

Town of Hull Municipal Lighting Plant

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OPERATIONS MANAGER

Hull Wind 1 and 2 updates

I wanted to update the residents of Hull on the status of the wind turbines. Over the past few months we've had problems with both turbines resulting in extended periods of time when they did not operate.

Hull Wind 2, which is located in the landfill, was down for approximately one month this winter due to broken yaw motor gears. Yaw motors are what rotate the turbine to align it in the direction of the wind. There are four motors in the turbine, and all four gears needed to be replaced. Due to its age, parts had to be special ordered by the technical repair team, as they are no longer in the manufacturer's inventory. It has since been repaired and is back in service.

Hull Wind 1, located next to the High School, has been out of service for approximately two weeks. Initial diagnosis showed wear on the bearings inside the gearbox. A more detailed inspection will be done in the next couple of weeks to determine the true cause and formulate a plan. We will keep you posted as this progresses.

Both turbines are now over 15 years old, with Hull Wind 1 entering its 21st year in service. As with everything mechanical, they are bound to suffer from wear and tear of normal use, especially while exposed to the harsh and unforgiving elements of coastal New England. Additionally, due to their age and scarcity, many of the parts needed to keep them functioning in top shape are either no longer being manufactured, or not commonly available in the aftermarket, hence the extended periods of time when something goes wrong with either one.

Town and Light Plant Manager, Phil Lemnios, along with the Light Board, foresaw this scenario a few years ago, and created a Decommissioning Fund specifically to address the future of the turbines, which have a useful life of approximately 20 years. On Mr. Lemnios' direction, Light Plant Engineering and Operations staff has been researching all options, while keeping the vision of Hull as being a leader in clean, non-carbon emitting and renewable energy.

Please keep checking back in the future as we will post updates as they happen.