

New Jersey Audubon Society and Community Energy, Inc. Announce Agreement on Atlantic City Wind Project

December 14 , 2004

Atlantic City , NJ - New Jersey Audubon Society and Community Energy, Inc. announced today they have reached an agreement for state-of-the-art avian studies to accompany the wind generation project proposed at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority property in Atlantic City.

"We think our agreement on the Atlantic City Wind Farm sets a new and higher standard for cooperation by wind power developers to assure protection of bird populations," said Ted Korth, Director of Policy at the New Jersey Audubon Society. "We are happy to see Community Energy's interest in acquiring the information necessary to address some of the ecological issues associated with developing wind-turbine projects."

Under the agreement, Community Energy, the developer of the Atlantic City Wind Farm, will join with the Audubon Society to launch a detailed study using new radar technology to better predict how bird migration may be affected by wind turbine towers, which rise between 200 and 300 feet in the air.

"Birds are affected by many types of coastal development, not just wind generation," said Korth. "Like all development, wind-generation facilities must be sited and developed with care for the ecology of the site, including bird populations. This advanced work with radar monitoring will give us the tools to better predict exactly how wind development affects bird populations, particularly the migratory species of the Atlantic Flyway."

The Atlantic Flyway lies generally between the coast inland to the Appalachians, and serves as the thoroughfare for millions of passerines, raptors, shorebirds and ducks making their yearly north-south migrations.

Wind power - catching wind to generate electricity - is an important part of efforts to expand pollution-free, renewable energy in the United States and worldwide. While not specifically objecting to the Atlantic City Wind Farm-which is small by wind industry standards, with just five turbines- the New Jersey Audubon Society appealed issuance of a Coastal Area Facility Review Act permit (CAFRA permit) for the project contesting the standards applied by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in approving the project. The Agreement settles that appeal and allows the wind farm to be constructed.

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has committed incentive funding to the Atlantic City Wind Farm-the first wind generation project in the state-and also expressed support

for the settlement, which allows the project to move forward.

"We commend the New Jersey Audubon Society and Community Energy on their joint commitment to working together and with other stakeholders to demonstrate that renewable energy is a true success story in New Jersey. This facility will help reduce air pollution and the impacts of global warming across the whole state," said Jeanne Fox, President of the Board of Public Utilities.

New Jersey Audubon Society is a privately supported, nonprofit, statewide membership organization. Founded in 1897, and currently 22,000 members strong, it is one of the oldest independent Audubon societies. The society fosters environmental awareness and a conservation ethic among New Jersey's citizens, protects New Jersey's birds, mammals, other animals and plants, especially endangered and threatened species, and promotes preservation of New Jersey's valuable natural habitats.

Community Energy, the leading marketer of wind-generated power nationally, is a for-profit corporation founded in 1999 with a mission to ignite the market and develop supply of wind and other fuel-free energy sources. It cites its retail customers, which include many of the largest purchasers of wind energy in the country, as the reason for its success in bringing wind energy to the market in new regions of the country. Community Energy has wind projects under development in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, New England, Illinois, and elsewhere.

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