



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

January 10, 2011

TO: Distribution List

SUBJECT: Notice of Scoping – Cloud County Community College Wind Energy Technology Project, Cloud County Kansas

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to authorize the expenditure of federal funds by Cloud County Community College (CCCC) for a wind energy project. CCCC has installed three wind turbines and proposes to install a fourth turbine on their campus in Concordia, Kansas, for use in their wind energy training curriculum and to provide electricity for their campus.

The three installed turbines are located on a hill 0.3 miles south of the main campus building (see attached figure). Two of those turbines have a generation capacity of 100 kilowatts, are mounted on 98-foot-tall towers, have a rotor diameter of 69 feet, and a total height of 133 feet. The third turbine, which has temporarily been removed for refurbishing, has a capacity of 130 kilowatts, is mounted on a 75-foot-tall tower, has a rotor diameter of 63 feet, and a total height of 105 feet. These turbines are connected by an underground cable to the campus electrical system. CCCC proposes to install a 750-kilowatt turbine adjacent to a planned wind energy center to be developed on the eastern portion of their campus (see figure). That turbine would be mounted on a 175-foot-tall tower, have a rotor diameter of 165 feet, and have a total height of 255 feet. This turbine would be used for training purposes only, and would not spin or generate electricity at any time.

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provision of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and DOE's implementing procedures for compliance with NEPA (10 CFR 1021), DOE is preparing a draft Environmental Assessment (EA). Because DOE is considering authorizing the expenditure of federal funds to reimburse CCCC for money spent to install the first three turbines and to install the fourth, non-operational turbine, the EA will consider the environmental effects that have occurred and may occur in the future from the installation and operation of the three installed turbines and the effects that may occur from installation of the fourth turbine. The EA will:

- Identify any adverse environmental impacts and potential associated mitigation measures should the proposed action be implemented.
- Evaluate viable alternatives to the project, including a no-action alternative.
- Describe the relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.
- Characterize any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that have occurred or would occur as a result of this project.



Potential Environmental Effects or Issues Identified for the Environmental Assessment

The EA will describe and analyze any potential impacts on the environment that have been or would be caused by the project and will identify possible mitigation measures to avoid or minimize those impacts. At a minimum, DOE will evaluate the potential impacts that may result to:

- Land Use
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Historical Resources
- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Noise
- Health and Safety

DOE is making this letter available to interested federal, state, and local agencies to provide information on issues to be addressed in the EA. Agencies are invited to identify the issues within their statutory responsibilities that should be considered in the EA. The general public is also invited to submit comments on the scope of the EA.

Development of a Reasonable Range of Alternatives

NEPA requires DOE to consider a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed action during an environmental review. The definition of alternatives is governed by the “rule of reason”. An EA must consider a reasonable range of options that could accomplish the agency’s purpose and need and reduce environmental effects. Reasonable alternatives are those that may be feasibly carried out based on environmental, technical, and economic factors. DOE will determine the need for project redesign or a project alternative during the course of environmental review.

The EA will address the No Action Alternative, in which DOE would not authorize the expenditure of federal funds to reimburse CCCC for the installation of the first three turbines or future installation of the fourth. DOE assumed for analysis that CCCC would not proceed with the remainder of the proposed wind turbine project without the Department’s assistance.

Public Participation

DOE invites the public and agencies to identify the issues that they feel the Department should consider in the EA. The Department will post the draft EA in the DOE Golden Field Office online reading room at http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/reading_room.aspx.

DOE Golden Field Office welcomes your input throughout DOE’s NEPA process, but to ensure that your comments are received in time for consideration in the EA, please submit them by February 11, 2011 to:

**Department of Energy Golden Field Office
NEPA Division
Attn: Chris Carusona
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401**

Or via email to:

Christopher.Carusona@go.doe.gov

Thank you for your participation in the NEPA process.

Sincerely,

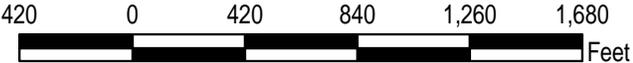


Chris Carusona
NEPA Document Manager

Enclosure



Cloud County Community College Wind Energy Technology Project, Concordia Kansas



Legend:

- Installed wind turbines
- ★ Proposed wind turbine

