

Western needs your input to identify issues and concerns for the proposed Grande Prairie Windfarm EIS.

If you have any issues, concerns, or questions that you would like addressed in the Grande Prairie Windfarm Project Environmental Impact Statement, please complete this response sheet and send it to Mr. Matt Marsh, Environmental Protection Specialist, Upper Great Plains Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, Montana 59107-5800, or email: GrandePrairie@wapa.gov. If you prefer, give us a call at 1-800-358-3415. You may also call Mr. Marsh directly at (406) 255-2811.

Share your issues, concerns, or questions with us: (please send additional pages if you wish)

To have your name added or removed from our mailing list for this Project, please check the appropriate box and return this response sheet to us. IF you do not ask us to remove your name from our mailing list, we will send you future EIS-related announcements.

Yes, add my name to the mailing list to receive future information

No, please remove my name from your mailing list

Sign up to receive the Draft EIS for review.

Send me the web address for the Draft EIS for review (preferred method)

Send me a CD of the Draft EIS for review

Send me a paper copy of the Draft EIS for Review

Tell us how to reach you

Please give us your name, address, phone, fax, and email so we can keep you updated about this Project.

Name: Richard R. Endacott Title: CEO/Executive Secretary
(Board of Education Lands & Funds)
Mailing address: 555 North Cerner Blvd,
City, State, Zip: Lincoln, NE 68505
Phone: 402/471-2014 Email: richard.endacott@nebraska.gov

Contact Us

For more information contact Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration at (406) 255-2811 or GrandePrairie@wapa.gov.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NEBRASKA REGULATORY OFFICE - WEHRSPANN
8901 SOUTH 154TH STREET, SUITE 1
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68138-3621

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rnc/NEhome.html>

April 25, 2012

Mr. Patrick Dalseth
Midwest Wind Energy, LLC
205 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3910
Chicago, Illinois 60601

RE: NWO-2012-00977-WEH, Request for Review
Wind Energy Facility
Holt County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Dalseth:

This letter pertains to your correspondence, received in our office on 13 April, 2012, requesting our review of the above-referenced project for possible environmental impact. The project is located in Holt County, Nebraska.

The Corps of Engineers is responsible for administering Federal laws that regulate certain activities within waters of the United States. The authority applicable to this responsibility is Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which prohibits the discharge of dredge or fill materials into lakes, streams or wetlands without authorization in the form of a Department of the Army permit and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 which regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition, or capacity of navigable waters of the United States.

A Department of the Army Section 404 permit is required to place fill material into any water of the United States (rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, etc) in the project area, which includes any staging areas, temporary roads, etc. It appears that you project may impact waters of the United States. Please complete and return the following:

1. Enclosed application;
2. Color photographs of the impact areas (temporary and permanent);
3. A detailed description of the activity you wish to conduct and the methods you plan to use (including type of machinery, type of rock, etc.);
4. Delineation of waters of the United States and special aquatic sites, including wetlands (USFWS NWI will not be accepted as sole source for wetland identification);
5. A detailed description of special aquatic site and stream impacts, including acreages and lengths;
6. Source of any Federal funding that will be used at any time during the project.

When we receive the material, we will determine what type of permit, if any, is required.

If you have any questions, or would like to schedule a pre-application meeting, you can write to the above address, email at Laura.Banker@usace.army.mil, or call (402) 896-0896 and refer to file number **NWO-2012-00977-WEH**.

Sincerely,



Ms. Laura Banker, Project Manager

Enclosures

Copy Furnished:

Matt Marsh, United States Department of Energy

Gillespie, Molly

From: Wegner, David <David.Wegner@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 9:00 AM
To: 'grandepairie@wapa.gov'
Subject: Interconnection of the Grand Prairie Wind Farm, NE

The ACOE is under our jurisdiction. I am assuming that as you move forward on the interconnection of the Grande Prairie wind farm that there may be some permitting issues associated with wetlands, etc. Please put me on your mailing list for this project. Thank you. dave

David L. Wegner
Senior Democratic Staff
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
B-375 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
<http://democrats.transportation.house.gov>
(202)-226-0206 (office)/(202) 596-4180(Blackberry)
(202) 225-0060 (main office)

Gillespie, Molly

From: Amber Tucker <Tucker.Amber@epamail.epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 10:37 AM
To: grandeprairie@wapa.gov
Cc: Larry Shepard; Eliodora Chamberlain; Joe Cothorn; Nick_Kaczor@fws.gov
Subject: Grand Prairie Wind Farm NOI Comments
Attachments: Holt County NE Wind Project.pdf

Dear Mr. Marsh:

This correspondence is in response to your request for comments related to the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed interconnection of the Grand Prairie Wind Farm Project in Holt County, near the city of O'Neill, Nebraska. The EIS will address Western's Federal action of interconnecting the proposed Project to Western's transmission system and will also include a review of the potential environmental impacts of Grande Prairie constructing, operating, and maintaining a 400-megawatt (MW) wind power generating facility, consisting of wind turbine generators, access roads, an electrical collection system, a collector substation, permanent meteorological tower(s), a sonic detection and ranging (SODAR) unit, an operations and maintenance building and yard, a transmission line, temporary staging areas, and other ancillary facilities. Thank you for informing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of this project and for the opportunity to comment.

In preliminarily evaluating this action, I referred to EPA Region 7's NEPAAssist database for spatial relationships of environmentally regulated facilities and remediation sites. Our search indicated that one or more Federally listed threatened or endangered species may be present in or near the study area. EPA recommends consulting with the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Nebraska Ecological Services Field Office. Their contact number is 308-382-6468, their website is <http://www.fws.gov/nebraskaes/>.

In the event that there are jurisdictional Waters of the United States affected by the proposed action, it will be necessary to mitigate for all streams and wetlands that may be affected in the commencement of the proposed project. We recommend that any mitigation should occur in the same HUC 8 or smaller watershed as the location of the project effects. We recommend that you contact the appropriate authorities at the US Army Corp of Engineers to determine whether a CWA Section 404 permit may be required for this action. If changes occur in the project purpose, need, alternatives, or impacts between now and the time of issuance on Public Notice by the Corps of Engineers, EPA's 404 program reserves the ability to comment further on this project.

In addition, EPA has agreed to serve as a cooperating agency under NEPA with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) in the preparation of an EIS supporting their planning for a joint comprehensive conservation strategy and land protection plan (LPP) for the Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs areas of the Missouri River in southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska. The LPP aims to improve floodplain management in this area. The FWS and NPS are co-lead agencies in this effort and issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on February 12, 2012. The FWS and NPS are currently in the scoping phase of EIS development. WAPA's Grande Prairie Wind Project area appears to be very close to, if not actually overlapping, the project area for the Niobrara Confluence Watershed Study Area of the FWS/NPS project in Knox and Holt counties in Nebraska. EPA recommends that the WAPA project team coordinate with the FWS/NPS project team throughout the planning process for both projects. The website for the FWS/NPS project is <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/niob-ponca> and the project team leader is Mr. Nick Kaczor, with the FWS, whom I have copied on this email. Mr. Kaczor's phone number is (303) 236-4387.

Thank you for involving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the consideration of environmental impacts either to or from this project. As further planning and studies progress, EPA would appreciate being notified of future meetings and/or project documents that may be issued. If you have any other questions, you can contact me at 913-551-7565, or via email at tucker.amber@epa.gov, or Larry Shepard at 913-551-7441 or shepard.larry@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

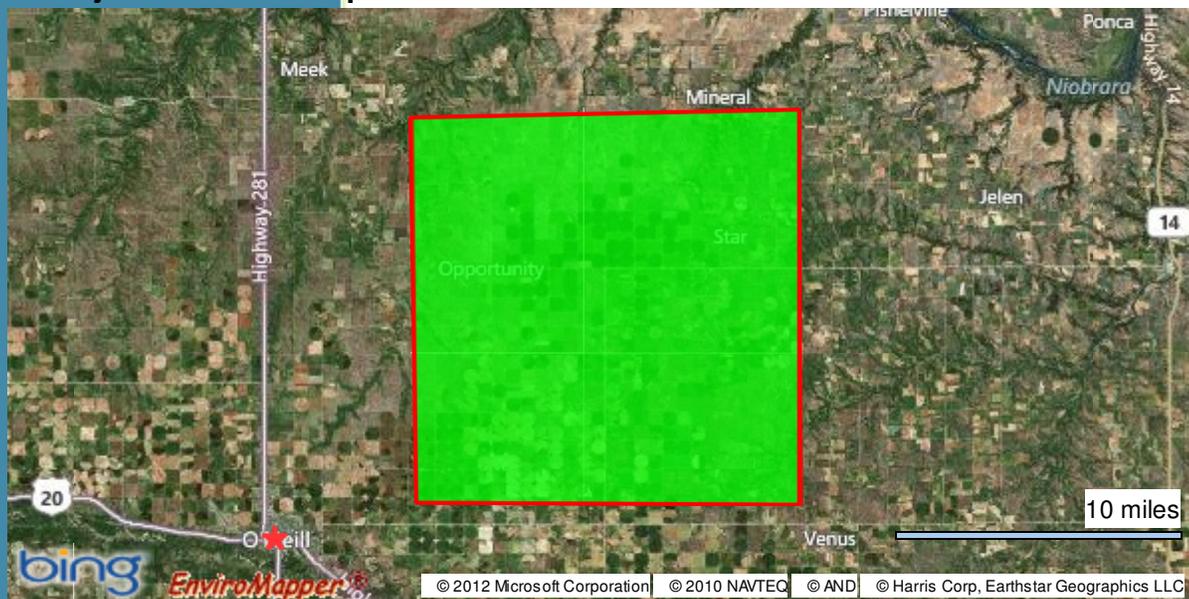
Amber Tucker
US EPA R7
ENSV-NEPA Team
901 N 5th St
Kansas City, KS 66101
913-551-7565

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not." -Dr. Seuss, from The Lorax



NEPAssist

Project Location Map



Geographic coordinates:

POLYGON

(-98.556290,42.672247,-98.289185,42.676790,-98.288498,42.476056,-98.553543,42.477575,-98.556290,42.672247)

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Project Area | 185.24 sq mi |
|--------------|--------------|

R7 Layers

| | |
|---|------------|
| Within 1000 meters of an airport? | <u>no</u> |
| Within an EJ COOCCURRENCE (Minority/Poverty/Both) blockgroup? | <u>no</u> |
| Within 500 meters of a National Historic Place? | <u>no</u> |
| Within 500 meters of a National Heritage T/E Hexagon? | <u>yes</u> |
| Within 500 meters of an AIRS/AFS site? | <u>no</u> |
| Within 500 meters of a CERCLIS site? | <u>no</u> |
| Within 500 meters of a RCRA facility? | <u>no</u> |
| Within 500 meters of a LQG RCRA facility? | <u>no</u> |
| Within 500 meters of a PCS (NPDES) Major facility? | <u>no</u> |
| Within 500 meters of a PCS facility? | <u>no</u> |
| Within 500 meters of a SWDIS facility? | <u>no</u> |

NatureServe data

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Within an area with known rare, endangered, or at-risk species? | click here |
|---|----------------------------|

[Download XML](#) | [Environmental Justice Analysis](#)

Gillespie, Molly

From: Amber Tucker <Tucker.Amber@epamail.epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 10:07 AM
To: grandeprairie@wapa.gov
Subject: Scoping Meeting April 24th

Good morning Mr. Marsh,

I hope your day is going well. I have a few questions regarding the scoping meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, April 24th. First, what time will the meeting be held? And second, will there be an opportunity to call in to this meeting, &/or is a webinar taking place? I'm not sure that we will be able to physically travel to this meeting but if the opportunity is available, would certainly be interested in "virtually" attending. Could you please keep us informed of any updates to this project? Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks and have a great day.

Amber Tucker
US EPA R7
ENSV-NEPA Team
901 N 5th St
Kansas City, KS 66101
913-551-7565

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not." -Dr. Seuss, from The Lorax



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

Monty W. Fredrickson, P.E., Director – State Engineer
1500 Highway 2 • PO Box 94759 • Lincoln NE 68509-4759
Phone (402)471-4567 • FAX (402)479-4325 • transportation.nebraska.gov

May 9, 2012

Mr. Matt Marsh
Environmental Protection Specialist
Upper Great Plains Region
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

Dear Mr. Marsh:

We received your letter concerning the Grande Prairie Wind Energy Project north of O'Neill, Nebraska. The State of Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) is interested in the development of this project and has the following comments:

1. If wind energy utilities and infrastructures, including new access roads, cross or occupy state highway right-of-way, a review of the associated plans is required by the NDOR. When coordinated and approved, a right-of-way occupation permit is issued by the NDOR.
2. The transportation of the wind turbine generators on state highways may require an overweight and over-dimensional permit. Typically, when the blades for a wind farm are moved, they do not require a permit. The blades are long, but generally not overweight, and are exempt by State Statute. The bases, however, are usually heavy and require an overweight permit. As a resource concerning NDOR overweight and over-dimensional permits, see our website at <http://www.dor.state.ne.us/rpt/motr-carriers.htm>.
3. The specified location of the wind energy facility does not impact NDOR or its highways.

Thank you for allowing NDOR to comment on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Monty W. Fredrickson, P.E.
Director – State Engineer

MWF:MO:z

cc: Randy Peters, NDOR Deputy Director – Engineering
Moe Jamshidi, NDOR Deputy Director – Operations
Mike Owen, NDOR

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Send me a paper copy of the Draft EIS for Review

Tell us how to reach you

Please give us your name, address, phone, fax, and email so we can keep you updated about this Project. *Remove Monty Frederickson's name and replace with:*

Name: Mike Owen

Title: Planning + Project Development

Mailing address: PO Box 94759

*Division
Engineer*

City, State, Zip: Lincoln NE 68509

Phone: 402-479-4795 Email: mike.owen@nebraska.gov

Contact Us

For more information contact Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration at (406) 255-2811 or GrandePrairie@wapa.gov.



May 2, 2012

Mr. Matt Marsh
Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

RE: Request for Preliminary Consultation
Holt County Wind Project
HP# 1204-082-01

Dear Mr. Marsh,

I have compared our survey maps with your project area, and have found that historic properties have been surveyed in the areas delineated on the enclosed map. This is not to say that they are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or are even still extant; simply that our surveyors found them to have sufficient historic integrity to be surveyed. The surveys date from 1987, so the information is dated.

I also enclose a standard document that we are making available to all wind farm projects. I hope you will find it useful.

If you have questions, you may call me at (402) 471-4773, or email at jill.dolberg@nebraska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill E. Dolberg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jill E. Dolberg
Review and Compliance Coordinator
Nebraska State Historical Society

1500 R Street
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554
p: (800) 833-6747
(402) 471-3270
f: (402) 471-3100
www.nebraskahistory.org

GUIDANCE FOR WIND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Alternative energy production and distribution is an important strategic choice for America today and it is fitting that Nebraska play a role in this new and expanding technology. The Nebraska State Historical Society believes that alternative energy can bring many advantages to our state and its people, and we are convinced that this can be done while protecting the significant cultural resources found across our state as well as the cultural landscapes that make Nebraska the very special place that it is. We encourage partnerships with our agency in meeting these mutual public goals. The following guidance is issued to developers of wind projects.

Addressing Cultural Resources

There are three areas of consideration in the preservation of cultural resources while meeting these goals. The first are the archeological resources that give evidence of the lives and activities of communities of people who have lived here over the past centuries. Second, there are standing structures such as rural homesteads, agricultural buildings and transportation routes that included the historic overland trails. The third area of concern consists of the spectacular vistas – sometimes called “viewsheds” - that contribute to the setting of certain cultural resources.

The Nebraska State Historical Society is delegated the responsibility for historic preservation law and regulation in the state. Developers can consult with this agency’s State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or the Nebraska State Archeologist in the development of projects. If federal action (i.e. permits, financial assistance or federal lands) is required for a wind project, the developer is required to support the lead federal agency in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations of 36CFR800. Regardless of whether a federal undertaking exists, developers may be required to take into account other requirements. For example, the Nebraska Unmarked Human Burials Act and Dead Human Bodies statute (NRS 12-1201 to 12-1212 and 28-1301) will apply to burials that may be identified or discovered in the course of the construction of wind power infrastructure.

Regardless of the extent of federal or state involvement, consultation with the SHPO can assist in identifying cultural resources in or near the project and methods to consider properties of significance. Wind farm developers would also consider consulting with Tribes for input regarding places of traditional cultural importance and Native American burials. Cultural resource identification and mitigation creates goodwill for project developers and may avoid public controversy and project delays.

Pre-construction Assessment

Since wind projects may have impact on cultural resources, it is necessary to identify any cultural resources that may fall within an area identified as having potential to involve cultural resources. For example, this may include a range of one-half mile in proximity to the construction. For other types of cultural resources whose viewsheds could be affected, an area may be more extensive, given the landscape, terrain and setting. The identification of cultural

resources is accomplished through surveys. Survey protocols and guidelines are available from the SHPO and consultation with this office will assist in determining special considerations that can assist individual projects. For cultural resources, listing in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places determines which sites are significant and should be considered in the development of a project. Burials do not need to be evaluated by this standard, as all burials are subject to protection.

Archeological Surveys

Initial investigation is done through a records check to determine if the proposed project areas have been previously surveyed for sites. If an extensive records check is required, there will be a fee. An area may also be conducive to the presence of archeological sites. This may require an archeological survey.

An archeological survey is used to investigate areas for the presence of archeological sites. Most surveys are conducted as a “pedestrian” walk-over of project areas by qualified personnel in historic and/or prehistoric archeology. Surface inspection and limited subsurface testing may also be called upon. Unmarked Native American burial sites are often located along bluffs, ridge lines and other elevated areas. These are areas conducive to wind farm infrastructure development and should be given special attention. Additionally, the presence of traditional cultural places would be considered by consulting with Tribes.

Historic Resource Survey and Inventory

For historic places the first level of survey to be conducted should be a “reconnaissance” survey, designed to gather basic information on the presence of sites such as buildings and farmsteads. Photographs are taken, each property is mapped, and distinctive features are noted. Preliminary research collected at this time forms the basis for future architectural and historical research. The second level of survey will inform about the relative significance of each property. Intensive-level surveys provide a more complete inspection and recording of architectural and historical information and gather sufficient information to determine whether a property has significance.

Viewsheds

Many cultural resources are important for their general setting. Collectively these may be called “viewsheds.” This includes scenic vistas and views that give environmental context to certain cultural resources. The identification of important viewsheds should take place in conjunction with cultural resource surveys.

Avoidance and Minimization of Effects to Cultural Resources

Timing is a critical factor in determining alternatives to avoid or mitigate effects on cultural resources. For viewsheds, the need is to identify the general locations of wind farms (“macrositing”) at a time when alternate locations could be considered. This includes locations where terrain and topographic conditions lessens the visual impact to a site or sites. Development would also be narrowed down to pad sites, access roads and utility lines. Cultural resources can be avoided through minimal changes (“micrositing”) in the location of the pad site of individual wind turbines or utility line or rerouting an access road.

Based on the experiences of the Nebraska State Historical Society and those of colleagues in other Plains states, it is very possible to develop successful and mutually beneficial ways to achieve alternative energy developments and preserve cultural resources. The Nebraska State Historical Society is available to work together to make this happen. Please feel free to contact the SHPO with questions, guidance and further information.

For further information, contact
Nebraska State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
1500 R Street
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501
(402) 471-4787
OR
To direct you to the appropriate staff, email
teresa.fatemi@nebraska.gov

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Tell us how to reach you

Please give us your name, address, phone, fax, and email so we can keep you updated about this Project.

Name: John O'Connor CO: NPPD Title: Renewable Energy Development Program Mgr.

Mailing address: 1327 H Street

City, State, Zip: Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 465-3511 Email: jwoconn@nppd.com

Contact Us

For more information contact Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration at (406) 255-2811 or GrandePrairie@wapa.gov.

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Tell us how to reach you

Please give us your name, address, phone, fax, and email so we can keep you updated about this Project.

Name: Joe L. Citta, Jr.

Title: Environmental Manager

Mailing address: Nebraska Public Power District P.O. Box 499 1414 15th St.

City, State, Zip: Columbus, NE 68602-0499

Phone: 402-563-5355 Email: jlcitta@nppd.com

Contact Us

For more information contact Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration at (406) 255-2811 or GrandePrairie@wapa.gov.

Western needs your input to identify issues and concerns for the proposed Grande Prairie Windfarm EIS.

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Please give us your name, address, phone, fax, and email so we can keep you updated about this Project.

Name: Larry Linder Title: Environ. Compliance Specialist
Mailing address: Nebraska Public Power District P.O. Box 499 1414 15th St.
City, State, Zip: Columbus, NE 68602-0499
Phone: 402-563-5009 Email: L1Linde@nppd.com

Contact Us

For more information contact Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration at [@wapa.gov](mailto:Matt.Marsh@wapa.gov).

Office: (402) 563-5009
Fax: (402) 563-5168
Home: (402) 562-5938
Cellular: (402) 750-7720



Nebraska Public Power District

Always there when you need us

Larry D. Linder

Environmental Compliance Specialist, CHMM

E-Mail: l1linde@nppd.com

1414 15th Street / PO Box 499 / Columbus, NE 68602-0499



REPLY REFER TO:
L6019 (MNRR)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Missouri National Recreational River
508 E. 2nd Street
Yankton, South Dakota 57078

May 16, 2012

Mr. Matt Marsh
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 35800
2900 4th Avenue North
Billings, Montana 59107

Dear Mr. Marsh,

The National Park Service (NPS) offers the following comments for consideration during the development of the Grande Prairie Wind Farm Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposed project is in the vicinity of Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR), a unit of the National Park Service. The MNRR was congressionally established through the Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA) in 1978 and 1991. Congress identified recreation, fish and wildlife, scenic, historical/cultural, ecological, geological, free-flowing, and water quality as Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) for the designated reaches of the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers and Verdigre Creek (see enclosed map).

The WSRA requires the NPS, as the managing agency, to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated for the benefit of present and future generations. Section 10(a) of the WSRA (16 U.S.C. 1281(a)) contains the following non-degradation and enhancement policy.

"Each component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be administered in such manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values."

The proposed location of the project has the potential for adverse effects on the values of the MNRR and the NPS requests that the EIS analyze potential impacts to the viewshed, including dark night sky, in order to determine the effect of the wind farm on the scenic view from the MNRR. An assessment of the anticipated noise production and how it may affect the MNRR and other natural areas should also be included in the EIS. For the NPS, the desired outcome is that no wind turbine should be visible and there should be no detectable noise associated with the proposed wind farm from within the MNRR boundary.

The project also has the potential to impact nationally, regionally, and locally rare or unique species. Therefore, the EIS should fully evaluate the potential for impacts to these species and their habitats. Evaluation of impacts to non-listed but sensitive natural resources such as bat and raptor populations, high quality grasslands (if present), and ground nesting birds should also be considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the planning for this proposed federal action. Please direct any questions or comments to Resource Chief, Gia Wagner at (605) 665-0209.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Mietz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Mietz
Superintendent
Missouri National Recreational River

Enclosure

Western needs your input to identify issues and concerns for the proposed Grande Prairie Windfarm EIS.

If you have any issues, concerns, or questions that you would like addressed in the Grande Prairie Windfarm Project Environmental Impact Statement, please complete this response sheet and send it to Mr. Matt Marsh, Environmental Protection Specialist, Upper Great Plains Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, Montana 59107-5800, or email: GrandePrairie@wapa.gov. If you prefer, give us a call at 1-800-358-3415. You may also call Mr. Marsh directly at (406) 255-2811.

Share your issues, concerns, or questions with us: (please send additional pages if you wish)

My biggest concern is if the wind farms installed already are producing the electricity that they were designed for. From some information I've read the capacity is there, but not the output or outcome. If they are not producing to capacity they will become obsolete, and then what happens. If the capacity is met, then I think it's OK. We need to be less dependent on foreign oil and wind will help.

To have your name added or removed from our mailing list for this Project, please check the appropriate box and return this response sheet to us. IF you do not ask us to remove your name from our mailing list, we will send you future EIS-related announcements.

Yes, add my name to the mailing list to receive future information

No, please remove my name from your mailing list

Sign up to receive the Draft EIS for review.

Send me the web address for the Draft EIS for review (preferred method)

Send me a CD of the Draft EIS for review

Send me a paper copy of the Draft EIS for Review

Tell us how to reach you

Please give us your name, address, phone, fax, and email so we can keep you updated about this Project.

Name: Philip Pierce Dave Pierce DBA Pierce Bros Title: Co owners

Mailing address: 87746-516 AVE

City, State, Zip: Verdine NE 68783

Phone: 402-655-2238

Email: _____

Contact Us

For more information contact Mr. Matt Marsh, Western Area Power Administration at (406) 255-2811 or GrandePrairie@wapa.gov.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and
Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm
Service
Agency

Nebraska State
FSA Office
7131 A Street
Lincoln, NE
68510-4202

Office:
(402) 437-5581
Fax:
(402) 437-5280

May 25, 2012
Reply to: Reisdorff

Matt Marsh, Project Manager
Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region
P. O. Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

Dear Mr. Marsh:

This is in response to your letter concerning the Grande Prairie Wind, LLC project. The project will construct, operate, and maintain a wind energy facility north of O'Neill, Nebraska in Holt County. In this project area there may be some Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land which could be impacted with the project site. CRP generally takes highly erodible cropland out of production and devotes it to resource conservation crops in exchange for annual rental payments to the participants. The protected resources include erosion control, water quality, and wildlife.

Current CRP policy permits wind turbines to be constructed on CRP without loss of rental benefits where the turbine is physically located on a case by case basis. There are certain requirements that wind turbines are permitted on up to 5.0 acres per CRP contract provided the environmental impacts have been considered by the Farm Service Agency. Construction would not be allowed during the primary nesting season which is May 1 through July 15. While the actual footprint of the wind turbine is permitted, any access roads, transformers, and other ancillary equipment will have to be terminated from the CRP contract. Refunds would be required from the CRP participants for the acres terminated.

Our office did provide your letter to the affected Nebraska field offices for their review and comment. We did get some comments from a FSA County Committeeman from Knox County. He expressed some concerns about the production capacity and future obsolescence. His comments are attached for your review.

We look forward to reviewing the EIS when completed.

Sincerely,

Dan Steinkruger
State Executive Director

Attachment

cc: Knox County FSA Office
Holt-Boyd County FSA Office
Michael Kresin, District Director



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**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
State Office-Lincoln**

April 17, 2012

Matt Marsh, PM
Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region
PO Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

RE: Wind Energy Facility in Holt county, NE
Grande Prairie Wind, LLC

Dear Mr. Marsh:

You contacted USDA Rural Development for comments under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Rural Development does not have any regulatory authority but does finance numerous projects across the nation. Federal Agencies are to evaluate the interagency impacts, so we appreciate your concern.

Rural Development has determined No Adverse Effect based on:

1. RD has not been asked to fund any portion of this project yet. If we are contacted in the future RD would adopt the WAPA environmental to the maximum extent possible.
2. This project does not have an adverse effect on any energy project that RD has funded in the past.

At your convenience, please call (402) 437-5560 with any questions or concerns.


MAXINE MOUL
State Director

MM/mjn

Cc: State Office File
Rural Development Area Director, Roger Meeks, NE

X:\PROGRAM_SUPPORT\Environmental\NEPA reviews for other Agencies\Grande Prairie Wind 2012.docx

Rm. 152 Federal Building • 100 Centennial Mall North • Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 • <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>
(402) 437-5551 Phone • 800-670-6553 Toll Free • (402) 437-5093 TDY • (402) 437-5408 Fax •

Committed to the future of rural communities.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.
To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW,
Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).



**Grande Prairie Wind Farm Open House
 April 24, 2012, 5-8 PM, O'Neill Community Center
 Public Scoping Meeting
 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

Thank you for your interest in the Grande Prairie Wind Farm EIS. After reviewing all of the exhibits and speaking with project representatives, please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the EIS mailing list and/or to provide comments. Written comments can be submitted at the Scoping Meeting, faxed to (406) 255-2900, mailed to Mr. Matt Marsh, Document Manager, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, 2900 4th Avenue, North, Billings, MT 59107-5800 or e-mailed to grandeprairie@wapa.gov. Your comments are important to us and will be accepted through **May 16, 2012** for formal consideration in the scoping process.

Please Print Contact Information Below

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Name:</u> James & Norma Frerichs | <u>Organization:</u> — |
| <u>E-mail Address:</u> rvfan65@msn.com | <u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u> cell 402-925-2526 402-340-5177 |
| <u>Street Address:</u> 501 St Johns Drive | <u>City / State / Zip Code:</u> Atkinson, NE 68713 |

- Please e-mail me the web link to the Draft EIS when it becomes available. (Quickest and Preferred method)
- I would like a paper copy of the Draft EIS when it becomes available.
- I would like a Compact Disk (CD) of the Draft EIS when it becomes available.
- I do not need a copy of the Draft EIS.

Please Share Comments, Questions, or Concerns Below (continue on separate sheet if necessary)

We appreciated the Public Scoping Meeting. It was well attended and a lot of interest. We had noticed that there were no wind towers on NW 1/4 of Sec 19, Township 30 Range 9W. This was a little puzzling as it has hills to the East and is not irrigated.

Thank you for your time and interest.



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Please Print Contact Information Below

| | |
|---|--|
| <u>Name:</u> Dick Grosch or Steve Otto | <u>Organization:</u> Grosch Brothers |
| <u>E-mail Address:</u> grosch_drilling@yahoo.com | <u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u> 402-336-1438 |
| <u>Street Address:</u> 119 N. 4th St. | <u>City / State / Zip Code:</u> O'Neill NE 68763 |

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This is a good project for our area. Keep moving forward!

Thank you for your time and interest.



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Please Print Contact Information Below

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Name:</u> Lowell & Vicky Krieger | <u>Organization:</u> |
| <u>E-mail Address:</u> Krieger farms @ telebeep.com | <u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u> |
| <u>Street Address:</u> 88058 500 th Ave. | <u>City / State / Zip Code:</u> O'Neill, NE 68763 |

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Please Share Comments, Questions, or Concerns Below (continue on separate sheet if necessary)

Thank you for your time and interest.

Gillespie, Molly

From: Maurice Koenig <maurice.koenig@asihiyield.com>
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 9:31 AM
To: grandeprairie@wapa.gov
Subject: Scoping Meeting Comments

Mr. Matt Marsh
Document Manger

After attending the Scoping Meeting in O'Neill concerning the proposed Grande Prairie Wind Farm I am sending this message in support of this project. I feel this project could benefit the economic climate in Holt County and help support the renewable fuels needs for the next generation. The impact to our current industries of Livestock production and crop production should not be adversely affected. Individual land owners could benefit from the annual rental income generated by the property leases to the wind farm and then turn those dollars again in the local economy. Since the proposed wind farm is located in a sparsely populated area, any physical properties of the project that could be considered to be offensive to any individuals should be minimal. Further Utilization of the existing transmission line already in place to transport the generated electricity simply makes sense for all taxpayers and consumers.

Please e-mail me the link to the draft EIS when it becomes available.

Thank you,

Maurice Koenig
402-340-2182
49184 873rd Road
O'Neill, NE 68763



**Grande Prairie Wind Farm Open House
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Please Print Contact Information Below

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>Name:</u> <i>Noelbert H. Krueger</i> | <u>Organization:</u> |
| <u>E-mail Address:</u> <i>nksk2@hotmail.com</i> | <u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u> <i>402-336-2158</i> |
| <u>Street Address:</u> <i>508 W. 8th St</i> | <u>City / State / Zip Code:</u> <i>O'Neill, NE 68763</i> |

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Pleased with the progress and hope it can be completed

Thank you for your time and interest.



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Please Print Contact Information Below

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: Jennifer Koenig <i>Jennifer Koenig</i> | Organization: <i>Holt County Road Dept.</i> |
| E-mail Address: <i>holtcountryroad.jen@telebeep.com</i> | Daytime Phone No. (optional): <i>402-336-3888</i> |
| Street Address: | City / State / Zip Code: <i>O'Neill, NE 68763</i> |

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Please Print Contact Information Below

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Name:</u> maru fritz | <u>Organization:</u> Garden Fresh Vegetables, LLC |
| <u>E-mail Address:</u> mfritz@gardenfreshvegetables.com | <u>Daytime Phone No. (optional):</u> 402 - 340 - 0747 |
| <u>Street Address:</u> 9 708 - E. Nyles Av. | <u>City / State / Zip Code:</u> O'Neill NE 68763 |

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looks like a good project. Lies within the latest proposed XL pipeline route ~~so~~ so should have market for same. Our business would be a great beneficiary of the power. We can utilize a store ~~M~~ meg at present for one day. Could be greatly increased if project is realized.

Please contact for any help you need. Will help in any way we can.
 Thank you for your time and interest.

Gillespie, Molly

From: roger Fahrenholz <rfahrenholz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 1:20 PM
To: grandeprairie@wapa.gov
Subject: information

To: Mr. Matt Marsh, Document Manager

Please provide me with any information available on the Grande Prairie project to be constructed in Holt county, northeast of O'Neill NE.

Also please add me to the project mailing list.

Thank you

Roger L. Fahrenholz
86431 496th Ave
O'Neill, Ne 68763