

**SCOPING REPORT**

**South Dakota PrairieWinds Project  
Environmental Impact Statement**

U.S. Department of Energy  
Western Area Power Administration

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rural Utilities Service

July 2009



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**Acronym and Abbreviation List**

Applicants	Basin Electric and PrairieWinds
Basin Electric	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CWA	Clean Water Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOE	Department of Energy
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
Intertribal COUP	Intertribal Council on Utility Policy
kV	Kilovolt
MW	Megawatt
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
PrairieWinds	PrairieWinds SD1, Incorporated
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standards
RUS	Rural Utilities Service
SDGFP	South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
SDPUC	South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Western	Western Area Power Administration

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

PrairieWinds SD1, Incorporated (PrairieWinds), a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric), has proposed to develop a wind-powered generating facility in south-central South Dakota, either near Wessington Springs or near Winner. Basin Electric has requested to interconnect the proposed project with the transmission system owned and operated by Western Area Power Administration (Western), an agency within the Department of Energy (DOE). PrairieWinds has requested financing for the proposed project from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). PrairieWinds and Basin Electric are collectively termed the “Applicants”.

Basin Electric’s generation interconnection request and PrairieWinds’s financing request trigger a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process of the proposed project by Western and RUS, respectively. Western and RUS have determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required and are serving as co-lead Federal agencies for preparation of the document (EIS Determination included in **Appendix A**). Western will serve as the lead Federal agency for consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Western will also serve as the lead Federal agency for consultation with the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

As part of the NEPA process, public participation engages a diverse group of public and agency participants by providing timely information to them, solicits relevant input from them throughout the environmental review process, and provides feedback to them on how their input influenced the decision. Western and RUS will use input identified through public participation to assist with the development of the scope, content, and alternatives analysis for the EIS for the proposed project. By incorporating public participation into the development of the EIS, Western, RUS, and USFWS as a cooperating agency, will be able to make more informed decisions on their respective proposed actions. The public outreach process for this proposed project has included direct mailings, public scoping meetings, and interagency coordination. Future public participation opportunities will include project update mailings, review and comment on the Draft EIS, and at least one public hearing. Following this process, Western and RUS will issue separate Records of Decision with relation to their proposed actions.

This document summarizes the input that has been received on the proposed project through the end of the scoping process. It organizes the input into issue topics and identifies issues that will be addressed in the EIS. Section 2 provides background on the proposed project and needed agency actions. Section 3 outlines the public involvement process that was employed to solicit comments. Section 4 provides a summary of the comments received. Copies of the notices, mailing lists, meeting materials, and comments that have been received are included in the appendices to this report.

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## 2.0 BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR AGENCIES' ACTIONS

This section provides background information on the proposed project, describes the background of the agencies as well as the need for agency action, and describes the Applicants' purpose and objectives.

### 2.1 Applicants' Proposed Project

The proposed PrairieWinds project would involve the installation and operation of a 150-megawatt (MW) wind energy facility that would feature 101 wind turbine generators. Each tower 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) underground electrical collection system that would ultimately route the power from each turbine to a central collector substation(s), 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.

**Figure 2-1** on page 4 depicts the wind resource potential on a map of South Dakota. following that map, **Figure 2-2** depicts the proposed project alternative sites. Two site alternatives, Crow Lake and Winner, are under consideration for the wind-powered generation facility. The Crow Lake Site is located on approximately 37,000 acres and is approximately 15 miles north of White Lake, South Dakota, within Brule, Aurora, and Jerauld counties. The Winner Site is located within an approximately 83,000-acre area entirely within Tripp County, and is approximately 8 miles south of Winner, South Dakota. Individual aerial maps of each of the proposed project alternative sites are included in **Appendix B**.

The Crow Lake Site would require a new 230-kV transmission line to deliver the power from the collector substation(s) to a new 230-kV interconnection point at Western's existing 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 approximately between 85 and 95 feet high and have a span of about 800 feet.

The Winner Site would require a 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 necessary for this site would be similar to those described for the Crow Lake Site.

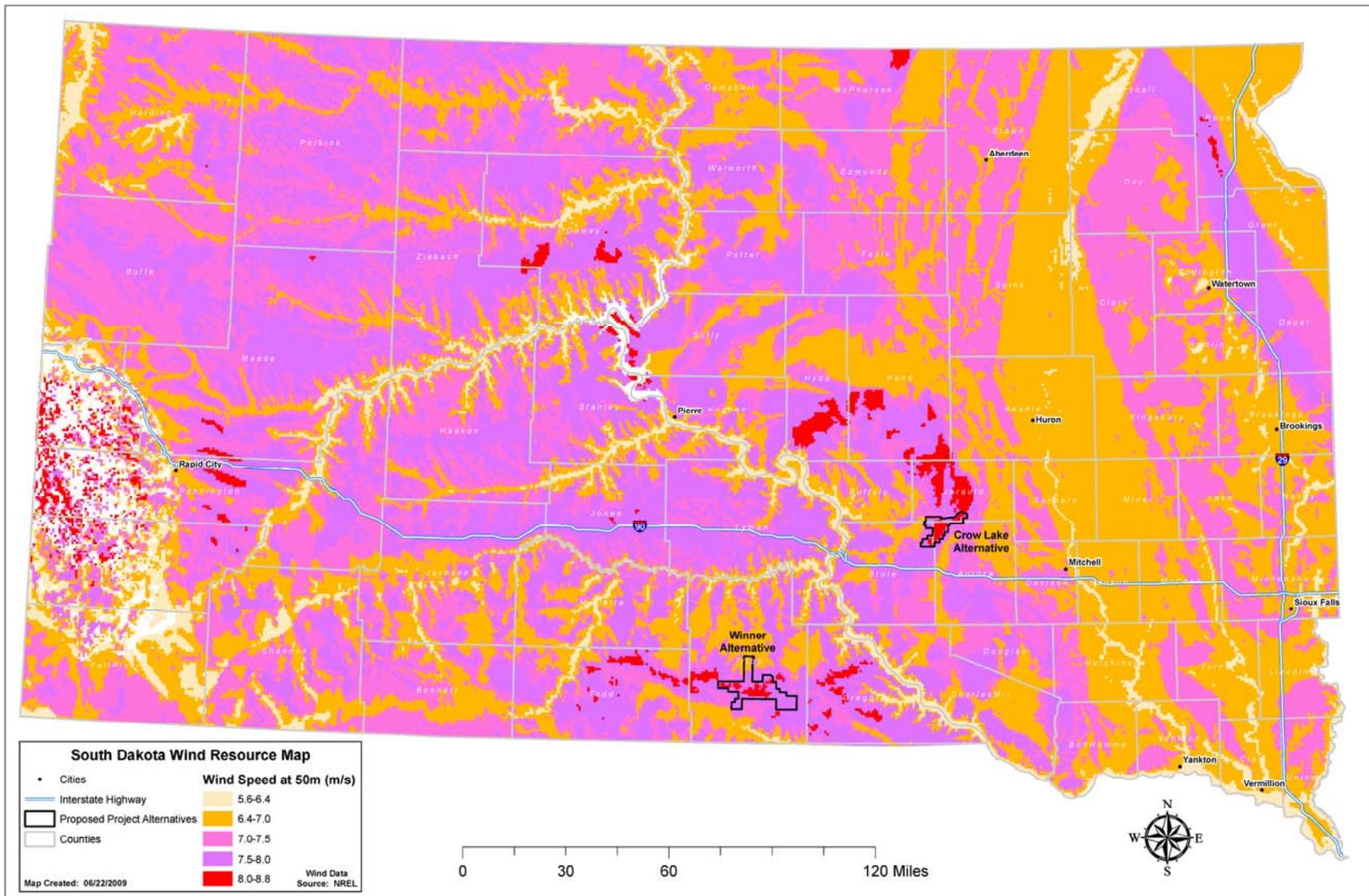


Figure 2-1 South Dakota Wind Resource Map

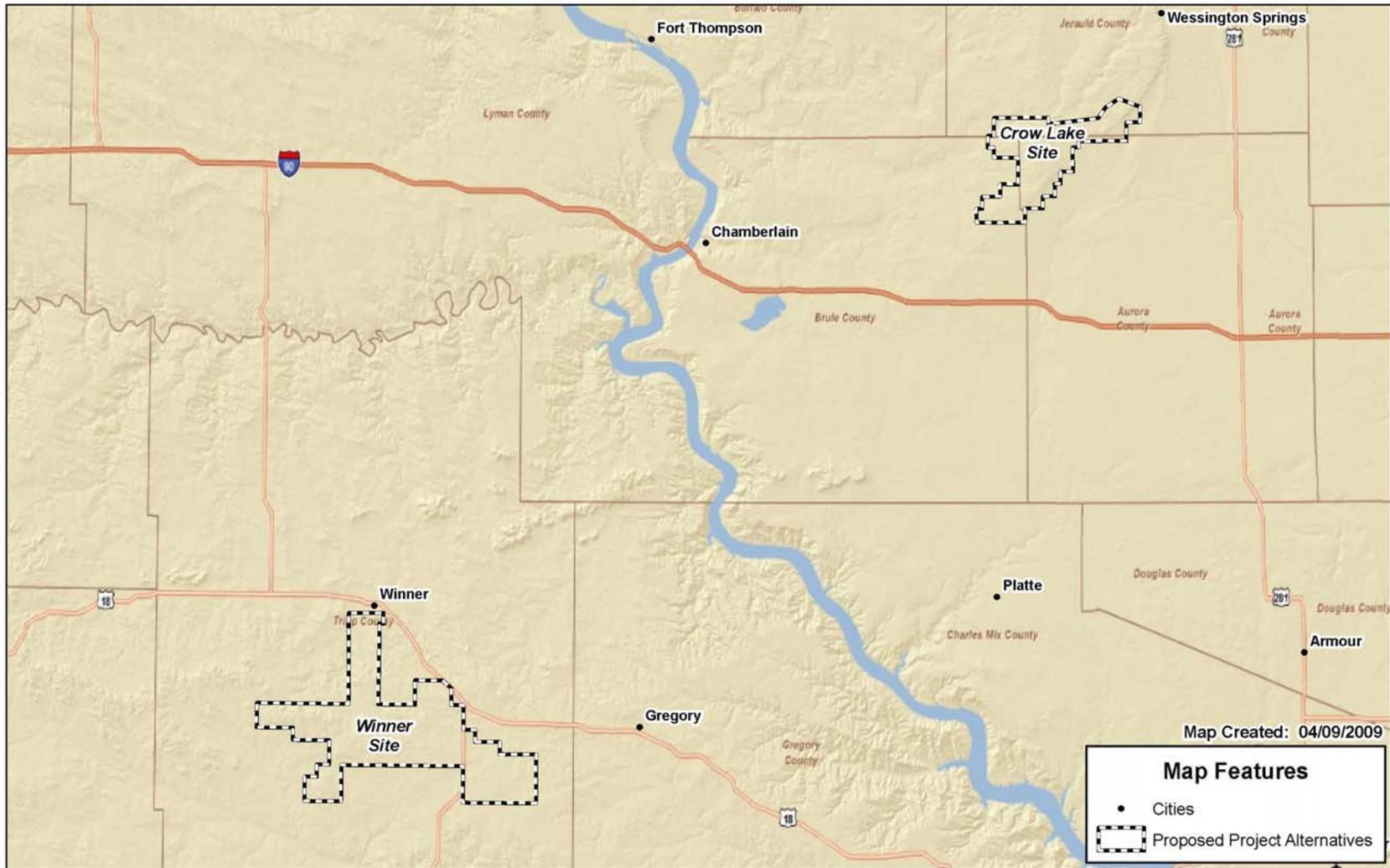


Figure 2-2 Proposed Project Alternative Sites

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 the project moves forward and it is determined that other facilities are needed to support the interconnection request, Western and RUS will complete the appropriate level of environmental review in accordance with regulatory requirements.

## **2.2 Agencies' Background, Proposed Actions and Applicants' Project Objectives**

This section describes the background of each agency as well as the need for agency action and the Applicants' purpose and goals. It is noted that the proposed project is subject to the jurisdiction of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC), which has regulatory authority for siting wind generation facilities and transmission lines within the state. PrairieWinds will submit an application for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit to the SDPUC. The SDPUC permit would be needed to authorize PrairieWinds to construct the proposed project under South Dakota rules and regulations.

Western and RUS are serving as co-lead Federal agencies, as defined at 40 CFR 1501.5, for preparation of the EIS. Native American Tribes and agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise have also been invited to be cooperating agencies, see **Section 3**, and **Appendices F** and **H** for the full lists.

Western and RUS intend to prepare the EIS to analyze the impacts of their respective Federal actions and the proposed project in accordance with NEPA, as amended, DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 Code of Federal Regulation [CFR] 1021), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500–1508), and RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR 1794). Western's action would be limited to the approval or denial of the interconnection request and any modifications to Western's power system necessary to accommodate the interconnection. RUS's Federal action would be limited to providing financial assistance for the proposed project. In addition, the EIS will also identify and address the environmental impacts of the proposed project. The EIS will evaluate in detail the two site alternatives, any other viable alternatives identified during the public scoping process, and the No Action Alternative.

### **2.2.1 Western's Interconnection Request**

Western markets Federal hydroelectric power to preference customers, as specified by law. These customers include municipalities, cooperatives, public utilities, irrigation districts, Federal and State agencies, and Native American Tribes in 15 western states, including South Dakota. Western owns and operates about 17,000 miles of transmission lines.

Western's action is to grant or deny an interconnection request at its existing (Wessington Springs or Winner) substation. In granting or denying the application for interconnection, Western also needs to meet its obligations under applicable laws and regulations, including complying with the provisions of NEPA and other environmental requirements. Western's participation with the Applicants' proposed project is to be a co-lead agency for the EIS process

and provide oversight of the NEPA process and preparation of the EIS; as well as to consider approval of an interconnection request.

### **2.2.2 RUS's Financing Request**

RUS, an agency that delivers the USDA's Rural Development Utilities Program, is authorized to make loans and loan guarantees that finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacements required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, energy conservation programs, and ongrid and off-grid renewable energy systems.

PrairieWinds has requested financial assistance for the proposed Project from RUS. RUS's Federal action is based on providing financial assistance; accordingly, completing the EIS is one requirement, along with other technical and financial considerations in processing PrairieWinds' application. In considering granting financing assistance for the proposed project, RUS also needs to meet its obligations under applicable laws and regulations, including complying with the provisions of NEPA and other environmental requirements. RUS's participation with the Applicant's proposed project is to be a co-lead agency for the EIS process and provide oversight of the NEPA process and preparation of the EIS; as well as to consider granting financing assistance.

### **2.2.3 Applicants**

PrairieWinds, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Basin Electric. PrairieWinds proposes to construct, own, operate, and maintain the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project, a 150-MW wind-powered generation facility, including turbines, electrical collector lines, collector substation(s), transmission line, communications system, and service access roads to access wind-turbine sites.

Basin Electric is a consumer-owned, regional cooperative headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota which services more than 120 member rural electric systems in nine states: Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. These member systems, in turn, distribute electricity to more than 2.6 million customers.

Public policy regarding the electric industry has increasingly focused on the carbon intensity of the resources commonly used to generate electricity. As a result, incentives and regulations to encourage or require the generation of power from renewable or low-environmental-impact resources are being actively considered and/or implemented within the Basin Electric member service areas. At the same time, a number of proposals for national Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) are pending in Congress. With members in nine states, Basin Electric recognizes the need for additional renewable energy capacity to service forecasted member load growth demands and to meet state mandated RPS. A wind project of up to 150-MW was determined to be the least-cost renewable resource option to satisfy future load and RPS requirements.

Basin Electric membership passed a resolution at their 2005 annual meeting that established a goal for Basin Electric to “obtain renewable or environmentally benign resources equal to 10% of the MW capacity needed to meet its member demand by 2010”. This project would also provide opportunity for Basin Electric to meet that goal.

## 3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Western and RUS employed various methods to provide information to the public and solicit their input regarding the proposed project. Information was included in direct mailings that were sent to over 4,000 potentially interested persons in and near the proposed project areas. Venues for participation included two open house scoping meetings and one interagency meeting. In addition to accepting comments at meetings, Western and RUS invited interested individuals to submit their comments via U.S. Postal Service, fax, and/or email.

### 3.1 Scoping Process

The CEQ, DOE and RUS NEPA regulations define scoping as an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action. Western and RUS invited Federal, state, local, and tribal governments, the Applicants, and other interested persons and groups to participate in defining the scope of the EIS.

#### 3.1.1 Notice of Intent

The “Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and to conduct public scoping meetings; and notice of floodplains and wetland involvement” was published in the *Federal Register* (74 FR 15718) on April 7, 2009. The Notice of Intent (NOI) included information on the proposed project, times and locations for the April 28 and April 29 scoping meetings, and contact information for questions pertaining to the proposed project. A copy of the NOI is included in **Appendix C**.

#### 3.1.2 Newspaper Notices

Notices announcing the public scoping meetings were published in *Indian Country Today*, *Mitchell Daily Republic*, *Plankinton South Dakota Mail*, and the *Winner Advocate*. *Indian Country Today* is a national, Native-American-interest publication, while the others are local newspapers. Publications in each newspaper provided information on the proposed project, scoping meeting information, and contact information for questions pertaining to the proposed project. The second notice publication in *Indian Country Today*, *Mitchell Daily Republic* and *Winner Advocate*, provided the same information as the initial announcements. Copies of the newspaper notices are provided in **Appendix D**.

The scoping meeting notice was published as follows:

- *Indian Country Today* – April 8 and 22, 2009
- *Mitchell Daily Republic* – April 8 and 22, 2009
- *Plankinton South Dakota Mail* – April 23, 2009
- *Winner Advocate* – April 8 and 22, 2009

### 3.1.3 Direct Mailings

In addition to the NOI, published in the *Federal Register* on April 7, 2009, Western and RUS mailed post card scoping notices and letters, which included the scoping meeting information, to over 4,000 potentially interested persons. The mailing list included Federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; members of the public; and addresses within 7 miles of the proposed project alternative sites.

The post card scoping notice was mailed on April 6, 2009. This post card mailing provided information on the proposed project; details for the April 28 and April 29, 2009, scoping meetings; and contact information for questions pertaining to the proposed project and/or the NEPA process. A copy of the post card scoping advertisement is included as **Appendix E**.

In addition to the post card scoping mailings, a letter was sent to more than 15 Native American tribes, (tribes, communities, and representative councils) on April 13, 2009, providing information on the proposed project, EIS scoping meeting details, and contact information for questions pertaining to the proposed project. The letter also served to initiate Government-to-Government consultation; and invited the tribes to participate in the reviews conducted under NEPA and section 106 of NHPA. A copy of the letter to the Native American tribes, and the mailing list is included in **Appendix F**.

### 3.1.4 Scoping Meetings

Two scoping meetings were hosted by Western and RUS during the public scoping process. The scoping meetings were held using an open house format to allow for an informal one-on-one exchange of information. Scoping meeting handouts included a copy of the *Federal Register* NOI, project fact sheet, scoping process information sheet, comment form, and a DOE NEPA brochure. Large-scale aerial photographs illustrating the Applicants' proposed project alternative sites were presented to help facilitate identification of issues and alternatives. Additional large-scale poster boards included: a South Dakota wind resource map; an EIS process and timeline graphic; Western and RUS Federal Action boards; and turbine and transmission line siting parameters. A station was set up at the meetings with a looping PowerPoint presentation to provide an opportunity for individuals to sit and view proposed project information and follow along with a print out of the presentation slides. The same information was available at each meeting. All information presented at the meetings is available on the project website: <http://www.wapa.gov/transmission/sdprairiewinds.htm>. Copies of the handouts and boards available at the scoping meetings and the sign-in sheets are included in **Appendix G**.

**Table 3-1** lists the scoping meeting locations, dates, times, and attendance.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Winner, SD	April 28, 2009	4 - 7 p.m.	88
Plankinton, SD	April 29, 2009	4 - 7 p.m.	81
<b>Total</b>			<b>169</b>

## 3.2 Interagency Coordination

### 3.2.1 Interagency Meeting

A letter was sent on April 9, 2009, to invite Federal, state and local agencies to participate in an interagency meeting for the EIS. In addition, agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise were also requested to be cooperating agencies for the proposed project. One copy of the interagency meeting invitation letter, one copy of the interagency meeting and request to be a cooperating agency invitation letter, and the full list of invitees are included in **Appendix H**.

On April 28, 2009, Western and RUS hosted an interagency meeting at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel, in Pierre, South Dakota, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Project specific information was presented at the meeting. The following list summarizes the agencies represented at the interagency meeting (in alphabetical order):

- Aurora County Weed Supervisor
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (Intertribal COUP)
- Mayor of Wessington Springs, South Dakota
- South Dakota Aeronautics Commission
- South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP)
- South Dakota Governor's Office
- SDPUC
- SHPO
- South Dakota State Land Department
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- USFWS
- Wessington Springs Area Development Corporation

### 3.2.2 Cooperating Agencies

Currently, Wessington Springs Area Development Corporation and USFWS Refuge Division are the only agencies that have expressed interest in participating as a cooperating agency. Wessington Springs Area Development Corporation is a non-profit non-governmental organization and will participate as an interested party as prescribed in the CEQ Memorandum for the Heads of Federal Agencies (CEQ 2002). As of May 13, 2009, the USFWS has formally accepted the invitation to participate as a cooperating agency. All agencies, regardless of cooperating agency status, will be kept informed of the proposed project and receive updates as they become available.

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## 4.0 COMMENT SUMMARY

A summary of the written comments received and issues identified through May 15, 2009, is included in **Table 4-1** (similar items have been grouped together). Copies of the comments received (letters, comment forms etc.) are included in **Appendix I**. Overall, 16 comment forms were received during the scoping and interagency meetings, 46 comment forms/letters were mailed in, 14 comments were e-mailed to the project e-mail address, and 1 faxed comment was received.

Additional discussion items were noted during the interagency meeting and from calls received on the project hotline. Those discussion items are summarized in the lists below (similar items have been grouped together).

### Discussion items noted during the interagency meeting:

- The South Dakota State Transportation Department representative asked how Basin Electric complies with FAA lighting requirements for turbines, transmission lines, and meteorological towers.
- The BIA representative asked about the buffer considered in analysis of cultural resources. He also expressed concern with inanimate objects in traditional cultural practice areas and how turbine towers are lit at night.
- The USACE representative asked about substation(s) specifics, accommodations for administration facilities, and hydrological permits and considerations, considered with the proposed project.
- The SHPO representative expressed concern with indirect effects of the proposed project.
- The Wessington Springs Mayor asked about the analysis for the proposed project and if biological data retrieved from the Wessington Springs Wind Project could be used.
- The County weed supervisor asked who is responsible for reclamation of lands for noxious weeds after construction.
- The Wessington Springs Area Development Corporation representative asked whether sensitive species were found during the biological analysis for the Wessington Springs project; and whether Whooping crane stopover occurrences were recorded in that project's analysis. He also inquired about existing infrastructure and energy storage capabilities.
- The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources representative asked about specific noise information in relation to the turbines when they are in operation and rotation speeds.
- The SDGFP representative noted that the agency would prefer the proposed project to use the northern half of the Winner study area over the southern half. Additional discussion on this preference included: the northern portion has more agriculture and fewer large tracts of "native" prairie or grassland; and the southern portion has two state wildlife areas that attract waterfowl.
- The USFWS representative inquired about turbine blade rotation speeds and statistics on the number of bird collisions.
- There was also additional discussion regarding burying beetle habitat and nesting birds.

Discussion items noted from the project hotline:

- Proposed project schedule
- Connection to Prelude or TransCanada potential projects
- Radio interview request
- Individual from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe commented on another potentially developing project; informed that comments will be provided
- Alternative day for scoping meeting requested
- Individual did not provide comment, but called Project Hotline
- Land offered for wind development
- Transmission infrastructure upgrades
- Requests to be kept informed of the proposed project developments and be added to mail/e-mail lists
- Representative from South Dakota School and Public Lands Office requested proposed project alternative sites maps
- Interest in energy capacity for the proposed project; as well as tribal consultation
- Interest in contract with Basin Electric
- Request for legal description and GIS shapefiles of proposed project
- Request for project information; and for both alternatives to be evaluated equally
- Information on scoping meeting details
- Request information on Basin Electric's members
- Request information on Programmatic Wind EIS, and additional wind energy generation projects

**Table 4-1 Scoping Period Comment Summary**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Treatment / Response</b>	<b>Form of Comment/ Commenter</b>
Air Quality	Protection of air quality should be addressed.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8
	Dust particulates from construction and on-going project activities are a concern; EIS should include dust control methods.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
Alternatives	Preference for the proposed Crow Lake Site to be approved for the Proposed Project.	Comment noted.	Scoping meeting comment form D. Weiland; Mailed comment forms D. Thomas, R. Meier, C. Brown; E- mailed comment D. Scherschligt
	Preference for Crow Lake Site to be approved for the Proposed Project; also noted that site may cost less to build due to smaller acreage, and have higher wind potential.	Comment noted.	Mailed comment form G. Higgins
	Map request of the Crow lake Site.	Map was provided.	Scoping meeting comment form M. Heisinger
	Summarize criteria and process used to develop Proposed Project alternative sites, disclose reasoning used to eliminate alternatives.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
	Proposed Project alternatives map request.	Map was provided.	E-mailed comment M. Cornelison, Van Genderen
Aviation Safety	Request for all project turbines to be lit at night as mitigation.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form J. Clements, V. Vanderhule, L. Nelson, R. Pearson; E-mailed Comment J. Mitchell
Biological Resources	USFWS formally accepted invitation to participate as a cooperating agency.	Cooperating Agency status confirmed.	Mailed comment form USFWS
	USFWS provided a list of federally-protected species that may occur in the project area(s).	Species impact analysis will be provided in the EIS.	Mailed comment form USFWS

**Table 4-1 Scoping Period Comment Summary**

Issue	Comment	Treatment / Response	Form of Comment/ Commenter
Biological Resources, (continued)	USFWS provided wind turbine guidelines and considerations with meteorological towers and power lines with respect to sensitive species.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form USFWS
	USFWS provided discussion on wind energy and wildlife.	Comment noted.	Mailed comment form USFWS
	USFWS provided information on avian and bat protection plans, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250), and information on birds of conservation concern, and U.S. Geological Survey avian research.	Avian and bat impact analysis will be provided in the EIS.	Mailed comment form USFWS
	SDGFP support development of alternative sources of energy.	Comment noted.	Mailed comment form SDGFP
	SDGFP suggested to consider impacts including mortality from turbine strikes, habitat alteration, and behavior modification from improperly sited wind power projects.	Avian and bat impact analysis will be provided in the EIS.	Mailed comment form SDGFP
	SDGFP noted previous correspondence with project representatives and information provided including SDGFP Natural Heritage Program data and information on unique and/or special resources or areas in the Proposed Project areas.	Comment noted; species impact analysis will be provided in the EIS.	Mailed comment form SDGFP
	Identify endangered species potentially affected by the project.	Endangered species impact analysis to be included in the EIS.	Scoping meeting comment form M. LaPointe
	Disclose and evaluate effects of project activities on area ecology, vegetation, and wildlife and habitats.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
	Identify critical habitat and impacts on species and critical habitat.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
	Describe how project will meet ESA requirements.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8

**Table 4-1 Scoping Period Comment Summary**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Treatment / Response</b>	<b>Form of Comment/ Commenter</b>
Biological Resources, <i>(continued)</i>	Analyze migration corridors and flyways.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
	Disclose potential toxic hazards associated with pesticide or herbicide use.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
Cultural Resources	Identify potential cultural impacts.	Follow-up discussion with the commenter was conducted by project representatives. Comment will also be addressed in the EIS.	Scoping meeting comment form M. LaPointe
Cumulative Impacts	EIS should examine cumulative impacts, including direct and indirect effects, including past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
Environmental Justice	Include potential impacts on low income, minority, and/or tribal communities.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change	The EIS should include an estimate of annual greenhouse gas emissions expected during operations and describe the emissions in terms of carbon dioxide equivalents in metric tons per year per megawatt hour produced; then compare to regional or state estimated emissions.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
NEPA Process	Request that the environmental process be expedited.	Comment noted.	Scoping meeting comment form G. Arnott (Wessington Springs Area Development Corporation)
	National energy policies and national security in general are impacted by excessive oil import.	Comment noted.	Scoping meeting comment form G. Arnott (Wessington Springs Area Development Corporation)
	Commented that wind and other renewable are time sensitive, and should be implemented more quickly.	Comment noted.	Scoping meeting comment form G. Arnott (Wessington Springs Area Development Corporation)

**Table 4-1 Scoping Period Comment Summary**

Issue	Comment	Treatment / Response	Form of Comment/ Commenter
NEPA Process, <i>continued</i>	Support for wind energy development; noted that USFWS is an impediment to wind development; compliance with the USFWS approval process is a moving target and should be more easily acquired for wind energy projects.	Comment noted.	Interagency meeting comment form J. Burg (Wessington Springs Mayor)
	Request to be added to project mailing list.	Information added to mailing list.	Scoping meeting comment forms G. and V. Hoing, G. Brodkorb, G. Higgins; Mailed comment forms K. Perrin, J. and A. Bennett, M. Schochenmaier, Cernys, J. Peters, B. Brozik, B. Lindbloom, D. Vaughn, M. Moerike, D. Moerike, Kayls, William, R. Kreinbuhl, E. Odenbach, V. Svoboda, K. Kreinbuhl, P. Licht, E-mailed comment C. Loop
	Welcomed project representatives to the Town of White Lake.	Comment noted.	Scoping meeting comment form S. Bradwisch
	Provided encouragement for the project to move forward.	Comment noted.	Mailed comment forms D.Stukel, R. DeMers, Wilhelmsens
	Representative from KWYR requested radio interview.	Follow-up discussion with the commenter was conducted by project representative.	E-mailed comment KWYR
Out of Scope	Other developers have prompted individuals to sign land agreements. Commenter requested clarification on right-of-way details and easement compliance, requested information on land agreement expirations and payment guarantees.	Applicant to address.	Scoping comment form J. Patmore

**Table 4-1 Scoping Period Comment Summary**

Issue	Comment	Treatment / Response	Form of Comment/ Commenter
Out of Scope, <i>continued</i>	Encouraged upgrading of transmission lines through the areas to provide power access for other wind farm projects interested in the area.	Comment noted; the project as proposed is to build a wind-powered electric generation facility in central South Dakota, as such this comment is beyond the scope of this EIS.	Scoping meeting comment form J. Keierleber, E-mailed comment D. and J. Assmans
	Request for transmission line upgrades in Gregory County to support wind energy development.	Comment noted; the project as proposed is to build a wind-powered electric generation facility in central South Dakota (not located within Gregory County), as such this comment is beyond the scope of this EIS.	Mailed comment forms D. Deffenbaugh, R. Hartog, Janouseks, J. Waterbury, Petersens, H. Winter, E. Brumbaugh, R. Shaffer, E. Dostal
	Interest in supplying services/facilities during construction of the project.	Comment noted; information provided to Applicant.	Scoping meeting comment form H. Hotchkiss; E-mailed comment J. Herrera
	Volunteered land for wind turbine development.	Comment noted; information provided to Applicant.	Scoping meeting comment form F. Woods
	Supports Proposed Project, and suggests improving local transmission infrastructure.	Comment noted. The project as proposed is to build a wind-powered electric generation facility in central South Dakota; as such this comment is beyond the scope of this EIS.	Faxed comment form R. Gillen
Project Description	Request for information on the size, and height of the wind testers, number of testing sites in the study areas, acres of study areas, size and MW of proposed substation(s).	Much of this information was available in the scoping meeting materials and on the project website. Follow-up discussion with the commenter was conducted by project representatives. Comment will also be addressed in the EIS.	Scoping meeting comment form M. LaPointe

**Table 4-1 Scoping Period Comment Summary**

Issue	Comment	Treatment / Response	Form of Comment/ Commenter
Project Description, (continued)	Include construction, design, and operation practices that will be incorporated to protect water quality from erosion.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
	Inquired about the substation(s) component of the Proposed Project.	Comment noted. Substation(s) information can also be found in the NOI and will be included in the EIS provided.	Mailed comment form D. Salmen
Scoping	Welcomed the Proposed Project and was pleased with the presentation during the meetings.	Comment noted.	Scoping meeting comment form P. Seppanen
	Request project information.	Follow-up e-mail provided project information.	Mailed comment form R. Kovacevich
	Support for the Proposed Project, and would have preferred a formal presentation during the scoping meeting.	Comment noted; follow-up phone call with the commenter was conducted by project representatives.	Mailed comment form D. Salmen
	Bureau of Land Management (BLM) appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on the project, but that the agency does not have expertise of information relevant to the project.	Comment noted.	Mailed comment form BLM
	Appreciated the meeting, found it interesting.	Comment noted.	Mailed comment form B. Kroupa
	South Dakota Mail representative requested scoping meeting notice to be included in the local newspaper.	Comment noted and notice was included in <i>South Dakota Mail</i> .	E-mailed comment Plankinton Newspaper
	Request information regarding the scoping meetings.	Comment noted, information provided.	E-mailed comment Donna, J. Keierleber, T. Klein
Section 106 Process	Are government agencies participating in Government-to-Government discussions with local Native American Tribes?	Follow-up discussion with the commenter was conducted by project representatives. Comment noted, the lead agencies have initiated the Government-to-Government consultations.	Scoping meeting comment form M. LaPointe

**Table 4-1 Scoping Period Comment Summary**

Issue	Comment	Treatment / Response	Form of Comment/ Commenter
Section 106 Process, (continued)	Concern about notification to tribes regarding the scoping meetings.	Tribes were notified of the EIS scoping meetings in a letter dated April 13, 2009; Government-to-Government consultation will continue through the section 106 process; tribal meetings will occur in June 2009.	Mailed comment form Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (COUP)
	Northern Arapahoe Tribal Consultants offered archaeological services for the Proposed Project EIS analysis and section 106.	Comment noted.	E-mailed comment Y. Wolf
Visual Resources	Provided information on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; requested that the EIS include analysis of the potential visual resource effects for both the Proposed Project alternative sites in regards to the Trail.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	E-mailed comment National Park Service
Water Resources	Clearly describe water bodies within the analysis area which may be impacted by project activities; analysis of area’s geology, topography, soils and stream stability may be necessary.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
	Provide information on Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) impaired waters in project area, if any.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8
Wetlands / Riparian Areas	Identify potential wetlands both jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional, potential impacts, and least damaging practicable alternative for avoiding wetlands.	Comment will be addressed in the EIS.	Mailed comment form EPA Region 8

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