

FACT SHEET

Wild Horse Wind Power Project, Draft State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Lead Agency and Responsible Official: Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC); Allen Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager, 925 Plum Street SE, Building 4, P.O. Box 43172; Olympia, WA 98504-3172; (360) 956-2152.

Abstract: Wind Ridge Power Partners LLC proposes to construct and operate between 104 and 158 wind turbines that would generate between 158 and 312 megawatts (MW) of wind power in Kittitas County, Washington. The proposed project would occupy approximately 165 acres of an 8,600-acre site two miles north of Vantage Highway at Whiskey Dick Mountain, roughly 11 miles east of the City of Kittitas.

The project would also include: (1) approximately 17 miles of new roads and improvements to roughly 15 miles of existing roads, (2) approximately 27 miles of underground and 2 miles of overhead 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical power lines, (3) approximately 14 miles of overhead 230-kV transmission feeder lines with associated construction trails, (4) potentially two new step-up stations, (5) one interconnection substation, (6) an approximately 5,000-square-foot operations and maintenance facility, and (7) up to six permanent meteorological towers. There would also be three on-site rock quarries and a batch plant associated with construction of the project facilities.

This EIS evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action under three project scenarios:

- 104-turbine/3 MW scenario: This scenario represents the project configuration with the fewest proposed turbines. For turbines with a nameplate capacity of 3 MW each, up to 104 turbines would be sited for a total nameplate capacity of 312 MW.
- 136-turbine/1.5 MW scenario: This scenario represents the “most likely” project configuration that would be chosen based on pricing and performance for wind turbine technology currently on the market. For turbines with a nameplate capacity of 1.5 MW each, 136 turbines would be sited for a total nameplate capacity of 204 MW.
- 158-turbine/1 MW scenario: This scenario represents the project configuration with the most proposed turbines. For turbines with a nameplate capacity of 1 MW each, up to 158 turbines would be sited for a total nameplate capacity of 158 MW.

The Draft EIS assesses the existing natural and built environment, evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, and identifies mitigation measures to compensate for impacts. Alternative wind energy technologies, off-site alternative locations, and the No Action Alternative also are described.

Proposal's Sponsor: Wind Ridge Power Partners LLC (Applicant), a subsidiary of Zilkha Renewable Energy, Houston, Texas.

Date of Implementation: Construction activities are expected to start in early 2005 and last approximately one year. The start of construction depends on the date the governor of Washington approves and executes the Site Certification Agreement for this project.

List of Possible Permits, Approvals, and Licenses: EFSEC is the sole non-federal agency authorized to permit the proposed project. For informational purposes, Table 2-10 of this Draft EIS lists the major state and local permitting requirements preempted by EFSEC, as well as federal requirements. Not all listed permits and approvals may be required. The EFSEC Site Certification Agreement would provide construction and operational requirements and all other relevant local and Washington state permits and approvals for the project.

Authors and Principal Contributors to EIS: An independent consultant of EFSEC, Jones & Stokes, is the principal author of the Draft EIS. The primary source of information used to prepare the Draft EIS is the Application for Site Certification prepared by Wind Ridge Power Partners LLC and its primary consultants: WEST, Inc.; CH2M HILL; Lithic Analysts; RAM Associates; Nierenberg, R., consulting meteorologist; Comsearch; and KTA Associates. EFSEC's Draft EIS for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project and Kittitas County's Draft EIS for the Desert Claim Wind Power Project were also consulted.

Subsequent Environmental Review: Adjudicative Hearings
Final EIS

Date of Final Lead Agency Action: After EFSEC deliberates on the facts, testimony, and EIS contents, it will send a recommendation to the governor of the state of Washington to approve or deny the project (expected in early 2005). The governor has 60 days to accept or reject the recommendation or to remand the recommendation to EFSEC for further investigation.

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Location of Background Information: You may access this Draft EIS and find additional information about the project on the EFSEC Web site at www.efsec.wa.gov. Copies of the Wild Horse Wind Power Project Application for Site Certification, EFSEC No. 2004-01, and this Draft EIS also are available for public review at the following locations:

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
925 Plum Street SE, Building 4
Olympia, WA 98504-3172
(360) 956-2121

Washington State Library
Joel M. Pritchard Branch
Point Plaza East
6880 Capitol Blvd.
Olympia, WA 98504-2460
(360) 704-5200

Ellensburg Public Library
209 North Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 962-7250

Kittitas Public Library
NE 2nd and Pierce Streets
Kittitas, WA 98934
(509) 968-0226

Cost of EIS Copy to the Public: There will be no cost for the Draft EIS.