



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

High Desert District
Rawlins Field Office
1300 North Third
Rawlins, WY 82301



July 22, 2011

In Reply Refer To:
WYW167155
2800 (030)

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project (CCSM Project). For analysis purposes, the document has been arranged into two volumes with the Draft RMP Amendment in Volume I and the CCSM Project in Volume II.

The Power Company of Wyoming, LLC (PCW) proposes to construct and operate a wind energy project south of Rawlins in Carbon County, Wyoming. The proposed project consists of two areas approximately nine miles apart within the Wind Site Testing and Monitoring Application Area – the Chokecherry site and the Sierra Madre site – located on 222,689 acres of federal, private, and state lands. Only a portion of the total land area would be used for, or disturbed by, the project. The project proposal includes a 2,000 to 3,000 megawatt (MW) wind farm consisting of approximately 1,000 wind turbine generators (WTGs) with a nameplate capacity ranging from 1.5 to 3 MW and associated infrastructure. A plan amendment is required as a prerequisite to approval of the CCSM Project.

Volume I of the Draft Plan Amendment/Draft EIS describes and analyzes Visual Resource Management (VRM) planning alternatives for the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins Field Office within the Planning Area. With the exception of VRM classes, wind energy development within and adjacent to the CCSM Project conforms to the Rawlins RMP.

Volume II addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of constructing and operating the CCSM Project. Alternatives to the proposed project were developed in response to issues and concerns raised during the NEPA scoping period. All alternatives conform with the preferred planning alternative identified in Volume I. The BLM will determine whether the Application Area is suitable for development of the proposed project or for an alternative development strategy. The impact analysis is based on resource-specific assumptions, estimated project disturbance, and appropriate project-specific stipulations. The decision the BLM will make as a result of the analysis is whether to authorize, and under what terms and conditions, the development, operation, maintenance, and reclamation of a wind farm on public lands.

The EIS and Plan Amendment were prepared pursuant to NEPA, the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA), and other regulations and statutes. The Draft EIS and Plan Amendment are not decision documents. Their purpose is to inform the public and the BLM decision-maker of the impacts, to evaluate alternatives, and to solicit other agencies and the public for comments.

The BLM invites public comment on the proposed Plan Amendment (Volume I) as well as the CCSM Project EIS (Volume II). Comments may be sent to the BLM Rawlins Field Office at the address below. Your review and comments on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort and project analysis. If you wish to submit comments on the Plan Amendment and/or CCSM Project EIS, we request comments be as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources or methodologies, and reference to section or page number and volume of the document. Please refer to "CCSM Wind Energy Project Comments" in your correspondence. Written comments will be accepted by fax, email, or letter for 90 days following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Please provide your comments to:

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Pamela Murdock
Rawlins Field Office
1300 North Third
PO Box 2407
Rawlins, WY 82301
Fax: 307-328-4224
WYMail_PCW_windfarm@blm.gov

Copies of the Draft Plan Amendment and Draft EIS are available for review in the BLM Rawlins Field Office at the above address or at the following website:

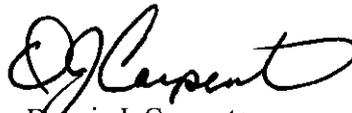
<http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html>

The Draft Plan Amendment/Draft EIS are also available for review during normal business hours at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming
- Bureau of Land Management High Desert District Office, 280 Highway 191 N., Rock Springs, Wyoming

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. BLM will not consider anonymous comments. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Rawlins Field Office from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments may be published as part of the NEPA document and other related documents. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. For further information concerning the document, please contact Pamela Murdock at (307) 328-4200.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Carpenter
Rawlins Field Manager

Enclosures – As Stated