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MEC to get wind powered energy

Tuesday, January 5, 2010 3:52 PM EST

CHASE CITY — Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) customers will soon be using greener energy after MEC announced this week that its power supplier, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) and AES Wind Generation are starting a commercial operation of the Armenia Mountain wind farm in Pennsylvania. ODEC, the primary power provider for Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative and 10 other electric distribution cooperatives, will receive 50 percent of the electricity generated. AES Wind Generation developed, owns and operates the wind farm which is comprised of 67 wind turbines. The 101 megawatt (MW) wind farm is located in the Pennsylvania counties of Bradford and Tioga in the north central region of the Keystone State.

“We are pleased to be meeting a portion of our Members’ growing power needs with electricity generated from the Armenia Mountain Wind Project,” John Lee, president and CEO of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, said Tuesday. “Historically, the cooperatives have been at the forefront in national efforts to balance the growing electric needs of our nation with being environmentally responsible. ODEC, who is owned by 11 distribution cooperatives including Mecklenburg, has been particularly aggressive in its efforts to secure some energy from renewable generation resources, and those familiar with our Clover Project in Halifax County know that we are committed to generating electricity as cleanly as possible, regardless of the fuel source. We will continue to seek out opportunities at ODEC to secure renewable power as long as that energy comes at a cost that is reasonable and affordable to our Members and we do so because it is the right thing to do for our planet and future generations, not because it is required by regulatory or legislative mandates.”

In addition to its contract with AES Wind Power for 50 percent of the output from the Armenia Mountain Wind Farm, ODEC’s portfolio of renewable generation resources also includes 100 percent of the power generated from a landfill gas-to-energy project in Worcester County, Md., and a hydroelectric project in Bath County. ODEC has also signed a long-term agreement to purchase the 70 MW of energy projected to be produced by the Constellation Energy Criterion Wind Power Project to be built in Garrett County, Md.

Lee, along with MEC Board Member David Jones of Bracey, serve as members of the Board of Directors for Old Dominion Electric Cooperative. In July 2008, ODEC signed a 15-year power purchase agreement with AES Wind Generation for 50 percent of the output of its then planned Armenia Mountain Wind Farm project. A separate agreement for 50 percent of the energy output from the wind farm was signed by Newark, Del.-based Delmarva Power. AES Wind Generation was chosen as one of the winning bidders following a request for proposals from wind generated power providers issued in early 2008.

ODEC owns 11.6 percent of the North Anna Nuclear Power Station in Louisa County, and 50 percent of the Clover Power Station in Halifax County. The cooperative also owns and operates generation facilities in Louisa County and Fauquier County, and owns 50 percent of the Rock Springs Generation Facility in Cecil County, Md. For more information, visit www.odec.com.

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) and its member systems are owned by the consumer-members they serve and are not-for-profit electric cooperatives. These member systems include (in Virginia): A&N Electric Cooperative, BARC Electric Cooperative, Community Electric Cooperative, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, Prince George Electric Cooperative, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, and Southside Electric Cooperative; (in



Maryland) Choptank Electric Cooperative; and (in Delaware) Delaware Electric Cooperative.

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Chase City with district offices in Emporia, Chase City and Gretna, is a not-for-profit member-owned energy provider that serves over 31,000 homes, farms and businesses throughout nine Central and Southside Virginia counties. For more information, go to www.meckelec.org.

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