The 2014 generation performance of the Ohio Municipal Electric Generation Agency Joint Venture 6 (OMEGA JV6), also known as the American Municipal Power Wind Farm, was very close to that of 2013.

The four 1.8-megawatt turbine units generated a total of 14,261 megawatt-hours (MWh) for the year, representing a net capacity factor of approximately 23 percent. That production was down from 2013’s by around 1 percent, or 172 MWh.

January is typically the highest production month and 2014 was no exception, with the turbines operating at 41 percent capacity – 2 percent higher than January 2013. August is typically the lowest production month among the summer months that offer little wind availability. Again, 2014 was no exception, with August capacity matching the 8 percent of the previous August.

Designed to run when wind speeds range between nine and 56 miles per hour, the JV6 wind turbines achieve optimal output at wind speeds of 31.3 mph.

JV6 provides transmission and installed capacity savings to members by generating at the time of FirstEnergy’s and PJM’s peaks. The behind-the-meter generator reduces the amount of power flowing from the wholesale grid, thereby lowering transmission and capacity charges for the upcoming year. JV6 generation during the peak hours in 2014 will provide annual transmission savings of approximately $100,000 and annual capacity savings of approximately $300,000.

From an operation and maintenance perspective, little non-routine work was done on the wind turbines last year, and the O&M budget is projected to remain relatively consistent over the next five years.

Regarding the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) market, it remains at a minimum and is not projected to increase significantly over the next five years. The REC revenue JV6 receives continues to contribute to a Renewal and Replacement fund to be used for major future expenses and does not offset the fixed O&M rate.

Annual debt service for JV6 has been $1 million with two payments of $500,000 in February and August of each year. On those payment dates, the interest rate is established for the succeeding six months. The interest expense is determined at that time, with the remaining balance of the $500,000 payment going toward principal. With the extremely low interest rates received since the project was placed in service, the higher principal payments have accelerated the expected debt retirement. As a result, JV6 debt is scheduled to be paid off in August 2015, which is four years earlier than the original term sheet. The final payment in August will be $477,572.40, making the project debt free.
Ohio Municipal Electric Generation Agency Joint Venture 6 (OMEGA JV6) is a cooperative project that operates Ohio’s first utility-scale wind farm – the American Municipal Power Wind Farm – adjacent to the Wood County Landfill near Bowling Green, Ohio. Ten American Municipal Power (AMP) member communities – Bowling Green, Cuyahoga Falls, Edgerton, Elmore, Monroeville, Montpelier, Napoleon, Oberlin, Pioneer and Wadsworth – receive energy generated from the 7.2-megawatt (MW) capacity installation, which is composed of four 1.8-MW wind turbines. The turbines rest atop 257-foot towers and have blades that extend 132 feet from the turbine casing. Each unit measures nearly 400 feet tall when the blades rotate to their highest point.