

## **Alternative Energies Provide Life-saving Communications on Chamber's Island**

On September 24, St. Paul Tower, Nsight's exclusive tower erection company, loaded more than 65,000 pounds of mechanical equipment and building materials onto a barge in Door County and headed to Chamber's Island to construct Cellcom's second alternative energy cell site. This green tower will provide increased cellular and radio coverage for the Door County fire radio system along the steep west coast.

Currently, the cliffs lining Door County's rugged shoreline block the signals from mainland towers, leaving many coastal residents with limited cellular service and radio coverage for emergency personnel. By providing a signal at the same level, the green cell site will allow this area to have improved wireless reception and radio signal in case of an emergency.

"Due to the unique and challenging geography of Door County, the fire departments were faced with what seemed to be an insurmountable challenge of providing dependable radio coverage to all areas of the county," said Chris Hecht, chief of the Sister Bay & Liberty Grove Fire Department. "Fortunately, through a shared-use agreement between the fire departments and Cellcom, a significant portion of previously uncovered areas will now be provided with reliable, potentially lifesaving communications."

The lack of electricity on the island required the use of alternative energies to power the site. The tower will run on batteries charged by solar panels at the base of the tower, and a wind turbine installed on tower. A propane generator will be installed as a back-up source of power if there is inadequate wind or sun to charge the batteries. This tower mimics Cellcom's first alternative energy cell site near Antigo, Wis., which was activated on Earth Day this year.

The Door County fire radio system will be operational this fall. Cellcom's cell site will be activated in 2009. The cell site will be EVDO- Rev. A (Evolution Data Optimized-Revolution A) equipped to ensure Cellcom customers receive information faster on their mobile phone devices or when using Cellcom's broadband Internet on their home computers or laptops.

Cellcom has a 10-year history of providing the emergency responders in Door County with communications capabilities through the sharing of cellular infrastructure.