

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

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

CONTACT:	For additional information on this Final 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.

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 wind turbine service access roads. Two alternative locations are being evaluated: 1) the Crow Lake Alternative is on about 36,000 acres approximately 15 miles north of White Lake, South Dakota, within Brule, Aurora, and Jerauld counties, South Dakota, and would interconnect with Western's Wessington Springs Substation, located in Jerauld County, South Dakota; and 2) the Winner Alternative is on about 83,000 acres approximately eight miles south of Winner, South Dakota, entirely within Tripp County, South Dakota, and would interconnect with Western's Winner Substation, located in Tripp County, South Dakota. In January 2010, South Dakota Wind Partners, LLC (Wind Partners) proposed adding seven turbines within the Crow Lake Alternative.

Western's purpose and need is to respond to Basin Electric's interconnection requests (one for the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project and one for the Wind Partners' proposed development, cumulative total of 184 MW) under Western's Open Access Transmission Service Tariff and make a decision whether to approve or deny the interconnection requests. If the decision is to approve the requests, Western's action may include making necessary system modifications to accommodate the interconnection. Basin Electric has requested financial assistance for the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project from RUS. RUS's Federal action is whether to approve or deny financial assistance; accordingly, completing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is one requirement, along with other technical and financial considerations. Wind Partners would finance and own their proposed development.

Western and RUS have prepared this EIS to analyze the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and range of reasonable alternatives, including the "No Action" alternative. The agencies will use the EIS to ensure that the environmental information needed for informed decision-making is available. The agencies will issue separate decisions, in the form of Records of Decision, no sooner than 30 days after publication of the FEIS.

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