

NEWS RELEASE

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ADIRONDACK WIND PARTNERS ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR A CLEAN ENERGY ALTERNATIVE

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Johnsburg, NY - Adirondack Wind Partners LLC (AWP), a joint venture between The Barton Group and Reunion Power LLC, has commenced project planning for Adirondack Wind Energy Park (AWEP) in Johnsburg, New York. Pending full investigation, outreach to the community at large and environmental permitting, AWEP could comprise up to 10 wind turbines capable of supplying enough clean affordable renewable energy to power over 50% of the homes in Warren County.

The proposed site for AWEP on the north side of Gore Mountain is privately owned by The Barton Group and was home to its garnet mining operations from 1878-1983. As a result, much of the infrastructure required for a wind energy project already exists, including a network of roads and a high-capacity power line that runs directly through the site. Wind measurements taken over the past 15 months demonstrate the presence of a wind resource that matches or exceeds the best sites in New York and the Northeast.

“There are very few sites, particularly in the North Country, where a wind project can be realized on an economic basis with such limited disturbance to the land and such limited visual impact,” said David Little, Project Manager for AWP. Little adds “We have looked closely at the region and no other site can match the Barton property’s unique attributes.”

Jim McAndrew, Project Manager for AWP adds, “For over 126 years, Barton has provided good jobs to the area and has responsibly managed the resources of its land. Returning our historic mining property to service as a clean renewable energy resource provides diversification to our business and a variety of benefits to the community.” Barton has 65 employees at its operations near North Creek and 25 employees at its offices in Lake George.

The AWEP site is adjacent to Gore Mountain Ski Area and the project’s turbines would be seen by skiers on its north facing slopes. “Installing wind turbines at Barton Mines would provide an important environmental education opportunity while promoting pollution free energy near Gore Mountain. Please count on our support” said Michael Pratt, General Manager for Gore Mountain.

Governor Pataki has declared his support for renewable energy in New York by announcing his goal for renewable energy to represent 25% of retail electrical sales statewide by the year 2013. The positive environmental gain from AWEP is comparable to the reduction of 5.3 million gallons of oil per year, the planting of over 8.4 million trees, or taking 11,000 cars off the road.

William Thomas, Supervisor for the Town of Johnsbury wrote in a letter of support for the project, "The plan to develop the properties to produce renewable energy from wind will produce sustainable economic development for the Town of Johnsbury and surrounding areas. The windmill project will create construction jobs and in turn promote local businesses by the demand of their services. This project may also lead to increased property tax revenue and increased tourism."

AWP has erected a temporary meteorological mast at the site to measure the wind resource and is continuing to collect and evaluate that information. Project activities in the short-term future will focus on securing the support of the community, government, environmental groups and the Adirondack Park Agency as well as the evaluation of potential environmental impacts.

"The wind farm proposal by Barton Mines is an interesting project. We've been pleased by the efforts of the company to reach out to the public and share information. The challenge for the project will be to blend these wind towers in with the historic, wild Adirondack landscape that New Yorkers rely upon for genuine wilderness experiences," said Peter Bauer, executive director of the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, an environmental organization that defends the Adirondack Park.

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Reunion Power LLC, with offices located in Vermont and New Jersey, is a privately held company specializing in the planning and development of wind energy projects and providing professional services for owners and financiers of power projects. Reunion currently manages over 180 MW of operating wind power facilities in the Midwest and the Company's principals have developed over 400 MW of power facilities in New York State (www.reunionpower.com).

The Barton Group is the parent company of Barton Mines Company, LLC (www.barton.com), Virginia Abrasives Corporation (www.virginiaabrasives.com) and Barton International Incorporated.