



An artists' rendering of Bath Iron Works' proposed design for an offshore patrol cutter for the U.S. Coast Gurard. BIW is among three shipyards chosen to proceed with design work on the next-generation cutter.

# Counting on a contract

## Bath Iron Works anxiously awaits word on Coast Guard award

BY BETH BROGAN  
BDN STAFF

BATH — As the temperature on the Bath Savings Institute sign reached 94 degrees Friday afternoon, the heat and maybe an icy, after-work beverage were likely foremost in the minds of the 6,100 shipbuilders at Bath Iron Works.

But running a close third is a pending award by the U.S. Coast Guard of a contract to build the first ships in a new class of offshore patrol cutter that altogether will cost roughly \$11 billion.

It's the largest shipbuilding contract ever to be awarded by the U.S. Coast Guard and a contract identified by Adm. Paul F. Zukunft, commandant of the Coast Guard, as the service's "highest investment priority."

In February 2014, the U.S. Coast Guard awarded Bath Iron Works a \$21 million contract for preliminary design work on offshore patrol cutters. Bollinger Shipyards Lockport LLC in Lockport, Louisiana, and Eastern Shipbuilding Group Inc. in Panama City, Florida, also secured contracts, for a total award of \$65 million.

Sometime this month, the Coast Guard is expected to announce which of those three yards will complete the second phase of the project — building the first nine to 11 cutters.

Should BIW best its two competitors, the contract would provide new work at the yard just as construction of the last of three Zumwalt-class destroyers winds down in Bath.

"We've got our fingers crossed," Rich Nolon, president of Local S6 of the machinists union, said Friday.

So do company officials. While BIW spokesman Matt Wickenheiser declined on



Pictured are two of the three Zumwalt-class stealth destroyers under construction at Bath Iron Works, the DDG 1001, the future USS Michael Monsoor (far left) and the DDG 1000, the future USS Zumwalt (far right), along with the Arleigh Burke-class DDG 115, the future USS Rafael Peralta, in between.

Thursday to comment on an open competition or on the potential for layoffs should the Maine shipyard not win the contract, president Fred Harris said in January 2015 that as many as 1,200 manufacturing employees, or 35 percent of its workforce, could be laid off.

In 2015, soon after taking the helm at BIW, Harris instituted changes he said were necessary to make the yard competitive to land the Coast Guard contract, as

well as the next multi-year contract for U.S. Navy destroyers.

The changes also resulted in a tumultuous year, including lawsuits and a heated labor contract dispute.

"Bath has worked hard to bring down its costs, but it's operating at a disadvantage. Nobody doubts that Bath can build a world-class cutter," defense industry analyst Loren Thompson, chief operating officer at

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# Find out if you are owed life insurance

BY RUSS VAN ARSDALE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NORTHEAST CONTACT

Now, where did I put that insurance policy?

Unfortunately, answering that question isn't always as simple as looking in your home safe or a shoe box. The answer may come via a new Lost Life Insurance Policy Service announced recently by Maine's Bureau of Insurance.

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When someone dies, a surviving family member may not know that he or she had been named as a beneficiary in the deceased's life insurance policy or annuity contract.

People using the new service will need to provide specific information about the deceased to the bureau, which will then reach out to 277 companies that already have agreed to take part in the locator service. The companies will then check their records to determine if a policy or annuity was in effect and whether the person making the inquiry has a valid claim.

The bureau is hoping the service is used by potential beneficiaries, executors and legal representatives of deceased persons who may have lived in Maine when a policy was written or an annuity sold.

On its website, [naic.org/documents/consumer\\_alert\\_locate\\_lost\\_life\\_insurance\\_benefit.htm](http://naic.org/documents/consumer_alert_locate_lost_life_insurance_benefit.htm), the National Association of Insurance Commissioners or NAIC lists 13 other states that offer locator services. If consumers believe a policy may have been written in some other state, the NAIC site offers guidance in tracking down the details.

Maine Insurance Superintendent Eric Cioppa says he would like to see all insurance companies, large and small, take part in the new program.

"We will continue to encourage all companies to do the right thing by cooperating with the bureau, joining this effort, and assisting Maine consumers who have a lawful claim," Cioppa said in a statement.

More information about the service can be found through the Bureau's website, at [maine.gov/insurance](http://maine.gov/insurance), or directly, at [maine.gov/pfr/insurance/LostPolicyLocator/LifeInsuranceSearchInstructions.html](http://maine.gov/pfr/insurance/LostPolicyLocator/LifeInsuranceSearchInstructions.html).

Individuals or companies with

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# Wind farm proposal has potential buyer

BY DARREN FISHELL  
BDN STAFF

PORTLAND — The renewable energy giant SunEdison has asked a bankruptcy judge to approve its sale of various wind projects, including a proposal near Moosehead Lake that has generated local opposition.

SunEdison wants to sell the proposed 26-turbine project on Misery Ridge as part of its Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and it has asked a court to allow the renewable energy division of the Houston-based NRG to serve as the starting bidder, or stalking horse.

NRG has agreed to place a starting bid of \$144 million for around 2.1 gigawatts of SunEdison project capacity, of which the 85-megawatt Somerset wind project is a small part.

The project has not yet applied for a permit from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, but it did set up several towers to collect wind data and evaluate the project's potential at that site.

That project and another proposed for near Moosehead by EverPower have both spurred the Moosehead Region Futures Committee to develop opposition research, with the help of the group Saving Maine.

News of the bidding process comes as a group of southern New England states is considering bids for renewable power generation, including the



Wind turbines in February 2014 at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Pine Tree Wind Farm spin in the Tehachapi Mountains.

Somerset project and others SunEdison had proposed before its bankruptcy.

It bid those projects alongside two new transmission line proposals, one tapping wind resources in Aroostook County through a joint project of Emera Maine and Central Maine Power Co., and another proposed by CMP stretching into western Maine.

Richard McDonald, Saving Maine's

president, said his group anticipated the proposed sale and recently commissioned a study assessing the scenic impact of the Somerset project and EverPower's on the area around Moosehead Lake, done by the same firm that led environmental consulting on the proposed offshore Cape Wind project.

McDonald said he views the fight

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# 3 Ruby Tuesday restaurants close

BY NICK MCCREA  
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — The Ruby Tuesday restaurant at the Bangor Mall has closed, but the one in Brewer remains open, a receptionist said Monday.

"They have closed. They put a sign in their window yesterday," James Gerety, the mall's general manager, said Monday. "That would be the time we found out."

The sign tells customers that the chain's Bangor location has closed and suggests going to the Brewer location instead.

Restaurants in South Portland and Biddeford also appear to have been permanently closed over the weekend.

Ruby Tuesday announced last week that it planned to close 95 of its more than 700 restaurants nationwide by September but did not specify which ones would be shuttered. There had been 10 Ruby Tuesday restaurants in Maine, according to

the company's website.

The casual dining chain, whose shares had fallen about 44 percent in the past 12 months, sold its Lime Fresh Mexican Grill brand in June.

The Ruby Tuesday restaurants in Waterville, Augusta, Auburn, Topsham, Westbrook and Presque Isle remain open.

Gerety said the Bangor location was still being leased at the time of the closing, but he declined to say how much time was left on the lease. Once the mall takes over the space, it will try to turn it over to another restaurant, according to the mall manager.

Messages left for Ruby Tuesday corporate officials on Monday were not immediately returned.

Reuters and BDN writer Nok-Noi Ricker contributed to this report.

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