



## South Dakota PrairieWinds Project Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Process

### What is Scoping?

The Council on Environmental Quality's scoping definition (Sec. 1501.7) states:

*There shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This process shall be termed scoping.*

Scoping is the process by which Federal agencies invite other agencies, organizations, and the public to provide input on the scope of a project. More specifically, it is the process that Federal agencies utilize to get input on the issues and effects related to a proposed action and alternatives. The items identified are then addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS is addressed in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and agencies' implementing regulations.

### Scoping and the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project:

Western Area Power Administration (Western), an agency within the U.S. Department of Energy; Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); are conducting scoping for the proposed South Dakota PrairieWinds Project. Throughout the scoping period, written comments may be submitted to the address below. As a part of the scoping process, two scoping meetings are being held for this project. At these meetings, Western, RUS and PrairieWinds SD1, Inc. (PrairieWinds, the Applicant) representatives will be available for one-on-one discussions, to provide information about the proposed project, answer questions, and take verbal and written comments from interested parties.

### Ways to Provide Comments:

We would appreciate any comments you have concerning the proposed project. We would like to ensure that important environmental concerns are addressed and that natural resources and places of interest within the project area are considered in the EIS. Comments on the project scope and alternatives should be received by **May 15, 2009**, to be considered in defining the scope for the Draft EIS. This is not your only opportunity to submit comments on the EIS. There will be additional opportunities for the public to provide input during the development of the EIS. Comments could be submitted through the project's web address, or sent by letter, fax or e-mail. Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be addressed to **Ms. Liana Reilly**, at the address listed below.

Ms. Liana Reilly  
Document Manager  
Western Area Power Administration  
Corporate Services Office, A7400  
P.O. Box 281213  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-8213  
Fax: (720) 962-7263

**Call the Project Phone Number: (800) 336-7288**

**Send an e-mail to the Project E-mail: [sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov](mailto:sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov)**

**Visit the Project Website: <http://www.wapa.gov/sdprairiewinds.htm>**

### How to Receive Additional Information:

For more information about the project, or if you would like to be included on the Project mailing list and/or to receive copies of the Draft and Final EIS, please provide your contact information to Ms. Liana Reilly, at the address above. For information on RUS financing please contact 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 telephone: (202) 720-1953, fax: (202) 720-0820 or e-mail: [dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov).