

## **210-MEGAWATT GLACIER WIND FARM BECOMES STATE'S LARGEST**

Gov. Brian Schweitzer and NaturEner USA officials celebrated the completion of the state's largest wind farm south of Ethridge on Wednesday.

At 210 megawatts, the \$500 million Glacier Wind Farm, which is located in Toole and Glacier counties, is now Montana's largest, surpassing the 135-megawatt Judith Gap wind farm in Wheatland County.

"This wind farm is one of the reasons Montana is on the map as a leader in wind energy development," Schweitzer said.

NaturEner USA began construction of the Glacier Wind Farm near Shelby in 2008. It is to be built in two phases.

Schweitzer spoke at the official ground breaking of the first phase on July 17, 2008. The 106.5 megawatts of power from that phase went online at the end of October 2008.

With the completion of the second phase, the entire 210-megawatt output is now on the electrical grid, according to the governor's office.

San Diego Gas and Electric, an investor-owned utility in California that serves 1.2 million customers, is purchasing some of the power produced at the Glacier Wind Farm.

NaturEner is planning another large wind farm in that area, called the Rim Rock, a deal that Schweitzer said he helped cement during a September trip to Spain, where the company is headquartered.

Rim Rock is about 25 miles due north of the Glacier project. The \$800 million project will feature 206 turbines generating 309 megawatts of power, making it one of the largest wind farms in the Northwest.

Construction of the project will coincide with that of the Montana Alberta Tie Line, a transmission line connecting the city of Great Falls with the grid in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Glacier Wind Farm created more than 350 construction jobs, according to the governor's office. It is estimated the Rim Rock project will create more than 500 construction jobs.

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