

WIND DATA REPORT

Blandford Rest Area

September 2008 to November 2008

Prepared for

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NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All the work presented in this Wind Data Report including installation and decommissioning of the meteorological tower and instrumentation, and the data analysis and reporting was performed by the Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL) at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Wind monitoring equipment was installed at the Blandford Rest Area in January 2008. The base of the 50 meter meteorological tower is installed 446 meters above sea level. Anemometers and wind direction vanes are installed at 35 and 50 m (114.8 and 164 ft) above the tower base. There are redundant anemometers at both heights. There is a temperature sensor installed near the base of the tower.

This report summarizes the wind data collected during the Fall of 2008, between September 2008 and November 2008. The mean recorded wind speed was 4.73 m/s (10.58 mph*) at 50 m and the prevailing wind direction was from the west-northwest. The average wind shear exponent between the two measured heights was 0.401. The average turbulence intensity at 50m for wind speeds between 10 m/s and 11 m/s was 0.2.

The gross data recovery percentage (the actual percentage of expected data received) was 100% and the net data recovery percentage (the percentage of expected data which passed all of the quality assurance tests) was 87.06%.

Additional information about interpreting the data presented in this report can be found in the Fact Sheet, "Interpreting Your Wind Resource Data," produced by RERL and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC). This document is found through the RERL website:

http://www.ceere.org/rerl/about_wind/RERL_Fact_Sheet_6_Wind_resource_interpretation.pdf

* 1 m/s = 2.237 mph.

SECTION 1 - Station Location

The Blandford Rest Area monitoring tower is located northeast of the westbound lane of Interstate 90, south of the Blandford Rest Area. The 50 m (164 ft) tower is located at 42°-11'-37.02" North, 72°-55'-51.42" West. The tower base is 446 m (1,462.9 ft) above sea level. The tower is identified with a yellow box in the center of Figure 1 below.

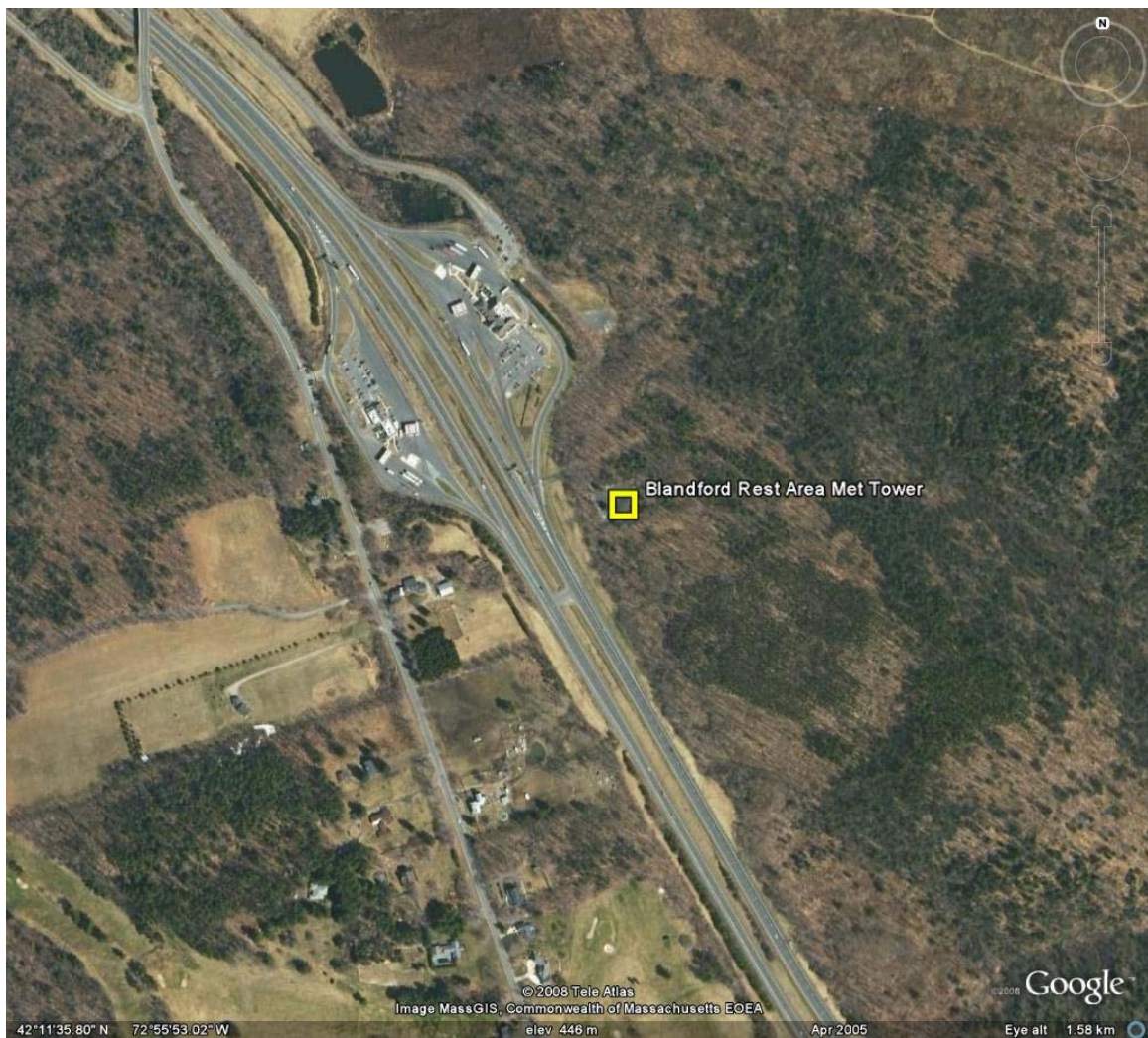


Figure 1 – Site Location

SECTION 2 - Instrumentation and Equipment

The wind monitoring equipment is mounted on a 50 m (164 ft) meteorological tower. The wind monitoring equipment comes from NRG systems and consists of the following items:

- NRG Symphonie data logger with internal temperature.
- 4 – NRG #40 Anemometers, standard calibration (Slope – 0.765 m/s, Offset – 0.350 m/s). Two anemometers are located at 50 m (164 ft) and two anemometers are located at 35 m (114.8 ft)
- 2 – NRG #200P Wind direction vanes. The vanes are located at 50 m (164 ft) and 35 m (114.8 ft).

Data from the Symphonie logger is sent to RERL via a cellular modem once a day. The logger samples wind speed and direction once every two seconds. These samples are combined into 10-minute averages and are put into a binary file along with the maximum, minimum and standard deviation for each 10-minute interval. The binary files are converted to ASCII text files using NRG software. These text files are then imported into a database software program where they are subjected to quality assurance tests prior to data usage.

SECTION 3- Data Summary

A summary of the wind speeds and wind directions measured during the reporting period is included in Table 1. Table 1 includes the mean wind speeds measured at each measurement height, the maximum instantaneous wind speed measured at each measurement height and the prevailing wind direction measured at each measurement height. These values are provided for each month of the reporting period and for the whole reporting period (monthly values from the Summer reporting period are also included).

Wind data statistics in the table are reported when more than 90% of the data during the reporting period are valid. In cases when a larger amount of data are missing, the percent of the available data that are used to determine the data statistics is noted. For this period, the total valid data was less than 90% (87.06%), but this was almost completely attributable to the failure of the secondary anemometer at 35 meters in July, which rendered all data collected for this anemometer invalid since July 2008. Data from all other sensors were well above the acceptable 90% criterion.

Table 1. Wind Speed and Direction Data Summary

Date	Mean Wind Speed	Max Wind Speed	Prevailing Wind Direction	Mean Wind Speed	Max Wind Speed	Prevailing Wind Direction
Height Units	50 m [m/s]	50 m [m/s]	50 m [m/s]	35 m [m/s]	35 m [m/s]	35 m [m/s]
Sept 2008	4.17	13.49	NW	3.56	12.63	NW
Oct 2008	5.18	14.98	WNW	4.52	13.62	WNW
Nov 2008	4.82	14.83	WNW	4.23	13.77	WNW
Sept 2008 – Nov 2008	4.73	14.98	WNW	4.1	13.77	WNW

No measurement of wind speed or direction can be perfectly accurate. Wind speed measurement errors occur due to anemometer manufacturing variability, anemometer calibration errors, the response of anemometers to turbulence and vertical air flow and due to air flows caused by the anemometer mounting system. Every effort is made to reduce the sources of these errors. Nevertheless, the values reported in this report have an expected uncertainty of about $\pm 2\%$ or ± 0.2 m/s, whichever is greater. Wind direction measurement errors occur due to sensor measurement uncertainty, tower effects, boom alignment measurement errors and twisting of pipe sections during the raising of a pipe tower. Efforts are also made to reduce these errors, but the reported wind directions are estimated to have an uncertainty of ± 5 degrees.

A summary of the turbulence intensity and mean wind shear measured at each measurement height during the reporting period is included in Table 2. These values are provided for each month of the reporting period and for the whole reporting period. Turbulence Intensity is calculated by dividing the standard deviation of the wind speed by the mean wind speed and is a measure of the gustiness of a wind resource. Lower turbulence results in lower mechanical loads on a wind turbine. Turbulence intensity varies with wind speed. The average turbulence intensity presented in Table 2 is the mean turbulence intensity when the wind speed at each measurement height is between 10 and 11 m/s.

Shear coefficients provide a measure of the change in wind speed with height. When data at multiple heights are available, shear coefficients, α , have been determined. They can be used in the following formula to estimate the average wind speed, $U(z)$, at height z , when the average wind speed, $U(z_r)$, at height z_r is known:

$$U(z) = U(z_r) \left(\frac{z}{z_r} \right)^\alpha$$

The change in wind speed with height is a very complicated relationship related to atmospheric conditions, wind speed, wind direction, time of day and time of year. This formula will not always provide the correct answer at any given site. Nevertheless the calculated shear coefficient, based on measurements at two heights, can be used to characterize the degree of increase in wind speed with height at a site.

The mean wind shear coefficient that is provided here is calculated based on the mean wind speeds in Table 1, where z_{high} and z_{low} are the heights of the higher and lower mean wind speeds used in the calculation and $U(z_{low})$ and $U(z_{high})$ are the mean wind speeds at the two heights.

$$\alpha = \log\left(\frac{U(z_{high})}{U(z_{low})}\right) / \log\left(\frac{z_{high}}{z_{low}}\right)$$

Table 2. Shear and Turbulence Intensity Data Summary

Date	Turbulence Intensity at 10 m/s	Turbulence Intensity at 10 m/s	Mean Wind Shear Coefficient, α
Height Units	50 m [-]	35 m [-]	Between 50 m and 35 m [-]
Sept 2008	0.21	0.2	0.443
Oct 2008	0.2	0.23	0.382
Nov 2008	0.2	0.23	0.366
Sept -Nov 2008	0.2	0.22	0.401

SECTION 4- Graphs

This report contains several types of wind data graphs. Unless otherwise noted, each graph represents data from 1 quarter (3 months). The following graphs are included:

- Time Series – 10-minute average wind speeds are plotted against time.
- Wind Speed Distribution – A histogram plot giving the percentage of time that the wind is at a given wind speed.
- Monthly Average – A plot of the monthly average wind speed over a 12-month period. This graph shows the trends in the wind speed over the year.

- Diurnal – A plot of the average wind speed for each hour of the day.
- Turbulence Intensity – A plot of turbulence intensity as a function of wind speed. Turbulence Intensity is calculated as the standard deviation of the wind speed divided by the wind speed and is a measure of the gustiness of a wind resource. Lower turbulence results in lower mechanical loads on a wind turbine.
- Wind Rose – A plot, by compass direction showing the percentage of time that the wind comes from a given direction and the average wind speed in that direction.

With regards to the Blandford Rest Area site, the following observations are noted:

- Time Series, Figure 2: wind speeds seldom exceeded 10 m/s at the site during the fall months.
- Wind Speed Distribution, Figure 3: we can see in Figure 3 that wind speeds are mostly between 3 and 6 m/s during the fall months
- Monthly Average, Figure 4: we show the average for 6 months, March 2008 through November 2008.
- Diurnal, Figure 5: we can see in Figure 5 a relatively consistent wind speed trend throughout the day during fall months.
- Turbulence Intensity, Figure 6: we can see that turbulence numbers roughly cluster between 0.1 and 0.3 for most wind speeds.
- Wind Rose, Figure 7: a west-northwesterly wind direction bias is clear, possibly due to a channeling effect of the I-90 corridor.

Data for the wind speed histograms, monthly and diurnal average plots, and wind roses are included in APPENDIX B.

Wind Speed Time Series

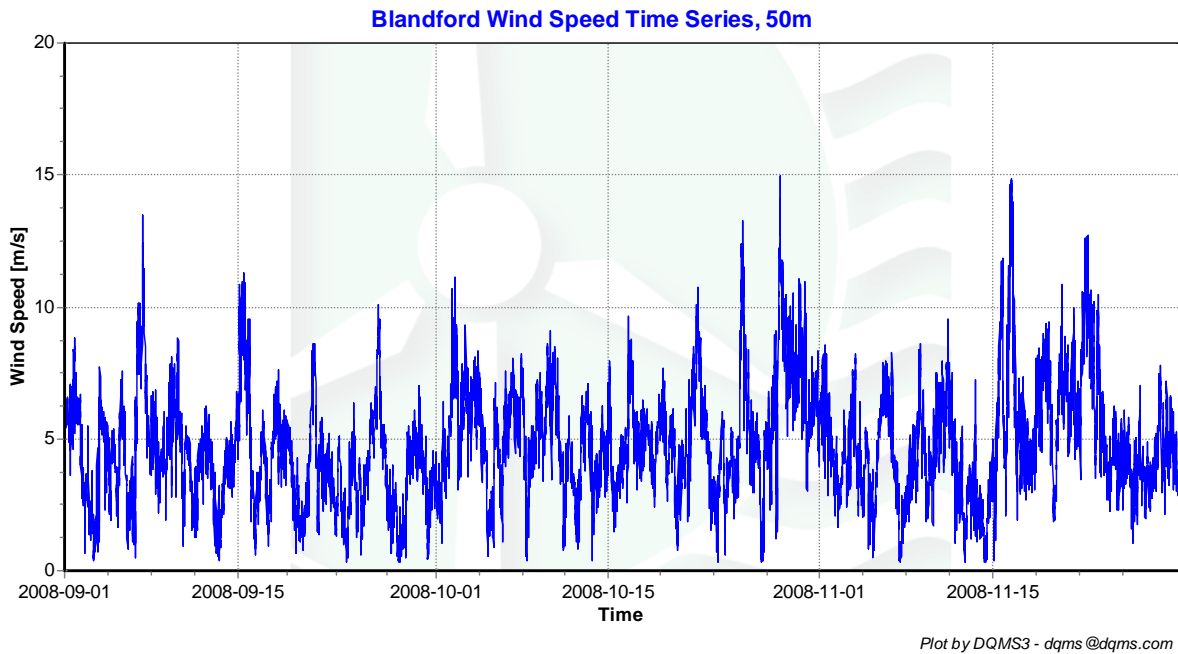


Figure 2 – Wind Speed Time Series, September 1, 2008 – November 30, 2008

Wind Speed Distributions

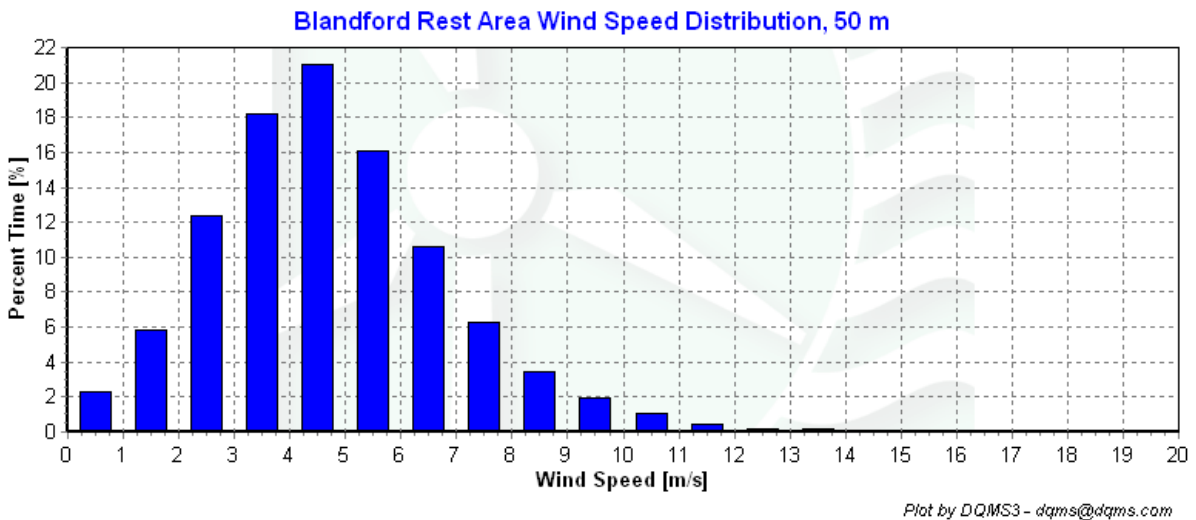


Figure 3 – Wind Speed Distribution, September 1, 2008 – November 30, 2008

Monthly Average Wind Speeds

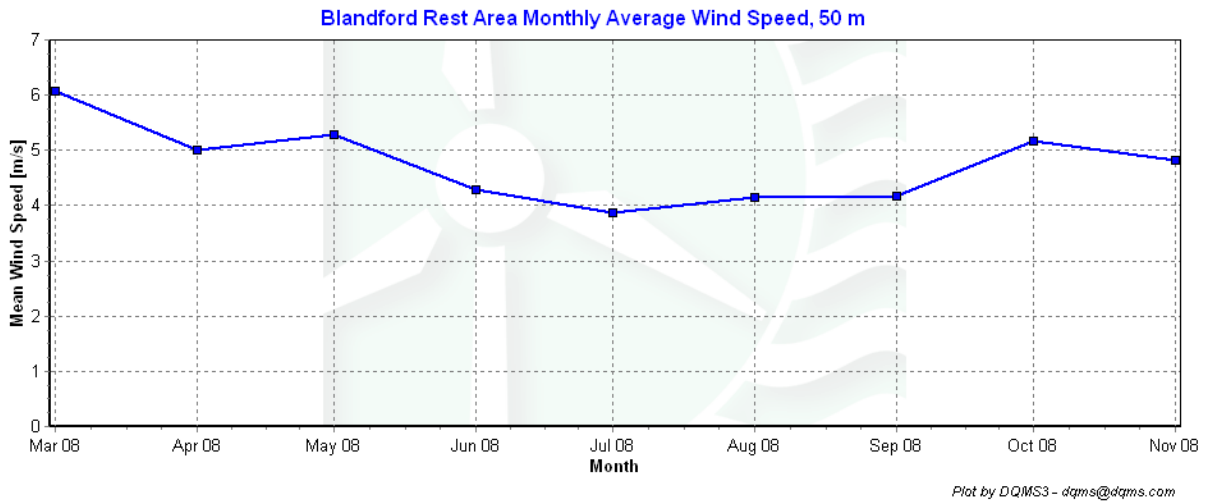


Figure 4 – Monthly Average Wind Speed, March 2008 – November 2008

Diurnal Average Wind Speeds

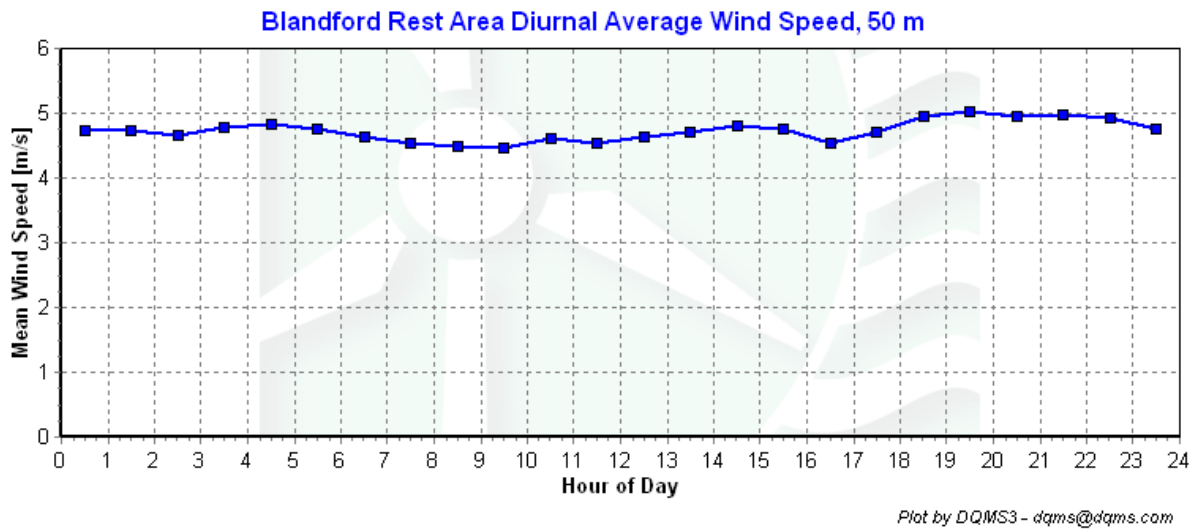


Figure 5 – Diurnal Average Wind Speeds, September 1, 2008 – November 30, 2008

Turbulence Intensities

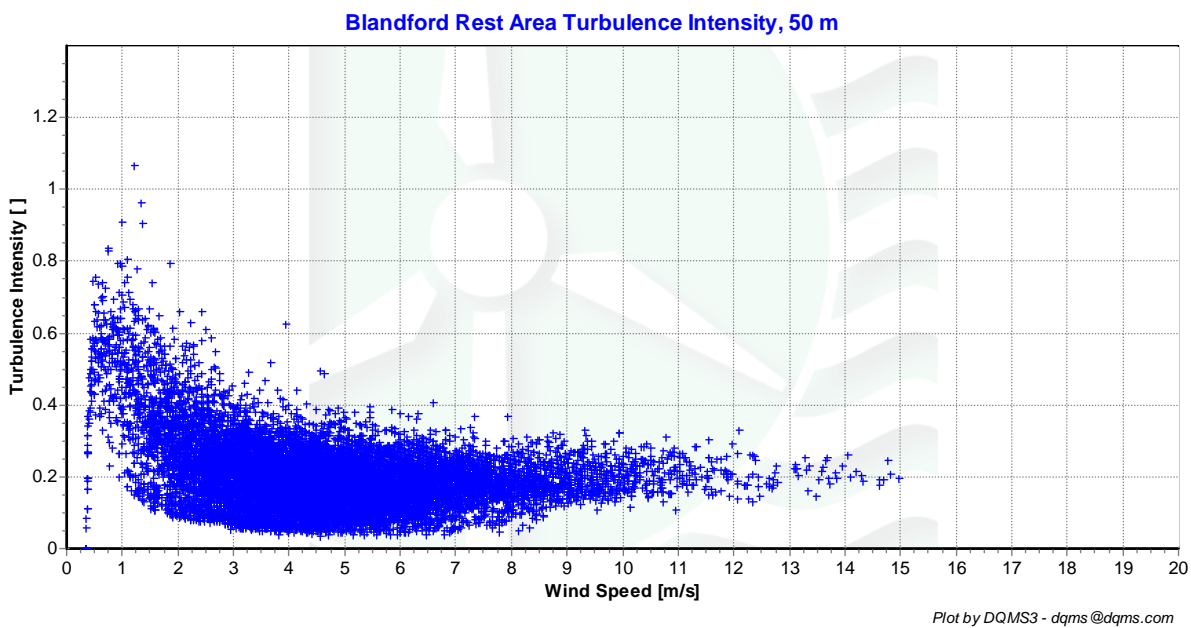


Figure 6 – Turbulence Intensity vs. Wind Speed, September 1, 2008 – November 30, 2008

Wind Rose

Blandford Rest Area Wind Rose, 50 m

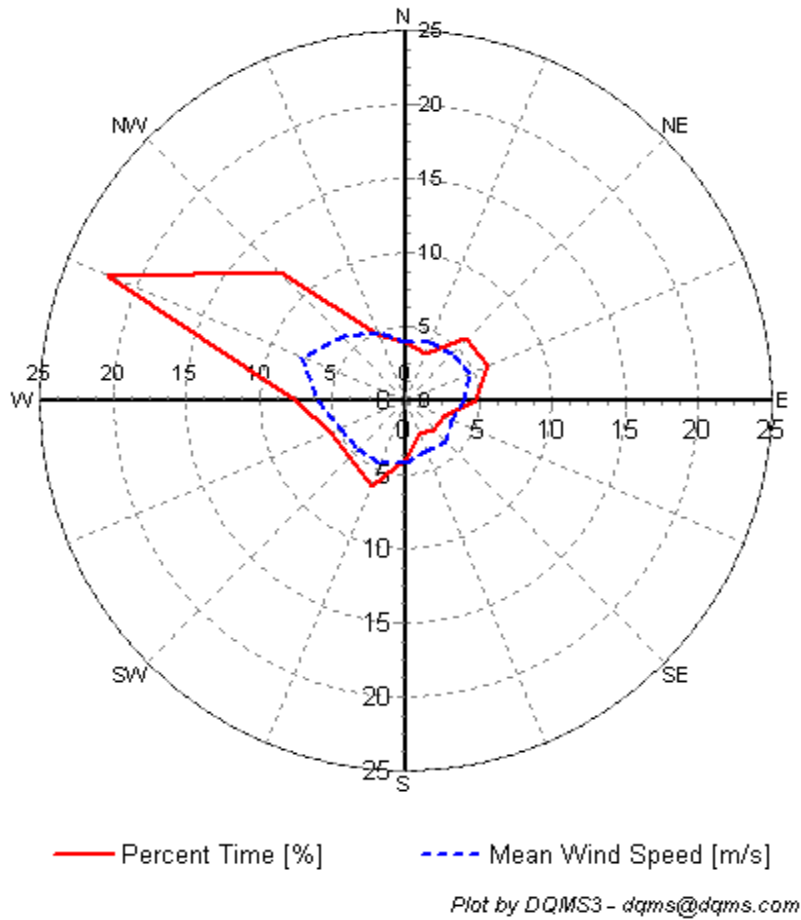


Figure 7 – Wind Rose, September 1, 2008 – November 30, 2008

SECTION 5 - Significant Meteorological Events

There were no extreme meteorological events during this data collection period. The highest recorded wind speed was 16.4 m/s (36.69 mph).

SECTION 6 - Data Collection and Maintenance

The secondary 35 meter anemometer failed in the last week of July at which point it gave readings of exclusively 0.35 m/s. The data from the primary 35 m anemometer shows consistent wind speeds relative to the 50 meter data after the secondary 35 m anemometer failed. No maintenance was performed during this quarter.

SECTION 7 - Data Recovery and Validation

All raw wind data are subjected to a series of tests and filters to weed out data that are faulty or corrupted. Definitions of these quality assurance (QA) controls are given below under Test Definitions and Sensor Statistics. These control filters were designed to automate the quality control process and used many of the previous hand-worked data sets made at UMass to affect a suitable emulation. The gross percentage of data recovered (ratio of the number of raw data points received to data points expected) and net percentage (ratio of raw data points which passed all QA control tests to data points expected) are shown below.

Gross Data Recovered [%]	100
Net Data Recovered [%]	87.06

Test Definitions

All raw data were subjected to a series of validation tests, as described below. The sensors tested and the parameters specific to each sensor are given in the Sensor Performance Report which is included in APPENDIX A. Data which were flagged as invalid were not included in the statistics presented in this report.

MinMax Test: All sensors are expected to report data values within a range specified by the sensor and logger manufacturers. If a value falls outside this range, it is flagged as invalid. A data value from the sensor listed in Test Field 1 (TF1) is flagged if it is less than Factor 1 (F1) or greater than Factor 2. This test has been applied to the following sensors (as applicable): wind speed, wind speed standard deviation, wind direction, temperature, and solar insolation.

$$F1 > TF1 > F2$$

MinMaxT Test: This is a MinMax test for wind direction standard deviation with different ranges applied for high and low wind speeds. A wind direction standard deviation data value (TF1) is flagged either if it is less than Factor 1, if the wind speed (TF2) is less than Factor 4 and the wind direction standard deviation is greater than Factor 2, or if the wind speed is greater than or equal to Factor 4 and the wind direction standard deviation is greater than Factor 3.

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{TF1} < \text{F1}) \\ & \text{or } (\text{TF2} < \text{F4} \text{ and } \text{TF1} > \text{F2}) \\ & \text{or } (\text{TF2} \geq \text{F4} \text{ and } \text{TF1} > \text{F3}) \end{aligned}$$

Icing Test: An icing event occurs when ice collects on a sensor and degrades its performance. Icing events are characterized by the simultaneous measurements of near-zero standard deviation of wind direction, non-zero wind speed, and near- or below-freezing temperatures. Wind speed, wind speed standard deviation, wind direction, and wind direction standard deviation data values are flagged if the wind direction standard deviation (CF1) is less than or equal to Factor 1 (F1), the wind speed (TF1) is greater than Factor 2 (F2), and the temperature (CF2) is less than Factor 3 (F3). To exit an icing event, the wind direction standard deviation must be greater than Factor 4.

$$\text{CF1} \leq \text{F1} \text{ and } \text{TF1} > \text{F2} \text{ and } \text{CF2} < \text{F3}$$

CompareSensors Test: Where primary and redundant sensors are used, it is possible to determine when one of the sensors is not performing properly. For anemometers, poor performance is characterized by low data values. Therefore, if one sensor of the pair reports values significantly below the other, the low values are flagged. At low wind speeds (Test Fields 1 and 2 less than or equal to Factor 3) wind speed data are flagged if the absolute difference between the two wind speeds is greater than Factor 1. At high wind speeds (Test Fields 1 or 2 greater than Factor 3) wind speed data are flagged if the absolute value of the ratio of the two wind speeds is greater is greater than Factor 2.

$$\begin{aligned} & [\text{TF1} \leq \text{F3} \text{ and } \text{TF2} \leq \text{F3} \text{ and } \text{abs}(\text{TF1} - \text{TF2}) > \text{F1}] \\ & \text{or } [(\text{TF1} > \text{F3} \text{ or } \text{TF2} > \text{F3}) \text{ and } (\text{abs}(1 - \text{TF1} / \text{TF2}) > \text{F2} \text{ or } \text{abs}(1 - \text{TF2} / \text{TF1}) > \text{F2})] \end{aligned}$$

Sensor Statistics

A summary of the results of the data collection and filtering are given in the Sensor Performance Report which is included in APPENDIX A. The following categories of information, tabulated for each sensor, are included in that report.

Expected Data Points: the total number of sample intervals between the start and end dates (inclusive).

Actual Data Points: the total number of data points recorded between the start and end dates.

% Data Recovered: the ratio of actual and expected data points (this is the *gross data recovered percentage*).

Hours Out of Range: total number of hours for which data were flagged according to MinMax and MinMaxT tests. These tests flag data which fall outside of an expected range.

Hours of Icing: total number of hours for which data were flagged according to Icing tests. This test uses the standard deviation of wind direction, air temperature, and wind speed to determine when sensor icing has occurred.

Hours of Fault: total number of hours for which data were flagged according to CompareSensors tests. These tests compare two sensors (e.g. primary and redundant anemometers installed at the same height) and flag data points where one sensor differs significantly from the other.

% Data Good: the filter results are subtracted from the gross data recovery percentage to yield the *net data recovered percentage*.

APPENDIX A - Sensor Performance Report

Test Definitions

Test Order	Test Field 1	Test Field 2	Test Field 3	Calc Field 1	Calc Field 2	Test Type	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
1						TimeTest Insert	0	0	0	0
4	Etmp2aDEGC					MinMax	-30	60	0	0
5	EtmpSD2aDEGC					MinMax	-30	60	0	0
6	Batt2aVDC					MinMax	10.5	15	0	0
10	Anem50aMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
11	Anem50bMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
12	Anem30aMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
13	Anem30bMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
14	Anem50yMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
15	Anem30yMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
20	AnemSD50aMS					MinMax	0	4	0	0
21	AnemSD50bMS					MinMax	0	4	0	0
22	AnemSD30aMS					MinMax	0	4	0	0
23	AnemSD30bMS					MinMax	0	4	0	0
24	AnemSD50yMS					MinMax	0	4	0	0
25	AnemSD30yMS					MinMax	0	4	0	0
30	Vane50aDEG					MinMax	0	359.9	0	0
31	Vane30aDEG					MinMax	0	359.9	0	0
50	Turb50zNONE					MinMax	0	2	0	0
51	Turb30zNONE					MinMax	0	2	0	0
200	VaneSD50aDEG	Anem50yMS				MinMaxT	0	100	100	10
201	VaneSD30aDEG	Anem30yMS				MinMaxT	0	100	100	10
300	Anem50aMS	AnemSD50aMS	Vane50aDEG	VaneSD50aDEG	Etmp2aDEGC	Icing	0.5	1	2	4
301	Anem50bMS	AnemSD50bMS	Vane50aDEG	VaneSD50aDEG	Etmp2aDEGC	Icing	0.5	1	2	4
302	Anem30aMS	AnemSD30aMS	Vane30aDEG	VaneSD30aDEG	Etmp2aDEGC	Icing	0.5	1	2	4
303	Anem30bMS	AnemSD30bMS	Vane30aDEG	VaneSD30aDEG	Etmp2aDEGC	Icing	0.5	1	2	4
304	Anem50yMS	AnemSD50yMS	Vane50aDEG	VaneSD50aDEG	Etmp2aDEGC	Icing	0.5	1	2	4
305	Anem30yMS	AnemSD30yMS	Vane30aDEG	VaneSD30aDEG	Etmp2aDEGC	Icing	0.5	1	2	4
400	Anem50aMS	Anem50bMS				CompareSensors	1	0.25	3	0
401	Anem30aMS	Anem30bMS				CompareSensors	1	0.25	3	0
500	Amax50aMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
501	Amin50aMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
502	Amax50bMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
503	Amin50bMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
504	Amax30aMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
505	Amin30aMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
506	Amax30bMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
507	Amin30bMS					MinMax	0	90	0	0
508	Vmax50aDEG					MinMax	0	359.9	0	0
509	Vmin50aDEG					MinMax	0	359.9	0	0
510	Vmax30aDEG					MinMax	0	359.9	0	0
511	Vmin30aDEG					MinMax	0	359.9	0	0
512	Etmx2aDEGC					MinMax	-30	60	0	0
513	Etmn2aDEGC					MinMax	-30	60	0	0

Sensor Statistics

Sensor	Expected Data Points	Actual Data Points	% Data Recovered	Hours Out of Range	Hours of Icing	Hours of Fault	% Data Good
Etmp2aDEGC	13104	13104	100	0	0	0	100
EtmpSD2aDEGC	13104	13104	100	0	0	0	100
Batt2aVDC	13104	13104	100	0.833	0	0	99.962
Anem30aMS	13104	13104	100	0	21.333	0	99.023
AnemSD30aMS	13104	13104	100	0	21.333	0	99.023
Anem30bMS	13104	13104	100	0	0	2051.333	6.074
AnemSD30bMS	13104	13104	100	0	0	2051.333	6.074
Anem50aMS	13104	13104	100	0	2	3.333	99.756
AnemSD50aMS	13104	13104	100	0	2	3.333	99.756
Anem50bMS	13104	13104	100	0	2	14.5	99.245
AnemSD50bMS	13104	13104	100	0	2	14.5	99.245
Vane30aDEG	13104	13104	100	0.667	21.333	0	98.993
VaneSD30aDEG	13104	13104	100	0.667	21.333	0	98.993
Vane50aDEG	13104	13104	100	0.5	2	0	99.886
VaneSD50aDEG	13104	13104	100	0.5	2	0	99.886
Total	196560	196560	100	3.167	97.333	4138.333	87.061

APPENDIX B - Plot Data

Wind Speed Distribution Data

Bin Center Wind Speed [m/s]	September - November 2008 [%]
0.5	2.25
1.5	5.85
2.5	12.33
3.5	18.19
4.5	21.03
5.5	16.09
6.5	10.61
7.5	6.26
8.5	3.45
9.5	1.97
10.5	1.05
11.5	0.47
12.5	0.21
13.5	0.15
14.5	0.08
15.5	0
16.5	0
17.5	0
18.5	0
19.5	0
20.5	0
21.5	0
22.5	0
23.5	0
24.5	0

Monthly Average Wind Speed Data

Month	50m Mean 10 min [m/s]
February	
March	6.06
April	5
May	5.28
June	4.29
July	3.86
August	4.16
Sept	4.17
Oct	5.18
Nov	4.82
Fall: Sept - Nov 2008	4.73

Wind Rose Data

Direction	September - November 2008	
	Percent Time [%]	Mean Wind Speed [m/s]
N	6.62	4.22
NNE	5.66	4.05
NE	4.18	3.95
ENE	2.28	3.09
E	3.35	2.72
ESE	3.16	2.57
SE	2.76	3.61
SSE	2.96	3.46
S	3.45	3.98
SSW	5.38	3.97
SW	5.51	4.09
WSW	7.83	4.6
W	11	5.75
WNW	16.21	6.44
NW	14.46	5.45
NNW	5.2	4.82

Diurnal Average Wind Speed Data

Hour of Day	September - November 2008
	Mean Wind Speed [m/s]
0	4.74
1	4.73
2	4.66
3	4.79
4	4.83
5	4.75
6	4.64
7	4.53
8	4.49
9	4.48
10	4.61
11	4.54
12	4.64
13	4.7
14	4.8
15	4.76
16	4.53
17	4.72
18	4.95
19	5.02
20	4.95
21	4.98
22	4.93
23	4.75