

## COVER SHEET

**LEAD FEDERAL AGENCIES:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Western Area Power Administration (Western); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Utilities Service (RUS)  
**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

**TITLE:** Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project, DOE/EIS-0418

**LOCATION:** Aurora, Brule, and Jerauld counties; or Tripp County, South Dakota

<b>CONTACT:</b>	For additional information on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement, contact: Ms. Liana Reilly Western Area Power Administration P.O. Box 281213 Lakewood, CO 80228-8213 Telephone: (800) 336-7288 Fax: (720) 962-7263 E-mail: sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov	For additional information on RUS financing, contact: Mr. Dennis Rankin Rural Utilities Service, Utilities Program 1400 Independence Avenue SW Mail Stop 1571 Washington, DC 20250-1571 Telephone: (202) 720-1953 E-mail: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov
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For additional information on DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities, please contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-20, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington DC 20585, phone: (800) 472-2756 or visit the DOE NEPA Web site at [www.eh.doe.gov/nepa](http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa).

**ABSTRACT:** PrairieWinds, SD1, Incorporated (PrairieWinds) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric). PrairieWinds proposes to construct, own, operate, and maintain the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project, a 151.5-megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity wind-powered generation facility, including 101 General Electric 1.5-MW wind turbine generators, electrical collector lines, collector substation, transmission line, communications system, and service access roads to access wind turbine sites. Two alternative locations are being evaluated for the proposed project. One alternative is located on about 37,000 acres approximately 15 miles north of White Lake, South Dakota, within Brule, Aurora, and Jerauld counties, South Dakota. For this alternative, the requested interconnection is with Western's electric transmission system at Wessington Springs Substation, located in Jerauld County, South Dakota. The other alternative is located on about 83,000 acres approximately eight miles south of Winner, South Dakota, entirely within Tripp County, South Dakota. For this alternative, the interconnection is with Western's electric transmission system at Winner Substation, located in Tripp County, South Dakota. Western's purpose and need is to respond to Basin Electric's interconnection request under Western's Open Access Transmission Service Tariff and make a decision whether to approve or deny the interconnection request. If the decision is to approve the request, Western's action would include making necessary system modifications to accommodate the interconnection of the proposed project. PrairieWinds has requested financial assistance for the proposed project from RUS. RUS's Federal action is whether to approve or deny financial assistance; accordingly, completing the Environmental Impact Statement is one requirement, along with other technical and financial considerations in processing the PrairieWinds application.

Comments on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be sent to Western Area Power Administration at the address below. Comments must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2010.

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