

## Berkshire Wind Cooperative and WMGLD Announce New Wind Project on Brodie Mountain

The Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation (BWPCC), a cooperative initiative of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) and 14-member municipal utilities, including the Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department (WMGLD), recently announced plans for Phase Two of its wind farm atop Brodie Mountain in Hancock, Massachusetts. WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion serves as President of the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative.

BWPCC is the owner of the 10-turbine, 15-megawatt Berkshire Wind Power Project that began operation in 2011. Phase Two will include construction of two new wind turbines, bringing the site's generating capacity to 19.6 megawatts. Plans include construction of two, 2.3-megawatt turbines adjacent to the existing turbines, with construction expected to start this fall and be completed in spring 2019, according to the BWPCC.

Improvements in blade technology will allow the new turbines to begin operating and generating power at lower wind speeds, further increasing potential output for the wind farm. The turbine blades will utilize a feathered blade trailing edge, reminiscent of a bird's wing, to minimize blade wake and sound levels. The additional turbines will be erected on land already cleared for the original turbines, minimizing environmental impact to the Brodie Mountain ridgeline.

Berkshire Wind is the state's second largest wind farm, operating successfully at one of windiest sites in Massachusetts with an average capacity factor of nearly 40%. When it began operation in 2011, Berkshire Wind was Massachusetts' largest inland wind farm. The WMGLD

owns nearly 10% of the total project, and wind power accounts for approximately 6% of the WMGLD's energy supply annually.

According to MMWEC, the agency signed a contract in 2004 with Berkshire Wind's original developer to purchase all of the project's output. In 2008, with much of the permitting completed but no turbines erected, the developer sold the project assets to the BWPCC, which brought the project to commercial operation in 2011, marking what then-Governor Deval Patrick called "a new era of renewable energy development in Massachusetts."

"As one of the owners of Berkshire Wind, the WMGLD is pleased that a second phase of the wind power project will be constructed, further increasing our renewable energy portfolio," WMGLD General Manager and BWPCC President Dion said.

The WMGLD is one of 10 MMWEC member utilities participating in the second phase along with Boylston, Chicopee, Hull, Ipswich, Marblehead, Peabody, Russell, Sterling and West Boylston municipal utilities.

MMWEC is the joint action agency for public power in Massachusetts, providing a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities. MMWEC was created in 1969 and through an act of the state legislature became a nonprofit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth in 1976, empowered to issue tax-exempt bonds to finance energy facilities for the benefit of municipal utilities and their customers.

###