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Okanagan Wind begins operations

KELOWNA, BC (April 6, 2017) – Okanagan Wind, the first wind power facilities in the Okanagan region of British Columbia, is now operational.

After several years of development work and nine months of construction, the 10 Senvion 3.2M114 CCV wind turbines are now helping to green the province’s electricity grid under two 40-year electricity purchase agreements with BC Hydro. With turbines specially designed for cold climates, Okanagan Wind has a total installed capacity of 30 megawatts, representing approximately 6% of British Columbia’s installed wind capacity.

“This final step in development reflects a tremendous amount of effort, work and local collaboration amongst many partners and stakeholders,” said Stephen Simpson, Vice President, InstarAGF Asset Management. “We are proud to have contributed to the environment and community by providing an estimated \$20 million of investment in local businesses over the course of construction. We are equally proud that Okanagan Wind will be a clean, low-cost source of emission-free electricity for years to come.”

The two facilities, located on Crown land, were developed in collaboration with the Westbank First Nation, Upper Nicola Band, and the Penticton Indian Band. The Pennask project is located just west of Pennask Summit, north of Highway 97C, and the Shinish Creek project located approximately 30 kilometres west of Summerland off the Princeton-Summerland road. The clean energy generated by Okanagan Wind is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia by approximately 60,000 tonnes a year – the equivalent of taking 12,000 cars off the road.

The Okanagan Wind projects were developed by Zero Emission Energy Developments, Inc., a B.C. developer of community-based small scale wind projects, and are sponsored by InstarAGF Asset Management Inc., a Canadian-based owner and operator of essential infrastructure assets.

Quotes

“This council and this community spent time and effort to make this project right. Our relationship to the land and our responsibility to protect it meant that a relationship with the company was of the utmost importance. The company took the time to learn and understand the concerns Upper Nicola had, addressing them collectively with respectful dialogue. Upper Nicola is proud and committed to being a leader in renewable, clean, green energy. The Pennask project changed our landscape, but we ensured that what was developed is good for the overall environment.”

– Chief McLeod, Upper Nicola Band

“Through the Okanagan Wind projects, we are pleased to continue a commitment to clean energy initiatives. We are proud to be a part of the process since development, through construction and now in operations alongside other local contractors to ensure the best results for our future. Our partnership and collaboration on these facilities helps to harness the natural wind energy supplied by our region, while bringing tangible benefits for our community members.”

– Chief Lindley, Westbank First Nation

“I would like to thank Okanagan Wind, the past PIB leadership and our staff who worked hard to conclude this agreement. The Penticton Indian Band affirms our responsibility to take care of the land and all living things

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within our ancestral Title lands. As caretakers of the land we understand that we must make decisions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve environmental standards and ensure for the lasting health of our lands and waters for the good of all, for all time. I am grateful for the syilx leadership who have recognized and continue to affirm unity through an honoured protocol within our syilx (Okanagan) Nation Territory and look forward to future projects focused on sustainability."

– Chief Eneas, Penticton Indian Band

"Together we have shown that the health of our environment and our future generations can take priority above all else, and the Pennask and Shinish Creek small scale wind projects are perfect examples of this collaborative effort. ZED values its relationships with First Nations, stakeholders and the local community and we look forward to working together for many years to come."

– Alastair King, President and CEO, Zero Emission Energy Developments, Inc.

"I am very proud to see our turbines spinning at the first Okanagan windfarms, developed in cooperation with local First Nations. We look forward to working in the community and providing opportunities over the course of the next 15 years of operations and maintenance. Transporting our turbines into the mountains and installing them before the harsh winter was a great demonstration of our team's expertise. On that note, I would like to thank InstarAGF for their trust and the excellent collaboration."

– Helmut Herold, CEO, Senvion in North America

Quick Facts

- Total installed capacity is 30 megawatts
- The 10 Senvion 3.2M114 CCV wind turbines each have a hub height of 100 metres
- The facilities are expected to generate approximately 100,000 MWh of electricity annually, which is enough to power the equivalent of approximately 9,000 homes
- Electricity produced is sold to BC Hydro under separate 40-year contracts
- Materials, labour and equipment were sourced from local firms where possible, creating an investment of approximately \$20 million in local businesses
- Wind projects are designed to last for 25 years and longer, contributing much-needed electricity supply as well as environmental benefits

For more information on the Okanagan Wind projects or to learn more about the benefits of wind energy, visit www.OkanaganWind.ca.

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