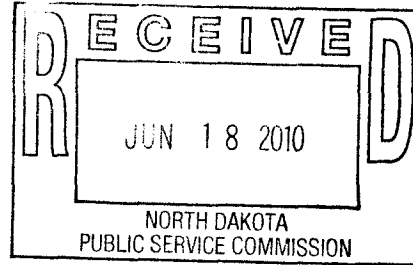




Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

June 15, 2010

Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Baldwin Wind Energy Center

Dear Interested Party:

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) is releasing the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) document for the proposed Baldwin Wind Energy Center for public review. The proposed project is a 102.4-megawatt (MW) wind energy facility northeast of Baldwin in Burleigh County. The proposed project will operate at 50-MW capacity, averaged annually and would interconnect with Western's transmission line. The principal components of the facility will include: 64 wind turbine generators, an underground power collection system, a connector road system, and an operations and maintenance facility. Electrical power from the proposed facility would interconnect to the existing Wilton substation near Wilton, North Dakota. Construction of the Baldwin Wind Energy Center is proposed to begin in the summer of 2010.

Enclosed is a CD with an electronic copy of the Draft EA document for your review. A hardcopy can be provided upon request. Comments will be accepted by letter at the address below, or by e-mailing mmarsh@wapa.gov. Please refer to the Baldwin Wind Energy Facility in your correspondence. Send all comments by close of business on July 9, 2010 to the address below.

Sincerely,

Matt Marsh
Environmental Protection Specialist
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800
406-247-7385