

Notus Energy Plans To Erect Turbine By End Of Summer

By BRENT RUNYON

There will be another large wind turbine in Falmouth before the end of the summer. Daniel H. Webb, the owner of Notus Clean Energy, announced the purchase of a Vestas turbine this week, identical to the town-owned turbine at the Wastewater Management Facility.

The turbine is to be delivered by the end of May, and erected by August, Mr. Webb said. The new turbine is to be built in the Falmouth Technology Park about a half-mile east of the town-owned turbine.

After five years of feasibility studies, design, and permitting, Mr. Webb sounded more relieved than excited Tuesday when he announced the purchase. "We knew this would be a long and challenging road and sure enough, it was," he said.

The Notus turbine will be identical to the town turbine in size, 262 feet at the hub, and power, 1.65 megawatts.

In fact, both turbines were originally purchased for the Town of Orleans in 2005 by the Massachusetts Technological Collaborative (MTC) for \$5.3 million. While Orleans Town Meeting voters overwhelmingly supported the project, the Orleans Board of Water Commissioners eventually voted not to proceed with the project in 2007.

Since that time the towers, nacelles, and turbines have been stored in warehouses in Texas and Canada, before the first turbine was delivered to Falmouth last year.

Mr. Webb said the total cost of the turbine will be more than \$4 million. MTC provided a \$575,000 grant and the United States Department of Agriculture granted \$300,000 to defray construction costs.

Some Falmouth residents have voiced concerns about the turbines disturbing their views. Mr. Webb said the notion that large wind-powered machines are a new addition to Cape Cod vistas is incorrect. He quoted Henry David Thoreau, who described the land-

scapes of Cape Cod in 1865, "The most conspicuous objects on the land were a distant windmill, or a meeting-house standing alone, for only they could afford to occupy an exposed place."

Obviously the landscape of Cape Cod has changed, he said, and wind turbines are much bigger than windmills. "I thought it was an interesting historical perspective," he said.

According to a feasibility study, the Notus turbine will reduce regional air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2,800 tons of carbon dioxide, five tons of sulfur dioxide and 350 pounds of nitrous oxides each year.

Construction, including foundation, erection of the turbine, and electrical connection, will be contracted to the Delaney Group, based in Gloversville, New York. The company has installed more than 600 utility-scale wind turbines, Mr. Webb said. The project manager is Boreal Renewable Energy Development of Arlington.

Notus Clean Energy is named after the Greek god of the southwest wind, the prevailing wind on Cape Cod in the summer. Vestas,

based in Denmark, is the world's largest supplier of wind turbines.

With the addition of Mr. Webb's turbine, and another town-owned turbine to be erected at the Wastewater Management Facility before the end of the year, Falmouth will have the most utility-grade wind turbines of any town or city in Massachusetts.

In addition to those turbines, there are also wind turbines at the Woods Hole Research Center on Woods Hole Road, at a residence on Fay Road, Woods Hole, at Falmouth Academy in Falmouth, and at Coonamessett Farm in Hatchville.

The Town of Hull has two utility-grade turbines, and Boston also has two turbines on Deer Island, according to Kate Plourd of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.

There is at least one more wind turbine project potentially on the horizon. Last September, Falmouth Zoning Board of Appeals granted a permit to Cape Cod Aggregates to erect a 197-foot temporary tower on Thomas B. Landers Road. The tower is designed to measure if the site is feasible for a wind turbine.