

**Decision Record**  
**WYW 166409 – Bureau of Land Management**  
**Rawlins Field Office Wind Turbine.**

Environmental Assessment (EA) #: DOI-BLM-WY-030-2010-0279-EA

Compliance with Major Laws:

This Decision Record (DR) was prepared following the guidelines in BLM Manual H-1790-1 (National Environmental Policy Handbook Handbook) to comply with the Council on Environmental Quality (43 CFR 1500-1508) and Department of the Interior (43 CFR Part 46) regulations for the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Also, the Rawlins Resource Management Plan (RMP), signed December 24, 2008, provides guidance and requirements for resource protection within the Rawlins Field Office Area.

Selected Alternative:

Based on the signed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) documentation, it is my decision to approve the proposed action with implementation of all required Standard Operating Procedures and Best Management Practices described in Appendix 2 of the EA.

Proposed Action:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be authorized to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate a Northwind 100 Wind Turbine. The legal description pipeline will be:

T. 21 N., R. 87 W., Sweetwater County, Wyoming  
Section 17: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

The proposed action is to construct, operate, and decommission a Northwind 100 wind turbine 350 feet north of the existing turbine location. The proposed turbine is a 100 kW solid, tubular tower design (see Appendix 1 of the EA for turbine specifications). The proposed wind turbine location is immediately adjacent to the BLM yard. Disturbance associated with the construction of the new turbine would be approximately 50 feet by 50 feet, or 2500 square feet. The approximate life of the proposed turbine is 50 years.

The existing lattice tower 20kv turbine would remain in operation at its current location. The existing turbine will continue to operate until it suffers additional maintenance issues that result in it no longer being feasible to retain. Once the existing 20 kv turbine ceases operation, it would be decommissioned and the site reclaimed.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

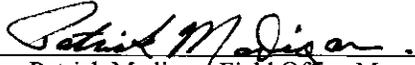
I have reviewed the EA and the FONSI; an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Public Involvement:

The EA and unsigned FONSI were made available to the public via the BLM website. Additionally, copies of the EA and unsigned FONSI were sent to interested parties identified in section 1.5.2 of the EA. One comment was received by Carbon County identifying their preference for selection of Alternative 1.

Rationale for Decision:

When compared to the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action fulfills the purpose and need described in the EA. The program specific requirements for Lands and Realty, as described in the RMP section 2.3.5, have been met. Management Objective 6 requires that the BLM respond to internal and external requests for land authorizations. Management Action 6 also specifies that such systems will be located adjacent to existing disturbances when possible and areas of important or sensitive resource values will be avoided.



Patrick Madigan, Field Office Manager

6-11-10

Date

Protest and Appeal Opportunities:

Per 43 CFR Part 2881.10, all BLM decisions under this part remain in effect pending appeal, unless otherwise noted. This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office, at the address below, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed is in error.

Patrick Madigan, Rawlins Field Office Manager  
USDI, Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 2407  
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**  
**WYW 166409 – Bureau of Land Management**  
**Rawlins Field Office Wind Turbine**

Environmental Assessment (EA) #: DOI-BLM-WY-030-2010-0279-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached EA, I have determined that the impacts of the proposed action are not expected to be significant and that an environmental impact statement is not required. The proposed action, with implementation of the BLM required Standard Operating Procedures and Best Management Practices listed in Appendix 2 of the EA, would not create effects which have sufficient context and intensity, as defined in section 7.3 of the BLM National Environmental Policy Act Handbook (Manual H-1790-1, page 70), to be considered significant.

The considerations listed in 40 CFR 1509.27(b)(1-10) were used to evaluate the intensity of the effects described in the EA:

- 1) There would not be an offset between potential adverse and beneficial effects by approving the proposed action.
- 2) Health and safety would not be adversely affected. Hazardous wastes would not be produced, and use of hazardous materials would be closely monitored. Solid wastes would be disposed of properly. Air and water quality would not be adversely affected. There would be no adverse Social or Economic effects.
- 3) Neither the Rawlins Resource Management Plan (RMP) nor interdisciplinary review found unique characteristics in the project area which would be adversely affected.
- 4) The effects described would not be highly controversial.
- 5) The effects of constructing a wind turbine such as the proposed action are well known. There would not be high uncertainty of the effects, nor unique or unknown risks.
- 6) The effects would not establish a precedent for future actions.
- 7) The area already has a large number of human intrusions, so the contribution to cumulative effects would be minimal.
- 8) There would be no adverse effects to resources with scientific, cultural, or historic resources. Although Historic Properties are located adjacent to the project, their integrity of setting has been previously compromised by other intrusions.
- 9) There would be no effect to habitat for threatened or endangered species. Construction timing restrictions and application of BMPs and SOPs would prevent adverse effects to avian species in their habitat.
- 10) Approving the proposed action, Alternative 1 or the no action alternative would not violate any Federal, State, or local laws or regulations imposed for the protection of the environment.

  
Patrick Madigan, Field Office Manager

6-11-10  
Date