

## From the Desk of the President

Welcome to the first monthly issue of the RVT Wind Division newsletter! The current legislation and political climate have made green energy sources, and wind power in particular, a vital component of construction's future. RVT is committed to providing the wind industry with the same excellence in quality control we have given to core services. Each month, we will discuss the latest news, tips, and developments in this fast-growing sector. In particular, we will have a monthly feature called "Things You Should Know". See the list of upcoming articles below for future topics.

We hope you find this information valuable. Please feel free to contact us with any input, thoughts, or requests.

Sincerely,  
Alex E. Barker, P.E.

### IN THE NEWS...

#### First Large-Scale Wisconsin Wind Farm Celebrates Ten Years of Operation

Congratulations to Madison Gas & Electric for over 10 years of operation on the Rosiere wind farm facility! RVT provided QC testing for the project in 1999. Since then, its 17 turbines have generated enough electricity to power 3,000 homes annually.

#### Wind Energy Potential in Michigan

Although Scandia Wind LLC has faced some opposition from the public since its announcement of a planned large-scale wind farm on Lake Michigan, officials are focusing on the project's potential to create thousands of jobs both during its construction and for its ongoing operation. Hard-hit by the recession, Michigan would greatly benefit from the Aegir Wind Farm and the others which will surely follow it.

#### Legislation

Although the focus has always been on large-scale wind farms, renewable energy also has its place in small turbines (100 kilowatts or less) for business, home, and farm use. A federal investment tax credit (ITC), provided by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, applies to equipment installed between October 3, 2008 and December 31, 2016. The ARRA of 2009 has now uncapped the value of the credit.

#### Upcoming Articles

Future newsletter issues will include the following topics:

- \* Proactive quality management – avoiding delays
- \* Important things to remember – start up/organizational needs
- \* Condition surveys: existing county roads
- \* Importance of rebar inspection
- \* Importance of timely concrete placement
- \* Options for marginal strength concrete
- \* Hot weather/cold weather concrete
- \* Options for when things don't go correctly
- \* Mix consistency/testing of epoxy grout
- \* Yield checks
- \* Tensioning (and importance of 90-day retention)

#### Nebraska Seeks to Join Wind Energy States

A highly praised state bill was introduced recently in a legislative hearing to permit private developers to construct wind farms in Nebraska, on the provision that at least 90% of the energy produced is exported out of the state. To date, Nebraska's power—including wind growth—is controlled completely through public utilities.

#### Quotes

- "The nation that leads in the creation of a clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the 21st-century global economy." – President Barack Obama
- "The DOE [U.S. Department of Energy] found that 20% wind energy is feasible and would carry with it a host of benefits for our economy, environment and energy security, including half a million jobs." – Rob Gramlich, AWEA Senior VP-Public Policy
- "You know, my dad was in oil in the early 80's when it went bust. It's here one day and gone the next. But with these windmills, they put them up, they're there. They're not going away." – Kim Johnson

#### Customer Testimonial

**"Your staff was very responsive, cooperative, and provided a level of service surpassing what I have come to expect from other firms. Your team's willingness to go the extra mile to accommodate numerous unexpected situations helped make the projects run smoothly...We look forward to working with you on future projects."**  
– Trevor Wickie of Larson Engineering, on RVT's work on the Fowler Ridge, Blue Sky/Green Field, and Cedar Ridge Wind Farm projects.