



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

August 23, 2011

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: Parties Interested in the Whistling Ridge Energy Project

This notice is to advise you that a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been issued for the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project. The proponent, Whistling Ridge Energy LLC, has submitted an application to the State of Washington's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) for site certification that would allow the proponent to build and operate a 75 megawatt wind power facility located on approximately 1,152 acres in Skamania County, Washington, approximately seven miles north of the City of White Salmon. The proponent has also requested interconnection of its proposed Project at a point along Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) existing North Bonneville-Midway 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that passes through the wind Project site.

In order to facilitate cooperative state-federal review of the proposed Project, EFSEC and BPA have prepared a joint EIS under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). BPA and EFSEC released a draft EIS in May 2010 for public review and comment. BPA and EFSEC also held two public meetings. Copies of all comments that were received on the draft EIS, and all written responses to those comments, are included in the FEIS.

EFSEC and BPA have worked together to ensure that this FEIS meets the requirements of both SEPA and NEPA. The FEIS describes the proposed Project and the environmental effects expected from both the proposed wind facility as well as BPA's proposed interconnection and substation facilities.

Final EIS

The FEIS is a five volume document that describes the proposed Project and why it is needed, identifies the preferred alternative, discusses the environmental impacts the Project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. It also describes Project revisions and addresses comments received on the draft EIS. This FEIS contains the same information as the SEPA FEIS issued by EFSEC on August 12, 2011.

The changes between the draft and final EIS are shown in red underline in Volume 1 of the EIS. The Appendices are located in Volumes 2 through 5. Copies of all comments received on the draft EIS and our written responses to those comments are in Appendix G of the EIS.

The FEIS is available online at www.bpa.gov/go/whistling. If you requested a copy of the document, it is enclosed. If you are interested in receiving a compact disc with an electronic copy of the document or a hard copy (five volumes, about 4860 pages total), please call our toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520. Please leave a message with your name, complete mailing address and phone number. Remember to reference the “*Whistling Ridge Energy Project*.”

Next Steps

EFSEC must decide on a recommendation to the Governor of Washington to approve or deny the issuance of the requested site certificate to the proponent, and BPA must decide whether to allow the requested interconnection to its transmission system. EFSEC expects to make its recommendation to the Governor in fall 2011, and BPA plans to issue a Record of Decision (ROD) concerning the proposed interconnection in fall 2011 as well. If you received the FEIS, you will also receive BPA’s ROD for this Project when it is completed unless you request otherwise.

If the state of Washington decides to approve the site certificate for the Project and BPA decides to grant the requested interconnection, Project construction activities could begin in 2012, after all other necessary permits and approvals are obtained. If construction activities begin at that time, it is expected that these activities would be completed and the Project would become operational by early 2013.

For more information

BPA is committed to providing reliable, low-cost transmission products and services to the region while minimizing environmental impacts. If you have questions regarding the Project or the environmental process, please contact me toll-free at (800) 282-3713, direct at (503) 230-4145, or e-mail at ammontano@bpa.gov.

For general Project information, please visit our Project website:
www.bpa.gov/go/whistling.

Thank you for your interest in this proposed Project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Andrew M. Montañó

Andrew M. Montañó
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosure:
FEIS (if requested)