Wind Energy Assessment on Alaska Native Lands in Cordova, Alaska

Bruce Cain, Executive Director
&
Autumn Bryson, Environmental Coordinator

Native Village of Eyak
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- Federally Recognized Tribe in Cordova, AK
- Governed by a five-member tribal council
- Provides health and social services, economic development, job training and environmental and resource management
- 525 Tribal members
Location of Project
Current Energy Systems:

- **Hydroelectric power:**
  - Cordova has a bounty of precipitation
  - two run-of-river hydroelectric facilities:
  - Power Creek and Humpback Creek.
Current Energy Systems:

- *Diesel electric power.*

- Current major supply of our power generation mix
- Waste heat recovery and fuel efficiency improvements
- Reducing costs and improving air and water quality
Project Participants

- Native Village of Eyak
- Cordova Electric Cooperative
- Eyak Corporation
Wind Project Overview

- Integrate wind energy into Cordova’s energy system
- Reduce utility bills
- Create jobs and improve the environment
- Can use excess wind power for district heating or electric vehicles
- Potential for up to 10 MW of wind power generation – more than Cordova’s peak load!
Previous Work on Project

- Collaborated with NREL
- Anemometer data collected at 10, 20 and 30 meters at Point Whitshed
- Class 4 and 5 winds exist with 13 mph average
- 10 meter data will be correlated with other anemometer sites
Whitshed Road Extension

- Class 4-5 wind has been observed at Point Whitshed
- Eyak Corporation is developing roads and home sites in this direction, providing synergy with the expanding power grid
Key focus areas:

- From this:          
- To this:
Goals and Objectives

- Improve wind data maps
- Learn from other existing wind projects
- Public education and awareness
- Design and permitting
- Be ready for construction and implementation
Improve Wind Maps
**Improve Wind Maps**

- Current maps based on 10 m MET towers at airport and harbor
- Need to verify the current resource maps with additional data collection
- 10-meter mobile anemometers placed on areas believed to have good wind resources
- Correlate to 10-meter tower at Pt Whitshed reference site
- Extrapolate data to 30 and 50 meters and use GIS modeling to map wind resources
- Method identifies more sites with less money in a quicker amount of time
- May require additional 30-meter anemometer study at preferred site
Learn from other wind projects

- Visit existing wind facilities around AK
  - Kodiak
  - Kotzebue
  - Fire Island
- Best known methods will be used from each of these sites
Public Education and Awareness

- Cordova Renewable Energy Workgroup (C.R.E.W.) meetings open to the public
- Host additional wind program updates in the community as project progresses
Design and Permitting

- Ownership/operation decision (CEC or NVE)
- Power sharing agreement
- Turbine model/size selection
- Installation (crane access, soil report, foundation requirements, delivery logistics)
- Environmental studies and avian impact along with aviation concerns
- Long term service and support
Vision - Impacts

“Electric cars might work in Los Angeles, but they don’t work in Alaska, where you can drive hundreds of miles without seeing many people, let alone many electrical sockets,”

- Sarah Palin

Cordova’s minimal road system makes the community ideally suited for electric vehicles. If we can reduce our electricity costs, our transportation fuel costs can be greatly reduced.
Ultimate Goal

In the shadow of the devastating Exxon Valdez oil spill and lingering effects to the economy and the environment, Cordova desires to be North America’s first petroleum-free community.

Wind power alone will not achieve our ultimate goal, but it is a key component along with our other focus areas of increasing our hydroelectric capabilities and generating heat and electricity from our waste streams.
Contact Info and Questions

Native Village of Eyak
www.nveyak.com

Bruce Cain  bruce@nveyak.org
Autumn Bryson  autumn@nveyak.org

(907)424-7738