



Tel: 989 269 7715
Fax: 989 269 2290
222 Park Avenue
Bad Axe, MI 48413
www.noblepower.com

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Contact: Peter Mastic
(989) 269-7715
Contact: John Truscott
(517) 485-8404

COMMUNITY BREAKS GROUND FOR NOBLE THUMB WINDPARK Begins new era of clean, renewable energy for Michigan

UBLY – Community leaders, government officials and local business people today broke ground on the Noble Thumb Windpark, a state-of-the-art renewable energy project that will become Michigan's first commercial-scale windpark when it is completed in mid-2006.

The Noble Thumb Windpark, a project of Noble Environmental Power, will create hundreds of construction jobs and more than \$6.5 million in new property tax revenue over the next two decades.

Phase I of Noble Thumb, built on 4,700 acres of farmland in Bingham Township, will consist of 32 turbines, generating 48 megawatts of electricity. That's enough clean energy to power 16,000 homes.

"Today's groundbreaking marks the next step in building an environmentally friendly, renewable energy future for Michigan," said Noble Environmental Managing Director Peter Mastic. "By harnessing the power of the wind, the Noble Thumb Windpark will mean jobs and economic benefits for the community and environmental benefits for everyone through generation of green energy."

"This is a bright moment for Huron County. When other areas in the country are announcing plant closings and layoffs, we are celebrating a significant project that will generate jobs and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels," said Huron County Commissioner Mike Gage.

The electric power produced by the project will be delivered to Consumers Energy Company as part of its Green Generation program. The groundbreaking took place at Noble Thumb Windpark's construction site on Atwater Road, Bingham Township, near the village of Uby. Pre-construction activity began in September and installation of the first turbines is expected to occur in mid April of 2006. Future phases of the Noble Thumb Windpark are expected to extend through southeastern Huron and Sanilac Counties over the next three to five years.

Wind Power...the natural choice™

“We are grateful for the broad and deep support that Noble Thumb has received from residents and from Federal, State and local leaders,” Mr. Mastic said. “We’re looking forward to a long and collaborative relationship with the County, the Township, our landowners and the community at large. I believe this will be a tremendous project for the Thumb.”

Noble Thumb Windpark will generate:

- More than **\$6.5 million in estimated property tax payments** over 20 years, new funds for schools and local units of government;
- Approximately 200 new construction jobs for up to one year, as well as 10 permanent operating jobs; and
- Significant payments to property owners, which will help preserve existing agricultural lands.

In addition, Noble Thumb Windpark will create enough clean, renewable electricity to power 16,000 homes. By way of comparison, it would take some 60,000 tons of coal – enough to fill a freight train 6 ½ miles long – every year to generate the same energy that Noble Thumb Windpark will generate. Burning that much coal every year would produce about 156,000 tons of carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas; thousands of tons of sulfur dioxide, which causes acid rain; and thousands of tons of nitrogen oxides, which causes smog.

Michigan has two other smaller wind energy sites, two turbines near the Mackinaw Bridge and one near Traverse City.

About Noble Environmental Power: Noble Environmental Power, LLC, is a leading renewable energy company that has established wind energy projects at several locations in Michigan and New York State. Noble is majority owned by J P Morgan Partners and was founded in 2004 in response to public policy initiatives designed to foster the increased use of renewable energy sources. Noble is committed to creating environmentally friendly facilities in partnership with local communities. Noble is based in Essex, CT, and has offices in Malone, NY, Arcade, NY, and Bad Axe MI.

For more information, please visit www.noblepower.com, or email us at info@noblepower.com.

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