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NEWS

Governor joins Minnesota Power, FPL Energy to break ground at N.D.'s largest wind farm

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Center, N.D. (April 19, 2006)—North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven today joined FPL Energy, Minnesota Power and nearly 100 dignitaries and guests in Oliver County to break ground at the largest wind farm yet built in the state, just north of Center.

Gov. Hoeven was joined by ALLETE, Inc. Chairman, President and CEO Don Shipp and FPL Energy's Senior Vice President For Development Mike O'Sullivan. Minnesota Power is an operating division of ALLETE, Inc. Also joining in the celebration were U.S. Sen. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.), and staff representing Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.).

"Strong state incentive—and a strong working relationship with committed, forward-looking companies like FPL Energy and Minnesota Power—have resulted in this and other large wind facilities currently under development across North Dakota," Hoeven said. "Taking advantage of our wind and combining it with new technology puts us in a unique position to further economic development in the region and at the same time generate clean, renewable power."

O'Sullivan said, "This is another big step in the growth of an important industry in a state with enormous potential. The Oliver Wind Energy Center will generate clean, renewable energy for the region and create new economic opportunity for Oliver County and North Dakota."

"Minnesota Power," Shipp said, "is here today to break ground at this site and declare our commitment to this project as part of our strategy of building a more diversified generation portfolio. A lot of thought and teamwork has gone in to the project so far, and we are excited to get the real work started today."

The Oliver County Wind Energy Center will be capable of generating enough electricity to power 16,000 homes. Construction of the 22 wind turbines at the wind farm, each 262 feet tall to the center of the blade hub, begins this spring and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The 50.6-megawatt facility is owned and will be operated by FPL Energy, selling its power to Minnesota Power.

Builder, Owner, Operator: FPL Energy

FPL Energy is a leading competitive energy supplier using clean fuels such as natural gas, wind, solar, hydroelectric and nuclear to generate electricity. It is the nation's leader in wind energy, with 44 wind facilities in operation in 15 states. It is a subsidiary of FPL Group (NYSE: FPL), one of the nation's largest providers of electricity-related services. Additional information is available on the Internet at www.FPLEnergy.com, www.FPLGroup.com and www.FPL.com.

Power Purchase Partner: Minnesota Power

Minnesota Power, headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota, is one of the companies of ALLETE, Inc. (NYSE:ALE). It is a low-cost electric utility that serves some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. Learn more about Minnesota Power at www.mnpower.com and about ALLETE at www.allete.com.



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