



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

SUBJECT: Notice of Scoping – NECO 30-MW Wind Farm project, Phillips and Logan Counties, Colorado

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Phillips County, Colorado (the County) to construct and operate the proposed Northeast Colorado (NECO) 30-MW wind farm in Phillips and Logan counties, Colorado. The proposed project would interconnect with DOE, Western Area Power Administration at the Haxtun Substation, near Haxtun, CO. Details of the proposed project and its location are contained in the attachment to this Scoping Notice. Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provision of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and DOE's implementing procedures for compliance with NEPA (10 CFR 1021), DOE is preparing a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to:

- Identify any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided should this proposed project be implemented.
- Evaluate viable alternatives to the proposed project.
- Describe the relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.
- Characterize any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved should this proposed project be implemented.

Potential Environmental Effects or Issues Identified for the Environmental Assessment

The EA will describe and analyze any potential impacts on the environment that would be caused by the project and will identify possible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate those impacts. At a minimum, DOE will evaluate the potential impacts that may result to:

- Land Use
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Noise
- Safety and Occupational Health
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Utilities
- Traffic and Transportation
- Aviation Hazards
- Electromagnetic Interferences
- Aesthetics and Shadow Flicker
- Water Resources



Development of a Reasonable Range of Alternatives

DOE is required to consider a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed action during an environmental review. The definition of alternatives is governed by the "rule of reason." An EA must consider a reasonable range of options that could accomplish the agency's purpose and need and reduce environmental effects. Reasonable alternatives are those that may be feasibly carried out based on environmental, technical, and economic factors.

The No Action Alternative will be addressed. The need for project redesign, or a project alternative, will be determined during the course of environmental review.

Public Scoping

The DOE is sending this letter to interested federal, state, and local agencies to provide information on issues to be addressed in the EA. Agencies are invited to identify the issues within their statutory responsibilities that should be considered in the EA. The general public is also invited to submit comments on the scope of the EA.

DOE also invites all interested State, local, and Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and the general public to participate in a public scoping meeting to learn more about the project and provide comments. That meeting will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm MT on May 27 2010 at the Haxtun Community Center in Haxtun, Colorado.

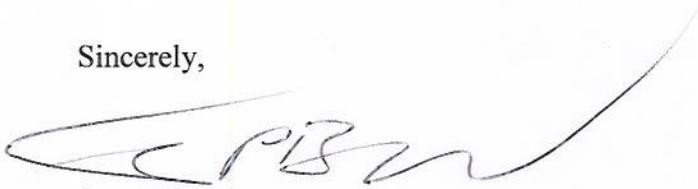
This letter and the draft EA, when it is available, will be posted in the DOE Golden Field Office online reading room: http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/Reading_Room.aspx.

The DOE Golden Field Office welcomes your input throughout our NEPA process, but to ensure that your comments are received in time to be considered in the EA, please provide any them on or before June 11, 2010 to:

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1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401
Melissa.rossiter@go.doe.gov

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Steve Blazek
NEPA Compliance Officer
Enclosure

Attachment

NECO 30 MW Wind Power Facility - Proposed Project Description and Location

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide up to \$2.5 million to Phillips County, Colorado. The County proposes to design, permit, construct, operate, and maintain a 30 MW community wind power facility to be located within a 60.6 square mile footprint south of Haxtun, Colorado. The project boundary encompasses all or parts of the following sections of land.

Township	Range	Sections	County
7 N	46 W	6,7,18,19	Phillips
7 N	47 W	1-18, 24	Phillips
7 N	48 W	1-18	Logan
7 N	49 W	1, 12, 13	Logan
8 N	47 W	31-33	Phillips
8 N	48 W	21-29, 31-36	Logan
8 N	49 W	36	Logan

The DOE funding for this proposed project would be paid for by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The project proposed by the County is to construct:

- 17 to 20 1.5 or 2.0 MW Wind Turbines
- Private Turbine Access Roads
- Underground Collector Cable Network
- One Interconnection Substation
- 2 Permanent Meteorological Towers
- A transmission line to interconnect with Western's Haxtun Substation

Project location map is provided below.

