

For immediate release

Leading Environmental, Conservation & Wind Energy Groups Launch New Institute:

NRG Systems' Jan Blittersdorf Named Vice Chair

Hinesburg, VT—Jan Blittersdorf, CEO of NRG Systems, was named vice chair of the American Wind Wildlife Institute (AWWI). Recently formed by 20 of the nation's top science-based conservation and environmental groups and wind energy companies, AWWI is a first-of-its-kind collaboration with a mission of facilitating timely and responsible development of wind energy while protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat. AWWI will do this through research, mapping, mitigation and public education on best practices in wind farm siting and habitat protection.

“Addressing global climate change demands a higher level of collaboration between different sectors and interests,” says Blittersdorf. “Development of clean, renewable wind energy and wildlife protection need not be mutually exclusive goals. It’s my pleasure to work with industry and non-profit leaders to make this vision a reality.”

AWWI will begin with an operating budget of \$3 million for its first two years. To carry out its mission, AWWI will focus on conducting research, promoting sustainable development, funding biodiversity protection, and educating the public about the interplay between wildlife and wind turbines.

Scientific, conservation and wind industry leaders believe that wind energy must play an important role in combating climate change. Understanding that wind power is already one of the cleanest and most commercially viable energy sources, AWWI will help the industry serve as an example for other energy sectors by proactively addressing potential biodiversity impacts as wind energy is more widely deployed.

As its first order of business, AWWI hired Kraig Butrum as its president. Butrum, formerly with the National Park Foundation and Conservation International, brings 25 years of experience in non-profit administration to AWWI.

“The time is now for America to address global climate change, diversify its energy base and lessen its dependence on foreign sources of oil,” said Butrum. “I look forward to hitting the ground running in order to provide the research and information needed to meet our nation’s goal to triple development of wind energy in the next few years while protecting biodiversity and critical habitat.”

The seven non-profit founding organizations of AWWI include: Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club and Union of Concerned Scientists.

In addition to NRG Systems, the remaining twelve founding AWWI industry members are: AES Wind Energy, BP Wind Energy, Babcock & Brown, enXco, Clipper Windpower, E.ON, GE Energy, Horizon Wind Energy, Iberdrola Renewable Energies USA, Nordic Windpower, Renewable Energy Systems Americas and Vestas Americas.

About NRG Systems

NRG Systems’ wind measurement equipment can be found on every continent in more than 130 countries, serving electric utilities, wind farm developers, research institutes,

and government agencies. The Hinesburg company, founded in 1982, has been nationally recognized for its LEED gold-certified manufacturing facility and its employee best-practices. With the recent addition of its 100th employee, NRG Systems has doubled its workforce in just three years. For more information on NRG Systems, Inc., visit www.nrgsystems.com.

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