

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Michael E. Trinacty
 Councillor Gary W. Whittier
 Councillor J. Richard Horsburgh
 Councillor Beth Easson
 Councillor Anna Ashford-Morton
 Councillor Donald E. Clarke
 Superintendent Don Regan, Berwick Electric Commission
 Mr. Ron Reeves, BEC Commissioner
 Mr. John Rainforth, BEC Commissioner
 Mr. Scott Travers, Minas Basin Pulp and Power
 Mr. John Woods, Consultant
 Mr. John Douglas, Ventus Energy
 Mr. Mike MacLean, Accountant
 Mr. Bob Ashley, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Michelle Millett, Recording Secretary

1. Chairman Prall called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. and Mr. Regan introduced Mr. Scott Travers, of Minas Basin Pulp and Power, Mr. John Douglas of Ventus Energy and Mr. John Woods, Consultant.

2. **New Business**

(a) **Ventus Energy Presentation**

Mr. John Woods distributed a hard copy of the presentation and initiated the presentation by discussing Nova Scotia's existing electricity market. He relayed that NSPC had been in a monopoly situation for power purchase and supply for many years until the Open Access Transmission Tariff was approved in May of 2005. He explained that under this new regime the six municipal units (Municipal Electric Cooperative ~ MEUNSC) members would be permitted to seek competitive supplies of power. Mr. Woods also noted that there was now a greater emphasis across the country on renewable energy sources such as wind power.

The MEUNSC's had issued a tender call for alternate supplies of electricity and Ventus Energy had been selected to begin negotiations regarding an alternate supply of electricity. Mr. John Douglas, of Ventus Energy explained that Ventus Energy was a wind farm development company from Toronto. He discussed current wind farms in the Maritimes and explained reasons for the escalation of wind power energy distributed in Canada. Mr. Douglas indicated that politicians of the day had implemented policy that allowed companies like Ventus Energy to exist. Mr. Douglas relayed that wind power lent itself well to the climate in Nova

Scotia. He compared the implementation of wind farms across the country to changes that occurred in the past with the telecommunications industry.

Mr. Douglas discussed the exposure involved in an increase in prices of electricity and how contracting for a twenty year period would allow municipalities to reduce the risk associated with the supply of electricity. Ventus Energy had investigated a number of sites as possible locations for Nova Scotia's first wind farm in partnership with the Jodrey's (Minas Basin Pulp and Power). He explained that a contract with Ventus Energy would lock in pricing at 7.8 cents/kWh for a twenty year period under contract.

Mr. Travers explained that for sixty years Minas Basin had been generating electricity and the company was committed to the potential fabrication of a wind farm site. Mr. Douglas explained that hydro power was a useful backup to complement the wind energy production of electricity. He relayed that wind power could be generating electricity at a site by 2007 and explained that the proposal by Ventus Energy dealt with price certainty, stability, reduction and the reduced risk of rising electrical costs through an all-In energy contract.

Deputy Mayor Trinacty asked if the contract would be contingent on all members of the MEUNSC contracting with Ventus Energy. Mr. Douglas explained that the economies of scale would necessitate all or most members to contract with the group. Deputy Mayor Trinacty next asked if energy could be purchased with a varying demand by the MEUNSC if requirements changed over the time frame of twenty years. Mr. Douglas replied that there was a requirement to match energy required and energy sold.

Mr. Reeves enquired regarding the affect that contracting with Ventus Energy would have on the working relationship with Nova Scotia Power Inc. and Emera were MEUNSC to contract with Ventus. Mr. Douglas noted that NSPC was favorable to the alternate energy businesses and relayed that the power purchased by municipal utilities would only be a small portion of the power generated by NSPI. Mr. Travers noted that that relationship with NSPI must be solid in order to utilize NSPI's transmission lines to supply the power.

3. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the Special Council meeting at 6:29 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Michelle Millett
Recording Secretary