



Cape Wind Leaps Important Hurdle

Cape Wind, the first proposed off-shore project within U.S. territory, has been met with opposition from all sides, including from former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and US Senator Edward Kennedy, as well as requests from the Massachusetts Audubon Society for further examination of the potential avian impact of the project. As part of the 2005 Energy Policy Act, Congress assigned the Minerals Management Service the authority to perform environmental impact studies for all off-shore wind projects, beginning with Cape Wind. The [final report, released this week](#), found minimal lasting impact on the area's wildlife, navigation or tourism. With the Minerals Management report lending support to the project, Federal approval for the project will likely come by the end of 2008 or early 2009. State approval is expected to follow shortly thereafter, as the current governor is a supporter of the project. If timelines continue as expected, the 130-turbine project could be on line as soon as 2011, according to Cape Wind Associates, the company developing the project.

Xcel Energy Wind RFP Available

Xcel Energy has released a request for proposal (RFP) for wind energy projects. The deadline is February 29, 2008. Although they would prefer projects that Xcel will acquire under a build-transfer arrangement, they will consider projects where up to one third of the total MW are retained by the bidder. [Click here to learn more](#).

Windustry on the Road

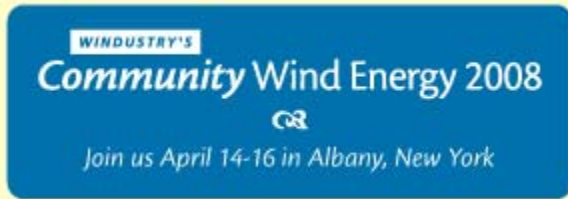
Last week at a small cafe in Granger, IA, Windustry staff met with more than 50 landowners from Southeast Minnesota and Northeast Iowa. These folks have been approached by one or two different wind development companies who are interested in leasing land.

These landowners knew that any time you are considering entering into a wind lease or other agreement, it is important to be well informed and to work through the decision making process with your neighbors. Windustry went down to spend an afternoon talking the landowners through the process of leasing their land to developers, answering their questions about what to expect, and providing resources and information on how to work together to bring the most benefit to the community as a whole. The landowners, who were supportive of the development from the beginning, left the meeting with more confidence for their future interactions with the wind developers.

There are many communities throughout the country with a similar situation. If you and others in your area are thinking of leasing land to a developer and would like to learn more about the process or have questions, remember to use the [Wind Information Hotline](#). We have many resources we'd be more than happy to share!

Windustry is a non-profit organization working to increase wind energy opportunities for rural landowners and communities. We promote wind energy through outreach, educational materials, and technical assistance to rural landowners, local communities and utilities, and

state, regional, and nonprofit collaborations.



Contact the Wind Information Hotline

612.870.3461

800.946.3640

info@windustry.org

www.windustry.org
