

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Wind Ridge Power Partners, LLC (the Applicant) is proposing to build the Wild Horse Wind Power Project (“Project”), a renewable energy generation facility that will consist of up to 158 wind turbines and have an installed nameplate capacity of up to 312 megawatts (MW). The Project features a highly energetic, well documented wind resource, state-of-the-art, megawatt-class wind turbine generators, and experienced development and operations teams. The Applicant proposes to construct the Project in central Washington’s Kittitas Valley, which has long been known for its vigorous winds. The Project will be built on high open ridge tops between the towns of Kittitas and Vantage in the eastern end of Kittitas Valley. A map showing the Project area location is presented in Exhibit 1-A, ‘Project Area Overview’. The Project site has been selected primarily for its energetic wind resource and its access to existing high voltage transmission lines, which have adequate capacity to allow the wind generated power to be integrated into the power grid system.

The Project consists of several prime elements which will be constructed in consecutive phases including roads, foundations, underground and overhead collection system electrical lines, grid interconnection substations, step-up substations, feeder lines running from the on-site step-up substations to the interconnection substations, an operations and maintenance (O&M) center and associated supporting infrastructure and facilities. A permanent footprint of approximately 165 acres of land area will be required to accommodate the proposed turbines and related support facilities. A site layout illustrating these key elements is contained in Exhibit 1-B, ‘Project Site Layout’.

The Project is designed to provide low cost renewable electric energy to meet the growing needs of the Northwest. The Project has transmission and interconnection requests under review with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Puget Sound Energy, and Applicant is in the process of marketing the electrical energy sales into the local and regional power market. The Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) has jurisdiction over the evaluation of energy facilities such as the Wild Horse Wind Power Project, and is responsible for making a recommendation to the Governor regarding approval or denial of their siting.