

NEWS RELEASE

FOX ISLANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE RESPONDS TO MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

For Immediate Release: November 24, 2010

Contact: Chip Farrington, General Manager, Fox Islands Electric Cooperative
cfarrington@foxislands.net or 207-863-4900

In a letter issued Tuesday, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requested that Fox Islands Wind, LLC submit a revised protocol for the operation of its community-owned wind project on Vinalhaven.

In the letter, the DEP detailed a turbine-noise complaint filed in July 2010 on behalf of some of the neighbors living near the Fox Islands Wind (FIW) project on Vinalhaven Island. After reviewing the case, the DEP has asked that FIW alter its operation under specific meteorological conditions during which the project may have exceeded nighttime limits by two decibels for a single 70-minute period between July 17 and July 18, 2010.

“Although the co-op and FIW recognize that there are disagreements, between the methods used by the sound experts involved with the issues,” stated Chip Farrington, Fox Islands Electric Cooperative general manager, “We welcome the DEP’s effort to finally resolve this issue for all stakeholders. We want to be good neighbors, successfully address these conditions, and bring this matter to a conclusion.”

The immediate step in this process is for FIW to submit a revised protocol for the DEP’s review and approval by January 23, 2011.

The Fox Islands Electric Cooperative board believes that the DEP’s determination strikes a reasonable balance between addressing the concerns of the neighbors who filed the complaint and the expectation of approximately 1,800 ratepayers on North Haven and Vinalhaven that they will continue to reap the full economic benefits of this community-owned wind project.

##

Completed in the fall of 2009, the Fox Islands Wind Project is the largest community-owned, wind-power project on the East Coast of the United States. The project's three 1.5-megawatt turbines play a vital role in meeting the energy needs of the year-round island communities of North Haven and Vinalhaven. Since inception, this project continues to successfully harness an environmentally sustainable, economical wind-energy resource for its citizens.