Fire Island Wind project construction underway

Southcentral Alaska’s first utility-scale wind project expected to be commissioned in fall

Fire Island Wind LLC is moving forward on construction of Southcentral Alaska’s first utility-scale wind farm, located three miles west of Anchorage on Fire Island.

“The Fire Island Wind Project is making exciting progress,” said Ethan Schutt, CIRI senior vice president of land and energy development. “We have restarted our on-island construction, and most of the large turbine components have arrived here in Anchorage. We’re reaching a stage of development where we can finally see the physical signs that have resulted from years of tireless pre-development work.”

The components of the 11 1.6-megawatt General Electric wind turbines making up the first phase of the wind farm arrived in late April and early May at the Port of Anchorage. This includes tower sections, blades, hubs and nacelles that will be stored at the port until delivery to Fire Island.

Mobilization of construction equipment and work crews to Fire Island began in early April, and is ongoing. Road construction and construction of the overhead section of the new power transmission line on the island will be occurring in the next couple of months. The transmission line will connect the wind farm to the Railbelt electric grid.

The double-circuit 34.5-kV transmission line will be submerged from the island to its mainland landing near Point Campbell, where it will run both above and below ground along the southern boundary of Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport to a Chugach Electric Association (CEA) substation near Minnesota Drive and International Airport Road. CEA will own the completed transmission line. The submarine section of the transmission line will be installed in the next couple months.

The turbines will arrive on Fire Island mid-summer. After they are transported across the island and erected, Fire Island Wind will complete the control and transmission systems. Turbine testing, on-island civil and electrical construction, project cleanup and demobilization will occur in fall 2012. CEA has a 25-year power purchase agreement and will begin receiving power from the Fire Island wind farm after turbine commissioning.

North Wind evolves, expands

Company competes, wins competitive contract awards

In December 2009, CIRI purchased North Wind, a company based in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Since then, North Wind has grown to a group of companies employing more than 300 scientific, engineering, management and professional personnel in office locations throughout the country.

“CIRI has helped plan and oversee the development of the new subsidiaries which comprise the North Wind Group of companies,” said Greg Razo, CIRI vice president of government contracting. “Each new subsidiary focuses on a particular sector in the government contracting market and is staffed with top-quality professionals to meet our customer’s needs. CIRI is excited about being able to meet the diverse needs of our customers.”

The North Wind Group now offers a full range of services to meet client needs. The group includes:

- North Wind Inc. – Environmental, waste management, engineering, construction and demolition services
- North Wind Services – Technical services, including environmental investigation and restoration, engineering, construction, demolition, radioactive and hazardous waste management, public communication and involvement, information management and emergency response services

North Wind, continued on page 5

Fire Island, continued on page 6

North Wind is a business leader in the environmental, engineering and construction service industries.
Area residents started seeing the first local construction work last fall when Anchorage-based Northern Powerline Constructors Inc.'s crew started building the shore-side transmission line that will deliver Fire Island Wind power to the Railbelt electric grid. That portion of the project is nearly complete and the 25-person work crew is scheduled to finish installing the line and rehabilitating and reseeding the areas around the line in late June.

CIRI expects that the Fire Island Wind will support more than 100 local project development and construction jobs this year. Over the longer term it will benefit local electric consumers by diversifying our region's power-generation away from its current over-dependence on natural gas.

So far more than 75 local, state, national and even international businesses have participated in the Fire Island Wind project. CIRI has, for example, contracted with local and national engineering and consulting firms to help plan, design and permit the project. Golder Associates and HDR, for example, are large U.S. companies with international operations and a strong presence in Anchorage. HDR's main Alaska office occupies two floors in the CIRI building. CRW Engineering Group LLC, The Boutet Company and Rise Alaska LLC, are all-Alaska based engineering and consulting companies that have contributed to the project. And dozens of other Alaska small businesses are contributing too. Anchorage Merrill Field-based Spennak Airways has been flying project staff to and from Fire Island for years. Pyramid Printing has produced a variety of maps, brochures and other printed materials to support project development.

After CIRI finalized its project financing last fall it ordered 11 wind turbines from General Electric, a U.S.-based company with worldwide operations. Like many large projects and pieces of capital equipment-including your personal automobile—equipment for this project is sourced from around the globe.

Our G.E. wind turbine components started to arrive at the Port of Anchorage in April. The towers came from China and were transported to Anchorage in early July. All of the construction work and other project infrastructure. Crews are scheduled to install the submarine transmission cable in June. Cook Inlet Tug and Barge Co. will start moving wind turbine parts from the Port of Anchorage to Fire Island in early July and installation will start almost immediately. The first Fire Island wind turbine should be erected and visible from Anchorage's Coastal Trail in early July. All of the construction work should be complete and the Fire Island Wind project is expected to be commissioned and generating power in early fall.

Power generated by the Fire Island Wind project will be a testament to CIRI and Southcentral Alaska's participation in and contribution to a global economy. We are proud that this CIRI project is creating so many local contracting opportunities, construction jobs and other benefits.
Alaska Native Charter School beats odds

The Alaska Native Charter School got off to a rough start in 2008 with lower than expected enrollment, a facility still undergoing renovations and other bumps in its untraveled road. But it’s been making up for it ever since by never wavering from its mission: “Building student excellence through traditional cultural learning.”

As test scores tell it, the school motto is working. Among other impressive statistics, the school topped the Anchorage School District’s most-improved list in language arts and math scores with an 8.7 percent rise in 2010-11 over the previous academic year.

Such achievement has not gone unnoticed. The school was honored recently as a National Title 1 Distinguished School for academic growth in an underserved student group. Around the same time, Principal Diane Hoffbauer received the district’s Denali Award for her “hard-working spirit” in helping close achievement gaps.

The school, with up to 225 students, K-7, and another 16 in the school’s separate preschool program, now has a waiting list. It has long since settled into a remodeled former furniture store in Muldoon, with walls full of bookcases, student artwork, reminders of Native values and paper feathers noting achievements and good deeds. Each day begins with an Elder’s message in Yupik and English. Like this one from Paul John of Toksook Bay: Isumun unaa yak tuaqsaam eliminek pikunpi p'iyyogguag.

"Indeed, one can succeed only if he desires."

It’s no surprise that members of the CIRI family play a role in this success story, as teachers, parents, volunteers and students, from Chantellle Orr, a CIRI shareholder and preschool teaching assistant, to descendant Elizabeth Hancock, the school’s administrative assistant and a founding member of the Academic Policy Committee (APC). Hancock’s three descendant children are past and present students at the school; Garry Hull Jr., a graduate now at Means Middle School; Benjamin Bourdukofsky, a third-grader, and Abigail Hancock, a preschooler.

Parent Mikan Outwater, president of the school’s APC, is among those deeply involved. Her husband, Frank Jr., is a CIRI shareholder, and two of their descendant children attend the school, where Joey is in the fourth grade, and Jessie, the sixth. Outwater appreciates how Native ways of knowing are woven throughout the curriculum, from edible plants to dancing. She especially likes the way one unit teaching math and science in a cultural context evolves around fish harvesting.

"Is it enough to feed our family? Is it enough to feed my dogs? Is it enough to share? Is it enough to last us through winter? And it depends on what kind of fish, so they talk about different uses for each fish."

The school’s various enrichment programs and partners include the Alaska Native Heritage Center, a CIRI-founded nonprofit, which sends storytellers, drummers and others over from time to time. And twice a week, the school’s sixth and seventh graders attend its afterschool program. The graduation rate for Alaska Native and American Indian students is less than 50 percent, according to a recent regional study. But for those who participate in the center’s afterschool program, the rate is somewhere between 78 and 85 percent, according to Steven Alvarez, program director.

Angela Blue, a CIRI shareholder, teaches third grade, and her daughter, Kristy Deacon, also a shareholder, is a volunteer and APC secretary (see Shareholder Spotlight in this issue). Students, they say, especially from rural villages, often feel overwhelmed in their larger neighborhood schools.

"Being as small as we are, we build relationships with them, " Blue said. "We understand where they’re coming from. We see them grow here."

CIRI created a family of nonprofit organizations that provide health care, housing, employment, education and other social and cultural enrichment services for Alaska Native people and others.

CIRI-affiliated nonprofit organizations

The CIRI Foundation
Education funding and services for CIRI original shareholders and their descendants
3601 San Jeronimo Drive, Suite 256
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907.793.3585 (fax)
www.thecrifoundation.org

Cook Inlet Housing Authority
Affordable housing, healthy communities and economic development
3610 Spenard Road, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
907.793.3360 (tel)
907.793.3370 (fax)
www.cookinlethousing.org

Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Social, educational and employment services for Alaska Native and Native American peoples
3601 San Jeronimo Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907.793.3400 (tel)
907.793.3602 (fax)
www.cict.org

Southcentral Foundation
Health care and related services for Alaska Native and Native American people
4011 Diplomacy Drive | Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907.729.4955 (tel) | 907.729.5000 (fax)
www.southcentralfoundation.com

Alaska Native Health Resource Advocate Program
Health care, educational, social and cultural referral services for Alaska Native people in the Lower 48
PO. Box 2045 | Milton, WA 98354-2045
253.835.0101 (tel) | 866.575.6757 (toll free) | 907.729.5033 (fax)

CIRI shareholder news

In Touch with shareholders

Graduate
CIRI descendant Dominic J. Fisk graduated from Dimond High School in Anchorage on May 7. He is furthering his education at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and plans to enroll in the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program in the fall. His ultimate goal is to obtain a degree in Architectural and Engineering Technology. Fisk is the son of CIRI shareholder Shannon Fisk, the grandson of CIRI shareholder Justina Meyer and her husband Fred and the great-grandson of CIRI shareholder Jennie Larson, all of Anchorage.

Award winner
CIRI descendant Linda Reinert received a Spirit of Youth Award from the Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol coalition for her exemplary volunteer service. Reinert currently volunteers at the Chugiak Senior Center and the Chugiak-Eagle River Branch Library, and will be recognized for her work helping direct the public service announcement, “Don’t Trade My Future,” which raises awareness about the risks of underage alcohol consumption. She also helped her mother, CIRI shareholder Cea Anderson, provide Aleut history and cultural enrichment to local schools and organizations. Reinert is an accomplished singer who received a score of “excellent” in the vocal segment of a church fine-arts competition, qualifying her for a competition in Phoenix, Ariz. Reinert graduated May 25 from Raven Correspondence School. “She is just an awesome young person,” her proud mother said.

CIRI descendant Paloma Booth (daughter of CIRI shareholder Janice Wilson) and Thomas Lacey (grandson of CIRI shareholder Janis McCord) share a book in the library at the Anchorage Native Cultural Charter School in Muldoon.

Kindergartners and CIRI descendants Paloma Booth (daughter of CIRI shareholder Janice Wilson) and Thomas Lacey (grandson of CIRI shareholder Janis McCord) share a book in the library at the Anchorage Native Cultural Charter School in Muldoon.

Linda Reinert
Photo courtesy of Justina Meyer

Cea Anderson
CIHA wins award
Mountain View Village recognized

CIHA awarded grant to benefit Loussac Place
In early May, Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA) was notified that it received a Rasmuson Foundation Tier 1 Grant of up to $25,000 to be used for capital projects, technology updates, capacity building, program expansion and creative works. The grant will be used to purchase library and computer room equipment for resident use at the Z.J. Loussac Community Building at Loussac Place. CIHA is thankful for the support of and partnership with the Rasmuson Foundation.

CIHA wins award
Mountain View Village recognized

Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA) accepted a Pacific Northwest Regional Council Award for Innovative Service for its Mountain View Village project. CIHA’s variety of affordable rental properties located throughout Mountain View. The award, accepted on April 29, recognizes CIHAs contributions to the Mountain View neighborhood.

CIHA has provided high-quality, affordable housing opportunities since the year 2000. Mountain View Village was forwarded to the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials as a candidate for its Awards of Merit and Awards of Excellence.

CIHA's Mountain View Village homes offer quality workmanship, award-winning design and energy efficient features and appliances.

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In May, KNBA produced and broadcast a special radio series, “Climate Change and Alaska Natives,” looking at how climate change issues are being faced by Alaska Native communities. The series kicked off with the live broadcast of the monthly KNBA public affairs program, “Our Alaska,” with guest Millie Hawley from Kivalina, Stanley Tom from the village of Newtok and Larry Merculieff from Seven Generations Consulting. The guests spoke about how they thought climate change was affecting Alaska Native communities, and took calls from KNBA listeners.

The special, five-part series on climate change was broadcast daily on KNBA during the week of May 7. Topics included a profile of an Alaska Native group that has begun a statewide monitoring program for paralytic shellfish poisoning, which is caused by an algae that blooms in warmer temperatures, and the role of Alaska Native Elders in drawing attention to the possible effects of climate change.

“Climate Change and Alaska Natives” was made possible by funding from The CIRI Foundation, Anglo American and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Archived broadcasts of the series can be found on KNBA’s website, www.knba.org, along with photos more information on the topic.

CIRI volunteers!

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CIRI Spotlight: Shareholders Angela Blue, Kristy Deacon

Mother and daughter make a difference at Alaska Native Cultural Charter School

Many students at the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School (ANCCS) would succeed no matter which school they attended. Others do the best they can under the burden of troubles that run deep. When CIRI shareholder and ANCCS third-grade teacher Angela Blue looks into the eyes of the struggling ones, she often sees her own reflection.

“I feel sometimes kids’ lives get a little tough,” she said. “I like being there for them. A lot of times in my life, nobody was there when I needed them.”

One of 10 children, Blue was in foster care by the time she was 5. At 11, she, a brother and a sister were adopted to a couple in California. Flying away to her new life, her adoptive parents asked why she kept staring out the window. “So I can find my way back to Alaska,” she told them. For years, she had a recurring dream that the Golden Gate Bridge stretched all the way to Alaska, that she’d be walking the bridge home, picking berries along the way with her mother and grandmother.

At 21, she finally did make it back, to reconnect with her mother, her home village of Shageluk, and her culture. Now, as a teacher at the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School, she helps give students what she was denied growing up — a connection to who they are and where they come from, whether it’s using berries to teach math in a cultural context or making dance fans for a school potlatch.

With the help of CIRI education grants, Blue got her teaching degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She now has her sights set on a master’s degree in mathematics.

“School was always a safe haven for me growing up,” she said. “I loved school and I loved learning. Now I enjoy sharing what I know.”

But getting to this point was not without its struggles. Blue has been a single mother living in a shelter. She’s lost loved ones to suicide and seen things too painful to talk about. So when she comes across kids with troubles of their own, she knows what to say to give them hope. And they can look at her and see what’s possible.

A love of teaching seems to run in the family. Blue’s daughter, Kristy Deacon, can often be found in her classroom. Also a CIRI shareholder, Deacon started tutoring younger students while she was in middle school, and has since worked as a substitute teacher and teacher’s aide. Now, as a volunteer, she’s a fixture at the ANCCS. Besides helping out in her mother’s third-grade classroom, she’s secretary of the Academic Policy Committee and fills in at the front desk or wherever she is needed.

Among the many attributes Blue and Deacon appreciate about the charter school is its small size — roughly 225 students — which makes it right around village size.

“For the most part, day to day, we come together like a family,” Deacon said. “We really stress to the older students that they are role models… that they need to help look after the others. In the village, when an Elder has a problem, the younger ones help out.”

They also appreciate how the principal, teachers and staff send students off to class each morning after a group sharing session with words that couldn’t be wiser: “Get smart and be kind.”
Robert Oran Allen Jr., 58

Robert Oran Allen Jr. died Nov. 26, 2011, at home in Arctic Village, Alaska. Mr. Allen was born in Anchorage to Kitty and Robert Allen Sr. He was a mechanic, hunter and fisherman. His loved ones say, “He lived his life to the fullest. He enjoyed the country life and his hobbies.” He was a gunsmith, an ice fisherman and an avid reader. He will be remembered as a loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Mildred Allen; daughters, Alana Allen, Roberta Peter-Allen and Renita Peter-Allen; son, Ahtala Allen; and mother, Kitty Allen.

Montana Rita Miller, 69

Montana Rita Miller died March 8 at Providence Hospital in Anchorage. Ms. Miller was born July 1, 1942, in Great Falls, Mont. She is survived by her husband, Robert Oran Allen Jr., 58; son, Robert Oran Allen Jr.; son, Ahtala Allen; and mother, Kitty Allen.

Brenda Lee Rowell, 50

Brenda Lee Rowell died Jan. 1 in Louisville, Ky. Ms. Rowell was born in Anchorage. She is survived by her son, Ethan Rowell-Carrico.

David Martin Spencer, 38

David Martin Spencer died Jan. 22 at home in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Mr. Spencer was born July 30, 1973, in Waterbury, Conn. He is survived by his wife, Laura Ann Spencer; father, David Allen Spencer; and brother, Jeremiah Anthony Spencer.

Condolences

Terry Roberta Frier, 62

Robert Edward James, 76

Terry Roberta Frier died Mar. 10, 2011, in Anchorage. She is survived by her son, Ethan Rowell-Carrico.

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