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Arguments farfelus - Le Droit

Title: Arguments farfelus

Publication: Le Droit

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Article *This document is provided to you by the Newscan.com service.*

Dernièrement, la ministre fédérale de l'Environnement, Rona Ambrose, a soutenu, qu'en raison de la forte augmentation des émissions canadiennes de gaz à effet de serre, "il faudrait immobiliser toutes les voitures, tous les camions, tous les trains et tous les avions", et même mettre un terme à la production agricole et d'énergie, pour atteindre la cible fixée par le protocole de Kyoto.

La ministre ne pouvait faire preuve d'une plus grande étroitesse d'esprit à l'égard des groupes environnementaux et du Bloc Québécois qui réclament le respect de Kyoto. Manifestement, le gouvernement Harper tente de ridiculiser le principe de la réduction des gaz à effet de serre en y opposant des arguments farfelus.

Soit, les émissions de gaz à effet de serre du Québec proviennent majoritairement du secteur des transports, mais en arguant comme une fatalité qu'il faudrait renoncer à tout déplacement motorisé pour atteindre les objectifs de Kyoto, la logique de la ministre frise la malhonnêteté intellectuelle.

Posons simplement la question : "Comment la Communauté européenne avait-elle réussi, en 2003, à réduire ses émissions de gaz à effet de serre de 1,4 % par rapport à 1990, sans pour autant renoncer aux automobiles, aux trains ou aux avions, ni cesser toute production agricole ou d'énergie ?"

Comment ? Tout simplement en envisageant la réduction des gaz à effet de serre comme le résultat d'un effort global, particulier à chaque pays et auquel participent tous les acteurs de la société - non pas uniquement les citoyennes et les citoyens, comme la ministre se borne à le croire.

Les automobiles consomment en moyenne 6,3 litres aux 100 km en Europe, comparativement à 9,2 litres aux 100 km au Canada. Pas étonnant que les Européens aient réussi à réduire leurs émissions.

Imaginez, il serait possible de réaliser un sixième de l'objectif de Kyoto avec une simple réduction de 30 % de la consommation de nos voitures !

Malheureusement, aucune règle n'encadre l'efficacité énergétique des automobiles qui nous sont proposées et rien ne laisse croire que le gouvernement Harper veut agir dans ce domaine.

Il lui serait pourtant possible d'assujettir les constructeurs à des normes d'efficacité énergétiques plus strictes et d'encourager l'achat de véhicules moins énergivores en abolissant la taxe de vente sur l'achat de véhicules écologiques, par exemple.

De concert avec des fonds pour le transport en commun, la détermination de cibles de réduction pour les grands émetteurs de l'industrie, la mise en place d'alternatives aux centrales électriques au charbon - encore bien présentes dans l'Alberta de la ministre Ambrose - et des investissements massifs dans l'éolien, ce ne sont là que quelques-unes des mesures que le gouvernement Harper pourrait prendre.

Alors que la ministre Rona Ambrose préside la conférence de Bonn sur les changements climatiques qui se tient cette semaine, le gouvernement Harper doit rétablir sa crédibilité en renouvelant l'appui du Canada au protocole de Kyoto et s'engager à présenter un plan de réduction accompagné d'une entente avec le Québec, avant octobre 2006.

Bernard Bigras

Porte-parole du Bloc Québécois en matière d'Environnement

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Summary: ..Il lui serait pourtant possible d'assujettir les constructeurs à des normes d'efficacité énergétique plus strictes et d'encourager l'achat de véhicules moins énergivores en abolissant la taxe de vente sur l'achat de véhicules écologiques, par exemple.

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Province not interested in building gas pipeline to north: Fowlie - Telegraph Journal (web site ref.)

Title: Province not interested in building gas pipeline to north: Fowlie

Publication: Telegraph Journal (web site ref.)

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Byline: David Shipley

Article *This document is provided to you by the NewsScan.com service.*

Province not interested in building gas pipeline to north: Fowlie

By David Shipley
Telegraph-Journal

Energy Minister Brenda Fowlie says the provincial government isn't interested in helping build a natural gas pipeline to northern New Brunswick. "You do need users on the pipeline in order to pay for the cost of the distribution system and that's the big drawback. At this point they do not have companies that are large enough and could go and would support the pipeline," she said Monday. During a forum on economic development held at the New Brunswick Community College campus in Bathurst over the weekend, delegates identified access to natural gas as an important priority to growing the region's economy. Some argued the provincial government should invest in a transmission line for natural gas in the same way it invested in electricity infrastructure for the north and rural areas 80 years ago. It would give the region a level playing field with communities in the province that do have access to natural gas. The issue of access to natural gas for the north has been raging off and on over the past decade, reaching a peak in the late 1990s when it appeared the province, the federal government and a private firm would establish a natural gas power plant in the northwest. Such a plant would have consumed the amount of gas necessary to make a pipeline feasible. But those plans never materialized, nor did a pipeline to carry gas to the north. In 2002, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline told the National Energy Board the demand in the north would equal roughly 15 to 20 million cubic feet of gas per day. However, the \$275-million project would require about 200 million cubic feet per day of consumption to be feasible, the company said. Ms. Fowlie said it was up to the private sector to show there's enough demand for a pipeline and then to work with companies such as Maritimes & Northeast and Enbridge Gas to build a distribution network. As for helping the north, Ms. Fowlie said the five-year, \$25-million Miramichi Regional Economic Development Fund and similar programs in the Acadian Peninsula and Restigouche-Chaleur areas show the province is paying attention to the region. "We really are trying to focus on ensuring that the north is viable," she said. Ms. Fowlie said the province's investment in electrical infrastructure is different than ensuring access to natural gas. "Everyone has electricity, so they do have an energy source, so that's a little different than saying they have to have natural gas as an energy source." Though a pipeline to the north isn't likely to get the support of the province, the region will see the development of alternative energy in the form of wind power plants. Some of the plants, which are to be built as part of NB Power's plan to have up to 400 megawatts of wind power by 2016, will be located in the north, said Ms. Fowlie. While the province is reluctant to help with a natural gas project, gas companies say they'd be interested in a potential partnership. "We'd love to be able to distribute gas to northern New Brunswick customers. (But) we don't have a transportation main through to northern New Brunswick and that's really the holdup right now," said Mark Wise, spokesman for Enbridge Gas New Brunswick. "If there was a transportation company that would want to build a pipeline to the north, we'd be there, there's no question we would want to sign and attach both homeowners and businesses to natural gas." Stephen Rankin, a spokesman for Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, said the company hasn't looked at a pipeline to the north in years. He couldn't estimate the current cost for such a project today because of the need for new information on the type of pipeline that would be used and on which communities it would reach.

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Summary: Province not interested in building gas pipeline to north: Energy Minister Brenda Fowlie says the provincial government isn't interested in helping build a natural...Fowlie said the province's investment in electrical infrastructure is different than it ensuring access to natural gas."Everyone has electricity, so they do have an energy source, so that's a little different than saying they have to have natural gas as an energy source."Though a pipeline to the north isn't likely to get the support of the province, the region will see the development of alternative energy in the form of wind power plants. Some of the plants, which are to be built as part of NB Power's plan to have up to 400 megawatts of wind power by 2016, will be located in the north, said Ms. Fowlie. While the province is reluctant to help with a natural gas project, gas companies say they'd be interested in a potential partnership. "We'd love to be able to distribute gas to northern New Brunswick customers. (But) we don't have a transportation main through to northern New Brunswick and that's really the holdup right now," said Mark Wise, spokesman for Enbridge Gas New Brunswick. "If there was a transportation company that would want to build a pipeline to the north, we'd be there, there's no question we would want to sign and attach both homeowners and businesses to natural gas." Stephen Rankin, a spokesman for Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, said the company hasn't looked at a pipeline to the north in years. He couldn't estimate the current cost for such a project today because of the need for new information on the type of pipeline that would be used and on which communities it would reach....





Turning the tides of power; NSP boss - The Chronicle-Herald

Title: Turning the tides of power; NSP boss

Publication: The Chronicle-Herald

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Byline: Our Staff

Article *This document is provided to you by the NewsScan.com service.*

Nova Scotia is going to take a go-slow approach to developing its tidal power potential, Energy Minister Bill Dooks says, after an international study found it to be the most promising location in North America for the alternative energy source.

"We need to proceed slowly," Mr. Dooks said at a news conference Monday in Dartmouth announcing the results of a new tidal study that said Nova Scotia has the potential to produce 300 megawatts of power from its waters.

"Communities need to be consulted, policies need to be developed and the environment needs to be protected."

The \$400,000 study, conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute of California over the past 15 months, identified eight potential sites for tidal power projects on the Nova Scotia side of the Bay of Fundy, which has among the most powerful tides in the world, and the Bras d'Or lakes in Cape Breton.

The study concludes a tidal power pilot project should be undertaken to better understand the technology. That would take five to seven years, at a cost of about \$5.1 million.

The study also predicts it would be at least a decade before any tidal power development became commercially viable and says the price tag to develop a 288-megawatt project would be roughly \$485 million.

Ralph Tedesco, Nova Scotia Power's president and chief executive officer, said he is "bullish" on tidal power and is keen to undertake a demonstration project in the Bay of Fundy with other partners to pay for the multimillion-dollar tab.

"We would be willing to put up a significant portion of that (amount) in order to move this technology forward," Mr. Tedesco told reporters. "What I think makes this particularly promising is it's one of the best resources in the world. It simply makes sense to take a more thorough look at it."

Before the tidal technology can be hooked up to the power grid, it must be economically feasible, said Mr. Tedesco.

"These projects can often seem very simple on the surface," he said.

"There are an enormous number of considerations that have to be taken into account to be successful.

""The real question is can we develop this in a way that is economical, that works for our customers, (is) environmentally friendly and that balances all needs for our stakeholders?"

NSP operates the only tidal power facility in the Bay of Fundy, at the 20-megawatt Annapolis Tidal Generating Station at Annapolis Royal, which produces enough electricity for 3,000 homes and has been in operation for almost 20 years.

Mr. Tedesco said the pilot project would probably be conducted in the Bay of Fundy at one of two locations identified by the study. The report found two sites on the bay had the greatest potential for power generation: the Minas Passage at 166 megawatts and the Minas Channel at 131 megawatts.

"Nova Scotia has tremendous ocean energy resources: tidal, wave, offshore wind, rivers," said Roger Bedard, who co-authored the study on Nova Scotia's tidal potential and released the results at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.

"People have known this for hundreds of years, so what's different is that we have a new technology for extracting tidal power," Mr. Bedard told reporters, referring to new underwater turbines.

Sandra Farwell, a policy analyst with the Energy Department, said the province is working on the rules and regulations surrounding the development of new tidal power.

"It is possible that we could do a demonstration project and work on the policy concurrently," she said.

The study was funded by the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick governments, Maine, Massachusetts, Alaska, Washington and California.()

© 2006 The Chronicle-Herald - Halifax. All rights reserved. Ralph Tedesco, president of Nova Scotia Power, responds to the release of an international study on potential tidal power project sites at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth on Monday afternoon. Nova Scotia was identified as the best location in North America to develop tidal power, with possible commercial implications. (Eric Wynne / Staff)

Roger Bedard, co-author of an international study, recommends a pilot project on tidal power. (Eric Wynne / Staff)

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Vent de protestation contre les éoliennes - Le Soleil

Title: Vent de protestation contre les éoliennes

Publication: Le Soleil

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Byline: Larouche, Marc

Article *This document is provided to you by the NewsScan.com service.*

Les audiences du BAPE se succèdent à un rythme d'enfer à Rivière-du-Loup. Après le projet de port méthanier de 700 millions \$ à Gros-Cacouna la semaine dernière, c'était au tour hier du projet éolien Terravents, de 350 millions \$, d'être entendu par la commission et ses 19 ministères et organismes invités.

Curieusement, l'ouverture des audiences n'a attiré qu'une centaine de personnes. Les interventions présentées étaient toutes négatives. Plusieurs ont souligné le caractère improvisé du projet controversé, piloté par la torontoise Sky Power.

Il faut dire que les responsables ont dû le modifier rapidement il y a quelques semaines, après l'adoption par la MRC de Rivière-du-Loup d'un règlement de contrôle intérimaire (RCI) qui a forcé le déplacement de 84 des 134 éoliennes. L'implantation de 44 est maintenant prévue à Cacouna, 27 à l'Isle-Verte, 28 à Saint-Arsène et 35 à Saint-Épiphanie. Le maire de cette municipalité, Jean-Pierre Gratton, a justifié sa requête d'audiences publiques par le fait que le nombre prévu d'éoliennes, qui est passé de 19 à 35, a soulevé un tollé.

"Une pétition de 290 noms a été déposée. Sur 658 électeurs, c'est beaucoup", dit-il. La porte-parole du comité de citoyens et lui, ont souligné le manque de transparence de Sky Power. "L'emplacement des éoliennes est trop près des habitations, les impacts visuels négatifs seront majeurs et nous appréhendons la même chose pour le côté auditif. Les résidences seront certainement dévaluées à cause de l'érection de 35 éoliennes d'une hauteur de 121,5 mètres."

M. Gaétan Malenfant, du Comité de recherche et d'intervention en environnement du Grand-Portage, s'est aussi inscrit en faux. "L'éolien est une réponse sensée, contrairement aux énergies fossiles, mais nous demandons une audience publique considérant la façon irrespectueuse du promoteur de présenter son projet. À peine ses responsables ont-ils rencontré les maires."

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Intermittency and storage - Gristmill

Title: Intermittency and storage

Website: Gristmill

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

URL: <http://gristmill.grist.org/story/2006...>

Summary: One of the annoying arguments against solar and wind power is 'intermittency' the fact that the sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow. This allegedly proves that solar and wind can't be anything more than add-ons to a more reliable coal-based grid. I say 'annoying' because I don't have a solid easy comeback. But it something about it sticks in my craw. The obvious way to address the problem would be storage store the energy and use it when the sun/wind isn't 'on.' But store it how? If we ever produced electric cars or even plug-in hybrids the batteries therein could be used as a kind of distributed storage feeding into the grid when circumstances require it. Or we could develop industrial-scale batteries. I've heard some interesting stuff about using methanol to store the energy. And of course there's always hydrogen fuel cells. Robert Rapier discusses storing wind energy as compressed air based on this MSNBC story. Sounds promising to me. Anybody out there know more about this stuff? What's the best way to overcome intermittency?



INDUSTRY NEWS



Hydrogen Engine Center Receives Order for Hydrogen Power Generator 250kW Generator for Wind/Hydrogen Demonstration - PR Newswire via iWon

Title: Hydrogen Engine Center Receives Order for Hydrogen Power Generator 250kW Generator for Wind/Hydrogen Demonstration

Website: PR Newswire via iWon

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

URL: http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt_ge...

Summary: ALGONA, Iowa, May 16, 2006 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- Hydrogen Engine Center, Inc. (HEC), (HYEG) today announced that it has received a \$179,000 CAD (\$161,211 USD) order through its wholly owned Canadian subsidiary, Hydrogen Engine Center Canada, from Natural Resources Canada for a 250kW power generator or "genset."

The genset utilizes the company's new proprietary 4+1(TM) technology, which enables substantial power to be generated in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly manner.

Natural Resources Canada, an agency promoting the sustainable development and responsible use of Canada's mineral, energy, and forestry resources, will integrate this genset into a wind/hydrogen project on Ramea Island off the southern coast of Newfoundland, Canada. Electric power and hydrogen will be generated from wind energy and under slack wind conditions, hydrogen will be used to create electric power. This reduces or eliminates the need to use fossil fuels to generate electric power when the wind is not blowing, thereby reducing operating costs and making wind projects of this kind environmentally clean.

"The use of hydrogen in wind projects looks very promising for smoothing out the peaks and valleys in wind energy production," said Ted Hollinger, HEC president. "This demonstration of 4+1(TM) 250kW genset technology leads our participation in the booming wind power generation market. The use of 4+1(TM) wind/hydrogen systems is the next logical step in improving energy delivery from environmentally friendly wind systems."

The novel 4+1(TM) genset design utilizes five hydrogen-fueled 4.9 liter internal combustion engines. Four of the engines work together to produce electric power and one is kept in reserve to ensure high reliability and easy maintenance. The whole system is controlled electronically by a sophisticated and proprietary controller designed by the Hydrogen Engine Center Canada....



INDUSTRY NEWS



Investing: Wind farms becoming bond-market collateral - Marketplace by Bloomberg - International Herald Tribune - International Herald Tribune Business Asia

Title: Investing: Wind farms becoming bond-market collateral - Marketplace by Bloomberg - International Herald Tribune

Website: International Herald Tribune Business Asia

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

URL: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/05/1...>

Summary: Electricity producers that make power from wind turbines are turning to the bond market for the first time in two years as record oil prices increase demand for renewable energy sources.

So-called wind farms are groups of wind-driven turbines. Electricity from them has tripled since 2000 to 59,000 megawatts globally and will grow to 151,000 megawatts in the next eight years, according to the German Wind Energy Institute in Wilhelmshaven.

Banks are financing projects in Europe by bundling assets from several wind farms to provide collateral for bonds that yield about as much as, or more than, regular debt securities.

"The trend now is to pool different projects together," said Alex Moss, senior credit analyst at Insight Investment Management in London, which manages fixed-income assets including wind-farm bonds. That way, "it doesn't matter if one wind farm doesn't work," he said.

HVB Group, a unit of UniCredit, the biggest Italian bank, sold 470 million, or \$597 million, in bonds this month to pay for 39 wind farms in France and Germany, a project called Breeze Two. At least that much may be sold to finance more projects, and the market may grow to 5 billion in coming years, said Dagmar Buhl, an HVB banker in Munich who arranged the deal....





Manager looks to GE for growth - Financial Post (web site ref.)

Title: Manager looks to GE for growth

Publication: Financial Post (web site ref.)

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Byline: Sonita Horvitch

Article *This document is provided to you by the NewsScan.com service.*

Manager looks to GE for growth

Also finds value in consumer products and airlines With its global financial services and diversified manufacturing base, General Electric Co. is well positioned to take full advantage of important trends in the world economy and in medical science, says U.S. blue-chip specialist Jim Wineland, senior vice-president and portfolio manager at Waddell & Reed Inc.

"This stock, which is my biggest holding in the portfolio at more than 4%, is a slow, but steady, cooker." It could well suit a conservative investor with a five-year horizon, adds this veteran U.S. money manager.

Chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt has restructured this company, which is based in Fairfield, Conn., to concentrate on a number of key areas, he says. With the current world focus on alternative energy, GE is at the forefront of both wind and solar power as well as nuclear power plants, says Wineland.

In medical technology, the company has a significant presence in electronic imaging (MRIs) and is moving into electronic record keeping for the medical profession.

In addition, there is GE's more traditional role as an important provider of commercial loans and leasing and consumer finance, says Wineland. "This is still its single, largest business." It also remains a major manufacturer of industrial products such as aircraft engines for the "booming aerospace industry" and diesel locomotives for the "expanding railroad industry."

The stock was once the "darling of growth managers in the '80s and '90s and has since fallen out of favour. It is currently reasonably priced, he says.

GE is capable of delivering EPS growth of 15% per annum, says Wineland, and the stock trades at 17.5 times his 2006 estimates and 15 times his 2007 estimates.

At Waddell & Reed, based in Kansas City, Wineland's responsibilities include Toronto-based Mackenzie Financial's Mackenzie Universal Blue Chip Fund. Wineland has been involved in managing the core U.S. equity portfolio for Waddell & Reed since 1997. He is responsible for managing more than US\$5-billion in assets.

On the U.S. equity market, Wineland's call is that it could consolidate or pull back at this juncture having produced such a strong performance over the past 12 months. "There are pressures building up that will curtail the market," he says. For example, long-term interest rates are rising and there is also the possibility, in Wineland's view, that the U.S. Federal Reserve Board has not yet completed its tightening program.

Wineland's approach to stock selection is to first assess the big picture so as to identify themes and sectors to emphasize. He then highlights the leading players in those sectors. His investment horizon is longer term and his investment themes and sector weightings also tend to hold for the longer haul.

This money manager has been a firm believer in the energy sector for a number of years with a particular emphasis on U.S. energy services companies. The U.S. blue-chip portfolio has been overweight this sector relative to the S&P 500 Index and this has been the major contributor to the portfolio's outperformance. He considers that the demand/supply equation favours firm oil prices. "But the stocks have had a stellar run that it will be difficult for them to continue to deliver such a strong performance," he says.

In the interests of prudent portfolio management, Wineland has taken some profits in his energy services holdings. For example, he has trimmed two leading oil services stocks, though they still represent major holdings:

Baker Hughes Inc. It is still 4% of this U.S. blue-chip portfolio. This stock was one of his picks in the column of April 16, 2003, when it traded at US\$28.01.

Schlumberger Ltd. This stock was one of his picks in the April, 2003, column when it traded at US\$37.76.

As a hedge against a possible drop in oil prices, Wineland has established a "small position" in the airline sector.

These companies stand to substantially benefit from a reduction in fuel prices, he says. Furthermore, airline companies are currently experiencing strong demand for their services. Their much-discussed financial difficulties have prevented them from adding capacity, which is giving them some pricing power, he says."

But he cautions that "these are highly cyclical stocks with earnings that can fluctuate widely."

Here are his two airline picks:

Southwest Airlines Co. Based in Dallas, Tex., this company "is the leader in a troubled industry and is the best-quality large cap airline stock." His EPS estimates are US70 cents for 2006 and US80 cents for 2007.

AMR Corp. Based in Fort Worth, Tex., this company is a worldwide leader in scheduled air transportation. This stock is also liquid and AMR is one of the better-quality players, says Wineland. His EPS estimates are US\$1.60 for 2006 and US\$3 for 2007.

A consumer staple stock that has done well, but which he considers still offers a good defensive holding, should the U.S. equity market come under pressure, is Colgate-Palmolive Co. Based in New York, this company is a global leader in the sale of toothpaste and other oral care products.

It is also a leader in other personal care products including its Palmolive soap, which is one of the world's leading soap brands. It also makes household cleaners.

"The company has been working hard to keep its costs under control," says Wineland. Colgate's chairman and chief executive, Reuben Mark, is close to retirement and "is determined to leave the company in good shape." The succession plan is in place and it will be "fairly seamless."

Wineland's EPS estimates are US\$2.90 for 2006 and US\$3.20 for 2007.

- Waddell & Reed Inc. may hold positions in the securities mentioned.

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SPOTLIGHT

AMR CORP.

Ticker: AMR/NYSE

Closing Price: US\$27.63

52-week range: US\$10-\$29.32

BAKER HUGHES INC.

Ticker: BHI/NYSE

Closing Price: US\$80.21

52-week range: US\$41.81-\$88.76

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY

Ticker: CL/NYSE

Closing Price: US\$59.65

52-week range: US\$48.55-\$61

GENERAL ELECTRIC CO.

Ticker: GE/NYSE

Closing Price: US\$34.56

52-week range: US\$32.21-\$37.34

SCHLUMBERGER LTD.

Ticker: SLB/NYSE

Closing Price: US\$67

52-week range: US\$32.31-\$74.75


SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

Ticker: LUV/NYSE

Closing Price: US\$16.26

52-week range: US\$13.05-\$18.20

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End Date : 2006-05-20

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Summary: Manager looks to GE for growth

Also finds value in consumer products and airlines With its global financial services and diversified manufacturing base, General Electric Co. is well positioned to take full advantage of important trends in the world economy and in medical science, says U.S. blue-chip specialist Jim Wineland, senior vice-president and portfolio manager at Waddell & Reed Inc.

"This stock, which is my biggest holding in the portfolio at more than 4%, is a slow, but steady, cooker." It could well suit a conservative investor with a five-year horizon, adds this veteran U.S. money manager.

Chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt has restructured this company, which is based in Fairfield, Conn., to concentrate on a number of key areas, he says. With the current world focus on alternative energy, GE is at the forefront of both wind and solar power as well as nuclear power plants, says Wineland.

In medical technology, the company has a significant presence in electronic imaging (MRIs) and is moving into electronic record keeping for the medical profession....





North America to have adequate power this summer: Industry group forecasts electricity shortages could be seen in California - Vancouver Sun

Title: North America to have adequate power this summer: Industry group forecasts electricity shortages could be seen in California

Publication: Vancouver Sun

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Byline: Christopher Martin

Article: NEW YORK -- Electricity supplies in North America will be adequate this summer as air conditioning pushes demand to an annual peak, although parts of California and Connecticut will be at risk of blackouts, an industry group said.

The margins of excess power are "expected to be about 17 per cent, whereas last summer they were 17.5 per cent," Kevin Dasso, chairman of the reliability assessment committee for the North American Electric Reliability Council, said in a conference call with reporters. "This is continuing a downward trend we've seen since the summer of 2003."

Power supplies will have increased by 1.4 per cent over last summer, with 11,800 megawatts of new capacity, mostly from natural gas-fuelled plants and wind turbines. Demand has grown an average of 1.4 per cent annually over the past 10 years. The forecast covers the U.S., Canada and part of Mexico.

Southern California and southwestern Connecticut may not have enough transmission capacity to prevent blackouts during the hottest weather, the group said. Power-plant failures combined with hotter-than-normal weather in those areas could force grid operators to cut off some customers to prevent damage to the grid and widespread blackouts.

"As it has been in past years, the Connecticut region may face reliability problems due to transmission constraints into and within that region," the report said.

To alleviate shortages, power-grid operators have arranged to shut off customers that use 250 megawatts, or enough for about 200,000 homes. New transmission capacity will be added to the region over the next few years to improve reliability.

Southern California relies on importing power from neighbouring regions to meet demand, and transmission lines into the area will operate close to capacity for much of the summer. Edison International's Southern California Edison utility, the second-biggest utility in the U.S., may need to cut supplies to some customers if transmission falters.

Two new gas-fuelled power plants opened in Southern California since last year: Edison's 1,054-megawatt Mountainview plant, and Sempra Energy's 550-megawatt Palomar plant.

Those plants make up for the loss of Edison International's 1,580-megawatt Mohave coal-fuelled plant in Nevada, which was shut at the end of last year.

Summary: NEW YORK -- Electricity supplies in North America will be adequate this summer as air conditioning pushes demand to an annual peak, although parts of California and Connecticut will be at risk of blackouts, an industry group said.

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INDUSTRY NEWS



Vestas Loss Shrinks on Higher Demand for Windmills (Update1) - Bloomberg Energy

Title: Vestas Loss Shrinks on Higher Demand for Windmills (Update1)

Website: Bloomberg Energy

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

URL: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pi...>

Summary: May 16 (Bloomberg) -- Vestas Wind Systems A/S, the world's biggest windmill maker, said its net loss narrowed in the first quarter as high oil prices spurred demand for wind energy.

The net loss shrank to 3.4 million euros (\$4.4 million) from 35.2 million euros a year earlier, Randers, Denmark-based Vestas said today in a statement on Stockwise. Sales increased 44 percent to 715 million euros. The company kept its full-year profit target.

``It's been quite some time since Vestas surprised on the positive side, and these earnings were better than expected," said Jacob Pedersen, an analyst at Sydbank in Denmark. ``The market momentum in the wind energy sector is very positive, and Vestas confirms this by talking about increased interest in wind turbines." He rates the stock ``overweight."



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



project Peace Energy looks to fund small wind demo - Peace River Block Daily News

Title: project Peace Energy looks to fund small wind demo

Publication: Peace River Block Daily News

Date: Monday, May 15, 2006

Byline: Lee Kaiser

Article: The Peace Energy Cooperative wants the Peace River Regional District to help it get government funding for a small-scale, wind energy demonstration project which would promote renewable energy.

The project would install up to four turbines of five to 100-watts at "strategic" locations in the South Peace. In a letter to the board it lists the Gwillim Lake Outdoor Education Camp owned by School District 59; a local industrial wood products manufacturer; several local ranchers or farmers; Northern Lights College; and the City of Dawson Creek.

"All costs for the installation, operation, and maintenance would be closely monitored, as would electrical output," cooperative president Steve Rison said in a letter to the board. It was essential to the project, he said, that any surplus electricity be fed back through the electrical meter to BC Hydro's distribution grid.

On Thursday, at their regular meeting, PRRD directors approached the request cautiously, and asked to look at detailed plans from the group before forwarding it along to the Northern Development Initiative Trust for possible funding. Many wanted proof the public benefits would outweigh the huge costs that would be involved.

"Shouldn't we actually see letters of support from these potential participants," chair Karen Goodings said in reference to the proposed demonstration sites. "They would be receiving a benefit if these turbines produce the electricity. But there's going to be a huge amount of investment required and my understanding is the return on investment wasn't there unless the Kyoto Tax Credits were also available, which is being slowly nibbled away at."

A delegation of Peace Energy and Aeolis officials did appear at a previous PRRD meeting to update directors on their proposed wind park project on Bear Mountain. At that time, they said they would be going after the environmental tax credits if successful.

Area E director Tim Caton said PRRD support of the project might be seen as playing favorites with public funds.

"I have ranchers in my area that have already spent upwards of \$20,000 in solar panels to pump water from various places to be environmentally friendly and without any assistance from NDI or any small company to test anything... That's just my concern," Caton said.

Chetwynd director and mayor Evan Saugstad said under new NDIT procedures, applicants had to fill out an application form which the cooperative could download from the NDIT's website.

"With that submission there should be a letter of support from a local government that says if it's approved that local government would be willing to sponsor it and look after the money," said Saugstad, who represents the board as chair of the Northeast Regional Advisory Committee which forwards funding requests to the NDIT.

Directors voted to invite the cooperative to a board meeting with the additional information.

Summary: The Peace Energy Cooperative wants the Peace River Regional District to help it get government funding for a small-scale, wind energy demonstration project which would promote renewable energy.

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



Vents contraires pour Skypower - SRC Est du Québec

Title: Vents contraires pour Skypower

Publication: SRC Est du Québec

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Article *This document is provided to you by the NewsScan.com service.*

L'ouverture des travaux du Bureau d'audiences publiques en environnement (BAPE) sur le projet de parc éolien de Skypower, à Rivière-du-Loup, lundi soir, a été l'occasion pour plusieurs citoyens de faire valoir leur mécontentement. Vents contraires pour Skypower Mise à jour le mardi 16 mai 2006, 12 h 00 .Le projet éolien de Skypower a été sévèrement critiqué lundi soir à Rivière-du-Loup à l'occasion de la première assemblée du Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement. Présentation du projet de Skypower lors de l'annonce des intentions de l'entreprise. Skypower projette d'ériger un parc de 134 éoliennes sur le territoire de la MRC de Rivière-du-Loup. Le projet est évalué à 350 millions de dollars. L'entreprise torontoise a été accusée de faire preuve d'une totale improvisation et d'un manque flagrant de transparence. Même les partisans de l'énergie éolienne lui reprochent son manque de respect envers la population locale. Gaétan Malenfant du Comité de recherche et d'intervention en environnement croit que les promoteurs risquent de saboter une bonne idée par leur maladresse et le manque de respect envers les processus démocratiques. À Saint-Épiphan, une des quatre municipalités où les éoliennes doivent être installées, la moitié de la population adulte a signé une pétition contre le projet. Dans la version révisée du projet de Skypower, Saint-Épiphan compterait 35 plutôt que 19 éoliennes de 121 mètres de hauteur. Pour le maire de Saint-Épiphan, Jean-Pierre Gratton, le projet vient détruire l'habitat du village tant par l'emplacement des éoliennes, à proximité des maisons, que par un effet négatif majeur sur le paysage. Face aux critiques, le promoteur soutient que son projet est toujours en évolution. Le responsable de l'étude d'impact, Robert Demers, rappelle l'historique de la conception du projet: «à l'abord été monté sur des considérations techniques, des considérations économiques. Par la suite, on a apporté des éléments au niveau environnemental. » Visiblement Skypower semble avoir sous-estimé la sensibilité des citoyens à la protection du milieu naturel de même que l'importance du paysage pour l'industrie touristique de la MRC. Hyperliens BAPE Projet d'aménagement d'un parc éolien dans la région de Rivière-du-Loup Radio-Canada n'est aucunement responsable du contenu des sites externes

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Les inventeurs cherchent à améliorer le monde - Le Quotidien

Title: Les inventeurs cherchent à améliorer le monde

Publication: Le Quotidien

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Byline: Gagnon, Mélyssa

Article *This document is provided to you by the NewsScan.com service.*

Colby Mainil et Mike Ehman n'ont qu'une idée en tête : commercialiser leur chaise roulante révolutionnaire capable de monter ou de descendre une marche ou un trottoir.

Le duo d'inventeurs s'est inspiré d'un fauteuil roulant standard et y a ajouté une cinquième roue et deux leviers latéraux pour en faire un appareil pour lequel les escarpements ne représentent aucun obstacle.

"La tante de ma copine est atteinte de sclérose en plaques et ça m'a donné l'idée de perfectionner un fauteuil roulant différent. Nous voulions créer quelque chose de simple et de pratique, qui pourrait aider le million d'utilisateurs de chaises roulantes manuelles du Canada", résume Colby Mainil, qui fera prochainement son entrée en génie à l'Université de la Saskatchewan. Il aura fallu 150 heures aux deux garçons pour perfectionner leur chaise. Les adolescents souhaitent faire breveter leur invention au cours des prochains mois et admettent que leur prototype a suscité énormément d'intérêt dans leur province d'origine.

Éolienne

L'énergie éolienne n'est pas seulement d'actualité au Québec. Le gouvernement de l'Ontario étudie lui aussi la possibilité d'exploiter cette forme d'énergie renouvelable. Adam Robarts, 12 ans, a mis sur pied un projet basé sur la puissance des vents, parce qu'il voulait "faire quelque chose d'important pour notre planète". L'un des plus jeunes participants d'Expo-sciences pancanadienne a confectionné sa propre petite turbine à partir de tuyaux faits de PVC et d'un moteur miniature. Grâce à un simple ventilateur multi-vitesse domestique, le Torontois a mis à l'épreuve deux formats d'hélices.

"Je me suis rendu compte que la petite hélice est plus efficace lorsque la turbine éolienne est située à proximité de bâtiments", d'expliquer le scientifique en herbe. Adam Robarts confie qu'il aimerait bien oeuvrer dans le domaine des sciences environnementales. Il suit d'ailleurs de très près le débat entourant le protocole de Kyoto et l'approche du gouvernement canadien à cet égard.

© 2006 Le Quotidien. Tous droits réservés. FAUTEUIL - Le duo formé de Colby Mainil (photo) et Mike Ehman a perfectionné un fauteuil roulant révolutionnaire.

Lévesque, Jeannot ÉOLIENNE - Le Torontois Adam Robarts, 12 ans, est l'un des plus jeunes participants à l'Expo-sciences pancanadienne 2006 et il s'intéresse à l'énergie éolienne.

Lévesque, Jeannot

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