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The Vision

The Newsletter of Clean Power Now

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For the complete details and sources of the facts mentioned in this newsletter, please see <http://www.cleanpowernow.org>

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Update on the DEIS

Matthew Palmer

The Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the Nantucket Sound wind farm is delayed yet again. As of this writing, it is in Washington being reviewed at Army Corps' headquarters. We are guessing that it may be released in early October.

We have not seen the document, but Clean Power Now anticipates that the DEIS will validate what we have been saying all along: the Nantucket Sound wind farm is a viable source of a significant amount of renewable energy. Data currently available from the meteorological tower on horseshoe shoals substantiates the fact that this wind farm would generate enough electricity to satisfy 75% of the needs of the Cape and Islands.

The release of the DEIS will be the most significant milestone thus far in the permitting process for the Cape Wind project. It is expected to be 4,000 pages in length, and will represent almost 3 years of work by 17 federal, state and local agencies. This is hardly an inadequate permitting process.

The release of the document will signal the start of a public comment period, expected to last for 60 days.

Denmark's Horns Rev Status

*A note from
Chuck Kleekamp*

As you may have heard there is a problem with the Vestas wind turbines on Horns Rev. I'll summarize what is known about the situation. Hopefully this will help to reassure you that the impact of their problem will not affect the progress on the Nantucket project. In any case the supplier of the turbines slated for Cape Wind is General Electric.

The wind farm opposition makes much of the problem in Denmark with easy one-liners. The facts are that offshore wind is rapidly gaining acceptance with several more countries using the same Vestas turbines as disclosed below.

Vestas is the world's largest manufacture of wind turbines. The Horns Rev turbines are a new model, the V-80, a 2 megawatt unit. Facts are sparse, but what we know is that there is a problem with the transformers and with some internal components within the nacelle. This has required Vestas to dismount all the turbines and bring them back to the factory for correction.

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Greater Boston CPN Chapter Inaugurated!

The inaugural meeting of CPN's Greater Boston Chapter on June 7 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on Tremont Street exceeded our expectations. Fifty-six metro Boston CPN members and interested public from as far away as Vermont, attended the two hour event.

CPN Directors Rev. Bill Eddy, Charles Kleekamp, Liz Argo and James Liedell described the features and benefits of Cape Wind Associates' proposed Nantucket Sound Wind Farm. Clean Power Now activities were discussed and future actions planned. Get-acquainted time and refreshments concluded the meeting, and a video analyzing the effect of Denmark's largest in the World Offshore Wind Farm was shown.

South Coast CPN Chapter News

The recently formed South Coast CPN Chapter, meeting in New Bedford at the New Bedford Public Main Library, already has quite a lively agenda. Upcoming events include Field Trips to the Woods Hole Research Center and UMass Dartmouth. The Gilman Orway campus of the Woods Hole Research Center was awarded this year as one of the top ten greenest building in the US. At UMass Dartmouth, South Coast members will hear from Professor Gerald Lemay will give a guided tour of the UMass/Dartmouth Solar Decathlon Team's Test Home, and speak on the design of sustainable solar homes, as well as the Solar Decathlon itself, which will take place on the National Mall in Washington, DC. during August & September /2005. Contact CPN Director Inge Perreault for more information on South Coast CPN activities at 508-997-0621.

During that period, every citizen has the opportunity to give their comments to the Army Corps, the lead agency in the permitting process. This is the general public's only chance to have their concerns presented directly to the lead agency. We expect the Army Corps will organize the comments by subject, and address each subject in their Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The best way for the public to have their comments addressed by the Army Corps is to appear at the public hearing and speak directly to the board. A stenographer will record each citizen's comments. Written comments will also be accepted by the Army Corps during the comment period. You can deliver them in person at a hearing, or mail them.

The public hearings will be held on the Cape (in Barnstable or Yarmouth), on Martha's Vineyard, on Nantucket, and hopefully in the Boston area. They will probably be held in early November, but that may change based on when the DEIS is actually released.

Four thousand pages is a massive document, and we don't expect that any significant portion of the population will read such a treatise. In order to prepare our members for the public hearings, Clean Power Now plans to hold a number of meetings to educate our members and the general public about the findings in the DEIS. We will ask that our members give up several hours of their time on two different occasions: first to hear us present what we feel are the significant findings in the DEIS; and second to attend the Army Corps public hearing and give their own personal perspective on the impacts and benefits of this project.

When the public comment period is closed, the Army Corps will review all the comments presented, and obtain any additional data that may be necessary. Then they will issue their Final Environmental Impact Statement, and their conclusions.

The principal criteria that the Corps will use in making their conclusions about this project is whether or not it is in the public's best interest. Clean Power Now has always believed that this project will yield enormous public benefits, and we are confident the DEIS will bear that out. Please join us in speaking at one of the vitally important public hearing, and let your voice be heard.

Matthew Palmer, a registered professional engineer with almost 20 years experience in electric power generation, is Executive Director of Clean Power Now.

Clean Power Now Surrounds the Sound!

In the past month, citizen's groups on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket have chosen to become chapters of Clean Power Now. Islanders for Wind Power on Nantucket and Vineyarders for Clean Power on the Vineyard both participated in a joint press conference with Clean Power Now at Kalmus Beach in Hyannis last year. Now, they have agreed to add their voices to the chorus of over 3,000 Clean Power Now members. "This is an exciting time for renewable energy advocates," said Executive Director Matt Palmer, "because now citizens from all sides of Nantucket Sound have come together in support of this important wind farm project in their back yards." Both groups were featured prominently at their respective island's agricultural fairs. The Army Corps of Engineers plans to hold public hearings on each island as part of the DEIS comment period.

(Horns Rev continued)

Following are excerpts from a press release from Vestas. And after that is a statement from Mr. Soren Krohn, previously the Managing Director of the Danish Wind Industry and now a private consultant to the world wide wind industry.

Excerpts from a press release (July 8) on the Vestas web:

“The environment at Horns Reef is harsh and it has been ascertained that all transformers and a number of generators had to be changed.

In close and constructive collaboration with the customer, the Danish utility Elsam, Vestas and ABB are therefore together solving the problems having analysed the situation and how the operation of Horns Reef most efficiently is improved and how the repair work can be done in the most optimal way.

In order to obtain the best results of the extensive work of improving the operation of the Horns Reef

turbines it has now been decided to transport all 81 units of the V80-2.0MW nacelles to Ringkøbing and Lem

To ensure that the future operation of the Horns Reef project will be satisfactory to the customer as well as to Vestas, the work of improving the operation of Horns Reef will have Vestas' utmost attention.

The Horns Reef project will comprise much work, and it is expected to be completed during the autumn of 2004.

A statement from Søren Krohn, Danish wind consultant.

The recent comments on the technical problems of one of six Danish offshore wind farm from the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound seem incomprehensible to me - or for that matter probably anyone else with some in-depth knowledge of the Danish offshore wind energy situation.

1) The fact that a manufacturer recalls a product for repairs does of

course not mean that the product is necessarily technically immature. Ford and GM have recalled hundreds of thousands of cars without anyone seriously suggesting that we should abandon the use of automobiles in America or elsewhere for that reason. Cars have been around since 1860, but repairs and recalls obviously still occur 140 years later.

2) As a matter of fact, none of the 123 turbines at the other five Danish wind farms at Vindeby, Tunoe Knob, Middelgrunden or Samsøe have been recalled for repairs, and the data available in the public domain indicate that their maintenance costs have been lower than corresponding onshore wind turbines.

3) A single wind turbine manufacturer, Vestas, has announced a problem with a single new wind turbine model, the V80 offshore, in a single location, Horns Rev, Denmark. Capewind has chosen a different supplier for its wind turbines for Horsehoe Shoal,

We need your support!

Membership in Clean Power Now is free, but your contribution will help us spread the word about renewable energy.

Yes, I would like to make a donation!

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Clean Power Now has applied for 501(c)3 charitable status with the IRS

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CPN is Hiring!

Clean Power Now is currently looking for a part-time administrative assistant at our new office. This person will work approximately 20 hours per week, and handle the bookkeeping, correspondence, bulk emailing, newsletter preparation, and be our receptionist. The compensation will be \$12 to \$17/hour depending on skill level. We can offer flexible hours and an exciting working atmosphere, but unfortunately no medical benefits. We need someone who has very good computer skills, is outgoing, a self-starter, and able to work with little supervision. The most important qualification is that this person must be a believer in renewable energy. If you or anyone you know is interested, please email a resume to Matt Palmer at mpalmer@cleanpowernow.org, and be sure to mention that you are a member.

namely GE. That supplier has already built the large Utgrunden wind farm in Sweden and the wind farm at Arklow Bank, Ireland, without any of the problems cited by the Alliance.

4) The Danish Government regards the Danish offshore wind programme as a success, and has ordered a new tender for offshore wind turbines for another 400 MW, which will double the Danish offshore wind turbine capacity over the next 3-4 years.

5) The stock market did not react negatively to the announcement of the recent wind turbine problems at Horns Rev by Vestas Wind Systems A/S. The stock increased in value in the week succeeding the announcement.

Søren Krohn Consulting
Holte, Denmark

CPN has moved!

Clean Power Now has moved into a new office at 297 North Street in Hyannis. We have also changed our phone number to (508) 775-7796. You can also send us a fax at (508) 775-7782. Please feel free to contact us there at any time, or come in for a visit. We are always looking for volunteer help as well. Please call Matt Palmer at (508) 775-7796 if you might be able to come over and lend a hand.

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