



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

B0401.BL

Dear Customers and Interested Parties:

This letter is to notify you of the proposed North Bend Wind Project (Project) and to request your input on the Project. The Project would involve construction of a 200 megawatt (MW) wind farm generating facility that includes approximately 90 turbines and associated pads. Other project components would include an underground power collection system, a new substation, a new overhead transmission line, access roads, and a maintenance and operation center. The project would be located on private land approximately four (4) miles south of Harrold, in Hughes and Hyde counties, South Dakota (see enclosed map).

The Project would interconnect with Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) Fort Thompson – Oahe 230 kV transmission line. As a result, WAPA will provide federal oversight of the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA will evaluate 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 announcing a public scoping period for the Project. The scoping period provides an opportunity for the general public, government agencies, and tribal governments to identify issues and alternatives that will help WAPA define the scope of the EA. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an online virtual public scoping meeting will be held to provide an opportunity for interested parties to discuss the Project with resource specialists and to submit comments. The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. CST, via WebEx. Participants can join by computer, telephone, or other device (see enclosed instructions). The scoping meeting will be recorded.

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- By mail to:
Western Area Power Administration
Attn: Ms. Christina Gomer
2900 4th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59101
- By phone by calling:
(406) 255-2811 to speak with a WAPA representative
or
(605) 782-8199 to leave a voicemail.
- By email to gomer@wapa.gov
- By participating in the virtual public scoping meeting.
- By completing on online comment form available at:
<https://www.wapa.gov/regions/UGP/Environment/Pages/NorthBendWind.aspx>

For your input to be considered during preparation of the draft EA, WAPA requests comments be postmarked no later than **March 1, 2021**. If you have any questions, or need more information about the project, please contact WAPA using the methods listed above. Thank you for your time and interest in the project.

Sincerely,

Christina Gomer
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosures - 3
Project Area Map
Virtual Meeting Instruction Sheet
Comment Form