

KLICKITAT COUNTY
DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE (DS)
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

School Section Wind Energy Project
EOZ2009-01 AND SEP2009-35

Description of proposal

Northwest Wind Partners, LLC, proposes to develop and operate School Section Wind Project, a wind power facility on 640 acres of public land managed by the WA DNR. The project is located approximately 7 miles southeast of Bickleton in Klickitat County. The proposed facility will utilize REPower MM92 2.0 turbines, with a maximum output of 20 megawatts (MW) of electricity. The turbines will be arranged in strings and connected by an underground electrical feeder system at 34.5-kilovolt (kV), generated electricity will be collected from each turbine and delivered to the approved Miller Ranch substation located to the north east of the proposal. The Miller Ranch Substation will be connected to the existing KPUD White Creek Substation by overhead 230-kV lines. The Project will include the construction of approximately 3.8 miles of new access road.

Proponent

Northwest Wind Partners, LLC

Location of proposal

The Project area is located approximately 7 miles southeast of Bickleton, Washington, in eastern Klickitat County. Parcel number 04-20-1600-0000/00, also described as all of Section 16, Township 4 North, Range 20 East, WM, Klickitat County, WA.

Lead agency

Klickitat County

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared in keeping with the requirements of RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). The Applicant has elected to prepare an EIS for this project.

Two alternatives are being addressed in this EIS: (1) No Action – no government action, the proposal does not occur; (2) Alternative 1 – the proposal known as "School Section" from Northwest Wind Partners, LLC.

The EIS is likely to include the following topics: project description, land use, vegetation and wildlife, critical areas, visual resources, cultural resources, noise, transportation, construction, and cumulative impacts. The project will also address the development standards outlined in Chapter 19.39 of the Klickitat County Code. The applicant will prepare special technical studies addressing wildlife and habitat (including avian resources), cultural resources, traffic and geotechnical study, grading and stormwater management.

Scoping. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Comments on the scope of the EIS will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. **September 3, 2009**. Comments shall be submitted to the Klickitat County Planning Department, 228 West Main, MS: CH-17, Goldendale, WA 98620.

Responsible official: Curt Dreyer
Position/title: Planning Director, Klickitat County Planning Department
Phone: 509-773-5703
Address: 228 West Main Street, MS-CH-17, Goldendale, WA 98620

Date: 8/7/09 Signature 

You may appeal this determination of significance.

Appeals on the Determination of Significance (DS) will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. **August 28, 2009**. Appeals must be filed with the Klickitat County Auditor's office with an appeal fee of \$175. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections.

There is no agency appeal.