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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR CROWN CITY WIND ENERGY PROJECT SUBMITTED TO LEGISLATORS FOR REVIEW**

CORTLAND, NY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012:

Air Energy TCI Inc (TCI) submitted its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in support of the 72MW Crown City Wind Energy Project (the "Project") to the Lead Agency (Cortland County Legislature) on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012. The Project is expected to generate enough clean and renewable electricity to power 30,000 New York homes<sup>1</sup>.

The DEIS contains detailed information and discusses the impacts, mitigations and benefits of the Project. The DEIS is now with the County Legislature for review and it is expected that they will release this for wider public review before the end of September.

A public Scoping process was conducted to determine the content of the DEIS prior to submission such that the document addresses local concerns and issues, that are relevant to the requirements of SEQRA. Prior to this, TCI had undertaken three public open houses and also undertook a door-to-door information drop across the Project area, during summer 2012, whereby over 450 homes were visited and provided with Project information.

Approval of the Draft EIS by the County Legislature, for public review marks the beginning of the public comment period and is not approval of the Project. The document will also be released to the relevant agencies (Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, involved Town Boards etc.) for comment at this time. It is anticipated that the

County Legislature will also schedule a public hearing to provide an additional forum for the public to provide comment on the DEIS.

**Gareth McDonald, Development Manager for TCI stated;**

*'submission of the DEIS is a big personal milestone that results from my five year involvement in developing the Crown City Wind Project on behalf of TCI. During that time I have had the pleasure to get to know many landowners, residents and elected representatives and I look forward to working with them, the local community and other stakeholders as we progress towards the Final EIS over the next 6 – 12 months, and beyond that to the realisation of a project that will contribute to reducing New York states' consumption of fossil fuel'*

As soon as the DEIS has been released, hard copies will be made available locally and electronically on TCI's website ([www.tcir.net](http://www.tcir.net)).

**Benjamin Brazell, Principal at edr Environment, stated;**

*'edr is pleased to produce the DEIS for TCI for the Crown City project, particularly given it is located close to our offices in Syracuse. Of the dozens of DEIS documents edr has produced for wind energy projects located in NY State over the last 10 plus years, the DEIS submitted to the Cortland County Legislature, is among the most detailed and all-encompassing DEIS's we have produced to date'.*

A recent study by the Natural Resources Defence Council shows that 4.3 jobs are created for every MW of wind energy deployed, meaning 305 direct and indirect jobs would result from the Crown City Wind Project<sup>2</sup>. The Project would see the installation of 44, GE 1.6MW wind turbines on the hills surrounding the County Landfill. The Project will also contribute between \$17 - 21 million dollars locally over the lifetime of the project, through a PILOT scheme and local landowner payments.

TCI is an experienced developer across the UK, Canada and US. Currently 191MW of wind projects originated by TCI are under construction in Canada. A pipeline of a further 2,000MW is currently in various stages of development across the US, Canada and the UK.

The Crown City Wind Energy Project is currently being developed for an anticipated 2014 construction schedule.

**Brett O'Connor, TCI's Operations Director for North America, stated;**

*'We have heard the community's desire to learn more about the proposed project and believe that the DEIS will provide a lot of answers and a platform for dialogue going forward. Whilst we have drafted the DEIS to be compliant with the requirements as set out in the final Scope and relevant to SEQRA we have also addressed questions regarding TCI's business model and track record which is, rightly so, important to the local community'*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/american-wind-farms.asp>

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**About TCI Renewables:**

TCI Renewables is a leading independent renewable energy business that develops wind energy projects across the UK and North America. The company has a track record in developing both merchant (behind the meter) wind projects for major clients and also medium to large scale green field sites. The company has successfully developed 325 MW of project to achieve long-term power purchase agreements in Ontario and Quebec, of which 191 MW is currently in construction. TCI Renewables was established in 2005 with a dynamic team of industry professionals. The business is based in Oxford (UK) with offices in Belfast (Northern Ireland) and Montreal (Canada) developing wind farms in the UK, Ireland and North America. Our ethos is to apply intelligent solutions in the delivery of quality projects for our partners within a growing and ever more complex industry.

**About edr:**

**edr** has been involved in the environmental review and permitting of numerous commercial wind power projects in New York State since 1999. **edr** has also led (or provided significant assistance to) the permitting efforts for wind projects in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and we have obtained State Siting Board approval for three wind power projects in Ohio. In both New York and Ohio, **edr** permitted the first commercial wind projects in the state. Consequently, **edr** is very familiar with the various environmental and community concerns associated with wind power development.

**edr's** experience, success, and "first ever" milestones associated with New York State wind power is unmatched. **edr** has been involved in over 20 wind power projects in New York, which includes eight projects that are operational (or currently under construction), totalling approximately 670 MW of installed capacity.