

# energy

## CONNECTIONS

September 2009

**NorthWestern**  
**Energy**  
*Delivering a Bright Future*

## in this issue...

BP WIND ENERGY AND NORTHWESTERN  
ENERGY WELCOME SOUTH DAKOTA  
GOVERNOR ROUNDS TO FIRST WIND  
PROJECT IN HAND COUNTY

WORK PROGRESSING AT MILL CREEK SITE

BUTTE DIVISION LINEMAN ASSIST WITH  
OSPREY STUDY

EDITOR'S NOTE

### Expo Events Kick-off in Montana

*Getting your home ready for winter is so easy you can do it yourself. And getting started is easy, too. Just stop by our Do-it-yourself Home Energy Makeover Expo. You'll get some great weatherization tips and learn about our rebate programs. We'll have free refreshments and lots of safety activities for the kids.*

*To get you started, we're giving away free weatherization kits and compact fluorescent light bulbs to qualified NorthWestern Energy customers\*. Even if you're not much of a do-it-yourselfer, come enter to win a complete Home Energy Makeover package. For all the rules and details, visit us online at [www.northwesternenergy.com](http://www.northwesternenergy.com). ■*



⚠ *Materials funded through the Demand-side Management program in Montana. You must be a residential natural gas customer in Montana, who hasn't received a kit at a past event to qualify for the free weatherization materials. CFLs available to residential electric customers in Montana, who haven't already received free bulbs at a 2009 event. Other qualifications may apply.*



## Act Now to Save Money and Energy

**B**elieve it or not – the best time to weatherize your home is now. An energy-efficient home is a strong defense against winter winds, rain, sleet, snow and chill. Making energy efficient changes before the snow starts to fly and temperatures drop is easier in nice weather and prepares you to get the most out of your efforts.

NorthWestern recommends three things that homeowners can do now to cut heating bills this winter:

- ◆ “Insulate” yourself from price shocks. Appropriate insulation for your climate based on R-values can increase your comfort and reduce your heating costs up to 30 percent. Start with attic insulation, followed by exterior and basement walls, and crawl spaces. Insulate and seal attic air ducts.\*
- ◆ Check your home for air leaks – otherwise you’re paying to heat the outdoors. Seal leaks between moving parts (between door and frame) with weather stripping. Caulk leaks between nonmoving parts (between window frame and wall).
- ◆ Install a programmable thermostat that “remembers” for you to lower the temperature during the day, when perhaps no one’s home but the gold fish. You don’t have to rely on your memory when you’re in a rush. The programmable thermostat meets your daily and weekend patterns and comfort needs.\*

A good place to get started is with our Web site: [www.northwesternenergy.com](http://www.northwesternenergy.com). You’ll find ways to reduce your energy use, calculate the cost to run your appliances, get do-it-yourself tips, plus much more. ■

⚠ *Through the Demand-side Management program, NorthWestern Energy has rebates available in Montana. Qualifications apply. See the Web site for complete details.*

## Energy Assistance is Available

If you or someone you know is having difficulty paying their energy bill, the Low Income Energy Assistance Programs (LIEAP/LIHEAP) provide energy assistance to qualifying applicants. The program assists those families who may be unable to pay the cost of their home heating.

The program will partially pay the cost of electricity, fuel oil, gas, coal, wood, kerosene, propane, or other fuel source. Eligibility is based on household’s resources and income. To find out more about the energy assistance programs available in your area, download the list of agencies from our Web site, or call our Customer Contact Center. The agencies begin taking applications for this year’s heating season in October, so don’t delay – contact your local agency today. ■

# BP Wind Energy and NorthWestern Energy Welcome South Dakota Governor Rounds to First Wind Project in Hand County

PHOTO COURTESY OF BP WIND



In August, BP Wind Energy and NorthWestern Energy welcomed South Dakota Governor Michael Rounds at a wind turbine blade signing event to celebrate the move into full construction of the Titan I Wind Farm in Hand County, South Dakota.

Governor Rounds, who was joined by other state and local elected officials, landowners and community leaders said: "Today marks an important step

in delivering clean power from a renewable resource, and that's a credit to innovative thinking and planning by the partners in this project. South Dakota has tremendous potential to become a leader in wind energy development, and utilization of this abundant natural resource harbors the potential of great economic promise for the state."

Located on a 7500-acre site south of the town of Ree Heights, the Titan I Wind Farm is 100 percent owned by BP Wind Energy with the energy sold to NorthWestern Energy for use by its customers in South Dakota. Phase I will use 10 Clipper C89 wind turbines each with a rated capacity of 2.5 MW. The project will employ up to 175 workers during peak construction and is expected to be in commercial operation in the first quarter of 2010. The balance of the plant contract has been awarded to Mortenson Construction. Balance of plant consists of the remaining systems, components, and structures that comprise a complete power plant.

"BP's approach to meeting America's future energy needs includes oil, natural gas and significant investments in alternative energy such as wind power, as this project demonstrates," says John Graham, president, BP Wind Energy. "Large wind farms such as Titan are the long-term future of the wind energy business but to deliver on this opportunity, we have to address the transmission challenges and we commend those who are actively working to enable South Dakota to reach its full wind development potential," adds Graham.

"We take seriously our responsibilities to the environment and to our customers," says Bob Rowe, president and CEO, NorthWestern Energy. "This wind farm will provide approximately 5% of the total energy supply used by our South Dakota customers. This is good both for the environment and for the local economy. We're committed to evaluating future options that will provide value to customers while helping to grow this industry for the benefit of all South Dakotans."

The first phase of the wind farm will tie into an existing above-ground 69 kV NorthWestern Energy transmission line. When in full operation, the Titan I Wind Farm will generate enough carbon-free electricity to power 7,500 average American homes. ■

*Pictured (left to right) in the photo above: NorthWestern Energy President & CEO, Bob Rowe, Governor Mike Rounds, and BP Wind Energy President, John Graham, join together in signing a wind turbine blade during the Titan I wind project celebration. The blade will be used on Turbine No. 6 at the project site.*

## Work Progressing at Mill Creek Site



On July 2, NorthWestern Energy signed a contract for the Pratt Whitney turbine generators and on July 31, the company executed the Engineering Procurement and Construction contract which represents the majority of the construction of the plant. Contract crews recently completed the reclamation work on the site, which is located three miles east of Anaconda on a Superfund site.

A groundbreaking celebration is scheduled for August 27, 2009. The company plans to build the plant in two stages. Three 50 MW turbines are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010. An additional 50 MW turbine generator will be added later depending upon the company's need for regulation service. ■

## contact

### MONTANA

|                         |                     |                |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Customer Contact Center | 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F | (888) 467-2669 |
| Emergency 24/7 Service  | Electric            | (888) 467-2353 |
|                         | Natural Gas         | (888) 467-2427 |
| Call Before You Dig     |                     | 811            |
| Energy Efficiency       |                     | (800) 823-5995 |

### NEBRASKA

|                         |                      |                |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Customer Contact Center | 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. M-F | (800) 245-6977 |
| Emergency 24/7 Service  |                      | (800) 245-6977 |
| Call Before You Dig     |                      | 811            |

### SOUTH DAKOTA

|                         |                      |                |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Customer Contact Center | 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. M-F | (800) 245-6977 |
| Emergency 24/7 Service  |                      | (800) 245-6977 |
| Call Before You Dig     |                      | 811            |

### PAYMENT

|                       |                |  |
|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| Automated Phone       |                |  |
| Payment Option:       | (800) 218-4959 | (via checking, savings, or money market account) |
| SpeedPay Automated    |                |  |
| Phone Payment Option: | (877) 361-4927 | (via credit card account)                        |

## Butte Division Lineman Assist with Osprey Study

In July, Butte Division volunteered the assistance of a lineman and a bucket truck to help two University of Montana professors gather data related to mercury levels in osprey chicks in the Clark Fork River Drainage.

One of the nests near Warm Springs is located on a pole separate from the electric lines while the other nest at Bear Creek is on a pole supporting energized lines. The professors' study has found elevated mercury levels in chicks in some stretches of the river.

Sam Milodragovich, NorthWestern's wildlife biologist, helped to coordinate the event that included removing the chicks from the nest, drawing blood and feather samples, banding each chick then safely returning the chicks to the nest. He reported that at both nests, the mother ospreys returned as soon as the crew left the sites. ■

### Editor's Note:

The last issue of Energy Connections was dedicated to informing our customers of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES). In addition to updating the NorthWestern Energy Web site as the legislation progresses, we'll share some of the comments and suggestions that customers have sent to us on the topic. The ACES section of our Web site is not intended to persuade you of a particular perspective, but it is intended to keep interested customers and others informed. We encourage you to visit the site at [www.northwesternenergy.com](http://www.northwesternenergy.com) and see what other customers and groups are saying.