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## **Winstanley Enterprises Proposes 25 MW Biomass Plant in Springfield Industrial Park**

(Springfield, Vt.) Winstanley Enterprises of Concord, Mass., has announced plans to build a 25 megawatt woodchip-burning electric generating plant in an existing industrial park in North Springfield. The project is expected to bring jobs to the area, make the park more attractive to industry, and contribute to the state's mix of green energy resources. Preliminary plans for the renewable energy facility were announced today by Adam Winstanley, a principal in the company and the lead developer behind three successful industrial projects in Brattleboro and Springfield.

"The North Springfield Sustainable Energy Project will provide reliable, local renewable energy to the region in an environmentally beneficial way," Winstanley said. "We also expect this to create a number of new jobs throughout the Precision Valley."

Winstanley was joined on Monday by Executive Director Bob Flint of the Springfield Regional Development Corporation, as they outlined plans and answered questions about the proposed plant and its impact upon the Springfield area. Flint said the project has great potential to attract more companies to an industrial park that has already seen 350 jobs added since Winstanley Enterprises renovated a 375,000 square foot building at 36 Precision Drive in the No. Springfield Park. The building is the former No. Springfield Fellows Gear Shaper plant.

"The Winstanley building is already nearly fully occupied," Flint said. "The proposed project will provide some immediate jobs in construction of the plant and ongoing jobs at the plant and in the surrounding area, but its potential to attract other businesses is what really excites me the most."

If approved, the plant would begin producing 25 megawatts of base load power in 2013, enough electricity to power 25,000 homes. The output would be delivered to Vermont utilities through an existing substation that once connected to the No. Springfield Fellows Gear Shaper building on the same site. The

building site had been graded and leveled many years ago in anticipation of future growth.

Winstanley noted that the need for renewable energy is strong, and that lawmakers at the state and federal level are currently considering a number of programs that would encourage development. "We are, of course, looking at all of the federal and state green energy, job-growth and economic development incentives that we will need to make this project economically feasible," he said, adding that the company would work with officials at all levels on the project.

The woodchip energy source would be considered carbon-neutral, and the project would meet the criteria laid out by the Vermont Legislature for Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development programs that meet Vermont utilities' needs to replace growth in demand with renewable resources. The plant will be designed to meet the U.S. EPA's definition of Lowest Achievable Emission Rate, as well as Vermont's own stringent environmental standards.

The chips would come from forest resources, typically within 50 miles of the plant, that are not used for other, higher-quality purposes, and they would be purchased from local suppliers. For example, limbs and branches from commercial logging and line clearing by utilities would be chipped for use as fuel. A preliminary analysis of the economic impact suggests that approximately 23 workers would be directly employed at the plant and another 125 workers in the wood harvesting industry would receive some benefit from the market for wood chips. Construction will require 100 workers. Annual economic activity associated with the plant is estimated at \$30 million.

Winstanley Enterprises will develop the project through its local subsidiary, WE 36 Precision Drive. David Winstanley formed Winstanley Associates in 1973. Two decades later, founded on his success in real estate development and investment, David joined forces with his sons, Adam and Carter, to form what is now Winstanley Enterprises LLC. The company also successfully redeveloped the former Northeast Cooperative/United Natural Foods property in Brattleboro, and more than 35 additional properties throughout New England. For more information about the company, please visit its web site at <http://winstanleyenterprises.com>.