

PROJECT PROFILE



Stetson Wind Project Stetson Mountain, Maine

Challenges: An aggressive transmission line schedule
Solution: Alcan Cable's aluminum transmission conductor



JED DAILEY
PROJECT MANAGER
FIRST WIND

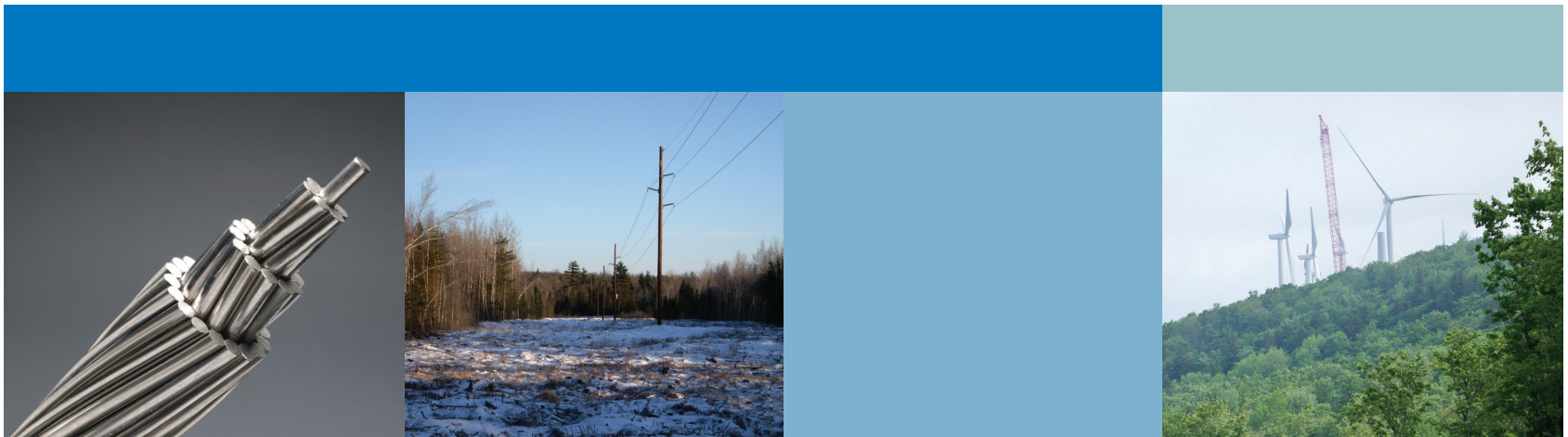
In New England, the wind that whistles off the ocean is an old friend that has always been a part of the charm of the region. But in changing times, it is becoming much more. Thanks in part to pioneers such as First Wind and Alcan Cable, some of the wind offered up by the Atlantic will now end up providing clean, renewable energy for 23,000 homes in the region. And while First Wind will generate the power, Alcan Cable will be instrumental in getting it to where it needs to go.

When Jed Dailey started the Stetson Wind project he knew the largest wind farm in Maine would be a challenge, but First Wind had done it before. In an industry that is very young, First Wind is a relative old-timer at the ripe old age of seven years.

“First Wind was founded in 2002,” says Jed. “That’s a long time ago in this business. In that time we’ve completed one project in Hawaii, two in New York State, and Stetson Wind will be our second project in Maine.”

Based in Newton, Massachusetts with major offices in Portland, OR; Portland, ME; San Diego, CA and Kahului, HI, First Wind has become a major force in the exploding wind energy industry. Having completed five major projects in seven years, they now look to complete four projects in 2009. “The pace is definitely picking up,” Jed puts it modestly. As demand for renewable energy grows, construction and timelines shrink – enter Alcan Cable.

“Under a very short and expedited schedule, Alcan Cable came through,” according to Jed. “With owner supplied materials, there is always a risk of coordination problems and schedule risk. But because Alcan Cable got involved throughout the entire process things went very smoothly. They were more than just cooperative. They were proactive. They didn’t just follow through on their commitments. They become partners in the process.” And what a process it was.





Thirty-eight GE 1.5 MW turbines at maximum output will produce over 167 million kWh annually of electricity, making Stetson Wind the largest wind farm in New England. A lot of transmission line is used on a project like this and under normal circumstances this presents challenges. But Stetson Wind was not normal. An innovative approach to cut overall project costs meant even more line than usual was required.

“We constructed a 115kv line approximately 38 miles to the existing Keene Road Switching Station in Chester, Maine. The route was slightly longer due to siting considerations to reduce environmental impact, including co-location with existing transmission corridors, railroads, etc.” says Jed. “This is part of the reason the quality of Alcan Cable’s service was so important. We required over 200,000 feet of their aluminum transmission conductor and we needed it in short order. They really understand projects of this scale, and they understand the importance of moving renewable energy solutions forward.”

After Stetson Wind, First Wind is off to Milford, Utah to break ground on what could eventually be as large as 1000 MW of installed capacity. Beyond supplying over 375 miles of transmission cable, Alcan Cable will once again provide from a range of value-added services that have become its hallmark. In this case they will not just supply the conductor, they will ship matched reel sets of cable for installation, provide scrap recovery and coordinate the reuse of steel reels.

Milford, Utah is one of the four projects in the pipeline for next year. With a new administration in Washington D.C., and what appears to be an increasing desire to move to cleaner more secure energy, it appears First Wind and Alcan Cable will be expected to deliver on many more renewable energy projects.

“The only thing more rewarding than constructing a successful project is knowing that what you’re doing is good for the planet, and good for future generations. The sooner we can get things done, the better.”

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