

Introduced by: Dan Leinberger, Council Member  
Date: August 9, 2005  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 6-0

## *CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA*

### **Resolution # 05-31**

#### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WIND POWER DEVELOPMENT IN BETHEL AS A WAY TO REDUCE/ELIMINATE THE COST OF ELECTRICITY TO THE CITY, OTHER PROFIT-AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES, AND/OR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE**

**WHEREAS**, wind data collected in Bethel from December 2004 to July 2005 at a height of 30 meters revealed an average wind speed of 17 miles per hour and a Wind Class 6 power rating, indicating strong wind energy development potential;

**WHEREAS**, wind turbines typically require wind speeds in excess of 8-10 miles per hour to generate electricity and a Wind Class 4 or greater for commercial wind development;

**WHEREAS**, intermittent, gusty winds commonly occurring in Bethel are better for wind energy production than steady, low-velocity winds;

**WHEREAS**, according to experts with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, wind energy production downtime due to excessive wind speeds greater than 45 miles per hour would not be an issue of concern for *Bethel*;

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Energy Authority expressed interest in having Bethel serve as a wind energy hub that could help share its wind energy project experience, training, technical expertise, and distribute parts and supplies to villages in the Kuskokwim region;

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, published a fact sheet that lists ten wind energy benefits:

- wind energy is economically competitive with other ways to produce and operate energy-producing facilities
- wind turbines do not consume water, unlike most other electricity generation sources
- wind energy is an indigenous, homegrown energy source that contributes to national security
- wind energy is inexhaustible and infinitely renewable
- wind energy has many environmental benefits
- wind energy production reduces the risk associated with fossil fuel prices

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- wind energy is likely to be the cheapest source of electricity for the future distribution of hydrogen generation
- wind energy can be used in a variety of applications
- wind energy has overwhelming public support because it does not pollute the air or lead to debilitating illnesses
- wind energy is a valuable crop of the future for farmers and ranchers;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel plans to spend \$778,000 on electricity for its nine departments in Fiscal Year 2006, an amount worthy of research into a wind energy capital investment that has the potential to reduce, eliminate, and possibly generate revenue over expenses over a reasonable period of time;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council supports wind power development in Bethel as a way to reduce/eliminate the cost of electricity to the City, other profit- and not-for-profit entities, and/or the community as a whole.

**ENACTED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2005 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.**

  
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Hugh Dymert, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Sandra Modigh, City Clerk