



South Dakota PrairieWinds Project Environmental Impact Statement

The NEPA Process

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared under the direction of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Western Area Power Administration (Western) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for the South Dakota PrairieWinds Project . The project proponent seeks an interconnection with Western and financing from RUS, and thus an EIS will be developed in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and agencies' implementing regulations.

Public involvement is part of the NEPA environmental review process. The public participation effort focuses on providing information to and gathering input from the public. You will have numerous opportunities to participate in the decision-making process as shown on the figure to the right.

How you can participate

- Attend a public meeting. The meeting will provide the opportunity to ask questions, express concern, and submit written comments.
- Participate and provide comments during scoping as well as during the public review of the EIS. The availability of the Draft EIS and Final EIS will be announced. If requested, you will be provided the Draft EIS and Final EIS for review when completed.
- Designate on a comment form that you would like to be kept informed of the ongoing progress of this project and be included on the mailing list.



For more information on the proposed project:

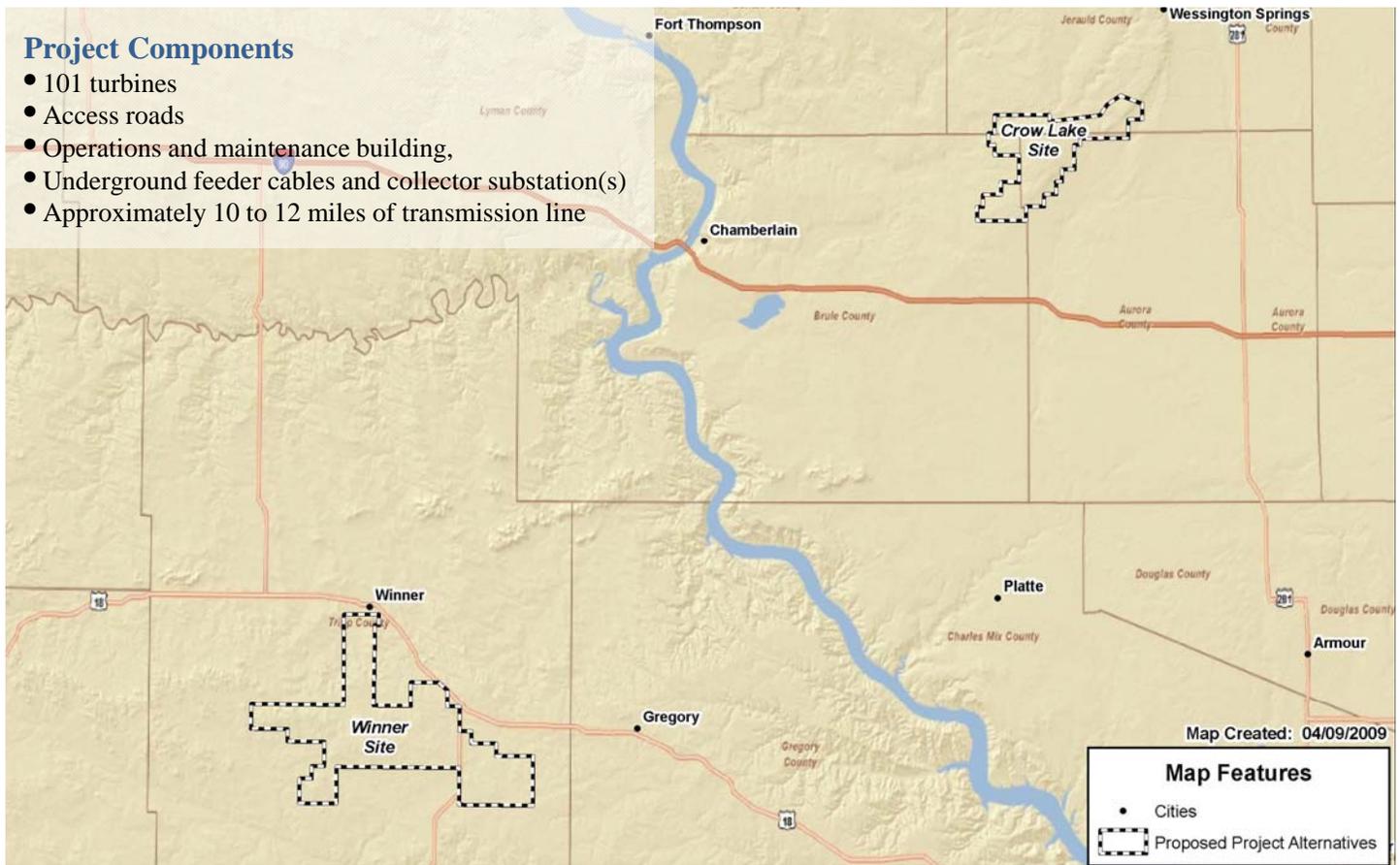
Call the Project Phone Number: (800) 336-7288

Send an e-mail to the Project E-mail: sdprairiewinds@wapa.gov

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

Project Components

- 101 turbines
- Access roads
- Operations and maintenance building,
- Underground feeder cables and collector substation(s)
- Approximately 10 to 12 miles of transmission line



Project Description

PrairieWinds SD1, Inc. (PrairieWinds), a wholly owned subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric), is proposing to construct a new 151.5-megawatt (MW) wind energy facility at one of two locations in south-central South Dakota (see map to the right). Project components would include:

Power from the facility would be supplied to Basin Electric's customers through an interconnection with Western's transmission system. RUS is considering financing the project. Once environmental permitting is complete, and if the agency decisions are to go forward with the project, construction would begin Fall 2010/Winter 2010. Facility commercial operation is anticipated to begin in late 2010 or early 2011.

Project Purpose and Need

Incentives and regulations to encourage or require the generation of power from renewable or low environmental impact resources are being actively considered and/or implemented within the Basin Electric member service areas. A number of proposals for national Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) are pending in Congress.

Basin Electric's Participation: With members in nine states, Basin Electric recognizes the need for additional renewable energy capacity to service forecasted member load growth demands and to meet state mandated RPS. A 151.5-MW wind energy facility was determined to be the least-cost renewable resource option to satisfy these requirements.

PrairieWinds's Participation: A subsidiary of Basin Electric, and the project applicant. To be the owner and operator of the proposed project.

RUS's Participation: Co-lead agency for the EIS process, providing oversight of the NEPA process and preparation of the EIS. They are also considering granting financing assistance.

Western's Participation: Co-lead agency for the EIS process, providing oversight of the NEPA process and preparation of the EIS. They are also considering approval of an interconnection request.

Note, that consultation is occurring and Native American Tribes and agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise have been invited to be cooperating agencies