

Carbon County Annual Report Pryor Mountain Wind Project

The Pryor Mountain Wind Project (Project), formerly known as the Mud Springs Wind Ranch Project and/or the Bowler Flats Wind Project, has achieved significant progress during the past twelve months. This annual report, which covers the time period between May 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020, is provided to inform the Carbon County Board of Commissioners of the status of the Project and meet Condition 4 of the 2014 Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Status of Development and Permitting Activities

- Carbon County Commissioners approved amendments to the CUP at a hearing on May 9, 2019. The amendments provided flexibility for design and layout changes needed to move the project forward.
- During a meeting in Helena, Montana on May 14, 2019, the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team (MSGOT) determined which lands within the project area were “grandfathered” because of the Project’s permit status in 2014 and therefore exempt from Montana’s Executive Orders 12-2015 and 21-2015 and the Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Stewardship Act. Additionally, the MSGOT determination allowed infrastructure to be built within grandfathered area with no compensatory mitigation obligations and set conditions for infrastructure to be built outside the grandfathered area. Although PacifiCorp’s layout for the project is entirely within the grandfathered area and has no compensatory sage grouse obligations, PacifiCorp has voluntarily contributed \$30,000 to the State of Montana’s sage grouse Stewardship Account as of April 30, 2020 and provided project information to the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program.
- PacifiCorp acquired the Project from the previous developer on May 18, 2019.
- The transmission interconnection point for the Project was moved from a location in Wyoming to a centrally located point within the project area in Montana that is substantially closer to the wind turbine locations. Approval of the change in location was received September 12, 2019 from the transmission provider. The interconnection point change allowed PacifiCorp to locate the interconnection substation adjacent to the collector substation, eliminating approximately 10 miles of new overhead transmission lines that had been a major concern to the MSGOT.
- PacifiCorp negotiated wind turbine supply agreements for the Project in the summer of 2019. Vestas will supply 110 of the Project’s 114 wind turbines, with GE supplying the remaining 4 wind turbines. The total generation capacity of the Project will be 240 MW.
- PacifiCorp contracted with M. A. Mortenson Company (Mortenson) in 2019 to construct the Project. Mortenson has more than 20 years of experience building wind projects in North America and is one of the leading wind project construction companies in the United States.
- PacifiCorp, in conjunction with the County Commissioners and Mortenson, held community outreach meetings in Bridger, Montana on September 4, 2019, and October 23, 2019, to provide the public with information about the Project and answer questions.
- The County Commissioners and PacifiCorp reached agreement on the Impact Fee Agreement and the Road Use Agreement for the Project on September 5, 2019.

- Montana Limestone and PacifiCorp reached agreement on a plan to avoid construction traffic congestion on Quarry Road during a meeting in Warren, Montana on March 17, 2020.
- The Project has applied for a voluntary Eagle Incidental Take Permit with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The application and associated environmental assessment is currently under review by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and PacifiCorp anticipates receiving the permit within the next six to eight months.

Construction Status

Construction activities began with ground clearing work in fall 2019, before tapering off during the winter months. Construction crews remobilized to the site on March 16, 2020. As of April 30, 2020, excavation of 39 wind turbine foundations had been completed, reinforcing steel had been installed for 20 foundations, concrete work had been completed for 14 foundations and more than 50,000 linear feet of new access roads had been cleared, compacted and graveled. Mortenson and their subcontractors have logged more than 25,000 hours of work on the project with no recordable or lost time injuries through the end of April 2020. The Project is currently on schedule.

COVID-19

Mortenson prepared a detailed, site specific safety plan in March 2020 to follow CDC and State of Montana directives and guidelines, in response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the United States. Mortenson met with the Carbon County Public Health Department to review their plan and safety precautions and submitted their site plan to the Carbon County Public Health Department on April 13, 2020.