

Welcome to:

South Dakota PrairieWinds Project

Scoping Meeting



Outline of Presentation

- Basin Electric Information
- Proposed Project Purpose and Need
- Proposed Project Details
- Permitting Process and NEPA Schedule
- Comparison of Wind Speed and Energy Generation
- Example Photos
- Additional Considerations
- Scoping Meeting Format

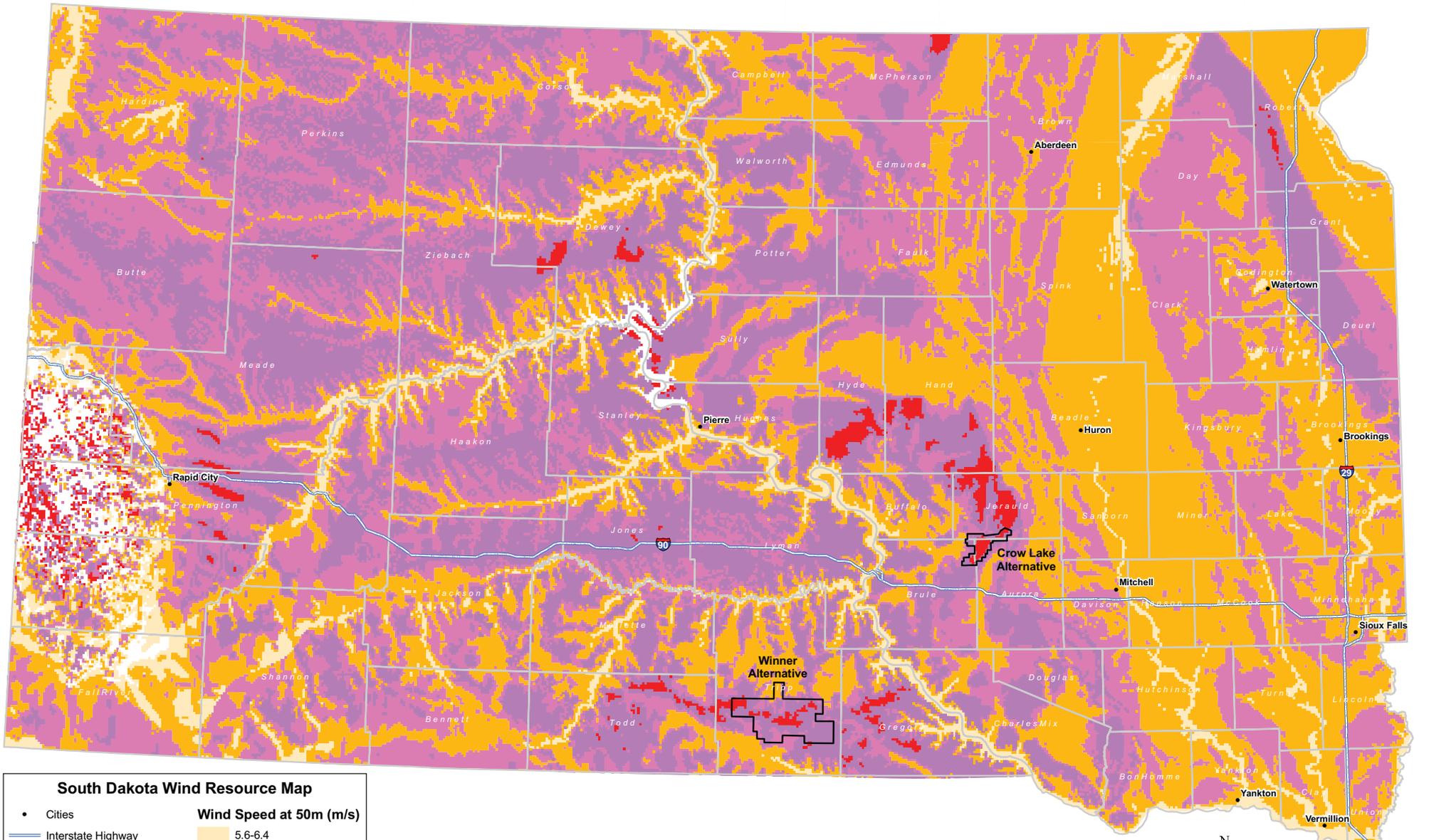


Basin Electric's Project Objectives

Renewable Energy Goals

- **Meet current incentives/regulations that encourage or require power from renewable or low environmental impact resources**
- **Conform with proposals in Congress for national Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)**
- **Basin Electric needs additional renewable energy capacity to serve forecasted growth demands and meet state-mandated RPS**
 - **A 150 MW wind project was determined to be the best alternative to satisfy these requirements**
 - **Applicant – PrairieWinds SD1, Incorporated, a wholly owned subsidiary of Basin Electric**





South Dakota Wind Resource Map

- Cities
- Interstate Highway
- ▭ Proposed Project Alternatives
- ▭ Counties

Wind Speed at 50m (m/s)	
	5.6-6.4
	6.4-7.0
	7.0-7.5
	7.5-8.0
	8.0-8.8

Wind Data Source: NREL

Map Created: 04/22/2009



Preliminary siting parameters for turbine locations:

- Wind potential and topography
- Ability to lease contiguous parcels of land
- Minimum distance of 400 feet from section lines or existing roads
- Minimum distance of 1000 feet from occupied residences
- Minimum distance of 400 feet from existing transmission line
- Avoidance of hydric soils areas
- Siting on USFWS grasslands easements was near edges to minimize impact
- 1000 to 2000-foot minimum between turbine locations within the predominant wind direction
- Avoid siting within existing micro-wave paths

Preliminary siting parameters for transmission line locations:

- Minimization of transmission line length
- Consider right-of-way requirements and availability of contiguous parcels of land
- Land use considerations (i.e., potential visual impacts, proximity to residences, potential impact to agricultural activities, and existing/future land use)
- Environmental resource considerations such as potential impacts to sensitive resources (i.e., cultural resources, wildlife, vegetation, and wetlands)
- Jurisdiction and regulatory considerations
- Consider airport height restrictions

Further siting analysis through EIS process:

- Geology, Soils, Paleontology, and Seismicity
- Water Resources
- Climate Change and Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Wetlands/Riparian Areas
- Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Recreation
- Visual Resources
- Noise
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice
- Health and Safety



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS

Public Scoping and Interagency Communication Begin

Issue Notice of Intent

April 2009

Public Scoping Meetings

April 2009

Identify Issues and Develop / Screen Alternatives

Conduct Analysis on Feasible Alternatives

Determine Impacts / Evaluate Alternatives

Public Comment Period

Issue Draft EIS for Review

Prepare and Publish Final EIS (opportunity for public review)

April /May 2010

Prepare Records of Decision

June /July 2010



Western's Role and Need for Agency Action

Who is Western?

- Agency within the USDOE
- Owns, operates and maintains transmission lines including lines near the proposed PrairieWinds project
- Markets federal hydroelectric power including power from power plants on the Missouri River

Why is Western involved?

- Evaluate interconnection request per its generator interconnection procedures
- Evaluate involvement
- Co-lead for NEPA process



RUS's Role and Need for Agency Action

Who is RUS?

- Formerly the Rural Electrification Administration
- Agency within the USDA
- Delivers USDA's Rural Development Utilities Programs
- Makes loans/loan guarantees for electric distribution, transmission and generation facilities, telecommunication facilities and water and waste water facilities

Why is RUS involved?

- Evaluate financing request
- Evaluate engineering and technical aspects of the project
- Co-lead for NEPA process

