

FACT SHEET

Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Lead Agency and Responsible Official: Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC); Allen Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager, 925 Plum Street SE, Building 4, P.O. Box 43172; Olympia, WA 98504-3172; (360) 956-2152.

Abstract: Sagebrush Power Partners LLC proposes to construct and operate between 82 and 150 wind turbines that would generate between 181.5 and 246 megawatts (MW) of wind power in Kittitas County, Washington. The proposed project would occupy between 93 and 118 acres of land on either side of US 97 roughly halfway between Ellensburg and Cle Elum, Washington.

The project also includes: (1) approximately 19 miles of new roads and improvements to roughly 7 miles of existing roads, (2) approximately 23 miles of underground and 2 miles of overhead 34.5-kilovolt (kV) electrical power lines, (3) two new substations, (4) an approximately 5,000-square-foot operations and maintenance facility, and (5) up to nine permanent meteorological towers.

This EIS evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action under three project scenarios:

- Lower End Scenario: The lower end scenario represents the project configuration with the fewest proposed turbines. For turbines with a nameplate capacity of 3 MW each, up to 82 turbines would be used for a total nameplate capacity of 246 MW.
- Middle Scenario: The middle scenario represents the project configuration that would be chosen based on pricing and performance for wind turbine technology currently on the market. For turbines with a nameplate capacity of 1.3 MW each, 121 turbines would be used for a total nameplate capacity of 181.5 MW.
- Upper End Scenario: The upper end scenario represents the project configuration with the most proposed turbines. For turbines with a nameplate capacity of 1.3 MW each, up to 150 turbines would be used for a total nameplate capacity of 195 MW.

The Draft EIS assesses the existing natural and built environment, evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, and identifies mitigation measures to compensate for impacts. Alternative wind turbine locations, alternative wind energy technologies, and the No Action Alternative also are described.

Proposal's Sponsor: Sagebrush Power Partners LLC (Applicant), a subsidiary of Zilkha Renewable Energy, Houston, Texas.

Date of Implementation: Construction activities are expected to start during the spring of 2004 and last approximately one year. The start of construction depends on the date the governor of Washington approves and executes the Site Certification Agreement for this project.

List of Possible Permits, Approvals, and Licenses: EFSEC is the sole non-federal agency authorized to permit the proposed project. For informational purposes, Table 1-2 of this Draft EIS lists the major state and local permitting requirements preempted by EFSEC, as well as federal requirements. Not all listed permits and approvals may be required. The EFSEC Site Certification Agreement would provide construction and operational requirements and all other relevant local and Washington state permits and approvals for the project.

Authors and Principal Contributors to EIS: An independent consultant of EFSEC, Shapiro and Associates, Inc., is the principal author of the Draft EIS, with Otak Inc., Acres International, and Huckell/Weinman, Inc. contributing. The primary source of information used to prepare the Draft EIS is the Application for Site Certification, which was prepared by Sagebrush Power Partners LLC and its primary consultants CH2M Hill, Western Ecosystems Technologies, Inc., Northwest Wildlife Consultants, Inc., Eagle Cap Consulting Inc., and Lithic Analysts.

Subsequent Environmental Review: Adjudicative Hearings
 Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application Review
 Final EIS

Date of Final Lead Agency Action: After EFSEC deliberates on the facts, testimony, and EIS contents, it will send a recommendation to the governor of the state of Washington to approve or deny the project (expected in spring 2004). The governor has 60 days to accept or reject the recommendation or to remand the recommendation to EFSEC for further investigation.

Contact for Additional Information:

Irina Makarow, Siting Manager
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
925 Plum Street SE, Building 4
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172
(360) 956-2047
irinam@ep.cted.wa.gov

Location of Background Information: You may access this Draft EIS and find additional information about the project on the EFSEC Web site at www.efsec.wa.gov. Copies of the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project Application for Site Certification, EFSEC No. 2003-01, and this Draft EIS also are available for public review at the following locations:

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
925 Plum Street SE, Building 4
Olympia, WA 98504-3172
(360) 956-2121

Washington State Library
Joel M. Pritchard Branch
Point Plaza East
6880 Capitol Blvd.
Olympia, WA 98504-2460
(360) 704-5200

Carpenter Memorial (Cle Elum) Library
302 Pennsylvania Avenue
Cle Elum, WA 98922-1196
(509) 674-2313

Ellensburg Public Library
209 North Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 962-7250

Cost of EIS Copy to the Public: There will be no cost for the Draft EIS.