

Echanis Wind Energy Project

Decommissioning Plan for Transmission Line on public lands

February 2012

Introduction

The Echanis Wind Energy Project (Echanis) will be constructed on private lands in Harney County. A 230 kV transmission line connecting the project to the regional transmission grid will cross approximately 12 miles of federally-owned lands in the Burns BLM District in Harney County. The transmission line was the subject of an extensive EIS process resulting in the grant of a Right of Way (ROW) across federal lands. This Decommissioning Plan covers the portions of the transmission line on federal lands. It is understood that a Decommissioning Plan will be required by Harney County for the wind project and portions of the transmission line on private lands.

It is anticipated that the transmission line will be deeded over to the Harney Electric Cooperative (HEC) for maintenance and operation once the Echanis project and transmission line are completed. HEC is the local electrical service provider in the area. HEC will maintain and operate the transmission line, as well as provide electrical service to the project.

HEC has many transmission line and distribution lines on federally-owned lands within the Burns BLM district and maintains those lines in accordance with agreements in place between BLM and HEC.

At the end of the Echanis project, assuming the line is not being put to some other purpose, HEC shall provide a detailed plan to decommission and remove the transmission line on federal lands. The plan will include:

- Removal of all transmission poles and any related support structures or bedding to a depth of three feet below surface levels;
- Removal of all transmission lines or wires;
- Restoration of areas disturbed during decommissioning activities. Disturbed areas shall be graded as close as reasonably possible to its original contours and the soils shall be restored to a condition consistent with other resource uses. Disturbed areas shall be replanted with a native plant seed mixes suited to the area and shall be consistent with the weed control plan;
- Restoration of any Over Ground Access areas along the ROW, to be replanted with native plant seed mixes suited to the area and shall be consistent with the weed control plan, and
- Repair of any existing roads on federal lands used in accessing the transmission line for decommissioning activities.

All decommissioning work is to be completed within 12 months of closure of the Echanis facility, if practicable, allowing for seasonal access restrictions due to wet terrain, fire danger or other criteria limiting access for decommissioning.