

April 18, 2013

TEMPLETON WIND TURBINE BACK IN SERVICE!!!

There is some great news for the residents of Templeton: the John R.S. LeClerc Wind Turbine behind the Narragansett Regional High School is again generating electricity as of April 18th. This wind turbine had been down for three months due to a mysterious sound emanating from its gearbox.

After several months' worth of e-mails, phonecalls and visits to the wind turbine site from Jahnel-Kestermann (JaKe), the gearbox manufacturer in Germany, a final inspection report was issued to the Templeton Municipal Light and Water Plant (TMLWP) from JaKe. In their (JaKe's) own words, "The visual inspection as well as the vibration measurement indicates a good condition of the gearbox. For the whole gearbox no action is recommended."

The TMLWP Commission, Manager and all of our Employees can now breathe a sigh of relief and inform our customers that we are back in the power generation business. Extreme caution was exercised by the Commission, the Manager and the Light Superintendent at the onset of this mysterious sound coming from a visually normal and otherwise normally operating gearbox. Due to the serious nature of the most recent gearbox problems in both Princeton, MA and in Portsmouth, RI, a decision was made on January 18th to disengage the wind turbine from its generator set until a diagnosis was performed by JaKe.

It had been difficult for both the Commissioners and the Employees of the TMLWP to explain to residents in town why the unit had been out of service since January without a real explanation as to why. The delivery of this report from the gearbox manufacturer has instilled in us nothing but confidence that the John R.S. LeClerc Wind Turbine will generate electricity for many more years to come.

"All vibration levels are below the limit given in VDI 3834," says JaKe in their report about the results of their Vibration Level Measurement segment. The VDI 3834 is a Danish vibration displacement standard used to quantify the movement of gearbox components in on-shore wind turbine generators rated in their output from 100 to 3,000 Kilowatts. Further from JaKe, "The vibration spectra (do) not give any indication for a defect."

The TMLWP plans to have this final inspection report from JaKe posted on the TMLWP's website as soon as possible so that the town's residents can read the report on their own time. The TMLWP Commission and all of its Employees would like to take this opportunity to thank Templeton's residents for their patience and understanding over the last three months.

John M. Driscoll
General Manager