

TREADWELL FRANKLIN INCREASES OFFERING WITH CONSULTANT ACQUISITION

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USA & Canada

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Power
Renewables
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US-infrastructure investor Treadwell Franklin Infrastructure Capital (TFIC) announced on 3 May that it has acquired engineering and natural resource consulting firm James W. Sewall Company (Sewall).

According to the 3 May release, “TFIC intends to leverage the technical resources of Sewall by ‘tilting toward infrastructure,’ especially in its development projects in transportation, energy, water/wastewater, social infrastructure, and a special effort around sustainable coastal structures and bridge maintenance.”

The two companies have collaborated on projects and view the business combination as transformational for both firms.

TFIC and Sewall have worked over several years on a variety of infrastructure, energy and environmental projects, with TFIC providing commercial and financial structuring capabilities, and Sewall delivering technical and specialized engineering/design services.

“Sewall is a consulting firm and will have a symbiotic relationship with TFIC,” a spokesperson told *Inframation*. “TFIC will provide project development and financing, while Sewall will provide engineering, survey, and geospatial consulting services.”

Sewall has several telecoms experts on its staff and while this is a relatively new line of business for the company they have worked with New England Tel, then Verizon, then Fairpoint to locate their assets and establish co-location footprints. “Since

2009, we have been involved with Maine's state broadband initiative, documenting the existing BB footprint across the state," the spokesperson said. "We are now consulting on projects that have been implemented, such as the Unity Foundation and Unitel."

The spokesperson also said that Sewall has been involved in most of the wind farm development in the State of Maine. According to a fact sheet provided by the spokesperson, Sewall has provided civil engineering services for 14 utility-scale wind projects in operation or under construction in New England with a capacity of 974MW.

Sewall's clients include: EDP Renewables, Green Mountain Power, Iberdrola Renewables, Novatus Energy, SunEdison and TransCanada.

According to the document, Maine has set a goal of installing 3,000MW of onshore wind capacity by 2020 and 300MW of offshore wind.

Sewall's forestry practice will be spun off into a separate subsidiary to maximize value through recognition of the Forestry and Natural Resource unit's differentiated business model.

Through this acquisition, TFIC also gains control of E4Research.org, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation created for research and development of projects and technologies in environmental and energy sectors.

Sewall has a 138-year track record of providing engineering design, survey, geospatial and forestry/natural resources consultancy services. It employs 57 employees operating out of its base in Old Town, ME, and also has offices in Georgia, South Carolina, and Minnesota.

As part of the merger, George N. Campbell Jr., advisory board chairman of TFIC, was named president of Sewall on May 1.

Andrew Nelson, executive vice president of TFIC, was named chairman/CEO of Sewall.

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