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American Samoa set to Witness Lower Electricity Rates with Proposed 42-Megawatt Wind Turbine Project

The Lemanu-Talauega administration is pleased to announce a groundbreaking initiative that will pave the way for lower electricity rates and a sustainable energy future. With the proposed 42-Megawatt(MW) Wind Turbine Project with battery storage, American Samoa is set to achieve significant progress in its renewable energy goals. Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga shared, "This project represents a significant step forward in our commitment to provide affordable and sustainable energy options for our territory. Lower electricity bills will not only ease the financial burden on our residents but also stimulate economic growth and improve the overall quality of life in American Samoa."

American Samoa has long been committed to reducing its dependence on fossil fuels and embracing clean and sustainable energy sources. In 2016, the American Samoa Renewable Energy Committee (ASREC) set a goal for the Territory to be 50% renewable by 2025 and 100% by 2040. American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) is currently at 7% renewable with Photovoltaic (PV) Solar systems. The ASREC has explored other renewable energy resources such as Geothermal and OTEC, but concluded that wind and solar energy are the best alternatives for American Samoa. Recognizing wind energy as a viable solution, ASPA has collaborated with industry experts to develop a comprehensive plan that will revolutionize the energy landscape of the territory.

Once completed, the 42-Megawatt wind turbine project will have an immediate positive impact on the community. This new initiative will enable ASPA to purchase the electricity produced at a lower rate. The June 2023 Residential kWh rate is at $0.39, with a recent high in September 2023 of $0.54. This rate fluctuates with the rising cost of diesel fuel. However, the proposed electricity rate once the project is online will reduce electrical costs by up to 50%. The benefits of reducing rates will extend beyond just residential customers; businesses and industries will also see an improvement in their bottom lines. The potential savings can be significant and contribute to increased profitability, competitiveness, job creation, and overall economic growth.

In the upcoming months, ASPA intends to provide additional information to the public as well as conduct public outreach to further inform our residents. In order to ensure that this renewable energy project can coexist with the environment and help lower electricity costs; the environment will be prioritized during

studies and all mitigation methods will be sought. The projected timeline is as follows: Environmental studies from 2023 to 2025, construction to commence in 2026, and wind turbines operational in 2028. For further information and updates on the 42-Megawatt Wind Turbine Project, please contact ASPA.

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