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## Interview with a wind power executive

February 22, 2009

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Blue H USA last year proposed building a 120-turbine floating wind farm 23 miles southwest of Martha's Vineyard. Since then, the company has applied to the Minerals Management Service, or MMS, to install a demonstration unit at its proposed site. The Times recently interviewed Blue H USA general manager Raymond Dackerman at a San Diego conference on finance and investment for wind energy projects.

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Q: Where is Blue H in permitting its pilot unit?

A: In March, we submitted our "nomination for lease" with the MMS. It was told to us that it looked that by July we would have the determination of our nomination for lease. That hasn't happened. Now with the new administration taking office, there is great hope that our nomination for lease will be approved. If we have an approval in the next six months it is conceivable that we could have the unit out there for the following summer.

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Q: You have a prototype that has been out in the water off of Italy. Did it work?

A: The prototype was launched in 2007 and was fully installed last summer. It's already been tested in harsh wind and wave conditions, in winds beyond 80 mph and average wave heights that in the U.S. would be equivalent to 40-foot seas. So it's been a successful testing of the unit in the Mediterranean. As we speak, we're constructing our first commercial unit, which will be installed in the summer of 2009.

Q: What do they do in Europe that is different?

A: They include true costs as far as pricing electricity. In other words, the fact is when we or other sections of the world import oil there's an employment factor that's taken into consideration in the European pricing model. By having jobs locally produced by renewable energy development, they pay a premium. There's a regulatory regime in place in Europe. We don't have that yet in the U.S.

Q: How has Blue H reacted to the credit crunch, or is it something that is not a concern at this point?

A: The credit crunch is a concern to everyone in the industry, no doubt. In our stage of development, once we receive a favorable ruling on our nomination for lease we believe with confidence that we are going to have the resources to build out that unit and move forward with our development efforts.

Q: Is there a site you have in mind for the construction of the turbines? Is it in Cape and Islands waters?

A: We've had meetings with a number of locations, a number of entities that are up and down the East Coast. Once we have our nomination for lease approved, we'll get some construction bids at that point and we'll make a determination. Keeping in mind that time to market is critical ... we're going to do as much as we can locally. But in this case, as we've already been delayed and we're behind the rest of the world with deep-water wind energy development, it's important that we get a unit out there as quickly as possible.

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power2162 (frank1956)  
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On February 22, 2009 at 7:55 AM , power2162 (frank1956) said:

Q: Does the Minerals Management Service, or MMS have some problems of their own with cocaine use and is there an investigation ongoing?  
A: "The investigation also concluded that several of the officials "frequently consumed alcohol at industry funct... Full Message

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