The Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project is a 1,000-turbine wind farm to be located south of Rawlins in Carbon County, Wyoming. This wind power project will be one of the largest in the world. With approximately 3,000 megawatts of nameplate capacity, the project will ensure a reliable, cost-effective supply of renewable electricity that’s unmatched in the West. This output will help America reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, diversify energy sources and meet growing demand for renewable energy.

What benefits will the project bring?

Power Company of Wyoming LLC’s Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project will have the wind turbines and electric infrastructure necessary to reliably and cost-effectively generate about 10.5 million megawatt-hours of clean, renewable electricity every year. It is situated on land that has some of the best winds in the country, and it will be built in two phases of 500 turbines (1,500 MW) each.

In addition, this wind project will:

- Provide zero-fuel-cost, zero-emissions electricity. The project is estimated to reduce CO₂ emissions by millions of tons per year.
- Support national and regional renewable energy goals, such as state-mandated Renewable Portfolio Standards and greenhouse-gas reduction targets.
- Capture and leverage natural resources wisely and responsibly.
- Create thousands of construction jobs and at least 114 permanent operations and maintenance jobs.
- Provide hundreds of millions of dollars in state and local tax revenue and federal royalties, among other economic benefits.

When the U.S. Bureau of Land Management announced its Final EIS for the project in July 2012, then-Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said: “Wyoming, we know, has some of the best wind energy resources in the entire world, and there’s no doubt that this project has the potential to be a landmark project for the U.S. and the entire world.”

What does the project look like?

Views of slim turbine blades sweeping through the air are now familiar as the country aims to increase its production of clean energy. The Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project will begin about 3 miles south of Rawlins and Sinclair, Wyoming, on a 320,000-acre ranch owned and operated by The Overland Trail Cattle Company LLC, an affiliate of The Anschutz Corporation. However, long-term surface disturbance is estimated to be just 0.5 percent of the ranch – or less than 2,000 acres – since wind turbines have small footprints. Cattle ranching and agricultural operations on the Overland Trail Ranch will continue.

Wind turbines may have towers up to 328 feet tall, from base to nacelle, in order to most effectively and efficiently capture the wind's energy. Aerodynamically designed blades are up to 200 feet long. As wind spins the blades, they power a generator that converts the wind’s energy into clean electricity that can be transmitted to utility customers. Because of their locations, the vast majority of the project’s wind turbines will not be visible from public access points in Carbon County.
How will the project proceed?

PCW has measured and monitored wind resources across the ranch since June 2007, using dozens of meteorological towers to determine the optimal areas for wind development. In addition, engineers have evaluated data for years to optimize the layout of preferred wind turbine sites.

At the same time, PCW is working to set the standard for developing renewable resources in an environmentally responsible manner. PCW proactively moved forward with a variety of science-based programs to both better understand wildlife habitats and use and to implement advanced conservation measures that will avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts to wildlife and ecosystems.

Because the project is partially located on federal land administered by BLM, in January 2008 PCW applied for rights-of-way. BLM conducted a thorough environmental analysis by preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The agency provided multiple opportunities for public input and prepared the EIS in coordination with other federal, state and local cooperating agencies.

BLM published the Final EIS in July 2012 and approved the Record of Decision for the site in October 2012. The agency then reviews site-specific plans of development for the project components in Environmental Assessments tiered to the project-wide EIS, prior to granting any rights-of-way.

PCW obtained the primary county permit in 2012 and the primary state permit in 2014. Construction of the project will occur in two phases over an approximately 8-year period.

About Power Company of Wyoming LLC

Power Company of Wyoming LLC is a wholly owned affiliate of The Anschutz Corporation, a privately held company based in Denver, Colorado. The Anschutz Corporation, through its affiliates, has been actively involved in the West for over 75 years in the fields of ranching, agriculture, and energy development. The Anschutz Corporation’s activity and investments in the energy field reflect a strong commitment to responsibly developing and managing natural resources.