



February 22, 2011

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Pat Dowling, Public Information Officer
(843) 280-5612 – office (843) 241-7480 – cell
pcdowling@nmb.us www.NMB.us

City of NMB Adopts Memorandum of Understanding Regarding a Beach Access Wind Energy Grant

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. – On February 21, the North Myrtle Beach City Council passed a resolution approving a memorandum of understanding between the city, the North Strand Coastal Wind Team (NSCWT) and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College regarding a beach access wind energy grant.

The NSCWT received a grant in the amount of \$176,000 from the State of South Carolina to purchase and install up to seven small wind turbines in oceanfront locations within the city of North Myrtle Beach. The memorandum of understanding clarifies the roles that the city, the NSCWT, and Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech will assume with respect to the fulfillment of the grant.

Working with the city, the NSCWT will prepare a bid proposal/package for distribution to potential contractors.

The city may provide up to seven locations for the installment of the wind turbines, and may remove any or all of the turbines, if necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors.

Once installed, the city will assume ownership of the wind turbines and will provide insurance relating to them. The city will maintain the turbines and will safeguard them during a hurricane or other weather related event for which the city is able to make advance preparations.

An instructor from the Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech will participate in the installation of the wind turbines in order to obtain Small Wind Certification through the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.

Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech will also perform data collection, turbine experimentation and develop the educational aspects relating to wind turbine instrumentation.

In addition to providing the wind data to the general public, the collaboration's goals are to stream wind data into Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech's educational program and to provide the wind data statewide via the internet for K-16 education. The data will be comprised of information generated from the turbines located in North Myrtle Beach in conjunction with other projects from across the state. The data will be displayed on an "energy dashboard" to be placed on appropriate websites, which may be utilized by the tourist industry.

###

Important Information About the North Strand Coastal Wind Team

As the North Myrtle Beach wind turbine project grows in scope, please note that it should be identified as a project of the North Strand Coastal Wind Team (NSCWT), and not as a project of the City of North Myrtle Beach. While the city is authorized to speak on behalf of the NSCWT, the city is one of many members of the NSCWT.

The North Strand Coastal Wind Team is comprised of:

- The City of North Myrtle Beach
- Coastal Carolina University: Dr Paul Gayes, Scott Wolfrey
- Clemson University: Nick Regis, who is building the turbine test center in North Charleston.
- Savannah River National Lab: Ralph Nicholson, data interpretation and testing. He is planning to put a LIDAR test station on top of the Avista in North Myrtle Beach to test offshore winds.
- Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College: Dr Jim Payne
- North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce: Monroe Baldwin, Doug Chastain (Economic Development Council). They set up an anemometer test station with technical help from Ralph Nicholson at the Savannah River National Lab, and Dr. Paul Gayes and Scott Wolfrey from Coastal Carolina University.
- Jim Caudle Memorial Reef Foundation: Ron McManus. Any eventual offshore project will need the fishing community's support. The plan is to tie reef development into the offshore turbine bases to enhance fish populations and fishing.
- South Carolina Grant Consortium in Charleston, S.C.: Rick DeVoe
- South Carolina Energy Office: Erika Myers

A Brief History of the North Strand Coastal Wind Team

The North Strand Coastal Wind Team came into being several years ago when Dr. Paul Gayes at Coastal Carolina University was conducting offshore wind speed tests via buoys located off North Myrtle Beach. His project was noticed by Monroe Glass Baldwin III and North Myrtle Beach Councilman Greg Duckworth. The two wondered if the winds were as strong on top of the Avista and other hotels in North Myrtle Beach as they might be out at the buoy locations. They formed the North

Strand Coastal Wind Team and set about involving the north strand community in the exploration of the potential of small wind energy systems.

Later, the Wind Team applied for and received a \$176,000 grant with which to purchase and install up to seven wind turbines on oceanfront sites provided by the City of North Myrtle Beach. Subsequently, the grant was modified to include Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, which had received a grant to develop an alternative energy K-16 education program. (*Horry-Georgetown Technical College does not currently have a wind energy program.*)

Santee Cooper's first coastal wind turbine was recently located in North Myrtle Beach on one of the oceanfront sites provided by the City of North Myrtle Beach to the North Strand Coastal Wind Team. Santee Cooper was experiencing difficulty in getting approval from other coastal cities to set up their wind turbine. The City of North Myrtle Beach had already passed new legislation accounting for the introduction of small wind energy systems within its city limits, and so the transfer of the North Myrtle Beach site was a benefit to Santee Cooper's efforts.

###