

PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY FACILITY
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA



Prepared for

CATAMOUNT ENERGY CORPORATION

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Catamount Energy Corporation (Catamount) is making an application for a right-of-way (ROW) grant for long-term commercial wind energy development from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Vegas Field Office for the installation of a new wind energy generation facility. The proposed facility will include the following:

- Access roads;
- Underground electrical collection system;
- Underground communication lines;
- Up to 156 wind turbines, including concrete foundations, tubular steel towers, nacelles, and blades;
- Up to 156 pad-mount transformers, one located at the base of the tower of each wind turbine;
- Overhead transmission line;
- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building;
- Electrical interconnection / switchyard;
- Two electrical substations;
- Two lay down areas (one temporary, on permanent); and
- Five permanent meteorological masts.

The proposed project will be located on lands administered by the BLM, as well as private lands. Due to the early stage of project development, not all private landowners potentially included in the project, including those shown to have turbines proposed for their properties, have been contacted. Catamount is currently investigating these lands for development potential, and the information and maps presented herein will be modified as additional information regarding private land inclusion becomes available.

The proposed project requires a new ROW grant for long-term commercial wind energy development pursuant to BLM IM 2006-216 dated August 24, 2006. This Plan of Development (POD) is a required component of the accompanying commercial ROW grant application. The POD describes how the project will be built, operated, and decommissioned in a manner consistent with the requirements of the BLM. The POD is a living document and will continue to be refined during the BLM evaluation of the application and will be finalized for inclusion as part of the ROW grant.

Catamount has established safety and environmental procedures for all operation of equipment and for handling, maintenance and disposal associated with the construction of wind energy projects throughout the world. This POD includes the implementation of these continuously updated safety and environmental procedures that have been in use by Catamount on the construction of wind plants in the United States.

2.0 GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

2.1 SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Catamount is proposing to construct the Searchlight Wind Energy Facility (the proposed project), which will be located on BLM and privately owned lands in the vicinity of the town of Searchlight in Clark County, Nevada (Figure 2-1).

The proposed project will include the installation of up to 156 2.3-megawatt Siemens wind turbines on a permanent project footprint of approximately 125 acres. The Siemens turbine is employed herein as the anticipated and indicative turbine, but the brand, model, and capacity are subject to change pending turbine availability, site specific conditions, and other considerations to be assessed later in the development process. At full capacity, the proposed project will produce up to approximately 359 megawatts of electricity and will provide enough electricity for the residential electric needs of over 90,000 households [1].

The proposed project would interconnect into the 230 kV transmission line owned and operated by the Western Area Power Administration. To date the Feasibility Study has been completed and the System Impact Study Agreement has been executed.

The proposed turbine towers will be 80 meters (262 feet) tall (hub height) above existing grade. The blades of the proposed turbines will extend an additional 46.5 meters (153 feet) above the hub, for a total tip height of 126.5 meters (415 feet) above existing grade.

Due to the early stage of project development, private lands have not been leased for the proposed project. While the project has potential for up to 156 turbines it should be noted that none of the private land owners have been contacted to date in respect to their potential interest to lease their lands to the project. Catamount does not wish to presume that these land owners will enter into appropriate agreements for the siting of wind turbines. However, the turbine locations are shown to represent the maximum potential of the project size and the associated impacts. At this time, it is assumed that 137 wind turbines will be located on federal lands administered by the BLM and 19 wind turbines will be located on immediately adjacent private land.

The wind turbines and other facilities will be placed in locations that maximize energy production while minimizing environmental impacts. Safety during construction and operations and maintenance (O&M) are also considered during siting. Section 3.0 provides additional detail on the components of the project, including the site layout. The project will comply with the requirements of the BLM ROW grant, including any required monitoring during construction, operation, and maintenance and decommissioning.

2.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this project is to create an economically viable source of clean renewable electricity generation that meets Nevada's growing demand for power and fulfills the many state and national renewable energy policies. The proposed project will be located

in Clark County, which was among the five fastest growing counties in the United States in terms of population growth from 2000 to 2005 according to US Census Bureau data [2].

On August 8, 2005, President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct) of 2005. Section 211 of EPAAct calls for the Secretary of the Interior to have approved non-hydropower renewable energy projects located on public lands with a generation capacity of at least 10,000 megawatts of electricity, before the end of the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of EPAAct.

Furthermore, in 1997, Nevada passed a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as part of their 1997 Electric Restructuring Legislation (Assembly Bill 366). It required any electric providers in the state to acquire actual renewable electric generation or purchase renewable energy credits so that each utility had 1 percent of total consumption in renewables. On June 8, 2001, Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn signed Senate Bill 372. The law requires that 15 percent of all electricity generated in Nevada be derived from new renewables by the year 2013. The law phases in the renewable energy commitment so that there are 5 percent of new renewables in the year 2003, seven percent in 2005, nine percent in 2007, eleven percent in 2009, thirteen percent in 2011, and then reaching 15 percent in 2013.

In June 2005, the Nevada legislature passed Assembly Bill 03 during a special legislative session that modified the Nevada RPS. This bill extends the deadline and raised the requirements of the RPS to 20 percent of sales by 2015. This legislative requirement, coupled with federal tax incentives, has created a high demand for renewable energy throughout Nevada.

The Searchlight, Nevada vicinity is identified as an area of significant wind resource potential by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory wind map for the state of Nevada, and wind energy testing with on site meteorological towers is currently being conducted within the area proposed for development by Catamount. The project will contribute towards meeting the Nevada Renewable Portfolio Standard and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and will help satisfy the increased demand for electricity associated with the rapid population growth in Clark County and the interior mountain west. By utilizing wind sites with an excellent potential, such as the Searchlight vicinity, the Nevada Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements can be met most cost effectively and with a smaller number of projects.

Federal Executive Order 13212 requires all federal agencies to streamline their internal processes for approving energy related projects. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directs the Department of the Interior, of which the BLM is a part, to take actions to promote the development of domestic renewable energy supplies.

Wind is a domestic and local energy source. The project will contribute to domestic energy security; and unlike oil, gas, and coal reserves, the supply of wind does not diminish over time. Wind generation produces electricity without consuming fossil fuels or water and does not produce air emissions, water effluent or hazardous waste. When the

wind blows and electricity is generated by a wind farm it displaces energy generated by fossil fuel power generation facilities. This is because large volumes of electricity cannot be stored and to maintain the balance between the supply and demand for electricity, the real-time output required from fossil fuel plants would be reduced by the amount of renewable generation going into the electrical grid. Based on an average capacity factor of 29 percent, the project will result in the approximate savings of 575,000 tons of Carbon Dioxide, 900 tons of Nitrogen Oxide, and 600 tons of Sulfur Dioxide per year compared with electricity generated by the average fuel mix for the region in which the project is to be located [3].

2.3 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED

The proposed project will be reviewed by the BLM, Las Vegas Field Office, the Western Area Power Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and Clark County, Nevada. Depending on the resources identified on the site, agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), U.S. Department of Transportation, Nevada Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may become involved in the review of the ROW application and associated environmental compliance documents and permits. Table 2-1 identifies the potential permits and approvals that may be required for the project.

Table 2-1. Potential Permits and Approvals for the Searchlight Wind Energy Facility

| Agency | Permit/Approval Required |
|---|--|
| FEDERAL | |
| BLM | NEPA Implementation; Issuance of ROW Grant |
| Department of Homeland Security | Consultation Regarding Military Radar |
| Western Area Power Administration, an Agency of the U.S. Department of Energy | NEPA Implementation; Acquisition of ROW Grant for Electrical Interconnection Facility/Switchyard |
| Federal Aviation Administration | Aviation Hazard Clearance; Approval of Lighting Plan |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | Clean Water Act, Section 404, Nationwide Permit 12 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation and Biological Opinion |
| STATE | |
| Nevada Department of Wildlife | Project Review Including Wildlife and Habitat Consultation |
| State Historic Preservation Office | Section 106 Consultation under National and State Historic Preservation Acts |
| Nevada Public Utility Commission | Utility Environmental Protection Act Compliance |
| Nevada Department of Transportation | State and County ROW Encroachment Permits; Oversize/Overweight Permits |
| Nevada Division of Environmental Protection | 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities and 401 Water Quality Certification. O&M SWPPP and SPCCP |
| Nevada Division of Water Resource | Well Permit |
| Nevada State Fire Marshall | Hazardous Materials Storage Permit; Nevada Combined Agency Permit; Tier II compliance |
| LOCAL | |
| Clark County Comprehensive Planning | Conditional use permit; Height Variance; Building Permit |
| Clark County Regional Flood Control District | FEMA Map Review and CCRFCD Plan Compliance |
| Clark County Health District Air Pollution Control Division | Dust Control Permit; Grading Permit |
| Clark County Health District | Septic System Permit |

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Scale: 1:600,000

0 5 10 Miles

CATAMOUNT ENERGY CORPORATION

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Figure 2-1 Project Vicinity Map Clark County, Nevada

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Project Boundary | Transportation |
| Reference | Limited Access |
| State Boundary | Highway |
| Water Bodies | Major Road |
| Rivers/Streams | |
| Lakes/Reservoirs | |



