

# NEPA PROCESS

## Buffalo Ridge III Wind Project

### What Is NEPA?

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a law that requires all federal agencies to consider the effects of their proposed actions.
- It promotes better agency decision-making by ensuring that high-quality information is available to officials and the public before the agency decides whether and how to undertake a major federal action.
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a detailed analysis of the effects from a proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives.
- The EIS examines ways to avoid or reduce adverse effects.
- The NEPA process provides opportunities for public involvement.

### What Is Scoping?

The overall goal of scoping is to define the scope of issues to be addressed in depth in the EIS. Specifically, the scoping process:

- » Identifies people or organizations who are interested in the proposed action
- » Identifies the significant issues to be analyzed in the EIS
- » Identifies and eliminates from detailed review those issues that will not be significant
- » Determines the roles and responsibilities of agencies
- » Identifies gaps in data and informational needs
- » Identifies other environmental review and consultation requirements so they can be integrated with the EIS

As part of the process, Western is required to identify and invite the participation of interested persons, which is the purpose of this meeting today.

### Why Is Western Involved?

Heartland Wind, LLC applied for an interconnection with Western's electric transmission system. The interconnection request triggers Western's requirement to prepare an EIS. Western's federal action would be to interconnect the proposed Project. Western has no authority over permitting or siting the Project.

#### HEARTLAND'S SITING PROCESS



#### WESTERN'S NEPA PROCESS

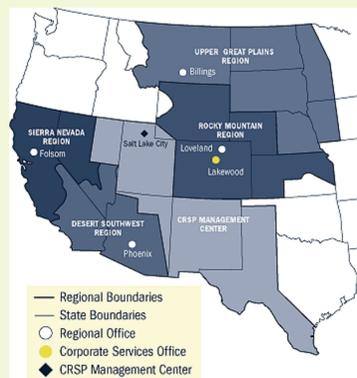


#### HEARTLAND'S CONSTRUCTION PHASE\*



\* Estimated schedule

### Who Is Western Area Power Administration?



Western Area Power Administration is one of the four power marketing administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy. Western markets and delivers power to cities and towns, cooperatives, public utilities, irrigation districts, federal and state agencies and Native American tribes in 15 western states.

Western owns and operates about 17,000 miles of transmission line throughout these states, including South Dakota.



### Who Is Heartland Wind, LLC?



Heartland Wind, LLC is a fully owned subsidiary of Iberdrola Renewables, Inc.

With over 10,000 MW of renewable energy in operation globally, and more than 3,500 MW of that wind power located in the US, Iberdrola Renewables is currently the world's leading provider of wind power. Iberdrola Renewables wind power projects are part of communities in 17 states, with many more going into construction all the time.

Iberdrola Renewables is currently operating 104 MW in Brookings County, South Dakota, and is currently constructing an additional 210 MW in eastern South Dakota.

Iberdrola Renewables is uniquely positioned to develop, build and operate energy projects around the world and in your community.