

## SPRING VALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY Project

**Toward a safe, clean energy future:** Spring Valley Wind Energy Facility is the first wind energy project ever approved for construction on public lands in Nevada.



Photo: Visual simulation

### VITALS

**Location:** Spring Valley, 30 miles east of Ely, White Pine County, NV

**Technology:** 75 wind turbines (2.0-MW Gamesa G90/G97)

**Electricity production capacity:** 149.1 – megawatts (MW)

**Company:** Spring Valley Wind, LLC (Houston, Texas)

### BY THE NUMBERS – the project is expected to:

- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power approximately 45,000 Nevada homes.
- ✓ NV Energy has agreed to purchase wind energy produced from the Spring Valley project. Power generated by the proposed Spring Valley Wind Project will allow NV Energy to help meet the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard of generating a minimum of 12 percent of its power from renewable resources in 2010.
- ✓ Create approximately 225 construction jobs and up to 12 permanent operation jobs
- ✓ Be located on 7,673 acres of public land, the BLM oversees more than 4.5 million acres in White Pine County, NV.

**A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS:** In April of 2009 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) committed to helping the nation reach its clean energy future by guaranteeing coordinated processing, full environmental analysis and public review for specific renewable energy projects where the companies involved had demonstrated they were ready to advance to the formal environmental review and public participation process.

**STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION:** The BLM worked closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community and interested stakeholders to advance environmentally sound projects.

- ✓ Smaller footprint: the BLM worked with Spring Valley Wind, LLC to design the permanent project footprint to occupy approximately 104.7 acres of public land, or 1.4 % of the total ROW.
- ✓ Visual Resource Management: BLM will require the use of soil and rock stain on restored areas to reduce the visible color contrast between bare soil and vegetation.
- ✓ Protecting Wildlife: Spring Valley Wind, LLC worked closely with the BLM Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to develop an innovative Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP) to implement robust monitoring and conservation measures that will avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts to bat and avian species.
  - To analyze the presence and movement of birds and bats within the Spring Valley Wind Energy Facility, two 9-foot-tall permanent on-site MERLIN radar units would be installed.
  - A mobile VESPER Fixed-Beam Vertical Profile Radar would also be used to provide more detailed target categorization than the MERLIN radar system, specifically, differentiation and identification of birds, bats, and insect targets based on measurement of wingbeat frequencies as targets pass through the radar beam.

**ANOTHER RECOVERY ACT LEGACY:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has served as an opportunity to transform the way we use energy, reducing our carbon emissions and create entire new industries based on America's resources, America's ingenuity, and America's workers.

Executive Order 13212, signed in 2001, states that the production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of the American people. A report from the DOE postulates that wind power can provide 20% of the nation's electricity by 2030 (DOE 2008). The DOE report finds that achieving a 20% wind contribution to U.S. electricity supply would:

- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation by 25% in 2030.
- Reduce natural gas use by 11%;
- Reduce water consumption associated with electricity generation by 4 trillion gallons by 2030;
- Increase annual revenues to local communities to more than \$1.5 billion by 2030; and Support roughly 500,000 jobs in the U.S., with an average of more than 150,000 workers directly employed by the wind industry.

**THE BIG PICTURE:** Secretary Salazar has established a Department-wide goal to complete the environmental reviews for 9,000 MW of renewable energy by the end of 2011. The State of Nevada is working to achieve a 25% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2025. The Spring Valley Wind Energy Facility project is one of the initiatives that will help bring Nevada and this nation one step closer to a clean energy economy.