



January -February 2007

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## *President's Message...*

Greetings, Members:

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I'm sure you cannot have missed all the latest media coverage about climate change, and how responsive the governments of both Canada and the US are to this issue. Government spokesmen portray their latest programs as leading the world in addressing climate change, while critics claim these same programs are grossly inadequate to effectively address the seriousness of an impending global crisis. Who can you believe?

At PEC, we do not have to choose who to believe; we do not have to wait for governments to show us the way forward. We are taking action now, by promoting and developing renewable energy solutions. The Bear Mountain Wind Park is our biggest effort in this regard, but we continue to pursue other, more modest projects too, such as the BCSEA-sponsored solar hot-water heater project for residences and commercial buildings, wind monitoring and turbine installation projects for the City of Dawson Creek and Northern Lights College, and geothermal retrofits for residences.



As members and supporters of PEC, you are helping to make renewable energy solutions a reality in the Peace region - now, when it counts the most. Plan now to attend our Annual General Meeting on April 12th, and remember, it is always the right time to encourage others to join your energy cooperative!

I'll see you at our AGM!

Steve Rison - President

## *Membership News...*

### Welcome to Peace Energy Cooperative New Members!!

Membership in your cooperative continues to grow each month. We have hit and now passed the 250 member mark, another benchmark celebration point for the cooperative! Through Christmas and birthday gifts, encouragement to neighbours, family and friends, global warming discussions, and membership through incentives, since January 1st we've had 19 new members join us from Dawson Creek, BC, Pouce Coupe, BC, Victoria, BC, Burnaby, BC, Beaver Lodge, AB, Demmitt, AB, Calgary, AB, Gananoque, Ontario and Landsdowne, Ontario! Whew!

We are well spread out across Canada with members from throughout British Columbia as well as North West Territories, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

**Going green is about what's in your head and heart more than the contents of your wallet or bank account.**



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## Update on Bear Mountain Wind Park...

Happy New Year!

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 marked the final day of the Environmental Assessment's Public Comment Period for the Bear Mountain Wind Park Project. As part of Bear Mountain Wind's commitment to public process, we agreed to a 60-day (instead of a 30-day) public comment period and also ensured all local residents were invited to participate in the public meetings early in January. Additionally, Valerie Gilson and Greg Dueck, on behalf of Bear Mountain Wind, braved the weather and January blahs to head out door-to-door to every home within 2 miles (3.2 km) of the project to hear and record questions, comments and concerns.

Overall, the response has been balanced and interest continues in the project. In fact, I understand from Valerie at PEC that membership has continued to grow consistently since the contract award from BC Hydro. This is all good news! We continue to hear, predominately, 5 main questions and/or concerns - to which we have addressed to the best of our ability within the Environmental Assessment application. These include: Sound; Aesthetics/Siting; Flicker/Lighting; Icing; and Property Values. Sound, Flicker/Lighting, and Icing have all been addressed with either third party modelling (in the case of Flicker and Sound) or with new information provided for by manufacturer or permitting process (as with Icing and Lighting respectively). Siting - as in turbine location - has been optimized to utilize the wind resource to its best capacity and maximize the viability of the project: i.e. the turbines cannot be moved to another ridge or location. However, the specific turbine locations within our proposed footprint will still require, post-EA, extensive on-site engineering and geotechnical assessment to finalize. Finally, the aesthetics of the wind park we have demonstrated as best we can with geo-reference modelling and photographs while property values is an unknown that we cannot predict since there are so many factors on how property values are impacted.

The closing of the Public Comment Period in February marked another major milestone for the project. Peace Energy has been working on this for 5 plus years and BMW has been a successful working collaboration for almost 3. As we move into the next stage with the Bear Mountain Wind Park closer to reality, I would like to thank you all for the growing support over the years. There have been points over the last 6 months where the questions and concerns seemed to dominate not only the local media but the project and its process as well. My vision for the future is to see a successful project proudly turning on Bear Mountain while reflecting back and seeing a community-driven process that other projects will strive to emulate. For that, we should be proud now and not wait for the future!  
Cheers, TJ

### Interesting Cooperative Facts....

- Worldwide, 800 million people are members of a co-operative or credit union.
- One in three Canadians is a member of a co-operative or credit union.
- Canadian co-operatives and credit unions have combined assets of approximately \$300 billion.
- Co-ops are found in almost every sector and offer services, literally, from the cradle to the grave --- from daycares through to funeral co-ops.

### Reading this month...The Heat by author George Monbiot.

President Steve Rison read this and now it's going through the ranks and several people are claiming it's a must read! I can't personally vouch for it (yet) but I trust their judgment and it's on my list. I'd be happy to know of any books our members think should be mentioned for must reads!

### New World Record in Wind Energy Capacity

Press Release—January 29, 2007  
World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)  
14.9 GW added in 2006 -Worldwide Capacity at 73.9 GW  
WWEA expects 160GW to be installed by 2010

Five countries added more than 1000 MW: the United States of America (2.454 MW), Germany (2.194 MW), India (1.840 MW) and Spain (1.587 MW) were able to secure their leading market positions and China (1.145 MW) joint the group of the now top five markets and is now number five in terms of added capacity, showing a market growth of 91 %. Five countries added more than 500 MW and showed excellent growth rates: France (810 MW, 107 % growth), Canada (768 MW, 112 %), Portugal (628 MW, 61 %) and the United Kingdom (610 MW, 45 %). The most dynamic market in 2006, Brazil, faced its long expected take off and added 208 MW which equals a sevenfold increase of installed capacity within one year.