

Building Gambell's Wind Turbine Foundations



Gambell, designated as a class 7 (superb) wind site, will reap the benefits of generating power from wind sometime this year. AVEC is installing three Northwind 100 wind turbines and integrating them into its new, automated diesel generation system.

Crews have been working steadily to prepare the site for the wind tower foundations. This project also required digging a big trench to bury the underground distribution line and fiber optic cable communication system between the wind turbines and control module at the power plant.

The crew building the concrete foundation pads had things a little easier in Gambell than in other communities. The site is located on non-frost-susceptible pea gravel and needed none of the special preparation required at other locations.

A cement mixing truck was also brought in and used for mixing and pouring concrete, instead of mixing it in a big bucket and using a crane to lift and pour the concrete into the rebar framework. These photos show some of the process involved in preparing the wind tower foundations.



Preparing foundations at Gambell's wind tower site.





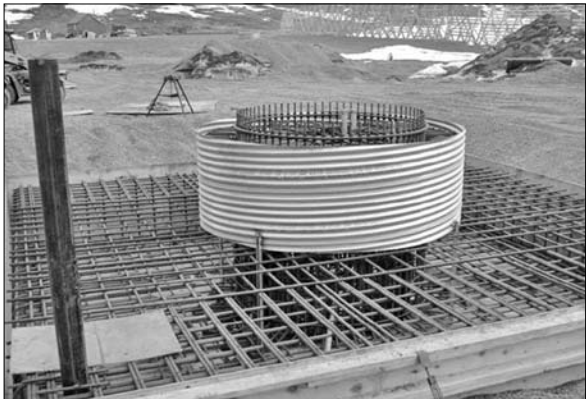
Crews dug a trench to bury the power and communication lines.



Crews built wind tower foundation platforms out of rebar.



A wind tower section sits at the site, awaiting installation.



Photos courtesy of STG, Inc.



Heavy equipment got stuck offloading and moving the wind tower from the barge.



A tower foundation pad after concrete was poured.