

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release – December 10, 2009

HEADLINE:

Peace Energy Announces Commissioning of Bear Mountain Wind

DAWSON CREEK, BC – Peace Energy Cooperative (PEC) has announced the successful commissioning of its first project, and British Columbia's first wind utility, Bear Mountain Wind Park. Situated in northeastern BC near the city of Dawson Creek, the wind park is now fully operational and providing green electricity to the South Peace Region and the province through agreement with BC Hydro.

Operating at full capacity, the 34-turbine, 102-megawatt wind park now generates enough renewable electricity to power approximately 35,000 homes, or virtually the entire South Peace Region, the equivalent of about three cities with as many households as Dawson Creek.

"We are excited and proud to be part of this important first for British Columbia," said Steve Rison, president of PEC. "This project sets a high standard for wind energy development in the province. Our partners understood our vision. They made the extra effort to respect and protect our local values and ensured some of the benefits flowed into the local economy. That they still came in on budget and ahead of schedule shows what is possible when industry is willing to work with locals."

Seven years ago, the cooperative secured the rights to develop the wind resource and found a developer to undertake the large-scale utility project, Aeolis Wind Power Corporation of Sydney, BC. Today, Bear Mountain Wind Park is wholly owned by AltaGas Income Trust of Calgary, AB although Peace Energy Cooperative's members retain an interest that will pay dividends for the duration of the 25 year contract. PEC also received a fee for its part in bringing the development to fruition.

Western Canada's first renewable energy cooperative, PEC was started in 2002 with just a few members and a vision of local renewable energy resources providing benefits to local residents. At the end of 2009, with 400 members, it has begun work on new renewable energy developments that will provide new investment opportunities for its members.

"Bear Mountain Wind was a great beginning and there are many other renewable energy opportunities waiting to be developed," said Valerie Gilson, the PEC's Executive Director. "Peace Energy Cooperative has proven that a small group can make a big impact."

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PHOTO CAPTION:

The 102-megawatt Bear Mountain Wind Park was officially commissioned on October 24, 2009. British Columbia's first commercial scale wind facility was started by Peace Energy Cooperative, western Canada's first renewable energy cooperative.

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