

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Overview

The Hermosa West Wind Energy Project is a commercial, utility-scale wind energy generation facility being developed by Shell WindEnergy Inc. near Tie Siding, Wyoming, in Albany County. The proposed Project is designed to produce up to 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. The Project would be built in phases to meet demand in the energy market.

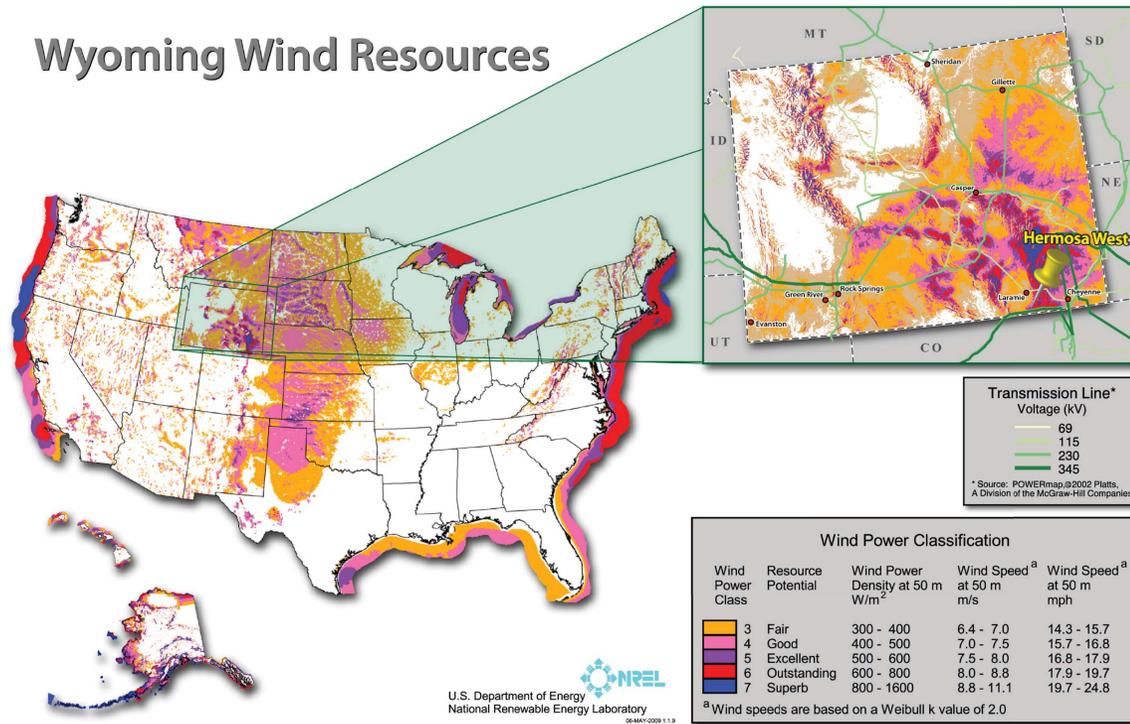
Facility Description

The proposed Project would consist of up to 200 wind turbines with a combined generating capacity of up to 300 MW of electricity. It would be located on an 11,125-acre site and would be built in phases with the number of turbines determined by the market for the electricity generated.

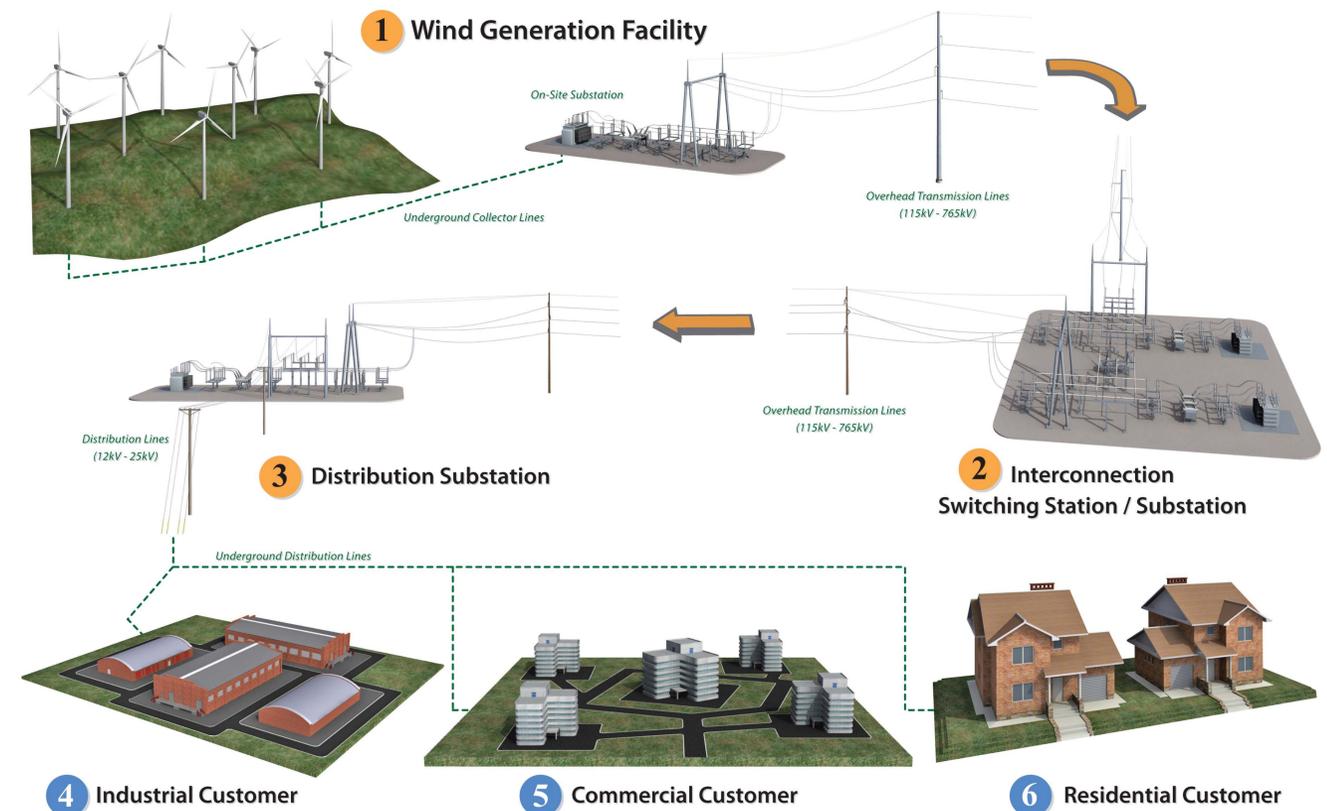
In addition to turbines, the Project would include:

- All-weather access roads
- Underground power collection lines linking turbines to the Project substation
- Project substation
- Short, high-voltage transmission line linking the Project substation to Western's transmission system
- Operation and maintenance facilities
- Supervisory control and data acquisition equipment
- Meteorological tower

Wyoming Wind Resources



How Electricity Reaches The Market



Purpose And Need For The Project

The NEPA process calls for the lead agency (Western) and proponent (SWE) to describe the purpose and need for the proposed Project.

Western's Purpose And Need

Western must act on SWE's application to interconnect the proposed Project with Western's existing 345-kilovolt transmission line in southeastern Wyoming. The interconnection request triggers NEPA and the EIS process. In the EIS, Western will analyze the proposed action to construct the wind generation facility and interconnect it with Western's transmission line. Western also will analyze the no action alternative. Under the no action alternative, Western would not approve the interconnection request, and the proposed Project would not be constructed. Western has no authority to require SWE to evaluate alternative generation technologies or Project locations.

SWE's Purpose And Need

SWE is addressing national interest in new, renewable sources of clean energy for delivery to the electricity market.