

FACT SHEET

Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project, Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Lead Agency and Responsible Official: 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: Sagebrush Power Partners LLC proposes to construct and operate up to 65 wind turbines that would generate approximately 97 to 195 megawatts (MW) of wind power in Kittitas County, Washington. The proposed project would permanently occupy approximately 108 acres of land on either side of US 97 roughly halfway between Ellensburg and Cle Elum, Washington.

The project also includes: (1) approximately 13 miles of new roads and improvements to roughly 8 miles of existing roads, (2) approximately 23 miles of underground and 2 miles of overhead 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical power lines, (3) two new substations, (4) an approximately 5,000-square-foot operations and maintenance facility, and (5) up to five permanent meteorological towers.

This EIS evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action within the range of two proposed action scenarios:

- **330-foot Turbine Scenario:** This scenario represents the project configuration that would be chosen based on pricing and performance for wind turbine technology currently on the market. Up to 65 turbines would be constructed. This scenario is best represented by turbines with a nameplate capacity of approximately 1.5 to 2 MW, resulting in a total nameplate capacity of 97.5 to 130 MW.
- **410-foot Turbine Scenario:** This scenario represents the project configuration with the largest dimension of proposed turbines, not to exceed a tip height of 410 feet. With an approximate nameplate capacity of 3 MW each, up to 65 turbines would be constructed for a total approximate nameplate capacity of 195 MW.

The Final 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 turbine locations, alternative wind energy technologies, offsite alternative locations, and the No Action Alternative also are described.

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

Date of Implementation: Construction activities would begin after all state and federal approvals are obtained, expected for the spring/summer 2007, and last approximately one year. The start of construction depends on whether or not the governor of Washington approves and executes the Site Certification Agreement for this project and the date of such an approval.

List of Possible Permits, Approvals, and Licenses: The Applicant filed an Application for Site Certification for the proposed Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project with EFSEC in January 2003. Therefore, EFSEC is the sole non-federal agency authorized to permit the proposed project. For informational purposes, Table 1-2 of this Final 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, Shapiro and Associates, Inc., is the principal author of the Final EIS, with Otak Inc., Acres International, Huckell/Weinman, Inc., and EFSEC staff contributing. The primary source of information used to prepare the Final EIS is the Application for Site Certification, which was prepared by Sagebrush Power Partners LLC and its primary consultants CH2M Hill, Western Ecosystems Technologies, Inc., Northwest Wildlife Consultants, Inc., Eagle Cap Consulting Inc., and Lithic Analysts. Other primary sources include the following:

- Kittitas County Draft EIS for the Desert Claim Wind Power Project (Kittitas County 2003c);
- Kittitas County Final EIS for the Desert Claim Wind Power Project (Kittitas County 2004);
- Application for Site Certification for the Wild Horse Wind Power Project (Wind Ridge Power Partners LLC 2004);
- Wild Horse Wind Power Project Off-Site Alternatives Analysis (Jones and Stokes 2004a);
- Wild Horse Wind Power Project Off-Site Alternatives Impact Analysis (Jones and Stokes 2004b);
- Wild Horse Wind Power Project Draft EIS (EFSEC 2004a);
- Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project Draft Supplemental EIS (EFSEC 2004b);
- Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project Addendum to Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EFSEC 2005d);
- Second Request for Preemption, Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project (Sagebrush Power Partners LLC 2006a);
- New information from prefiled testimony, adjudicative hearing testimony and examination, hearing exhibits, and final briefs.

Subsequent Environmental Review: None anticipated.

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 2007). The governor has 60 days to accept or reject the recommendation or to remand the recommendation to EFSEC for further investigation.

Contact for Additional Information:

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Location of Background Information: You may access this Final EIS and find additional information about the project on the EFSEC Web site at www.efsec.wa.gov. Copies of the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project Application for Site Certification, EFSEC No. 2003-01, and this Final 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

Carpenter Memorial (Cle Elum) Library
302 Pennsylvania Avenue
Cle Elum, WA 98922-1196
(509) 674-2313

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

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