

Section 28
Tangible Benefits

1.0 TANGIBLE BENEFITS

The amended Oakfield Wind Project Amendment (Project) will provide significant tangible benefits to the town of Oakfield, as well as to the entire State of Maine.¹ Tangible benefits are defined as environmental or economic improvements or benefits to residents of the State attributable to the construction, operation and maintenance of the project and include, but are not limited to, property tax payments resulting from the development; other payments to a host community, including, but not limited to, payments under a community benefits agreement; construction related employment, local purchase of materials, employment in operations and maintenance, reduced property taxes, reduced electrical rates, land or natural resource conservation, performance of construction, operations and maintenance activities by trained, qualified and licensed workers, or other comparable benefits. 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3451(10). There is no requirement in the statute that a project include benefits in each of the delineated areas, but rather that the collective benefits from the project be significant. Id. On the local level, the host community will benefit through lease payments for land, employment opportunities, the local purchase of materials and supplies, taxes paid on the Project, and, through an annual Community Benefit Fund payment. On a larger scale, the Project will increase energy diversity, thereby helping to reduce electric price volatility in Maine. The project will also help Maine meet its commitments under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which establishes limits for emissions associated with the generation of electricity. The Project includes a myriad of environmental and economic benefits that constitute tangible benefits under the Wind Power Act and collectively are significant. The U.S. Department of Energy recently evaluated and affirmed that wind power will bring these very benefits to Maine. (See http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/pdfs/economic_development/2008/me_wind_benefits_factsheet.pdf).

1.1 ECONOMIC BENEFITS

1.1.1 Local Landowner Benefits

The Project provides a direct economic benefit to the approximately 60 local landowners participating in the Project through land leases and easements. The Project allows these landowners to capture a new resource to gain economic benefits from their land and will produce steady annual revenue to landowners with turbines during the life of the Project. This income stream can supplement what the landowners typically make from logging and other uses of the land and represents a significant economic benefit. This will help maintain traditional economic and recreational uses of the land while creating a new source of clean energy.

1.1.2 Increased Employment

Measures of Aroostook County's economic climate are below the State average, signaling the need for investment and economic development. The 2007 average annual income for the State of Maine was \$35,130; Aroostook County's average income of \$29,164 is below that state average. Similarly, Aroostook County's December 2010 unadjusted unemployment rate of 9.1 percent is well above Maine's 7.5 percent for the same month.²

The Project would respond directly to area needs and to the people who live and work in the vicinity of Oakfield. A significant portion of the estimated \$363 million dollar total project cost, including transmission, is expected to be spent on development, engineering, and construction-related activities, much of which may stay within Maine. The local host community and immediately surrounding areas can benefit through construction-related employment opportunities and the ancillary economic benefits of that construction activity. There will be the opportunity for direct jobs for activities like tree clearing and excavation, and ancillary jobs in businesses that support construction such as lodging, restaurant, fuel and concrete supply. For the Mars Hill, Stetson and Stetson II projects combined, more than 850 people were employed during construction. Following the construction phase, Evergreen Wind Power II, LLC (Evergreen II) anticipates hiring five to ten permanent employees to operate and maintain the facility; First

¹ See 35-A MRSA §3454 and 38 MRSA §484(3) for relevant criteria.

² Maine Department of Labor, Center for Workforce Research and Development, June 2010 *Labor Market Digest*.

Wind now directly employs 32 Maine people to support ongoing development, project management and operations of operating and proposed wind facilities. The Project will hire locally whenever possible, providing construction, operations, and maintenance employment opportunities to community residents. Attached as Appendix 28-1 is a list of companies who have already been engaged in the project.

Although the exact amount of direct and indirect economic benefits of the Project may be difficult to predict, the actual economic spending associated with the development and construction of the nearby Stetson Wind Project is evidence of the tangible economic benefits that can be expected from this Project. The Stetson Wind Project is a reliable comparison due to its proximity (35 miles) to this Project. Included as Appendix 28-2 is a graphic representing the local and statewide economic benefits associated with the Stetson Wind Project and a list of Maine companies benefiting from that project. The economic benefits of a wind project are significant and can provide value and stability to the local and regional economy. As indicated in that graphic, of the approximately \$65 million spent for construction, engineering, and development services, about \$50 million was spent with Maine businesses, with approximately 350 people directly engaged in construction of the project. Contractors throughout the state from Fryeburg to Presque Isle, consultants with offices throughout the state, and local businesses in the Lincoln and Danforth area all benefited from these expenditures. These amounts reflect only direct spending by the developer and do not capture the indirect jobs and benefits that may result from that direct spending. For example, the contractors hired by the developer to build the Project will spend money on food, lodging, and fuel in the area. Similar benefits during construction are also expected.

1.1.3 Reduced Local Property Taxes

Utility-scale wind power projects require large capital investments that have been estimated from \$95 million to \$270 million.³ The large investment in a wind power project can result in a dramatic increase in real property value, and typically has the corresponding effect of substantially increasing the local property tax base, thereby reducing taxes overall. Evergreen II expects that it will pay significant annual property taxes on the Project.

Host communities to large projects with high taxable value, such as a grid-size wind power project, enjoy tangible benefits related to the taxes paid on these projects, and can select the manner in which the community wishes to enjoy those benefits. Some communities choose to use the new property taxes to reduce local property taxes. As an example, the mil rate in Mars Hill decreased significantly (from \$25.00 to \$20.00) in 2007 as a result of the tax payments associated with the Mars Hill wind power project. Under the terms of a Tax Increment Financing (“TIF”) agreement, Evergreen Wind Power, LLC (an affiliate of this Applicant) pays the Town of Mars Hill \$500,000 in property taxes annually, and will continue to pay that amount annually through 2026. In total, First Wind is paying more than \$1.1 million annually in property tax payments, for the Mars Hill and combined Stetson wind power projects, each of which is subject to a 20 year TIF reimbursement arrangement with the host community. Thus, TIF agreements such as that between the Town of Mars Hill and Evergreen Wind Power, LLC can provide long-term stability, predictability and property tax relief to the municipality arising from the substantial property tax payments associated with commercial wind power facilities.

Other host communities choose to enjoy their tangible tax-related benefits by segregating the new property taxes in a TIF program and by using the community’s share of those new taxes to fund economic development projects that have been approved by the legislative body of the government entity and the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development.⁴ As an example, the Washington County Commissioners created a 30-year TIF around both phase I and phase II the Stetson Wind Power Project (the “Stetson TIF”), allowing the County to use a significant portion of the project’s property taxes to fund economic development projects within the unorganized territories of Washington County. As part

³ *The Benefits, the Quid Pro Quos for Fashioning a Streamlined Approach to Commercially Sized Wind Energy Facility Siting*, Orlando E. Delogu, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Maine School of Law, January 2008.

⁴ In an unorganized territory, the county acts in the place of the municipality in creating and implementing a TIF program. 30-A M.R.S.A. § 5235.

of its TIF program, the County also entered into 20-year TIF agreements with Evergreen Wind Power V, LLC and Stetson Wind II, LLC (affiliates of this Applicant). The Stetson TIF will provide an average annual payment of approximately \$301,226 to Washington County for the County's use in funding a wide variety of economic development projects over a 30 year period.⁵ Approved wind-related county TIF programs in Washington County and Franklin County include the purchase of emergency communications equipment, road improvements, scenic by-way enhancements, nature-based tourism planning, county matches for economic development grants, and revolving loan funds for County residents and businesses. In Washington County alone, more than \$326,810 in grants has been awarded, leveraging another \$3.4 million in investment in Washington County. Appendix 28-3.

First Wind estimates that the Oakfield project will add approximately \$216 million in new property tax value to the Town of Oakfield. In 2009, the Town of Oakfield designated a TIF district and adopted a Development Program for the TIF district relating to the originally proposed Oakfield Wind Project. The Town set out a plan of municipal economic development-related projects that it intends to complete with the municipal TIF revenues. Some of the municipal projects to be funded with municipal TIF revenues, as approved by the Town and the State Department of Economic and Community Development, include a public safety building and equipment, road reconstruction, public works equipment, village infrastructure and business assistance, and resident training. Due to the reconfiguration of the project, new TIF discussions are underway to reevaluate the TIF district boundaries, municipal TIF projects and the agreement with Evergreen II. It is expected that the voters of Oakfield will consider an amendment to its existing TIF district boundaries and terms in the summer of 2011. While the terms of the amended TIF have not yet been determined, it is expected that the net property taxes paid by Evergreen II on the expanded project and retained for the Town's use will exceed \$500,000 per year averaged over twenty years of the project's life.⁶

There will also be significant additional tax revenue associated with the 59-mile generator lead line, which will cross various municipal boundaries. The new transmission line will result in increased property value and increased property taxes paid to those various property taxing jurisdictions. , the taxes paid on the generator lead associated with the Stetson Wind Power Project are instructive. For the 2009 tax year, Evergreen Wind Power V, LLC, which operates the Stetson Wind Power Project, paid approximately \$270,000 in property tax payments to various jurisdictions through which its travels. The transmission line for the Stetson Wind Project was 36 miles long, while the proposed Maine GenLead transmission line will be approximately 59 miles long.

In light of the economic conditions in Aroostook County (as outlined above), this expansion in the tax base is sorely needed. Annual tax revenue from the Project could be used to reduce local property taxes or to improve schools, maintain roads, increase economic development activities, and/or enhance public services.

1.1.4 Reduced Energy Price Volatility

The addition of new power generation facilities in Maine will tend to lead to lower and less volatile electricity prices. This is particularly true in the case of the addition of renewable power facilities like wind projects. The price and reliability benefits of new renewable resources have been described by the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) as follows:

*The addition of diverse (non-gas) resources in Maine and elsewhere in the region will be beneficial for several reasons. As more non-gas generation is added to the mix, cheaper gas resources and non-gas resources will set the clearing prices in a greater number of hours.
This would have the general effect of reducing both the level and volatility of electricity*

⁵ The County created a 30-year TIF around the Stetson project, but entered into 20-year reimbursement agreements with the two First Wind entities.

⁶ Projections of property tax payments are based on assumptions regarding property tax rates selected by the Town, the assessed value of the installed project and various other factors which can change unpredictably over time.

prices throughout the region. To the extent new generation is constructed within Maine's borders, the benefit to Maine consumers is more direct in that the result would be lower prices within the Maine zone. In addition, any overall reduction in the demand for gas that results from the addition of non-gas resources in the region should have the effect of reducing the price of natural gas which translates into lower electricity prices. Finally, a reduction in the region's reliance on natural gas would result in a more secure system that is less vulnerable to gas shortages and thus less susceptible to curtailments and blackouts.⁷

Given that the cost of generating wind power is stable and is not subject to fluctuations in fossil fuel prices, the development of new wind facilities like the Project will also create an opportunity to reduce price volatility directly for certain consumers. In addition to opportunities to work directly with consumers, the cost stability of wind energy makes it a strong candidate for long-term contracts.

Additionally, a number of states in New England, including Maine, have adopted some type of Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) to diversify the electricity supply portfolio, stabilize rates, increase energy security, improve environmental quality, invigorate the clean energy industry, and promote economic development. Essentially, RPS create a statutory requirement for clean power, and the Maine Legislature has reaffirmed its support for the Maine RPS—and in fact expanded it—in recent sessions. The combined effect of the RPS in New England is an increasing regional demand for renewable energy that far exceeds the currently available and qualifying supply of renewable energy. This 150 megawatt Project is estimated to average approximately 390,000 MW hours annually to help meet this growing demand, and thereby take an important step toward achieving the policy objectives of the Maine RPS law.

1.1.5 Community Benefits Package

First Wind is required to demonstrate that the Project will provide significant tangible benefits to the area in which the Project will be located, in the form of a community benefits package that is valued at no less than \$4,000 per turbine per year averaged over a 20-year period. 35-A M.R.S.A. §3454(2). Evergreen II and the Town negotiated and executed a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) in 2009 relating to the originally-proposed Project. Now, as part of its Community Benefits package, First Wind has proposed and is currently negotiating with the Town an amended and restated Community Benefit Agreement that would incorporate the new area of the proposed Project and refine the terms of the agreement. A newly executed Community Benefit Agreement is still intended to provide funds to the Town on an annual basis. This benefit allows Oakfield the opportunity to provide direct economic benefits to its citizens by creating new programs or funding existing programs such as low income home heating assistance or energy conservation and/or efficiency. The ultimate decision on how to best utilize the funds from the CBA would be determined by the Town of Oakfield in order to maximize the local benefits. While the terms have not been finalized, the community benefit package will ensure payments to the Town of Oakfield of at least \$4,000 per turbine per year, for a 20 year period. Consistent with 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3454(1), the documentation and final terms of the host community benefits package with the Town of Oakfield will be provided during the processing of the application.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Electricity generation from wind energy projects results in zero air or water pollution. Each clean MW produced by wind energy displaces generation from more costly and polluting fossil fuels. To put this into perspective, a traditional fossil fuel burning power plant would have burned approximately 288,000 barrels of oil or 61,000 tons of coal per year to produce an amount of energy equivalent to the clean energy produced last year at the nearby 42 MW (nameplate capacity) Mars Hill Wind project in Mars Hill, Maine -- yet wind energy generation results in none of the associated toxicity, pollution and public health issues associated with traditional fossil fuel energy sources. Based on data published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for 2005 regional emissions, traditional New England generation

⁷ MPUC Review Comments for the Land Use Regulation Commission, Zoning Petition ZP 702 (Maine Mountain Power, LLC), April 14, 2006, page 4.

sources producing an equivalent annual amount of electric energy to the amended Project would emit approximately 127,746 metric tons of carbon dioxide, 5,164 pounds of nitrous oxide, and 323 metric tons of sulfur dioxide. In other terms, this project could provide clean energy for 48,000 Maine homes.

Maine and the region have set aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals. State and regional experts, including the MPUC and ISO-New England, have concluded that Maine and the region cannot meet these greenhouse gas policy goals without significant additions of wind power and other renewable energy sources in Maine and elsewhere⁸. For instance, RGGI may be more costly to implement unless a substantial amount of wind power is built.

The significant environmental benefits associated with wind power, including avoided air pollution benefits, were recently recognized by the Governor's Task Force on Wind Power Development, and affirmed by the Legislature with enactment of "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Governor's task Force on Wind Power Development, Public Law 2008, Chapter 661."⁹

1.3 CONCLUSION

The "*environmental or economic improvements attributable to the construction, operation and maintenance of the [amended Oakfield Wind] project*" constitute a significant tangible benefit under the Wind Power Act. The collective impact of the construction-related employment, local purchase of materials, employment in operations and maintenance, and direct payment to host communities through the CBA provide significant tangible benefits to the State of Maine, Aroostook County and the Town of Oakfield specifically.

⁸ *New England Energy Market and Wind Power in Maine*, MPUC presentation to the Wind Power Task Force, August 3, 2007.

⁹ See e.g., 35-A MRSA §3402(1).

Appendix 28-1

OAKFIELD PROJECT PARTICIPATION

6/10/2010

MAINE CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Name	Town	Activity	Map Label	Type
Hogan Tire (Houlton)	Houlton	Tire Repair	Tire Repair	build
Neadeau Construction	Oakfield	Building Contractor	Building Const & Main	build
Reed & Reed	Woolwich	Primary Contractor	Primary Contractor	build
Steelstone Industries	Houlton	Concrete Supply	Concrete	build
Superior Concrete	Auburn	Concrete Supply	Concrete	build
SWH Logging	Linneus	Timber Clearing		Build
Fairpoint Communications	Oakfield/Island Falls	Phone Service -Oakfield Officw		build
Tarr Logging	Oakfield	Timber Clearing		build

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Name	Town	Activity	Map Label	Type
Best Value	Millinocket	Lodging	Lodging	local
Horn of Plenty	Houlton	Meals	meals	local
A Good place to Eat	Oakfield	Meals	meals	local
Iveys	Houlton	Lodging	Lodging	local
Shiretown	Houlton	Lodging	Lodging	local
Whiteys Market	Oakfield	Meals	meals	local
Iwhy Not Stop	Lincoln	Fuel & Meals	Fuel & Meals	local
Whistle Stop Diner	Oakfield	Meals	meals	local
Jerry's Thriftway	Oakfield	Meals	meals	local
Irving	Oakfield	Fuel & Meals	Fuel & Meals	local
Gateway Inn	Medway	Lodging	Lodging	local
Miscellaneous Camps	Island Falls/Oakfield	Lodging	Lodging	local
Porter's	Island Falls/Oakfield	Fuel & Meals	Fuel & Meals	local

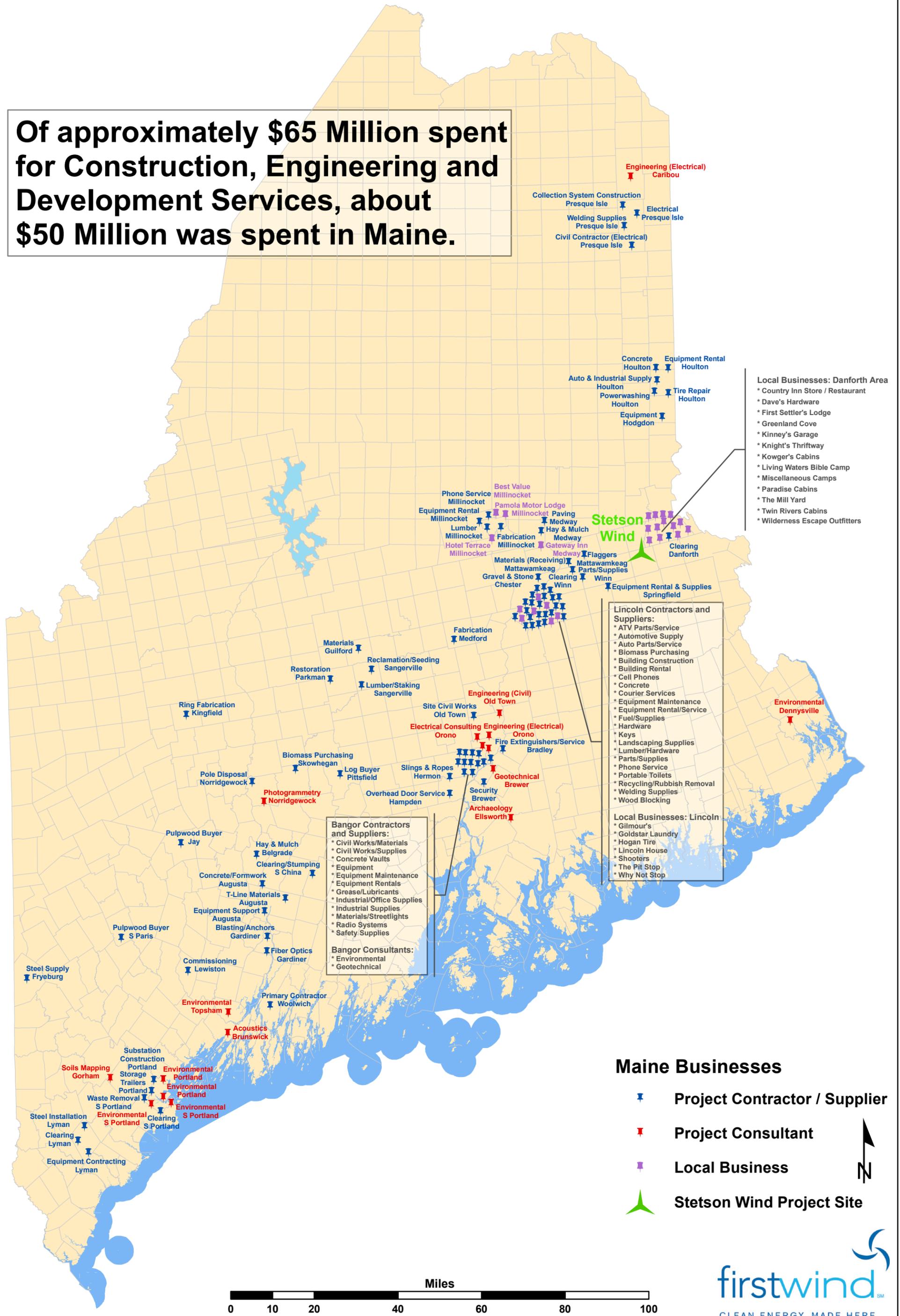
MAINE ENGINEERS AND CONSULTANTS

Name	Town	Activity	Map Label	Type
Aerial Survey & Photo	Norridgewock	Aerial Photography & Photogrammetry	Photogrammetry	design
Albert Frick Associates	Gorham	Soils Mapping	Soils Mapping	design
Berstein Shur & Nelson	Portland	attorney	legal	design
Boyle Associates	S Portland	Environmental Consulting	Environmental	design
Dean Bradshaw Engineering	Dennysville	Environmental Consulting	Environmental	design
James W Sewall Company	Old Town	Civil Engineering	Engineering (Civil)	design
Ransom Environmental Consultants	Portland	Environmental Consulting	Environmental	design
Resource Systems Engineering	Brunswick	Acoustic Assessment & Testing	Acoustics	design
SGC Engineering	Orono	Electrical Engineering	Engineering (Electrical)	design
Stantec	Topsham	Environmental Consulting	Environmental	design
SW Cole	Bangor	Geotechnical & QA/QC	Geotechnical	design
Verril Dana	Portland	attorney	legal	design
Patrick Hunt	Island Falls	attorney	legal	design
Philip Jordan	Houlton	attorney	legal	design
Forrest Barnes	Houlton	attorney	legal	design
Carpenter Law Offices	Houlton	attorney	legal	design
Severson Hand & Nelson	Houlton	attorney	legal	design
Kilburn Swallow Land Surveying	Houlton	Surveying	Surveying	design
Plisga and Day	Bangor	Surveying	Surveying	design
Richard Cleary	Houlton	attorney	legal	design
J Group Advertising	Bangor	Advertising		
Bangor Letter Shop	Bangor	Advertising		
Atkins Printing	Waterville	Advertising		
Kevin Bennett	Glenburn	Photography		
Steve Vachon	Brownville	Videography		
Michael York	Bangor	Photography		
Enterprise Rent A Car	windham	car rental	car rental	

Appendix 28-2

Maine Businesses Benefiting from Stetson Wind

Of approximately \$65 Million spent for Construction, Engineering and Development Services, about \$50 Million was spent in Maine.



Appendix 28-3

Board of Directors

Josh Bragg
Chairman
CES Engineers/Surveyors

Leola Carter
Vice Chair
Bayside Shop 'n Save

Chris Lyford
Secretary
Machias Savings Bank

Shirley Erickson
Treasurer
Maine Educational Loan Authority

Jody Grimes
Lubec Property Rentals

Cindy Huggins
University of Maine at Machias

Charlie McAlpin
Eastern Maine Electric

Darin McGaw
Washington County Community
College

David Morang
Cooke Aquaculture

Karen Raye
Raye's Mustard

Robert Tyler
Indian Township Planning
& Economic Development

Sheridan Smith
Border Electric

Blaine Jones
Bangor Savings Bank

Susan Corbett
Axiom Technologies

Dr. Phil Grant
Retired, Husson University

Ex Officio

Rep. Anne Perry
Washington County Legislative
Delegation

Chris Gardner
Washington County Commissioners

May 3, 2011

Senator Michael Thibodeau, Chair
Representative Stacey Allen Fitts, Chair
Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333



Dear Senator Thibodeau, Representative Fitts, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

Last week, during my testimony at the wind bill legislative hearings before this body, Representative Dunphy raised some great questions regarding specific projects and economic development efforts supported by the Washington County Unorganized Territories Tax Increment Financing (UT TIF) District Grant Program.

Please see below, a comprehensive list of grants approved and awarded to date by the Washington County Government's Commissioners, since the program's inception in early 2010. Many more projects in various stages of the grant making process are actively underway.

As you will see, the UT TIF grant program has awarded **\$326,810** in grants, leveraging nearly **\$3,400,000** in investment dollars to Washington County—over a 10:1 match! They have supported a wide range of projects including organic farming, tidal power research, manufacturing, and infrastructure. As well, this program has created and/or retained dozens and dozens of badly-needed jobs, both directly and indirectly.

We are happy to provide further information to your committee as requested. Please contact me directly at 255-0983 x 16, or by email at hclossey@sunrisecounty.org.

Thank you very much,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "H. Clossey".

Harold W. Clossey
Executive Director

Washington County Unorganized Territories Tax Increment Financing District Grant Program

A PROGRAM OF WASHINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

TIF Administrator:
Sunrise County Economic Council
P.O. Box 679, 1 Stackpole Road
Machias, ME 04654
tifadmin@sunrisecounty.org
Phone: 207-255-0983 Fax: 207-255-4987

Washington County TIF Fund Grant Awards

(as of 4/14/11)

- **\$10,000** to the Forest Society of Maine to help fund a study of the Baskahegan watershed in T8 R4, T8 R3, Brookton, Forest, and Kossuth for the Stetson Mountain Fund Committee. The results will be used to plan nature-based tourism improvements in northern Washington County. **One full-time-equivalent job** was created for the period of the study. (Total project budget: **\$20,000**)
- **\$9,760** to Sunrise County Solar of Trescott for equipment purchase. The company will perform high-tech energy audits for local residents and work on developing home wind turbines and solar energy panels. **1.5 jobs** will be created. (Total project budget: **\$28,510**)
- **\$10,000** to Tidewalker Engineering of Trescott to assist with research for a small tidal power project in Trescott. **Two full-time-equivalent jobs** are being created or retained. (Total project budget: **\$45,000**)
- **\$15,000** to Eagle Mountain Guide Service of Otis to assist with the purchase of the former Wilderness Lodge on Rte. 9 in T24 MD. This will create or save a minimum of 2.5 jobs in the first year and enable the per diem hiring of local hunting and fishing guides. (Total project budget: **\$80,000**)
- **\$100,000** over three years to Cobscook Community Learning Center of Trescott for the capital campaign to build Heartwood Lodge. The building project will create or retain numerous construction jobs with local contractors. When complete, the Lodge will support **4.6 new jobs**. (Total project budget: **\$2.2 million**)

- **\$49,500** to the Downeast Lakes Land Trust, based in Grand Lake Stream, for road and culvert improvements in the Wabassus Lake Tract in T43 MD. This project is part of a joint effort with the Maine Bureau of Public Lands to preserve access for numerous hunting, fishing, and canoeing guides and the public in the Machias River watershed between Route 9 and Grand Lake Stream. **Ten construction jobs** will be created or retained and the project will help support **over 40 guiding and wood harvesting jobs**. (Total project budget: **\$284,785**)
- **\$1,150** to Clean Earth Farms of Jonesboro to ascertain the need for raised bed gardens by UT residents. **One temporary, half-time position** was created.
- **\$15,000** to Marion Transfer Station for a feasibility study for increasing recycling, including preliminary site design, market research, and business plan. **One job** will be created when recycling goes into effect. (Total project budget: **\$31,000**)
- **\$50,000** to Cobscook Bay Seafood Co./Maine Fresh of Trescott to help expand markets for seafood pies. **Ten jobs with benefits** will be retained through ensuring that production continues, with plans to add more jobs as market expands. A marketing expert will be hired to carry out aspects of the plan. (Project budget: **\$400,000**)
- **\$16,000** to Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Downeast Rivers Land Trust for a study to collect data on converting large blueberry acreages to organic production in Trescott and T25 MD. This is the first year of a four-year study. A **part-time research coordinator and seasonal hand-labor crew** will be hired. (Total project budget, year one: **\$96,800**)
- **\$26,400** to Tide Mill Organics of Edmunds for expansion of organic, pastured chicken production. Jobs: **1.5 FTE** will be created to start. (Total project budget: Up to **\$163,270**)
- **\$7,000** to Tide Mill Organics of Edmunds to plan expansion of poultry processing facilities. (Total project budget: **\$9,000**)
- **\$15,000** to Coast of Maine Organic Products of Marion to assist with construction of a communications tower. **One dispatcher** will be sited at Marion and improved communications will allow for the **creation of additional jobs** at the site. (Total project budget: **\$31,275**)

To date, grants totaling **\$326,810** have helped leverage nearly **\$3,400,000** in direct economic activity.