

Where we are at the end of October

Since our September project update, the heavy earthwork and turbine foundation construction is ready to receive and install the large wind turbine components. The installation of the overhead and underground electric system, serving to connect the project to the regional electric grid, is finishing up and will be energized in November.

Landscaping crews are working along the access road and wind turbine pads preparing the site for winter. The construction storm water control systems functioned well in the abnormally wet first several weeks of October.



Workers continue construction on the overhead electrical system.

Transportation and Delivery of Large Turbine Parts

As finishing touches are made to site work and the electric collection system, attention has turned to the transport and delivery of the major wind turbine components (nacelles, hubs, rotor blades, generators and tower sections). The wind turbine nacelles, rotor hubs, and generators arrived at the Port of Albany late September where they were temporarily stored prior to delivery to the project site. These components are now being positioned at the turbine sites where they will be installed following the arrival of the tower sections.



Barrette Trucking's prime mover pulls a hub up the mountain.

More dramatic and garnering the attention of local news media, the train load of twelve 160 ft. long rotor blades arrived at Vermont Rail Systems' yard at the Burlington waterfront on

October 20th. After completing their rail journey from the factory in Arkansas, the 23,000 lb blades were offloaded and temporarily staged, creating a curiosity to media and users of the waterfront recreation facilities.

Transporting the long blades to the site required careful choreographing. Three blades a night were loaded on to special trucks with steerable rear axles, and along with front and rear county sheriff and escort vehicles, formed a convoy that slowly guided up Burlington's Main Street, the Interstate and VT Route 104 in the early (dark) hours of the morning. This process was repeated over four nights to transport all twelve blades. Special thanks go to the Vermont Rail Systems staff, Burlington City officials and employees in the Department of Public Works, Burlington Parks and Recreation, Police and Electrical Departments; the VT Agency of Transportation officials, engineers and employees within the Division of Motor Vehicles, District #5 and #8 and the public safety officials of Milton, Franklin and Chittenden County Sheriffs, and Vermont State Police and numerous others for their collaborative effort in making this transportation challenge a success.



Wind turbine blades arrive at Vermont Rail System's Burlington yard attracting numerous by-passers along the bike path.

By the end of October, the first tower sections were leaving the factory and headed to Vermont. The unusually high demand in the wind industry is placing strain on U.S. manufacturers and transportation companies, and as a result GMCW is experiencing delays in the receipt of these components. For example, the steel fabrication facility that manufactures the 4-sectioned, 256 ft. tall towers in Tennessee is several weeks behind schedule even with extra workers and shifts.



One of the twelve wind turbine blades that traveled onto I-89 North at Exit 12 in Williston in October. Photo courtesy of Jake Hannah (www.jacobhannahphotography.com/blog).



The 311 ft. tall Manitowoc 16000 crane is assembled on-site.

Each tower section transport, loaded on specialized trucks, is considered a “super load” (oversize and overweight) and requires blue- and amber-light escort vehicles for the entire journey though the Mid-Atlantic States to northern Vermont. The final transportation and Vermont routing details are coordinated in close collaboration with the Agency of Transportation, as well as Milton, Chittenden and Franklin counties and State public safety officials.

All the while, Cianbro Corp, the Project’s “Balance of Plant” contractor, has delivered its Manitowoc 16000 crane in preparation for assembly of the wind turbine components. With its boom in the vertical position, the crane to be used for lifting the wind turbine components, stands 311’ tall and can lift 136 tons.

The Project

Georgia Mountain Community Wind’s 10 megawatt wind power project is locally owned and developed and will provide long-term, clean power along with economic and environmental benefits to Vermonters. The 4-wind turbine, renewable energy project will

harness the power of the winds flowing across the Champlain Valley with two turbines in Milton and two in Georgia and generate the annual electric usage of approximately 4,200 average Vermont households. GMCW is the first commercial-scale wind project in Chittenden & Franklin Counties. The Burlington Electric Department will utilize its electrical output and environmental attributes. The project uses land owned by the Harrison Family of Georgia and Green Crow Corporation, a timber products company locally based in Waterbury, Vermont.

Questions and Contact

The GMCW Construction Information Line (802-242-1476) remains available, providing 24/7 coverage and transferring incoming messages to key GMCW project personnel. Project owners, David Blittersdorf and The Harrison Family, along with the project team, again thank the surrounding communities and services for all the ongoing support and contributions to the success of the Project.

We’ll continue to keep you posted,
Martha Staskus, GMCW Project Manager



Martha Staskus (Northeast Wind) stands between two turbine blades stored at the on-site staging area.