success during this event was close coordination and teamwork with utilities and our site personnel," said Blaine Sundwall, director of generation dispatch and control systems. "Hurricane winds that vary in speed and intensity can do severe damage to turbines. As a precaution, we stopped the turbines at the appropriate time because ultimately it's not worth the risk to have them operating." Hub height wind speeds at operating projects in New York and Pennsylvania peaked at around 75 mph, and a measurement tower at a planned project in Vermont recorded a high of 91 mph.

When the storm cleared the next day, technicians were dispatched to each Iberdrola Renewables facility to check for damage, walk the power lines and report what they found. The result: very minimal damage, one downed tree on a landowner's property, one wind farm mired in deep snow in Pennsylvania and a fleet of turbines that was given the green light for operation.



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(Teamwork, Communication...continued)

"Our turbines were ready to go back online when the transmission companies wanted us online," said Lemoine. "By 7 a.m. the next day, we restarted operations and were able to help fill the power grid with energy that was desperately needed."

Iberdrola Renewables would like to thank all of its employees who went the extra mile to keep our facilities, construction sites, landowners and equipment safe during Superstorm Sandy. Preparation, teamwork and communication really do pay off and were big factors in helping us battle the elements during the severe storm. 🌿

Hundreds Turn Out for Employee Volunteer Day

It may have been a weekend day, but Saturday, Oct. 20, was one of the busier days for Iberdrola Renewables employees around the world.

As part of the 3rd International Corporate Volunteering Day put on by parent company IBERDROLA, S.A., more than 800 employees in five countries volunteered to participate in a handful of charitable activities and give back to the communities in which they work and live.



At the United States headquarters in Portland, Ore., more than 50 employees, spouses and children volunteered time and energy to either clean up trash and graffiti as part of a local SOLVE (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) cleanup effort, or help build houses for low-income families through Habitat for Humanity.

"Volunteering aligns very closely with our corporate values," said Angie Gregg, human resources administrator. "Our employees participate in multiple volunteer campaigns throughout the year in local communities where we operate wind farms, but International Corporate Volunteering Day allows our team to participate together in charitable events that make a local impact. They can create their own culture of giving back."



In the U.S., a mix of employees—from top managers to employees and even a few company contractors—from various departments participated in giving up a weekend day to help out in their local community.

Around the world, volunteers participated in 40 different activities, including gardening, food drives and helping children prepare for plays in Brazil and Mexico.

"Because so many people walk away from International Corporate Volunteering Day feeling good about themselves and their community, this initiative will

continue on in the future," said Gregg. "Our employees do genuinely want to give back and this is a terrific way for them to get involved." 🌿

Protect against Copper Theft

Copper theft is an increasing problem throughout the country as thieves steal rolls of high-voltage cable, cut grounding wires or break into substations for conductors from energized electrical equipment. This has disastrous and potentially fatal results for the thieves who come into contact with high-voltage equipment.

What can landowners do to prevent these hazards?

1. If you notice horseplay or vandalism around wind plant equipment, please call your local Iberdrola Renewables contact or county sheriff. Do not put yourself in jeopardy by confronting these individuals. Your safety is more important to us than our plant equipment.
2. If you see someone make contact with live electrical equipment, don't attempt a rescue and become a victim yourself. Contact trained emergency response crews immediately.
3. Note basic facts if you can—the color and style of a vehicle, number of individuals or other discerning details which could be valuable for law enforcement.
4. Let your local project manager know about safety concerns related to a wind project. Your safety is our most important job, and please give plant equipment or overhead lines and structures a safe distance with farming equipment. 🌿

Landowner Profile: Kevin Onnela




Kevin Onnela is a big fan of wind power. It's a good thing, too, because he lives with 12 wind turbines as the primary landowner at the Lempster project in New Hampshire.

When asked if his 1,500 acre property is hilly, he said, "I live at 2,100 feet elevation. It's more of a mountain."

The land had previously been used for timberland, but he lost his primary customer in the late 1990s and began to look at other uses for the property. The howling wind showed him that wind energy could be feasible.

He says he has to open the windows in the summertime so he can hear the whooshing of the rotating blades, which reminds him and his wife of the ocean.

Outside of watching the "beautiful, majestic" wind turbines spin, Kevin is an avid motorcyclist. Last summer he went on a 28-day, 12,000-mile trip that took him from New Hampshire to Alaska and back. His personal record is 1,500 miles in one day, which he did a few years ago to raise money for a local charity.

Iberdrola Renewables is happy to have Kevin in our landowner family, and grateful for his continued support and assistance in our other development efforts in the region. 

Iberdrola Renewables Scores Top Environmental Award


One of the top wind industry environmental awards resides again at Iberdrola Renewables.

At its fall conference, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) honored Iberdrola Renewables' Stu Webster, director of permitting and environmental affairs, with the Andrew Linehan Award for Environmental Excellence.

"This award is truly a professional and personal honor," said Webster. "I'm extremely proud of not only my Iberdrola Renewables team but also countless others in this industry who work tirelessly to reduce wind's impact on wildlife. It is critically important that we demonstrate to the world that wind is truly the greenest energy source available, and I'm pleased we are making great strides in that direction."

Webster has led Iberdrola Renewables' wildlife protection efforts since mid-2010, including full implementation of the company's fleet-wide, one-of-a-kind Avian and Bat Protection Policy in 2010; completion of a three-year radar monitoring study of migratory bird and bat use at the Peñascal wind facility in Texas; and continuation of a nine-year study of increasing the presence of prairie chickens at the operating Elk River wind facility in Kansas.

AWEA established the Award for Environmental Excellence in honor of Iberdrola Renewables' Andrew Linehan in 2010, after Linehan succumbed to a long battle with cancer. The award recognizes individuals in the wind industry "who contribute to the responsible siting and permitting of individual projects, who tackle wildlife issues proactively and who work to establish and advance, as Andy did, the highest environmental standards for the industry."

"Stu Webster's work has been very important to an industry committed to improving the health of our planet," said Denise Bode, AWEA CEO. "We've worked alongside Stu for many years through his leadership positions on AWEA committees and involvement in important industry research, and we are pleased to honor his efforts." 



Seasonal Safety Tips for Landowners

The winter season raises special safety considerations at wind farms. Here are a few safety tips for landowners and the public to remember when they partake in outdoor activities near wind turbines:

- Become familiar with the terrain and know the location of turbine towers.
- Remember there are low-voltage electrical boxes alongside roadways and transformers near towers.
- Snowmobile and sled operators must be cautious of junction boxes located at the base of each wind turbine. Junction boxes and warning signs may be obscured by snow.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Happy Holidays from Iberdrola

Renewables and Landowner

News! From our families to
yours, best wishes for a joyous

and safe holiday

season and a

wonderful 2013!




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(Seasonal Safety...continued)

- Snowmobiles and sleds should proceed at a slow, safe speed near turbines.
- If you allow hunting on your property, let hunters know that they may encounter avian (bird) technicians and wind turbine technicians conducting various tasks on the property. These technicians will be wearing hard hats and may be wearing orange vests. Hunters should be aware of their presence.
- Landowners who notice any missing or obscured warning signs should notify the local project manager immediately.

"Iberdrola Renewables' goal is to operate its facilities in a safe and secure manner, not only for our employees and contractors, but also for landowners and the public," says Gary Lemoine, Iberdrola Renewables director of environment, health, safety and security. "Landowners are the experts about what's happening on their properties. Local wind project managers need to know immediately if landowners observe potentially unsafe activity." 



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Iberdrola Renewables launched a new Twitter account this spring where you can find news and information from the company on wind power trends, activities and new facilities. Follow @IberdrolaRen on Twitter for more details.
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