

Appendix F

Native American Tribe Letter and Recipient List

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

SEE ATTACHED LIST

Dear Honorable Chairperson, Mr. Lester Thompson:

Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power-marketing agency of the U.S. Department of Energy, has received a request to interconnect its transmission system near Wessington Springs, South Dakota with a wind generating facility that has been proposed by PrairieWinds, SD1, Incorporated (PrairieWinds), a subsidiary of Basin Electric. PrairieWinds has applied for financial assistance for the proposed project from the Rural Utility Service (RUS), an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs. Western and RUS are considering these respective requests thereby making the project an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800). In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2), Western will serve as the lead agency for the purposes of Section 106 review.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the proposed project and to provide notice that Western and RUS intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addressing their respective Federal actions. This letter also serves to initiate Government-to-Government consultation. With this letter, Western and RUS invite your participation in the reviews conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of NHPA..

The proposed PrairieWinds project would involve the installation and operation of a 150 megawatt (MW) wind energy facility that would feature 101 wind turbines (WTG). Each turbine generator would have a hub height of 262 feet and a turbine rotor diameter of 252 feet. The total height of each wind turbine would be 389 feet with a blade in the vertical position. The towers would be constructed of tubular steel, approximately 15 feet in diameter at the base, with internal joint flanges. The color of the towers and rotors would be standard white or off-white. During construction, a work/staging area at each turbine would include the crane pad and rotor assembly area, temporarily disturbing an area about 190 feet by 210 feet.

Each wind turbine would be connected by a service road for access and a 34.5 kilovolt (kV) electrical collection system that would ultimately route the power from each turbine to a central collector substation, where voltage would be stepped up for interconnection to Western's transmission system. About 30 to 40 miles of new access roads would be built to facilitate both construction and maintenance of the turbines. Approximately 25 to 35 miles of existing roads would be used and, where appropriate, improved.

Two sites for the wind generation facility are under consideration (see enclosed map). One site is located on about 37,000 acres about 15 miles north of White Lake, South Dakota, within Brule, Aurora, and Jerauld counties, South Dakota. Under this alternative, a new 230-kV transmission line would be required to deliver the power from the collector substation(s) to a

new 230-kV Western interconnection point at Western's Wessington Springs Substation, located in Jerauld County. The Wessington Springs Substation is located approximately 9 to 12 miles from the proposed collector substation(s). The proposed line would be built using wood or steel H-frame (two pole) structures or steel single-pole structures. The structures would be about 85 to 95 feet high and span about 800 feet.

The other alternative site, near Winner entirely in Tripp County, South Dakota, would be located within an area about 83,000 acres and require 34.5-kV to 115-kV collector substation(s) as well as a 115-kV transmission line to interconnect to Western's existing 115-kV Winner Substation. Other facilities would be similar to those described for the first alternative site above.

There is a chance that the final interconnection studies will conclude that other transmission facilities, such as network upgrades remote from the project site, would be required. If it is determined that other facilities are needed to support the interconnection request, Western will complete the appropriate level of environmental review.

Western and RUS are serving as co-lead Federal agencies under NEPA for preparation of the EIS. With this notice, you are invited to be cooperating agency. Designated cooperating agencies have certain responsibilities to support the NEPA process, as specified at 40 CFR 1501.6 (b).

Cultural resources are among the important environmental resources that will be addressed during the planning and the preparation of the EIS for the proposed project. We want to ensure that any important cultural and natural resources and/or places with traditional cultural significance for your Tribe within the project area are considered and addressed in the NEPA and Section 106 reviews. At this time, we would appreciate receiving any information that you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the proposed Project. If you are aware of any other Tribes, individuals, or tribally affiliated organizations that should be consulted regarding this project, please let us know. A list of the other Tribes receiving this invitation to government-to-government consultation is enclosed.

Western and RUS are conducting scoping, including public scoping meetings, to ensure that interested members of the public, potentially affected landowners and lessees, and Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies have an opportunity to provide input on the scope of the EIS and the alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS. Western, RUS, and Project representatives at the scoping meetings will provide information about the proposed project, answer questions, and will take comments from interested parties. Western and RUS request that you comment on the proposal, offer suggestions to improve the proposal and suggest alternative actions. Please identify any issues of concern about potential environmental impacts. Written comments may be left with one of the Western or RUS representatives at the scoping meeting, or may be provided by fax, e-mail or the U.S. Postal Service to Ms. Liana Reilly or Steve Tromly, or by mailing the enclosed addressed response sheet.

Western will coordinate its compliance with Section 106 and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800) with the steps taken to meet the requirements of NEPA. As part of this effort, Western will

use its NEPA procedures for public involvement to meet its responsibility to seek and consider the views of the public in Section 106 review, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(d).

The open-house public scoping meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites, 1360 East Highway 44, in Winner South Dakota, on April 28, 2009, and the Commerce Street Grille, 1218 North Main Street, in Plankinton, South Dakota on April 29, 2009. You may attend a meeting of your choosing at any time between 4 and 7 p.m. You will have the opportunity to view the proposed project and NEPA process displays and other information.

If you wish to be added to the project's mailing list and/or receive a copy of the Draft EIS, please return the response sheet or contact Ms. Liana Reilly at the phone number or address listed below. Comments on the project scope and alternatives should be received by May 15, 2009, to be considered in defining the scope for the EIS. Comments on the proposed project will be accepted and considered throughout the NEPA process.

We would like to obtain input to understand any issues that you or your Tribe believes are important. We will also follow up with a telephone call to discuss issues and, if requested, arrange a site visit. Please address comments, questions or concerns to Ms. Liana Reilly or Mr. Steve Tromly, at the addresses below.

Ms. Liana Reilly
NEPA Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration
Natural Resource Office
12155 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213
Phone: (720) 962-7253
Fax: (720) 962-7263
E-mail: reilly@wapa.gov

Mr. Steve Tromly
Native American Liaison
Western Area Power Administration
Natural Resource Office
12155 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213
Phone: (720) 962-7256
Fax: (720) 962-7263
E-mail: tromly@wapa.gov

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Nick Stas
Environmental Manager

Enclosures

cc:

Mr. Dennis Rankin
Project Manager
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Rural Utilities Service, Utilities Program
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington D.C. 20250-1571

N. Stas, B0400
R. O'Sullivan, B0400
D. Kluth, B0400
L. Reilly, A7400, Lakewood, CO
S. Tromly, A7400, Lakewood, CO
D. Swanson, A7400, Lakewood, CO

South Dakota PrairieWinds Project Nation-to-Nation Consultation List
(list of recipients in random order)

Mr. Kevin Jensvold, Chairperson
Upper Sioux Indian Community

CC

Mr. Scott Larson
Upper Sioux Indian Community

Ms. Jean Stacy, President
Lower Sioux Indian Community

CC

Ms. Pamela Halverson, THPO
Lower Sioux Indian Community

Ms. Myra Pearson, Chairwoman
Spirit Lake Tribal Council

Mr. Mike Salvage, Chairman
Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota Nation

CC

Ms. Dianne Derosiers, THPO
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

Mr. Joshua Weston, President
Flandreau Santee Sioux Executive Committee

Mr. Robert Cournower, Chairperson
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and
Claims Committee

CC

Faith Spotted Eagle
Cultural Resources

Mr. Roger Trudell, Chairman
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska

CC

Mr. Robert Campbell, Councilman
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska

Mr. Rodney Bordeaux, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe

CC

Mr. Russell Eagle Bear, THPO
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of Indians

Mr. Lester Thompson, Jr., Chairman
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

Mr. Harold Frazier, Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

CC

Mr. Albert LeBeau, THPO
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Mr. Michael B. Jandreau, Chairman
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

CC

Scott Jones, Director Cultural Resources
Lower Brule Tribe

Mr. Ron His-Horse-is Thunder
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

CC

Mr. Tim Mentz, THPO
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Mr. Curley Youpee, THPO
Ft. Peck Tribes

Tex Hall, Chairman
Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council

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