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NEWS

ALLETE Clean Energy acquires southern Minnesota wind facility as its renewable portfolio expands to 437 Megawatts

Duluth, Minn.— ALLETE Clean Energy, a subsidiary of ALLETE, Inc. (NYSE: ALE), has acquired a combined 97.5 megawatt (MW) wind generation facility near Lake Benton, Minn. for \$47.5 million.

The facility is being purchased from a subsidiary of EDF Renewable Energy. Located in southwest Minnesota in the proximity of other ALLETE Clean Energy-owned wind turbines, the Chanarambie and Viking wind farms being purchased consist of a total of 65 General Electric turbines producing electricity under existing power purchase agreements with Northern States Power.

“Acquiring these productive renewable projects is consistent with our growth strategy,” said ALLETE Clean Energy President Eric Norberg. “This acquisition makes good sense from an efficiency standpoint due to their proximity to the Lake Benton project we acquired a year ago.”

In January of 2014, ALLETE Clean Energy closed on the purchase of three wind farms from AES Corp. in three different states. Included in that acquisition was a 104MW wind farm in Lake Benton, approximately 20 miles from the Chanarambie-Viking facility. At the same time, ALLETE Clean Energy signed an option to acquire a fourth wind farm from AES, in Pennsylvania, in mid-2015.

In November of 2014, ALLETE Clean Energy finalized a major development agreement with Montana-Dakota Utilities, a division of MDU Resources Group (NYSE: MDU), acquiring the rights to develop a 107MW wind farm near Hettinger, N.D., and then sell the project to Montana-Dakota for approximately \$200 million. In December of 2014, ALLETE Clean Energy finalized the acquisition of a wind generation facility in Storm Lake, Iowa, adding another 108 megawatts to its growing renewable energy portfolio.

“ALLETE Clean Energy is earning a name for itself by adding to its portfolio of assets, renewable generation equipment and solid power purchase agreements with established entities,” said ALLETE Chairman, President and CEO Al Hodnik. “We envision more growth opportunities ahead as the energy landscape evolves.”

EDF Renewable Energy is a leading U.S. independent power producer with more than 25 years of expertise in project development and operations and maintenance services. EDF Renewable Energy is the U.S. subsidiary of EDF Energies Nouvelles, a French renewable energy group.

ALLETE Clean Energy was established in 2011 to acquire or develop capital projects to create energy solutions by way of wind, solar, biomass, hydro, natural gas, and energy infrastructure, clean coal technology and other emerging innovations.

ALLETE, Inc. is an energy company headquartered in Duluth, Minn. ALLETE's energy businesses include Minnesota Power, Superior Water, Light & Power Co., BNI Coal, ALLETE Clean Energy and U.S. Water Services. More information about the company is available at www.allete.com.

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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