



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 491  
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

August 13, 2004

In reply refer to: Interconnection of the Arlington Wind Project to BPA

### **To: Persons interested in the Arlington Wind Project**

Columbia Energy Partners (CEP) has asked Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for services allowing interconnection of 200 megawatts (MW) of electricity generated from the Arlington Wind Project to the Federal Columbia River Transmission System (FCRTS). The purpose of this letter is to describe the proposed project, BPA's role in the project, the environmental analysis process, how to comment on the project, and how to contact BPA if you have questions.

### **Proposal**

BPA proposes to integrate up to 200-MW of power into the FCRTS at a tap on the 230-kilovolt McNary-Santiam transmission line approximately two miles south of the town of Arlington, Oregon. The power will be delivered from a substation that CEP would construct and own on the wind project site. BPA would build a switching station adjacent to the CEP substation. Approximately six acres of shrub-steppe land would be cleared to install the BPA switching station, which would be a fenced area of standard BPA design. A map is enclosed showing the location of the proposed switching yard. BPA will complete any necessary consultation and coordination on this proposed action with other state and federal regulatory agencies. CEP has requested transmission capability over the FCRTS to the Northwest Hub.

### **Background**

Columbia Energy Partners has obtained a Conditional Use Permit from Gilliam County for a wind generation project of up to 104-MW on the Arlington site. The project is being marketed to various organizations interested in procuring wind power. Power generated would be available for purchase in the wholesale power market. BPA is not interested in purchasing the power at this time. However, BPA operates consistently with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's *pro forma* open access tariff. Under this tariff, BPA offers transmission services, including interconnection of generation, to all eligible customers on a first-come, first-serve basis. Consistent with the tariff, BPA's practice is to grant interconnection to any eligible customer that complies with BPA's financial and technical requirements, complies with all permits received, and undertakes appropriate mitigation activities.

### **Environmental**

BPA's generator interconnection is subject to National Environmental Policy Act review, which is currently under way. A tiered Record of Decision (ROD) would be prepared for this project if the decision to offer terms to integrate the project is consistent with BPA's Business Plan ROD, August 1995 and Business Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), June 1995. The Business Plan EIS examined six alternatives as they relate to meeting the West Coast electric

energy need. The analysis focused on the relationships among BPA, the utility market, and the affected environment. The evaluation, which included transmission as well as generation, compared BPA actions and those of other energy suppliers in the region in meeting that need (BP EIS, section 1.7).

### **How to Comment**

BPA invites you to provide comments on the proposal. The deadline for comment is **September 17, 2004**. There are a number of ways to comment. You can fax the enclosed comment form to 503-230-3285 or mail them to:

BPA, Communications – DM-7  
P.O. Box 14428  
Portland, OR 97293-4428

In addition, you may also provide comments via the BPA Web site at [http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public\\_affairs/comment.cfm](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/comment.cfm) or contact BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-888-276-7790. Please include the name of this project with your comments. BPA will respond to substantive comments on this project.

### **Schedule**

The tiered ROD, including responses to your comments, would be released when a final determination is made on transmission availability and prior to enacting a Construction, Operation and Maintenance Agreement with CEP.

### **For More Information**

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please call us toll-free at 1-888-276-7790. If you have environmental questions or concerns, please contact our Environmental Protection Specialist, Don Rose, at 503-230-3796. Additional information is posted on our Web site at <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/>.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Don Rose 8-13-04*

Don Rose  
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures:  
Comment Form  
Map of proposed activity

cc: Chris Crowley – Columbia Energy Partners

bcc:

J. Taves – DR-7-C

A. Morrow – DR-7-C

C. Custer – DR-7-WSGL

D. Rose - KEC-4

J. Hillard Creecy–T-DITT-2

C. Whitney - T-DITT-2

T. Rodrigues - TM-OPP-2

K. Prickett – TMC-OPP-2

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

DRose:d\lr:3796:08/02/04(W:\KEC\Wind\Arlington Wind CEP\Final Arlington public letter  
081304.doc)