



Oct. 3, 2011

Dear Carbon County Neighbors:

A recent newspaper editorial said Power Company of Wyoming LLC's Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project will be a "game-changer" for Carbon County and for Wyoming.

We couldn't agree more.

This \$4 billion to \$6 billion business investment located on private and federal land will benefit the local and state economy for decades to come.

Here are a few examples of those benefits:

- The wind farm's long-term operations and maintenance will create at least 114 permanent, well-paying jobs that will be located and filled by people living in Carbon County – making PCW one of the largest private employers in Carbon County. The skill sets needed to work on an operating wind farm can be learned through electrical and instrumentation courses available today at the Carbon County Higher Education Center.
- As documented in the [thorough environmental analysis](#) prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the wind project's construction over 4-5 seasons will create thousands of indirect and direct jobs. After PCW has secured the various federal, state and county permits that are required before construction can begin, our construction team will include as many skilled Wyoming workers as possible. We already have spent significant dollars in Wyoming over the past three years, from hiring companies to install and maintain our met towers, to paying for long-term housing for our wildlife biologists, to buying countless hotel stays and meals as we host potential wind turbine vendors, wind resource consultants, national media, environmental group representatives and others who have all come to visit and spend money in Carbon County because of this project.
- When you see PCW's wind turbines spinning – and the vast majority will not be visible from public access points – you will be seeing millions of dollars generated each year for your community. Under Wyoming's current tax laws for wind farms, PCW will pay property taxes, sales/use taxes, and taxes on every megawatt of wind electricity produced. (The current \$1/MW tax alone would provide an estimated \$8 million each year.) All three tax streams combined equate to an **estimated average of \$34 million to \$42 million each year, or \$686 million to \$832 million over 20 years.** Since wind plants can be upgraded and repowered as technology evolves, the total taxes paid over the entire project lifetime will be even greater. Current laws governing tax distribution ensure that these millions of dollars will flow to Carbon County; entities within Carbon County such as the hospital, museum and schools; the State of Wyoming; and the City of Rawlins, Town of Saratoga, Town of Sinclair, and other incorporated municipalities.



This wind farm will be sited primarily within the deep interior of the privately owned and operated Overland Trail Cattle Company Ranch. Therefore Carbon County's outdoor culture should continue to thrive just as it has since the mid-90s, when many other wind farms began to be built on private Carbon County ranches. Further, PCW's [science-based wildlife conservation program](#) not only goes above and beyond what is required for the BLM's Environmental Impact Statement but also is more comprehensive than any other energy developer's efforts.

Building a large, complex infrastructure project naturally generates many questions. Here are answers to some of the other issues we've heard from local citizens.

- We can't provide "free power" locally. Electric power can only be provided directly to customers by the utility with the exclusive right to do so, and Carbon County's service areas belong to Rocky Mountain Power and Carbon Power and Light. However, the wind project will generate an enormous amount of local tax revenue, as outlined above, and local governments can distribute their money as they wish.
- Wyoming tribes are indeed consulted with and potential cultural issues are addressed as part of the EIS that is being prepared by the BLM.
- Due to Wyoming's small population but massive energy resources, Wyoming wisely exports and sells its excess energy to other states, leading to jobs and tax revenue that support all Wyoming citizens here at home. Federal data shows that in 2009 Wyoming exported more than 94% of its coal, 90% of its natural gas and 60% of its electricity to other states. Selling PCW's wind electricity to other states will be no different.
- The wind farm is not yet permitted or generating revenue, but PCW has and will continue to sponsor selected community events, seminars and causes. Some examples to date: Rawlins DDA/Main Street Passion & Pride Ball, CCEDC's "Moving Forward Together" campaign, funding for CCEDC to attend a national wind supply chain seminar, CCHEC's Celebration of Wind and "NEPA 101" class, presenting sponsor of Saratoga Bullfest along with cooperating sponsors Carbon County Visitors Council and Saratoga Lions Club, Saratoga's "Voices of the Valley" speaker series, the Rawlins Citizens for Visionary Community Education Committee, the Rawlins Industry Roundtable effort, the Platte Valley Community Center, The Depot, landowner workshops hosted by SER Conservation District, and funding for statewide greater sage-grouse research. We also widely advertised and hosted two community open houses in Rawlins and Saratoga last year to provide further opportunities for citizens to talk with us and ask questions.
- PCW's business focus is to permit and construct a \$4 billion to \$6 billion wind energy project. That project will provide the economic opportunity for other private businesses that can help with everything from building housing to providing wind turbine components. Many project elements can't be determined until our project is more advanced in the permitting stage and until turbine vendors have been selected. Still, we are working with Union Pacific to help bring a major rail distribution center to the county. We have and will continue to talk with CCHEC about wind turbine training opportunities. We were one of few industrial developers to participate in the recent Rawlins Industry Roundtable designed to explore local business collaboration. We submitted a letter of support to help Carbon County secure a state Community Enhancement Grant for the Skyline Acres Industrial Subdivision.



In sum, Power Company of Wyoming LLC is partnering with The Overland Trail Cattle Company LLC – each are separate affiliates of The Anschutz Corporation – to put the checkerboard of private land and federal land to the highest and best use by combining responsible wind energy development with traditional cattle and agricultural operations. We are working with the BLM and other federal, state and local authorizing agencies to avoid, mitigate and minimize potential impacts of the wind project, as demonstrated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and look forward to the day when the permitting phase is complete so we can put more people to work and help further boost local economic development.

We appreciate the widespread support we have heard from across the county, state and nation for the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project. Please visit our website at www.powercompanyofwyoming.com or contact us anytime you may have questions about our work.

Sincerely,

Bill Miller
President and CEO
Power Company of Wyoming LLC