

# Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project

BLM

## Welcome

In 2008, Power Company of Wyoming LLC (PCW) applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for right-of-way grants to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project (CCSM) on federal lands within the CCSM Project Site. On June 29, 2012, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the CCSM Project was issued, and on October 9, 2012, the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed. In the ROD, the BLM determined that more than 200,000 acres within the CCSM Project Site are suitable for wind energy development subject to the requirements described under the Selected Alternative.

The CCSM EIS and ROD amended the Rawlins Resource Management Plan to allow for wind development, but did not identify individual turbine or infrastructure component locations. Subsequent tiered environmental assessments (EAs) are needed to analyze site-specific issues. The first to be analyzed will be an infrastructure component EA which includes the Haul Road and Facilities for Phase I, West Sinclair Rail Facility, and Road Rock Quarry.

Scoping is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. During scoping, federal agencies solicit comments and information from the public, agencies, and tribes. The BLM is conducting two scoping meetings to provide an opportunity for you to learn more about the project, provide comments, and identify potential issues. The BLM encourages your participation and is providing you opportunities to ask questions, express any concerns, and submit your comments. The scoping period will close October 9, 2013.

## Scoping Meetings

**September 23, 2013**

Platte Valley Community Center  
210 W. Elm Ave.  
Saratoga, WY  
4-7 p.m.\*

**September 24, 2013**

Depot, East Room  
400 W. Front St.  
Rawlins, WY  
4-7 p.m.\*

*\*Each meeting will include a presentation at 6 p.m.*

## Site-specific Environmental Assessment for Infrastructure Components

**Haul Road and Facilities for Phase I.** The Haul Road and Facilities for Phase I includes the CCSM Project Haul Road (32 miles), certain arterial and facility access roads (25 miles), as well as three water stations, one water extraction facility, and five laydown yards. The internal Haul Road begins at the northern project entrance where it connects to CIG Road (County Road 407), the Haul Road then travels west connecting to the West Sinclair Rail Facility, and finally travels south through the center of the Chokecherry wind development area into Sage Creek Basin and the Sierra Madre wind development area. The only location where the Haul Road would intersect public roads is a single crossing of County Road 401 (Sage Creek Road).

**West Sinclair Rail Facility.** The West Sinclair Rail Facility consists of a rail connection to the Union Pacific Railroad mainline between Rawlins and Sinclair and an associated laydown yard to receive, temporarily stage, and deliver components and construction-related materials. The West Sinclair Rail Facility connects with the internal CCSM Project Haul Road and is designed to minimize impacts to public roadways,

High Desert District-Rawlins Field Office, Wyoming



provide more cost effective transportation, and promote efficient project construction activities. The 14 miles of track feature a wye, a lead track, a running track, a loop track, and several unloading areas. Vehicle access to the facility is from Interstate 80, Exit 221, and the CCSM Project internal Haul Road.

**Road Rock Quarry.** Located at the site of an existing quarry, approximately two miles south of Rawlins, the Road Rock Quarry would provide road construction material for the CCSM Project. The quarry would improve the efficiency of the project by decreasing the number of train and truck trips from off-site quarries necessary for road base aggregate. The Road Rock Quarry would be accessed by crossing federal lands under the administration of the BLM Rawlins Field Office. Activities at the quarry would involve surface rock mining and processing of sandstones and shales. The quarry, proposed to be approximately 120 acres of operations area, includes the excavation area, material processing area, material storage piles, and the Quarry Road (five miles). The quarry was not included in the CCSM Project EIS.

**How to Provide Comments**

Please complete a comment form and place it in the comment box or give it to a BLM representative at the scoping meeting. Comments can also be submitted in the following ways and must be received by Oct. 9 to be considered in the EA:

By facsimile: 307-328-4224

By email: [blm\\_wy\\_pcw\\_windfarm@blm.gov](mailto:blm_wy_pcw_windfarm@blm.gov)

By U.S. Mail:

Bureau of Land Management  
Rawlins Field Office  
Heather Schultz, Project Manager  
P.O. Box 2407  
1300 N. Third St.  
Rawlins, WY 82301

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be publicly available at any time. While you may request we withhold your personal information from public view, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so.

**Making Substantive Comments**

Substantive comments help ensure important issues are identified and addressed in the EA.

- Be specific. Give defined reasons, not broad statements or opinions.
- Share site-specific observations, data, or knowledge.
- Detail important environmental and community factors.
- Be timely. Comments must be received by Oct. 9, 2013.

**Additional project information is available on the project website at:**  
<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html>

**Site-specific NEPA Tiering Analysis (to be performed)**



Site-specific Environmental Assessments	
Haul Road and Facilities for Phase I	EA 1 9/2013 - 6/2014
West Sinclair Rail Facility	
Road Rock Quarry	
Phase I Wind Development	EA 2 (dates to be determined)
Phase II Wind Development (including Haul Road and Facilities for Phase II)	EA 3 (dates to be determined)

