

# PROJECT PARTICIPANTS AND THE NEPA PROCESS

## HERMOSA WEST WIND ENERGY PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

### Western Area Power Administration (Western)



Western markets and delivers federal wholesale electric power, mostly hydroelectric power from dams. The power is delivered in 15 states in the central and western U.S. to municipalities, rural electric cooperatives, public utilities and irrigation districts, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes. Western also owns and operates approximately 17,000 miles of transmission lines in states including Wyoming. Western's federal action for the Hermosa West Wind Energy Project would be to act on Shell WindEnergy's (SWE's) application to interconnect the proposed Project with Western's existing 345-kilovolt transmission line in southeastern Wyoming.

### Lead Agency

### Tetra Tech



Tetra Tech is providing support to Western in the preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Project. Tetra Tech also is managing public involvement and public comments for the EIS process.

### Contractor Support

### Shell Wind Energy Inc. (SWE)



SWE is a subsidiary of Shell Oil Company. SWE has become one of the world's largest wind power developers with 450 megawatts (MW) of installed wind energy in the U.S. and 90 MW of installed wind energy in Europe. SWE's wind energy powers approximately 150,000 homes. SWE's projects in the U.S. are located from West Virginia to California. In 2001, SWE installed the 50-MW Rock River wind energy project in Carbon County, Wyoming. In 2003 SWE installed the 162-MW Colorado Green wind energy project in Prowers County, Colorado. SWE now is applying to Western to interconnect the proposed Hermosa West Wind Energy Project to Western's transmission line so that power from the proposed Project can reach the market.

### Proponent

### Environmental Resources Management (ERM)



ERM is providing support to SWE in performing baseline feasibility and environmental studies for the proposed Project site.

### Contractor Support



### WEST, Inc.

WEST is providing support to SWE in performing wildlife studies for avian species.

### Contractor Support

### Public & Interested Parties



Western encourages input on the proposed Project from landowners in the Project area; federal, state, and local agencies; nongovernment organizations; Native American tribes; and the general public. There are several opportunities for individuals, agencies, and organizations to provide comments.

### Public Involvement

- Comments during the public scoping process will help to define which issues and resources Western should focus on in the EIS.
- Comments on the draft EIS (DEIS) will determine additional analyses to conduct, or particular issues and concerns to further address.
- Comments on the final EIS (FEIS) will help to determine Western's final action on the SWE request to interconnect to Western's transmission line. Western will publish its findings in a Record of Decision (ROD).

## WHAT IS NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that federal agencies consider the potential effects of their proposed actions on the human and natural environments. The NEPA process promotes better federal decision-making by ensuring that high-quality information is available to federal decision-makers and the public before the government decides to undertake a major federal action.

To comply with NEPA, Western will prepare an EIS that examines the potential effect of the proposed Project to the following categories of resources:

- Agriculture
- Air quality
- Cultural resources
- Environmental justice
- Geology and soils
- Hazardous materials
- Health and safety
- Land use
- Native American concerns
- Noise
- Paleontology
- Recreational resources
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Vegetation
- Visual resources
- Water, wetlands and floodplains
- Wildlife and habitat

As part of the analysis, the EIS will

- (1) Consider the proposed action and a reasonable range of Project alternatives
- (2) Propose mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects
- (3) Provide multiple opportunities for public involvement and comments

## THE NEPA PROCESS

