

# In the Breeze

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## Highland Wind Developments

The State Corporation Commission held hearings in Richmond in October and November 2006 to consider the application by Highland New Wind Development to build and operate a commercial wind power facility in Highland County. The hearings featured wide-ranging testimony from experts and Virginia residents, and exemplified the idea that greater and more effective outreach is critical in order to broaden public acceptance of Virginia's most abundant and cost-effective clean energy resource. The contradictory nature of some testimony suggests that there remain misconceptions about wind power, particularly with respect to health benefits, as rigorous and peer-reviewed scientific studies have demonstrated that the Highland New Wind Development wind project will bring about improvements in air quality. The commissioners are expected to render their decision in early 2007.



## Energy Virginia Conference at VMI

The Virginia Military Institute (VMI) hosted in October 2006 the inaugural *Energy Virginia* Conference. This meeting brought together experts and stakeholders to address key energy issues as they pertain to Virginia and to consider elements of Virginia's new comprehensive energy plan. The Honorable Frank Wagner, senator from Virginia Beach and author of last year's Senate Bill 262 that authorizes the energy plan, offered introductions. Mr. James Woolsey, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, spoke on *Energy, Security, and the Long War of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Five parallel tracks for presentations were organized, these were (1) Utilities and Infrastructure; (2) Efficient Buildings; (3) Fossil Fuel Technologies; (4) Alternative Energy Strategies; and (5) Transportation, Biofuels, Coal. Details of the conference and presentations are available at <http://www.energyvacon.com>.

## VSWIP installations

The *Virginia Small Wind Incentives Program* announces the installation of its second wind turbine. A 10-kW Bergey Excel-S was installed in November 2006 at a private residence in Independence (Grayson County). A picture of the turbine being raised is shown to the left. This is believed to be, at present, the largest wind turbine installed at a residence in Virginia.

In addition, three VSWIP awardees were recently approved by their respective zoning boards. A 10-kW Bergey turbine is scheduled to be installed soon at the Volvo Trucks plant in Dublin (Pulaski County). A resident in Reedville (Northumberland County) will soon install a 3-kW turbine at their home. And approval was granted for a 1.8-kW turbine in Stuarts Draft (Augusta County).

## Tangier Island Project Update

The JMU office of VWEC is fully engaged in a comprehensive wind feasibility study at Tangier Island. Multiple visits to the island have been made over the past several months, and a community meeting is being scheduled on the island for early 2007.

In addition to working with island community leaders and residents, contacts have been made with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and other relevant organizations and agencies with jurisdiction over the lands and waters in and around Tangier. A related effort will identify opportunities and strategies to improve the energy efficiency of residences and community-owned buildings on the island.

## Anemometer Loan Program Update

In the last issue of *In the Breeze*, it was announced that the James Madison University office of the Virginia Wind Energy Collaborative (VWEC/JMU) had partnered with the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to help form and administer the Maryland Anemometer Loan Program (MDALP). Since that time, the first three of the six initial sites have been selected for instrumentation and the installation of the first 50-meter meteorological tower was completed. The installation of a 30-meter tower is planned for early February. The JMU office of VWEC also has administered the Virginia State-Based Anemometer Loan Program (SBALP) since Autumn 2001. The Virginia program has installed instrumentation and towers at 33 sites across the Commonwealth, including thirty-two 20-meter met towers and one 50-meter tower, and has completed a full year of data collection at twenty-nine sites and issued comprehensive reports evaluating the wind resource to program participants and state and federal officials. The anemometer program has spawned a growing interest in wind energy and renewables throughout Virginia, even encouraging some landowners to install their own small wind turbine, and many more to approach their local planning boards or elected representatives to express the need to move Virginia toward a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.



## VA Small Wind Guidebook

In early 2007, VWEC will release a state-specific version of the NREL (National Renewable Energy Laboratory) small wind guidebook. The guidebook addresses most typical questions and concerns regarding residential wind systems and the installation process. The guidebook is intended to help landowners decide whether installation of a small wind turbine is practical and what steps are required to finance, purchase, permit, install, and maintain a system. Virginia is one of the first states to release a small wind guidebook containing state-specific information. In particular, the guidebook addresses the net metering law, provides relevant contacts and links for information, and features Virginia-specific financing information, pictures, and case studies. The cover of the guidebook is shown to the left.