

Contact: Keith Pitman, President  
Empire State Wind Energy, LLC  
Phone 315 280 6510  
Fax 315 279 6739

131 Main Street  
Oneida, NY 13421  
www.empirestatewindenergy.com

Empire State Wind Energy

# Press Release

## Empire State Wind Energy and the Town of Benton, NY Reach Windpower Development Agreement

Oneida, New York, October 30, 2007: Earlier this month Empire State Wind Energy, LLC (ESWE) President Keith Pitman met with Benton, New York Town Supervisor Robert Clark to sign a Host Community Agreement. The agreement sets the stage for a large scale windpower project in the scenic Town of Benton (Yates County) in the Finger Lakes region known for agriculture, tourism, outdoor recreation, vineyards, and wine production. The agreement sets an upper limit of 25 wind power generation turbines, and calls for 75% of the project's annual net revenue to be paid to the Town of Benton. Those payments are to be made in addition to any property taxation or negotiated PILOTS (payments-in-lieu-of taxes). Other features of the 15 year agreement include an option for the Town of Benton to purchase the power generation project after 10 years.

The Town of Benton and Empire State Wind Energy, LLC have been involved in discussions about the possibility of a community focused local wind energy project for several months. The Host Community Agreement seeks to create fair win-win partnership opportunities with local governments like the Town of Benton. By structuring an agreement that offers significant financial benefits to all residents, landowners, and taxpayers within the Town of Benton, Empire State Wind Energy will help Benton share broadly in the tremendous economic potential of wind power generation. ESWE President Keith Pitman recently stressed to the Benton Town Board that this is the type of cooperation and communication that will lead to a successful development process; he views the Town as an excellent project partner – not as a regulator or an obstacle.

For Release 10 a.m. EDT, October 30, 2007

*more*

Benton Town Supervisor Robert Clark commented: "The Benton Town Board voted to move forward into the next step toward the possible development of wind energy in the Town of Benton. It is our goal, that by approving this agreement we may interest a development company to proceed in bringing us a solid, productive and profitable wind energy project to our area. Much data must be gathered, planning and work will be done in the next year, to move us closer to our goal."

Pitman explains that: "The Agreement with Benton is historically significant. It sets a new and higher New York State standard for community benefit and community participation in windpower development. We hope to see the Town of Benton prosper as a result of this new opportunity, and we expect that our efforts will serve as an inspiration and model to other communities contemplating wind power generation projects. Our bold actions in Benton will hopefully encourage other municipalities and other project developers to adopt practices that are in the best interests of the rural UpState New York taxpayer, the landscape, the environment, and the economy. The Benton Host Community Agreement calls for an openness that has long been lacking as wind power has rushed into New York, and in some cases as wind power has been pushed in or even snuck in during early stage development".

Reacting to the agreement signing, Town of Benton Deputy Town Supervisor Glenn Quackenbush, a long time Benton resident and local businessman said: "I think green energy is the future of New York State. We should be able to produce lots of electricity with wind and water. In 2 or 3 years, when we see windmills in Benton, I will be proud that I had a small part in it. We (the Town of Benton and Empire State Wind Energy) have worked long and hard on reaching this agreement. I personally think that it will be a huge benefit for all."