

## **FRONT PAGE**

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### **BQ Energy and UPC Wind break ground on Steel Winds Wind Farm In Lackawanna**

An official "slag breaking" ceremony hosted by Erie County Executive Joel A. Giambra was held on Friday, September 15 to mark the start of construction of the 20 Megawatt (MW) wind farm, known as Steel Winds, in Lackawanna.

Participating in the ceremonial groundbreaking were Lackawanna Mayor Norman Polanski and several other industry and area leaders.

At the start of commercial operation later this year, Steel Winds will produce sufficient electricity to satisfy the needs of approximately 6,000 Western New York homes.

The power will be sold into the NYS Independent System Operator (ISO) grid for sale to retail customers.

The project has been developed and will be owned by UPC Wind of Newton, Massachusetts and BQ Energy of Pawling, NY.

The wind turbines will be supplied by Clipper Wind Power of Carpinteria, California.

Steel Winds will be the first commercial installation to use the new Clipper 2.5 MW Liberty series wind turbine. These turbines are assembled in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Erie County Executive Joel A. Giambra noted that the County has long supported the development of wind energy:

"Erie County is proud to have been leading the efforts for the development of this wind farm for the past several years. We have worked closely with NYSERDA since the initial wind studies to determine the best location along the shores of Lake Erie to implement this project.

"I view this project as not just a great success in helping to achieve the Governor's executive order on the renewable portfolio standard but also as a catalyst for redevelopment of the remainder of this former industrial site and economic development opportunities that will benefit the residents of Lackawanna

and all of Erie County.

"We are excited that BQ Energy, UPC Wind along with Clipper Wind Power have decided to install the newest generation of wind turbines here on the shores of Lake Erie."

Steel Winds is unique in several aspects most notably due to its site. The wind farm is being constructed along the shores of Lake Erie on property which formerly housed a Bethlehem Steel steel mill.

The integrated mill ceased operations in 1983, and the property has been largely dormant since that time.

Due to its proximity to metropolitan Buffalo, and Lake Erie, Steel Winds will likely be the most visible urban wind farm of its size anywhere in the world.

Steel Winds is also located approximately 20 miles south of Niagara Falls, reinforcing the regions historic legacy as a worldwide center for renewable energy.

"Western New York was built on a history which embraced using our natural resources, such as our proximity to fresh water and the mighty Niagara Falls, to improve our economy and the quality of life for local residents," said congressman Brian Higgins, who facilitated the requisite Environmental Protection Agency approvals which will allow this project to move forward.

"Now we have the opportunity to see what is natural to our environment breathe new life and a new future into a site begging for redevelopment."

The project is situated on the Lake Erie shoreline where the winds will be strongest. The ground that the turbines will be installed on is actually composed of steel slag produced as a byproduct of the former steel making operations and stockpiled along the lakefront.

"Working on a brownfield site' of this type has tremendous advantages" noted Paul Gaynor, President and CEO of UPC Wind. "We have avoided the need to construct new roads or new offsite transmission lines by reusing those left over from the steel making operations. It is a very efficient and environmentally compatible installation."

The project has been supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).