



Transmission Business Line

Hopkins Ridge Wind Project

The Bonneville Power Administration's Transmission Business Line (TBL) owns and operates three-fourths of the Pacific Northwest's electric system. The system includes more than 15,000 miles of transmission line and 300 substations.

The lines network across 300,000 square miles in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and sections of Wyoming, Nevada, Utah and California. BPA's transmission system delivers an annual usage of about 30,000 megawatts (MW) and generates more than \$700 million a year in revenues from the sale of transmission services.

Supporting the Development of Wind Resources

BPA has made a commitment to the Pacific Northwest to support the development of renewable energy resources in the region – in particular, wind. Developers have discovered potential wind generation sites east of the Cascade mountain range along the Columbia River and elsewhere. Some wind farms have already been established but updated energy outlooks and environmental policies as well as federal tax incentives have driven an increase in the projected need of wind-based generation. By the end of 2005, the amount of wind-powered generation connected to the BPA transmission grid could more than triple.

In order to respond to interconnection requests, BPA needs to complete interconnection studies, as well as offer transmission agreements for most projects.

Project Description

BPA has been asked by Blue Sky Wind LLC (an affiliate of RES America Developments, Inc.) to interconnect the proposed Hopkins Ridge wind project into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. The wind project would be on approximately 40 square miles southwest of the Tucannon River in rural Columbia County, Wash. The wind project could generate up to 350 MW of electricity, however BPA would only interconnect 150 MW of the output.

Interconnection Proposal

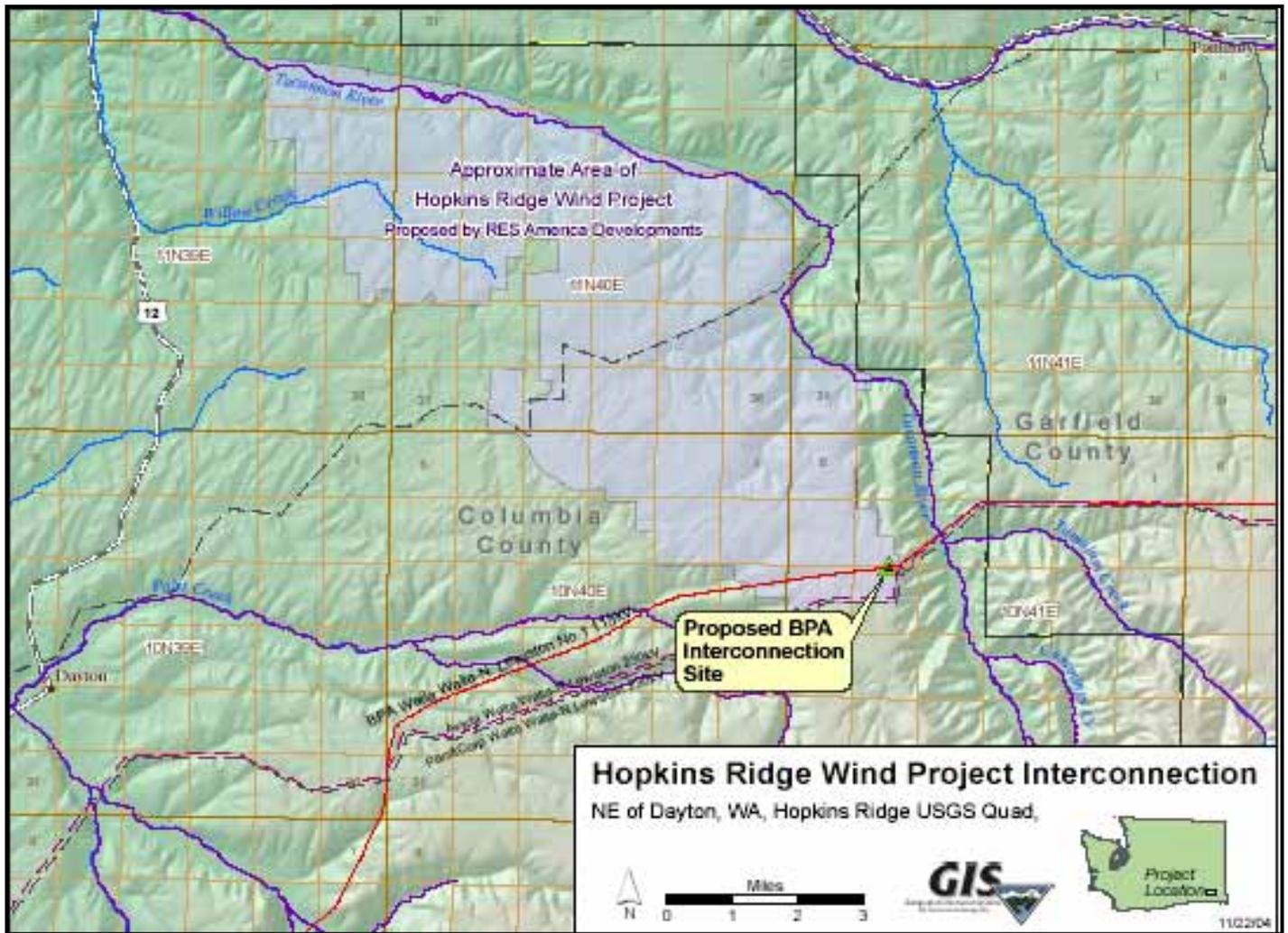
The proposed interconnection involves constructing a new BPA 115-kilovolt switching substation adjacent to an existing BPA transmission line near the wind project site (see map on page 2). The proposed BPA switching substation would be located on a five-acre parcel of land that is currently used for wheat farming. The project area is immediately east of the intersection of Hartsock Grade Road and Lewis Gulch Road, approximately one mile west of the Tucannon River.

BPA is not planning to purchase any of the power from the wind project. The interconnection would be the extent of BPA's involvement in this wind project.

Environmental Planning

As BPA designs this project, special attention is being paid to minimizing disruption to people, habitat, and farming activities. BPA will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) tiered to the existing Business Plan Environmental Impact Statement. The ROD will describe the existing environment and potential impacts resulting from the construction activities and ongoing operation and maintenance

Proposed Project Map



This map shows the proposed location of the interconnection site.

of the new proposed BPA switching substation. The Tiered ROD will also consider indirect impacts resulting from the wind project interconnection and cumulative impacts to the environment from the proposed wind project, and other activities in the area.

BPA has conducted site visits and field studies of the proposed switching substation site and determined there would be no impacts to wetlands, waterways, fish, species listed under the Endangered Species Act, or known cultural/historic resources. BPA is determining the type and level of impacts to soils, wildlife, vegetation, noise, public health and safety, socioeconomics and public services, air quality, land use and recreation, and visuals.

BPA is committed to working with public agencies, interest groups, Tribes and private property owners to minimize impacts to the environment.

Schedule

After assessing the potential environmental effects of the interconnection project, BPA will make a decision regarding the interconnection by winter 2005. BPA is expecting comments on the proposal through Dec. 17, 2004. Substation construction could start as early as March 1, 2005 with the proposed interconnection of the wind project in the fall of 2005.

For More Information

For more information on the Hopkins Ridge Wind Interconnection Project, visit the TBL wind Web site at <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/> or call toll free 1-888-276-7790. You may also submit inquiries to comments@bpa.gov.

