

St. Paul windfarm to be developed

A wind farm on the Pribilof Island of St. Paul moved one step closer to reality Friday when the Alaska Power Authority Board of Directors approved \$400,000 to purchase new diesel equipment necessary for the project.

The wind farm, being developed by the city of St. Paul with technical assistance from the Alaska Power Authority, would more than triple the present wind generating capability in the state. A wind farm developer, FloWind Corporation, has signed a letter of intent with St. Paul to build and own the facility and sell power to St. Paul. Detailed contract negotiations are now underway.

Lee Nunn, Chairman of the Power Authority Board of Directors, reflected the Board's enthusiasm for the proposal. "The effort made by St. Paul, FloWind and the Power Authority staff is noteworthy. Not only is this a commercial application of wind technology, but it is vendor owned and privately financed; it brings the private market into its proper role in helping to solve

Alaska's energy problems."

St. Paul, a community of 600, currently relies exclusively upon diesel generation for their electric power needs. The price of electricity to consumers now is in the range of 36¢/kWh. Just over 20¢ of this is the cost of generating electricity with the remainder for distribution and administration. FloWind plans to sell electricity to St. Paul for just under 20¢ which will slightly lower the cost of electricity in the first year of operation and become more advantageous with each year of service.

The Power Authority is assisting St. Paul in negotiations with FloWind for construction of the wind farm. If an agreement can be reached by June 15, construction should start shortly thereafter and be completed by December. The wind farm would consist of six vertical axis turbines which resemble egg beaters. The turbines are over 10 stories tall and span about 60 feet between blades. FloWind expects to generate about 50% from the

diesels to meet all of St. Paul's electric needs.

Secretary of the Interior Donald P. Hodel has signed an agreement to exchange prime headquarters and building sites near downtown Fairbanks, and in Delta, for nearly 5,000 acres of state land with important recreational values at several locations in interior Alaska.

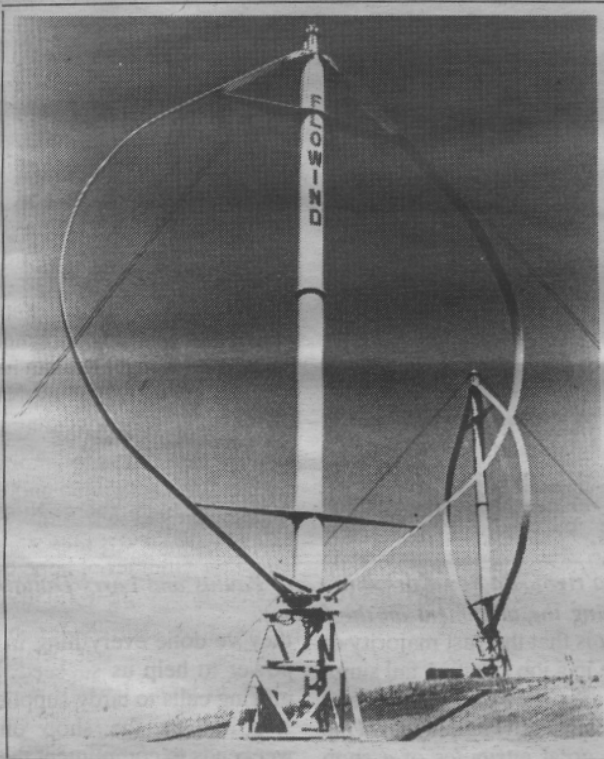
At Fairbanks the State of Alaska will acquire the land and buildings on a 22-acre site already used for offices of the Northern Region of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This is the so-called "Three-and-a-Half-Mile" site, formerly occupied by Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), where the State intends to construct a new office complex. At Delta the State will acquire the Delta Campground and the land and buildings now occupied by the DNR's Northern Forestry Office.

The Department of Interior will receive land on the Gulkana Wild River northeast of Fairbanks, 2,000 acres within the White Mountain National Recreational Area (in a location of low mineral activity) and lands at Circle Hot Springs. State land at the existing Sourdough Campground on the Gulkana Wild River is a developed recreational site currently being managed by the BLM under an agreement with the state. The exchange will provide an opportunity to expand public recreation facilities in one of the most popular rivers in the state. The undeveloped White Mountain exchange lands will remove scattered portions of State-administered land and enhance federal management there. All the remaining parcels, one west of Paxson at Round Tangle Lake, one beside the Circle Hot Springs airstrip (a base for firefighting in Interior Alaska), and several other more

scattered parcels are unimproved.

The BLM and the State of Alaska have been negotiating this exchange for several years, and it is expected to cut long-term operating costs for both agencies. In all, the Department of Interior received the nearly 5,000 acres of back country for 45 acres of valuable and developable land. This equal value exchange will result in long-term benefits for both management agencies in carrying out their missions. The land being acquired by the Department of Interior will enable the BLM to improve the ownership patterns in certain areas for more efficient administration, and the areas acquired by the State will provide optimum headquarters sites for agency officials.

Much of the land involved in the exchange is currently owned by one entity but used or managed by the other by special agreement.



Wind turbines similar to these are expected to be in place on the Pribilof Island of St. Paul by the end of this year.