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SP AusNet's major project update

Victoria's electricity transmission network owner and operator, SP AusNet, has been working on major projects to connect wind, water and gas-generated electricity to the grid.

Two of these projects in western Victoria, AGL's wind farm at MaCarthur and Origin Energy's gas-fired power station near Mortlake, are on-track to supply electricity to the network in the next 12 months.

SP AusNet Energy Solutions Manager, Con Sarantopoulos, said that these projects will improve supply reliability and cater for increased consumer demand.

"SP AusNet is helping facilitate the construction and connection of new sources of energy, some renewable, to the electricity grid," Mr Sarantopoulos said.

"These projects will help strengthen our energy network that delivers a secure and sustainable energy supply to meet the future needs for Victorians," he said.

SP AusNet was awarded the tender to build the terminal station at AGL's 420 MW wind farm, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.

The MaCarthur wind farm will have 140 turbines that will generate enough energy to power the equivalent of 220,000 average Victorian households for a year and save 1.7 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

"We've recently started construction of the terminal station, in particular, benching the site before we lay the foundations at the MaCarthur wind farm, which is expected to supply around 420 MWs of clean, green wind energy into the network via the 500kV Moorabool - Heywood transmission line," Mr Sarantopoulos said.

"Once we complete the terminal station, the project will start feeding electricity into the grid at the end of 2012, with all 140 turbines to be built by early 2013," he said.

SP AusNet is also assisting Origin Energy to commission its 550 MW gas-fired power station at the Mortlake terminal station that is operated and maintained by SP AusNet.

"At Mortlake, we've consulted on the design and construction of the terminal station and built the line deviation assets that will feed the electricity generated from the two 225MW gas turbines also to the Moorabool - Heywood transmission line," Mr Sarantopoulos said.

In addition to these two milestone projects, SP AusNet has also connected six embedded generators to its distribution network including Melbourne Water's hydro plants now operating at Silvan, Sugarloaf, Olinda and at Upper Yarra Dam, and Land Management System's gas fired generators at Wollert and Hallam.

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