



Photo credit: Devin Carder, wind technician—Klondike Wind Project

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Wind Power Steps Up for Winter	1
Senator Heitkamp Visits Rugby	2
Call 811 before You Dig	2
5 Questions for Marsha Meyersick	2
Technicians Flock to Fitness Challenge	3
Campaign Shows Love for Renewables	4

Wind Power Steps Up During Polar Vortex Winter Blast

While snow and cold temperatures received most of the attention during the polar vortex that hit the United States in mid-January, it was wind power that helped save the day for electricity consumers across the country.

According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), wind energy helped keep the lights on and insulate against temporary price spikes during the harsh cold weather snap that impacted more than two-thirds of the nation, demonstrating the value of wind power in a balanced energy portfolio.



Photo credit: Rick Blodgett, Goldendale warehouse

Iberdrola Renewables was ready and prepared to face the energy crunch brought on by the severe winter weather. In fact, the company set a new fleet record with more than 5,000 MW of instantaneous production on Sunday, Jan. 12.

The record-setting day capped off a rather wild 10-day stretch that included the polar-vortex-induced icebox and wholesale prices hitting between \$1.70 and \$5.00 per kwh in various markets during the previous week, compared to normal averages in the \$0.03-\$0.12 range. Many regional wholesale electricity markets operate in a manner that means exponentially higher prices as demand peaks, meaning there are huge benefits for every ratepayer when zero fuel cost generators like wind turbines are at high output at the same time and can displace higher-cost generators.

The production records were set thanks to a great wind resource, high availability of turbines, agreeable market conditions and no curtailments. Reports confirmed that Iberdrola Renewables' control systems and communication systems were 100 percent reliable, allowing the company to remotely run the fleet from the National Control Center (NCC) in Portland, Ore., without incident.



"Congratulations and many thanks to Field Services and the NCC for keeping the sites running and maximizing production," said Iberdrola Renewables Managing Director John Martinez. "I also want to thank all those who provide the support necessary to allow our folks to perform at a world-class level."

But the milestones didn't stop there—Iberdrola Renewables set a new record for the entire day when looking at owned capacity generation. January 12 produced a daily generation record of 77,842,000 kwh (an average house might use 10,000 kwh in a year)—and a total daily capacity factor of 60 percent—which broke the previous daily generation record in November of 2013. 🌱

North Dakota Senator Heitkamp Visits Rugby Wind Facility

Many politicians are seeing the value of alternative energy facilities in their home states and the contributions they can make to lowering energy prices and supporting local communities. Earlier this year, Iberdrola Renewables' Rugby Wind Farm in North Dakota hosted U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp (ND) for a site tour and a check presentation to a vital local organization.

While on site, Senator Heitkamp tweeted, "Toured Iberdrola Wind Farm by Rugby. 15% of ND's energy is from wind & is a key piece of #alloftheabove energy strategy."

In addition to touring the wind turbines, Sen. Heitkamp also helped present a \$15,000 check from Iberdrola Renewables to the Rugby Volunteer Fire Department.

The U.S. wind industry is getting attention in Washington, D.C., after its strong year-end finish and the amount of energy it is expected to generate. At the end of 2013 there were more U.S. wind power megawatts (MW) under construction than ever before, according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA): more than 12,000 MW of new generating capacity with a record-breaking 10,900 MW starting construction activity during the fourth quarter. The wind projects under construction could power the equivalent of 3.5 million American homes, or all the households in Iowa, Oklahoma and Kansas. 🌱



Above (L-R): Suzlon technician Tim Maertens, Rugby plant manager Neal Dewitz, U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp, and wind technician Josh Woodford.



Above: U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp (left), along with Rugby Wind Farm plant manager Neal Dewitz (far right), presents two representatives from the Rugby Volunteer Fire Department with a check for \$15,000.

Safety Corner: Call 811 Before You Dig

"Better safe than sorry" is a wise saying when it comes to underground utilities, especially at wind farms. Landowners who are considering digging on their property—even for small projects like planting trees and shrubs—should call 811 first to see if there's any danger lurking below.

Calling 811 before every digging job gets your underground utilities such as electricity, telecommunications, gas lines, water and sewer lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences. The depth of underground utilities vary and there may be multiple utilities in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

(continued, pg 3)

5

5 Questions for Marsha Meyersick, Landowner

The Elk River Wind Project is a 150 megawatt (MW) wind energy project located near Latham and Beaumont in Butler County, Kan., approximately 45 miles east of Wichita. Primarily used to graze cattle, the site consists of 7,907 acres and is owned by five local landowners.



Landowner News recently caught up with one of the landowners, Marsha Meyersick. In addition to farming and hosting 10 wind turbines on her land, Marsha has been teaching piano lessons to kids and adults for more than 40 years.

Landowner News: What activities do you have on your land?

Meyersick: Our land is used mostly for crops such as wheat, corn and soybeans. We also have pastureland that we rent for raising cattle. That's where the 10 wind turbines are located.

LN: Is there a family history with the farm?

Meyersick: Yes. Our grandfather bought the land in the 1930s. Our dad carried on the farming and ranching, and now my husband and other renters are keeping up with the work. I hope the next generation will keep up the land in the future. Both my sister and I have children who stand to inherit the land. It was my daughter who showed the most interest in farming and ranching, and even though she tragically passed away recently, her love and enthusiasm for the family farm will live on forever. Its ongoing care will be a tribute to her.



Above: The 150 MW Elk River Wind Project

LN: What made you decide to consider a wind farm on your property?

Meyersick: I like that wind power is a clean energy and doesn't put any pollution in the air. It is much less harmful for the environment and a natural resource that we should use more of.

LN: Have you had any complaints from neighbors who live near the turbines?

Meyersick: Not at all. We were worried about the noise at the very beginning when the turbines were first installed, but it's nothing. There is a quiet hum if you stand nearby, but not anything like the noise at my house near Wichita with air traffic overhead.

LN: How was the construction experience with your wind turbines?

Meyersick: The construction workers were very careful with the land. We were impressed with the foreman who worked with us during construction. They were all very professional about their work. 🌱

(Safety Corner...continued)

It is critical to know what is below prior to digging. "Underground high voltage lines and gas lines can pose a serious hazard if they are contacted while digging. Other underground utilities may not necessarily present a hazard, but if disturbed could be an inconvenience and repair could come at a significant cost. Prior to digging, landowners should call 811. It is free and could prevent injury or worse. Be sure to mark the area you are digging in with white paint and call 48 hours prior to digging," said Dennis Winn, Director of Environment, Health, Safety & Training in the Iberdrola Renewables Operations Department.

Here's how the process works: call 811 from anywhere in the country a minimum of 48 hours prior to digging, and your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig, what type of work you will be doing and any affected local utility companies will be notified about your intent to dig. If your digging site is near one of our wind farms, it will likely be one of our technicians who comes out to locate our underground power lines. Each state has different rules and regulations governing digging, some stricter than others. In a few days, they'll send a locator to mark the approximate location of your underground lines, pipes and cables, so you'll know what's below—and be able to dig safely.

For more information on the program, visit www.call811.com or ask your field representative. 🌱

Wind Technicians Flock to Fitness Challenge

A healthy body, mind and planet are all part of the Iberdrola Renewables philosophy. That's why the company kicked off its 2014 Fitness Challenge for its employees and contract employees earlier this year.

The Challenge started on Jan. 20, 2014, and runs through March 30. Participants are encouraged to join weekly workout groups, train for road races and other fitness events, and be active for at least 30 minutes per day, five days per week.

Overall, the event has been particularly well-received by team members who work at Iberdrola Renewables' wind farms. Of the current 174 employees participating, 55 are plant managers, technicians or administrators at local wind and solar facilities. One location, Elk River in Kansas (right), boasts 90 percent participation among its 10 employees on-site.

"The majority of Elk River's employees have been exercising one way or another for quite some time before the challenge started," said Ryan Orban, plant manager at Elk River. "The Challenge has helped the safety of our site tremendously by keeping everyone in good shape for the strenuous work and heavy lifting that is performed almost every day at a wind power plant." 🌱



Elk River team members show their fitness challenge work.



Questions? Have a story to tell?

Questions or comments relating to *Landowner News*? Have a story to tell? Would you rather receive an electronic copy to save paper? We'd like to hear from you!

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I (Heart) Wind Campaign Shows Love for Renewables

February is always a great time to show your love ... especially for renewable power.

In connection with Valentine's Day, Iberdrola Renewables launched a photo campaign that ran across its social media channels. Employees and fans professed their love for wind and solar energy by taking photos of themselves with the tag #IHeartWind and #IHeartSolar visible in the photo. The campaign was so successful that it will be expanded into April during Earth Month, so be on the lookout for more great pictures.

Send Us Your Favorite Photos!

Our community of landowners covers some of the most picturesque territory across the United States, and we would love to see more of it. Do you have a favorite photo of wind turbines in a dramatic landscape? We will feature your best photos in this newsletter and on our social media networks. Please email your photos to photos@iberdrolaren.com and include a caption and your contact information.

NOTE: by submitting a photo, you hereby grant Iberdrola Renewables and its affiliates, the irrevocable and unrestricted rights to use, publish, assign or sublicense the photographs submitted by for any purpose deemed appropriate by the company and its affiliates and in any manner and medium, and to alter the same without restriction.



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