

PROJECT CASE STUDY

69 MW WINDFARM IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

PROJECT SUMMARY

Bridgestone Associates was contracted by Catamount Energy, Rutland, VT to identify suitable sites for windfarm development in Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts. Among a number of suitable sites, Bridgestone identified and negotiated for a ridge line property on Laurel Hill near Liberty in Lycoming County, PA. Bridgestone assisted Catamount Energy in the early stages of development of the project which was subsequently delayed significantly by challenges to local zoning. A 69 MW windfarm was ultimately constructed after all zoning challenges were resolved.



PROJECT STATISTICS

Client:	Catamount Energy, Rutland, VT
Project Type:	Wind
Size:	69 MW
Unit Sizes:	30 x 2.3 MW Siemens Wind Turbines
Energy Storage:	None
Turnkey Cost:	Confidential
Plant Location:	Laurel Hill Ridge, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, USA
Plant Elevation:	Approx. 2,100 – 2,250 feet above sea level
Interconnection Voltage:	34.5KV

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Bridgestone Associates was contracted by Catamount Energy of Rutland, VT to conduct a study to identify suitable sites for large scale windfarm development. The primary target areas were Western Massachusetts, Eastern and Central New York, and Eastern and Central Pennsylvania.

Using detailed topographical, wind, and utility transmission line maps, Bridgestone's team completed an office study to identify numerous sites in the primary target areas that could be suitable.



The team then conducted an on-ground survey of each of these potential sites in order to further determine their suitability for a large scale wind farm development. A number of sites were ruled out due to such things as existing windfarm developments, local residences and communities, shadowing from nearby mountains, distance to suitable transmission lines, predominate wind direction, etc.

After completion of the on-ground surveys, Bridgestone recommended to Catamount Energy five sites in New York, two sites in Western Massachusetts, and three sites in Pennsylvania. After detailed review and discussions with the client it was agreed to proceed immediately with the site located on the Laurel Hill Ridge near Liberty, PA and obtain an option to control the site from the existing landowners.

The proposed site was predominately owned by a single landowner and used for hunting. The elevation of the ridge line was approximately 2,100 to 2,250 feet above sea level with a steep escarpment on the northwest side rising about 400 – 500 feet from the valley below. With predominate wind direction of west-northwest, and no shadowing mountains in the near vicinity, the ridge was ideally suited for windfarm development.

Bridgestone took the lead with the landowner in obtaining site control and assisted Catamount Energy in the early stages of development of the project thereafter. Zoning was obtained from the local authorities but this was subsequently challenged resulting in many years of litigation and a final approval of the zoning by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Supreme Court. By the time the project was constructed in 2012, Catamount Energy had been sold to Duke Energy, the current owner of the project. Once construction commenced Bridgestone received a success fee for the project. This was approximately nine years after the initial site identification study.

