

RAIL TIE WIND PROJECT

NEPA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Hilton Garden Inn, Laramie, Wyoming | January 14, 2020



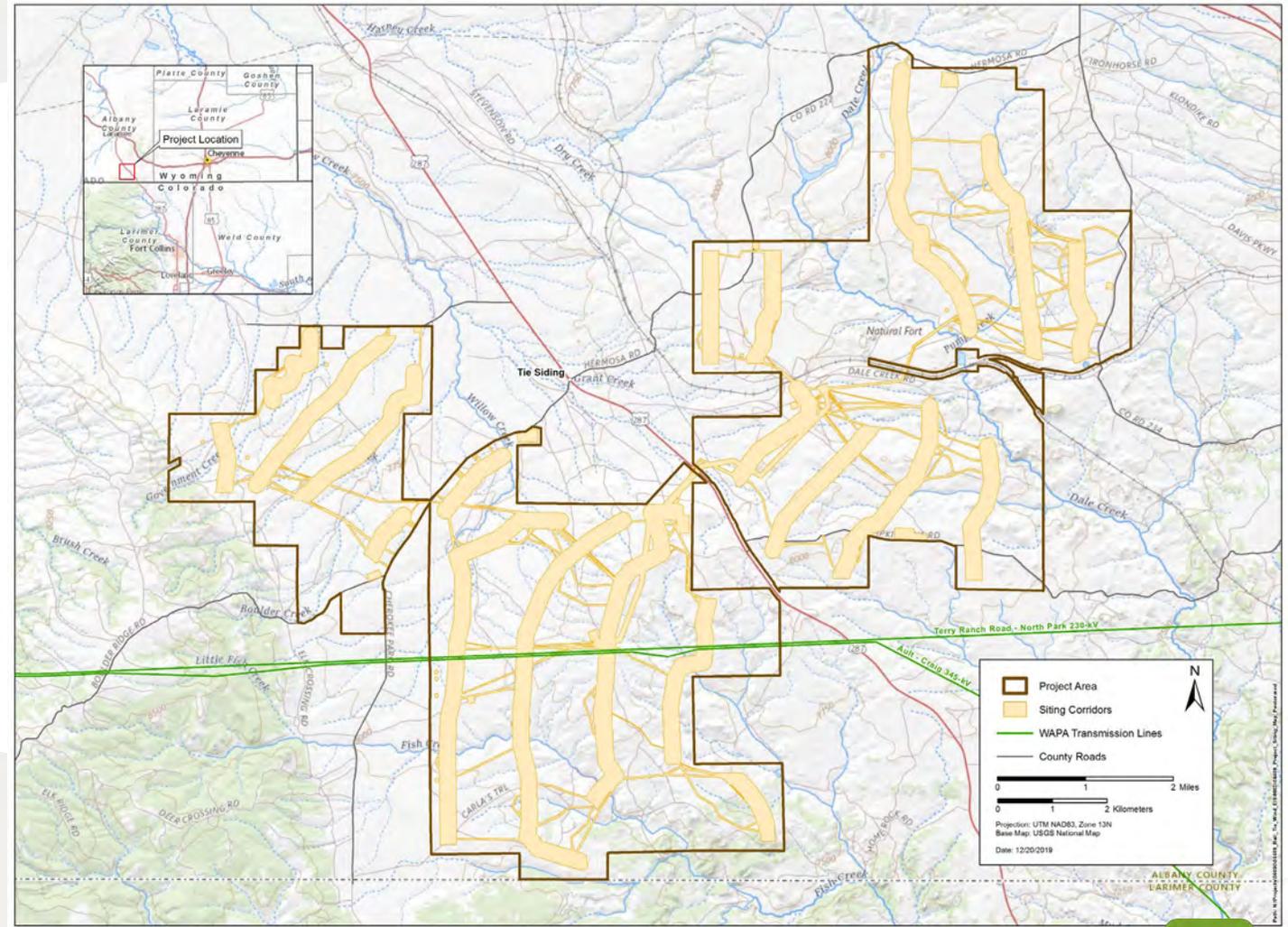
Western Area
Power Administration



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Rail Tie Wind Project

- **Location:** Albany County, Wyoming
- **Nameplate capacity:** 504 megawatts
- **Project area:** 26,000 acres of private and state land
- **Interconnection:** Ault-Craig 345-kV transmission line jointly owned by WAPA, Tri-State, and Platte River Power Authority



PROJECT PROPONENT BACKGROUND

Rail Tie Wind Project

CONNECTGEN ALBANY COUNTY LLC



- Independent renewable energy company focused on the development of greenfield wind, solar, and energy storage projects across the United States
- Headquartered in Houston, Texas, and backed by Quantum Energy Partners

RAIL TIE WIND PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To respond to increasing market demand for sources of renewable energy
- Demand is primarily driven by the rapidly falling costs of wind- and solar-generated electricity and state clean energy mandates

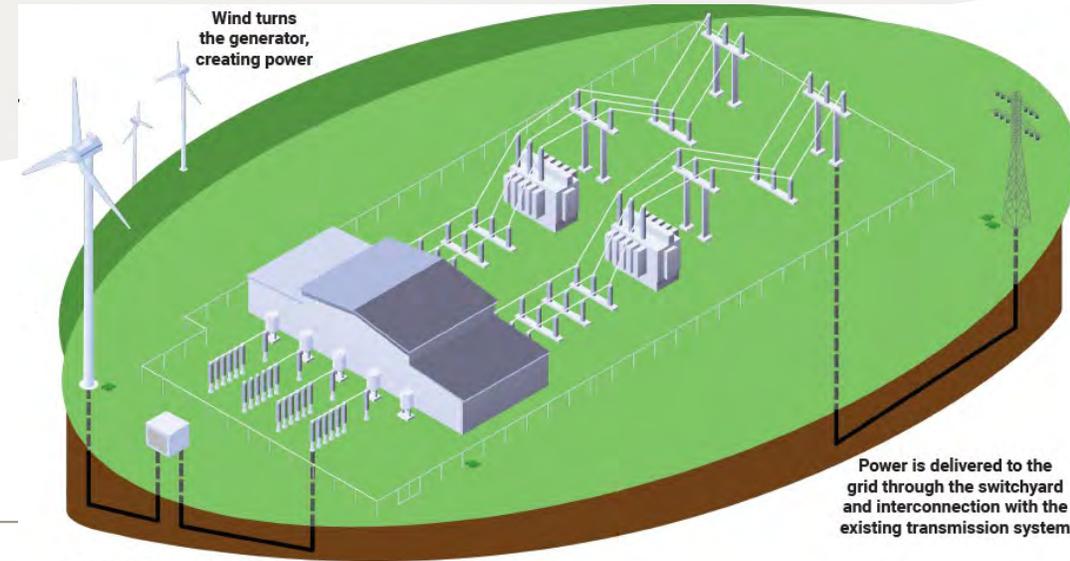
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Rail Tie Wind Project

PROJECT ATTRIBUTES

TOTAL OUTPUT CAPACITY	504 MW
PROJECT AREA	26,000 ACRES

Turbine Generators	Output	3 MW–6 MW
	Count	84–151
	Overall Height	up to 675 feet
	Nacelle Height	up to 410 feet
	Blade Length	up to 272 feet
Collection Lines	34.5 kV	80 miles, primarily underground; if overhead, 50- to 80-foot-tall structures
Substations	2 substations – 345 kV each	5 acres each
Transmission Lines	345 kV	4 miles, up to 125 feet tall
Interconnection Switchyard	1 site – 345 kV	8 acres
Operations & Maintenance Facility	7,000-square-foot building	5 acres
Access Roads	All-weather; new, improved, and existing	60 miles, 20-foot-wide travel surface
Meteorological Towers	3 – self-supported lattice-mast	105 meter tall
Construction Laydown Yards	2 – temporary	15 acres each



The power is collected and the voltage is adjusted through transformers in substations

Power is delivered to the grid through the switchyard and interconnection with the existing transmission system

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Rail Tie Wind Project

Project Development Activities to Date:

- Wind lease agreements
- Baseline wildlife surveys
- Wind data collection
- WAPA interconnection studies
- Agency coordination; stakeholder outreach
- Prelim. engineering and layout design

Future Development Activities outside NEPA:

- State (Industrial Siting Council) and Albany County permitting
- Secure commercial contract (Power Purchase Agreement)
- Final engineering; equipment procurement

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Rail Tie Wind Project

- Occurs over approximately 18 months
- Expected sequence (activities 3-7 occur simultaneously)

1. Mobilization
2. Access roads and laydown areas
3. Substation construction
4. O & M building construction
5. Transmission line construction
6. Foundations
7. Turbine installation
8. Commissioning and acceptance testing



PROJECT PROPONENT VS. LEAD AGENCY

Rail Tie Wind Project



- ConnectGen's role:
Project Proponent-Developer
- Requested interconnection to
WAPA transmission system
- Permitting support from
Tetra Tech, Inc.



Western Area Power Administration

- WAPA's role: Lead National
Environmental Policy Act
(NEPA) Agency
- Responding to
interconnection request
- NEPA support from SWCA
Environmental Consultants

THE NEPA PROCESS

Rail Tie Wind Project

- ConnectGen's request for interconnection to WAPA's existing Ault-Craig 345-kV transmission line
- WAPA's response and decision
 - Major federal action under NEPA of 1969
 - Environmental Impact Statement

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS



= Public Involvement Opportunities



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rail Tie Wind Project

WHERE

- **HERE**
- **Via email**
- **Via mail**

WHEN

- **Scoping Period/ Meeting (NOW)**
- **Draft EIS Public Review & Comment Period/
Hearing**

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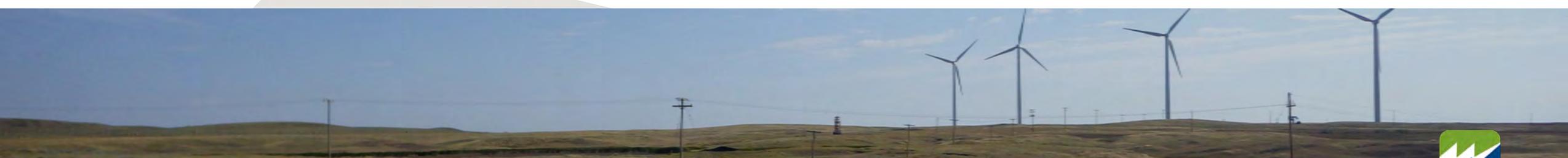
Rail Tie Wind Project

Western Area Power Administration

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rail Tie Wind Project

EFFECTIVE COMMENTS

- Are specific to proposed Project
- Relate to scope of analysis, severity of potential impacts, or present potential alternatives
- Provide local knowledge to influence Project design or to be considered in impact analysis

The image shows a 'PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM' for the 'Rail Tie Wind Project' from the 'Western Area Power Administration'. The form includes a logo, a thank you message, and a section for providing comments. A second form is partially visible behind it, showing contact information for J. Wieringa at the Western Area Power Administration Writers Office, A9402, 281213, CO 80228-8213. The email address 'j.wieringa@wapa.gov' is also visible.

