

VREEM is a monthly electronic newsletter published by Renewable Energy Vermont.

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News

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1. Douglas Wants All Wind Projects to Wait for Further Study

Montpelier - Governor James Douglas has apparently widened his support for halting any new wind power developments on privately owned land until a study [proposed by his administration] is conducted next year.

Even though he has long advocated continuing a moratorium on wind development on state-owned lands, his expansion of that condition to private lands has taken some environmentalists and wind energy advocates by surprise.

In a letter to a constituent late last month, Douglas said the state "would not provide its support to any large-scale project not yet filed" with the state's Public Service Board "until the study is completed and the Legislature had an opportunity to consider its recommendations."

The developer of the only such project now before the board - a plan for four 330-foot turbines on an abandoned radar base in the Northeast Kingdom - expressed surprise at the governor's position, as did lobbyists for the some of the state's electric companies.

"This is a change in policy, no doubt about it," said Matthew Rubin, the developer of the East Haven Windfarm. "This letter came out of nowhere, and, needless to say, is quite a surprise."

Jason Gibbs, the governor's spokesman, called the governor's remarks an evolution of his stated views on wind, and that anyone trying to read more into to it than that is mistaken.

"The governor has repeatedly said he supports wind development that is at a scale consistent with Vermont's environmental ethic," said Gibbs. "The governor did not have every single wind project in mind when he wrote that letter."

(This article was excerpted from the May 12, 2004, issue of the Times Argus as reported by Darren Allen.)

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## 2. Glebe Mountain Group Pulls Out of Wind Planning Process

Londonderry - The Glebe Mountain Group has withdrawn from the collaborative planning process over Catamount Energy Corporation's 50-MW wind project for Glebe Mountain.

The withdrawal ends the group's almost yearlong involvement that Catamount and its supporters hoped would answer opponents' questions before it entered the state permit process.

Catamount Energy plans to erect 27 turbines on the Glebe Mountain ridgeline, which stretches from Londonderry to Windham. The turbines would be substantially higher than those operated by Green Mountain Power in Searsburg, which are just under 200 feet tall.

James Wilbur of Londonderry, chairman of the Glebe Mountain Group, sent a letter and e-mail to David Van Wie, who was leading the collaborative process for Catamount, a subsidiary of Central Vermont Public Service Corp.

"Catamount has consistently stated its intent to proceed with a massively scaled project even though necessary studies have not yet been carried out, and seemingly without any regard for the views of other participants," Wilbur wrote to Van Wie. Wilbur also cited a "fundamental philosophical difference between the project developer and our group."

Robert Charlebois of Catamount Energy said many other people besides the Glebe Mountain Group are participating in the planning process, including supporters and opponents.

"It's certainly been helpful to us to hear their concerns," Charlebois said of the group.

(This article was excerpted from the May 19, 2004, issue of the Rutland Herald as reported by Susan Smallheer.)

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## 3. Legislature Ends With Little Action On Energy Issues

Montpelier - The Vermont Legislature ended the 2003-2004 session having passed just one piece of legislation that promotes renewable energy or energy efficiency, despite starting the session with strong proposals including a proposed Renewable Portfolio Standard completed by the Public Service Board.

The one bill that did pass that promoted renewable energy was the Capitol Construction bill. Senator Vincent Illuzzi (R – Essex/Orleans) successfully included the following expenditures and language into the bill:

-- The State will now pay 90% (up from 50%) for the incremental cost of a renewable energy heating system for public schools. The systems currently being installed or considered are primarily biomass, but geothermal and solar systems could also apply.

-- The State will conduct a \$60,000 study related to the proposed Montpelier biomass district heating system.

-- The Vermont Renewable Power Supply Acquisition Authority will now have the authority it needed to negotiate a deal for the Connecticut River dams.

The Senate, for their part, did pass a strong comprehensive renewable energy and energy efficacy bill (S.261) on a vote of 24 to 5. The bill included a

Renewable Portfolio Standard (as proposed by the PSB),  
Energy efficiency standards for appliances, and other energy provisions.

However, the Douglas administration and the House of Representatives chose to oppose the bill by taking no action on the legislation.

In the House, opponents of wind energy sought to impose a moratorium on all wind projects and to add further permitting requirements. Both of those failed by a 3-to-1 vote on the House floor.

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#### 4. Bennington Building to Feature Geothermal System

Bennington - The state's renovation of the historic Bennington Garage building is slated to include a unique energy feature: The garage will be one of the first state buildings to be heated and cooled by a geothermal system in which groundwater will be circulated through the building, helping to keep it at a stable temperature.

Built in 1920, the two-story brick building is located just west of the Four Corners, downtown Bennington's main intersection. With a one-story area at the rear, it measures about 21,000 square feet.

The Community College of Vermont is currently the building's sole tenant. The state Health Department is still scheduled to move into the Main Street facility when the \$3.1 million project is finished sometime next year.

In a related development, the state plans to use a geothermal heating system for the new rest area to be built on I-89 in Sharon.

(Part of this article was adapted from an April 30, 2004, issue of the Rutland Herald as reported by Peter Crabtree.)

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#### 5. Catamount Energy Partners with Japanese Energy Firm

Rutland - Bolstering efforts to create a world-class wind development company, Central Public Service subsidiary Catamount Energy has entered a joint venture agreement with one of the world's largest companies, Marubeni Corporation of Japan.

Catamount and Marubeni subsidiary Marubeni Power International will invest in and develop new wind projects throughout the Northeast - including one in Vermont.

"Under this agreement, Catamount and Marubeni will develop wind projects in New York, Pennsylvania and New England, creating value for shareholders and expanding renewable energy opportunities throughout the Northeast," CVPS president Bob Young told shareholders at the company's annual meeting Tuesday.

"Marubeni brings years of project development and financing expertise to the joint venture, which will complement the in-house experience at Catamount," Young said. "The partnership also reduces development risks for Catamount, as the companies will enjoy 50-50 ownership of all projects they jointly develop."

Marubeni will become a partner with Catamount in developing its Glebe Mountain Project, an up-to-50-MW wind project near Magic Mountain Ski Area in Londonderry. The companies have also begun joint development work on a

project in Pennsylvania, called Laurel Hill, and are examining several other potential projects in the Northeast.

Young said Catamount's focus on wind energy was particularly important because it can help reduce reliance on coal, gas and oil. "Vermont enjoys arguably the cleanest power supply in the nation already, but given the nation's growing appetite for energy and its overwhelming dependence on fossil fuels, Catamount's commitment to renewable energy investments is in Vermont's best interests - and the nation's," Young said.

For more information:  
[www.catenergy.com](http://www.catenergy.com)

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## 6. Renewable Energy Vermont Announces Renewable Energy Conference

Montpelier - Renewable Energy Vermont (REV), Vermont's trade association of renewable energy businesses, will hold its third annual conference on October 14 in Burlington.

"Last year's conference emphasized the direct link between renewable energy development and a strong Vermont economy," said Andrew Perchlik, executive director of REV. "This year, we'll be focusing on the necessary transition to a renewable energy future."

The conference will feature several workshop sessions and a keynote address by Thom Harman, author of many books including the updated "The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight: The Fate of the World and What We Can Do Before It's Too Late." Governor Jim Douglas and Mayor Peter Clavelle have been invited to debate Vermont energy policy in a special session moderated by WDEV radio host Mark Johnson. In addition, more than thirty local and national renewable energy businesses will be present with display exhibits.

The conference is a must for anybody interested in Vermont's clean energy future. The concurrent workshops will focus on the key issues and technological innovations emerging in Vermont's renewable energy field.

Policy officials, legislators, energy related businesses, clean energy advocates and interested citizens will all benefit from attending this conference.

For more information:  
<http://www.revermont.org/conference.htm>

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## 7. Hearing Scheduled to Discuss CVPS's Long-Term Power Supply Plans

Rutland - Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) has scheduled a public hearing intended to help answer the question: What are the best means to meet Vermont's future electricity needs? The hearing will give the utility, regulators, and the general public an opportunity to discuss CVPS's least-cost integrated plan (IRP).

The IRP describes CVPS's plan to provide energy and energy services over the long term, as well as the company's resource planning strategies.

The Public Service Board will host the public hearing on Wednesday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m. to take comments from interested members of the public. CVPS planners will make a presentation on the IRP.

Planners will also be available to answer customer questions on IRP matters. A transcript of the company's presentation is posted on the CVPS website. Copies of the reports filed with the Public Service Board are available through the following link:  
[http://www.cvps.com/documents/irpsummary\\_05\\_21\\_04.pdf](http://www.cvps.com/documents/irpsummary_05_21_04.pdf)

The hearing will be hosted via Vermont Interactive Television (VIT), with attendance possible at VIT studios located in the following locations:

- \* Mt. Anthony Lodge, 504A Main St., Basement, Bennington
- \* BDCC Business Park, Unit 100, 22 Browne Court, Brattleboro
- \* Lyndon State College, 1001 College Road, Lyndonville
- \* Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave., 2nd Floor, Middlebury
- \* Vermont Technical College, Morrill Hall, Randolph Center
- \* Stafford Technical Center, 8 Stratton Road, Room 222, Rutland
- \* Bellows Free Academy, 4 Hospital Drive, St. Albans
- \* Howard Dean Education Center, 307 South St., 2nd Floor, Springfield

The Rutland location will be the host site for the hearing. Individuals with special needs should contact the clerk of the PSB, at 802-828-2358 by June 14 for assistance.

For more information:  
[www.cvps.com](http://www.cvps.com)

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## Events

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Saturday, June 5, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
10th Annual Big Splash River and Arts Festival, Wilder Picnic Area, Wilder. Join us at the 10th annual river festival to celebrate our connections with the Connecticut River watershed. 11 a.m. - Flotilla from Ledyard Bridge in Norwich - bring a canoe or kayak; Contra on the Connecticut - dance on a river float (dancers chosen from lottery, for tickets call 333-3549 or e-mail [info@ctriverfest.org](mailto:info@ctriverfest.org)). Music on main stage at festival site from 11 a.m. on. 1:30 p.m. - Sustainability exhibits and discussions on energy; 2:30 p.m. - Alternative transportation - create fuel from veggie oil at biodiesel/veggie oil car conversion workshop. Environmental exhibits and demonstrations and much more. Information: [www.ctriverfest.org](http://www.ctriverfest.org).

Wednesday, June 16, Rutland (and various other locations)  
The Public Service Board will host a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. to discuss Central Vermont Public Service's long-term power supply plans and take comments from interested members of the public. For more information and a list of meeting locations, see story above or visit: [www.cvps.com](http://www.cvps.com).

Friday, July 9, Randolph Center  
Free - Wind Energy Teachers' Workshops at Vermont Technical College

From the grain grinders of ancient Holland to the controversial off-shore projects near Cape Cod, wind power has captured the public imagination with its simplicity and elegance. Dig deeper into the wind and introduce your students to the science behind the fastest growing energy resource in the

world.

This full-day workshop will appeal to middle and high school science teachers who are interested in renewable energy, physics, engineering and design. No knowledge of wind energy is required to attend the workshop, and they are offered free of charge.

Participants will learn the basic principles behind wind energy and how to introduce students to wind energy concepts using standards-based activities in an engaging, hands-on manner. Teachers will also learn about programs and funding that can help them install wind turbines at their own schools. Classroom materials and a comprehensive curriculum package are included free of charge in the workshop. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

Workshops are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Wright Center for Science Education. For more details about the workshops and our project, call 617-627-5395 or visit [www.kidwind.org](http://www.kidwind.org) to fill out an online application.

Tuesday, July 13, 12 noon - 1 p.m., South Royalton  
Cheney vs. U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia: Don't Ask 'Cause We Won't Tell, Vermont Law School. VLS Summer Session Professor James R. May will consider whether Vice President Cheney is protected by the separation of powers doctrine from disclosing the identity of the private industry professionals who have advised the president on national energy policy. One of a series of eight "Thursdays for Thought" lectures in the Summer 2004 "Hot Topics in Environmental Law" lecture series. Cornell Seminar Room, Julien and Virginia Cornell Library. Free and open to the public. Information: 831-1000.

Thursday, October 14th, Burlington  
Renewable Energy Vermont's 3rd Annual Conference. The conference will feature several workshop sessions and a keynote address by Thom Harman, author of "The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight"; Governor Jim Douglas and Mayor Peter Clavelle have been invited to debate Vermont energy policy; and local and national renewable energy businesses will be presenting display exhibits. Information: [www.revermont.org/conference.htm](http://www.revermont.org/conference.htm)

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#### About VREEM

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VREEM is a monthly electronic newsletter published by Renewable Energy Vermont Inc.

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