



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

B0400.BL

3/14/23

Dear Tribal Leaders:

This letter is to update you on the proposed North Bend Wind Project (Project) and to request your input on the Project. North Bend Wind Project, LLC proposes to construct a 200-megawatt wind farm in Hughes and Hyde counties, South Dakota. The Project proposes to interconnect with Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) Fort Thompson-Oahe 230-kilovolt (kV) #2 transmission line. The Project would include 71 wind turbine generators, 35 miles of new access roads, 68 miles of underground power collection system, one meteorological tower, a project substation, up to 500 feet of 230-kV overhead transmission line from the substation to WAPA's transmission line, a 10-acre temporary laydown/staging area and concrete batch plant, a fiber optic communications system, and use of an existing, adjacent five-acre operations and maintenance facility.

The proposed interconnection is a Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. As a result, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze the environmental effects of the proposed Project on resources such as wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, cultural and recreation resources, as well as other social, economic, and environmental effects.

WAPA is requesting your review and comment on the draft EA, which is available for download at the following website:

<https://www.wapa.gov/regions/UGP/Environment/Pages/NorthBendWind.aspx>.

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- By mail to:
Western Area Power Administration
Attn: Mr. John Russell
2900 4th Avenue North 6th Floor
Billings, MT 59101
- By email to nepa@wapa.gov, please include *North Bend Wind Project EA* in the subject line.
- By phone to (406) 255-2811
- By fax to (406) 255-2900

For your input to be considered, comments must be received no later than Friday, April 14, 2023. If you have any questions or need more information about the Project, please contact WAPA using the methods listed above or visit the Project website, also listed above. Thank you for your time and interest in the Project.

Sincerely,
JOHN
RUSSELL

John Russell
Environmental Manager

Digitally signed by JOHN
RUSSELL
Date: 2023.03.06
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