

Prairie Wind Celebrates 1 Year in Service

By Wade Rahn

On December 16, 2019, Prairie Wind Turbine crossed the first anniversary of being put in service.

In its first year of production, the turbine posted impressive numbers by producing 10,496,507 kWh, with 100% of the output used by all of the district customers. In addition, Prairie Wind lowered the demand charges on PCRPPD's wholesale power bill by producing during peak times. When all billing factors were combined, Prairie Wind had a net savings of \$157,447.61 for PCRPPD and its customers.

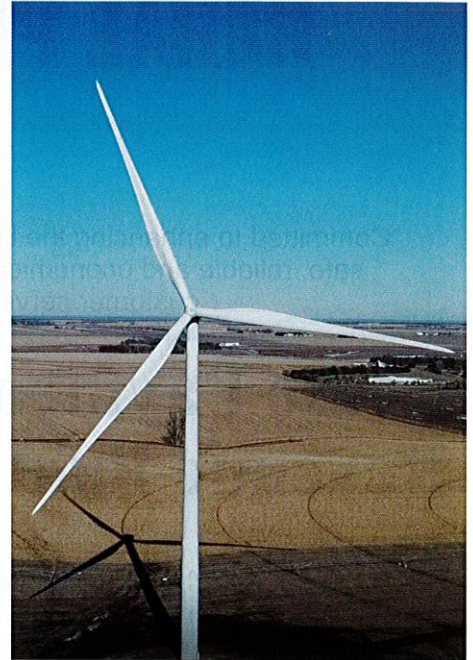
Randy Reese, PCRPPD's Operations Manager, said, "It's been impressive to see it in operation. The integration has been seamless into our system, and it has exceeded our expectations on every level."

The turbine was able to produce electricity 87% of the time, with the remaining 13% being from lack of wind and maintenance being

performed. Taking into account the unit being offline for maintenance and the wind not always being at an optimal level or blowing at all, the total generation capacity factor was 48%. This capacity factor impressively exceeds the national average of 40%.

"This has been an exciting project for both our customers and the District by allowing us to learn first hand about renewable energy and see the pride and excitement our customers have about the project," said Barb Fowler, PCRPPD's Technical System Manager.

Phil Burke, PCRPPD's General Manager, commented: "This project is a direct reaction to our customers' desires to pursue a renewable energy project that would not have a negative impact on electric costs." He continued by saying, "This project has been exciting to be a part of, and I'm pleased there has been little negative feedback or any impacts from this project."



Standing at 499' tall to the southwest of Osceola, the 2.5 mW wind turbine nicknamed "Prairie Wind" provides renewable energy to all the PCRPPD's customers.