



## Department of Energy

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

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

December 23, 2004

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

### **To: People Interested in the Hopkins Ridge Wind Interconnection Project**

Bonneville Power Administration has decided to offer contract terms for interconnection of 150 megawatts (MW) of power from the Hopkins Ridge wind project into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. The interconnection will require BPA to construct a new switching substation (Tucannon) near Dayton, Wash. The proposed action was analyzed and approved by BPA Administrator Steve Wright in a tiered Record of Decision (ROD) prepared for the project. This letter briefly describes that decision, the construction schedule, and how to contact BPA if you have questions.

#### **Interconnection Decision**

In May 2002, RES America Developments, Inc., of which Blue Sky Wind LLC is an affiliate, submitted a transmission interconnection request to BPA for interconnection of 150 MW of the output from the Hopkins Ridge wind project. The interconnection involves constructing a new 115-kilovolt switching substation adjacent to BPA's Walla Walla-North Lewiston 115-kilovolt transmission line near the Hopkins Ridge wind project. The substation will be located on a five-acre parcel of land that is currently used for wheat farming, approximately one mile from the Tucannon River.

The decision to offer terms to interconnect the Hopkins Ridge wind project is consistent with BPA's Business Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (BP EIS) (DOE/EIS-0183, June 1995), and the Business Plan Record of Decision (BP ROD, August 1995). The ROD for the electrical interconnection of the Hopkins Ridge wind project is tiered to the Business Plan ROD.

The ROD summarizes BPA's independent environmental review of the Tucannon switching substation proposal to ensure that offering contract terms for the interconnection is covered by the BP EIS. It also references the Hopkins Ridge wind project information from Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist, Columbia County's Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance, and Columbia County's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process.

#### **Schedule**

Substation construction is scheduled to start March 2005 with interconnection of the Hopkins Ridge wind project expected in the fall of 2005. RES would like to begin commercial generation of power by the end of 2005. The Hopkins Ridge wind project would likely operate for at least 20 years.

**For More Information**

If you have questions about this project you may call our toll-free line at 1-888-276-7790. Copies of the tiered ROD are available from BPA's Public Information Center, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR, 97212 or you may call 1-800-622-4520. You can also access project information, including the tiered ROD, on the Transmission Business Line Web site at <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind>. Thank you for your interest in the project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Johny Luiz, Dec. 22, 2004*

Johny Luiz  
Project Manager