



COUNTY OF ALBANY

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(307) 721-2541 · FAX (307) 721-2544
COMMISSIONERS@CO.ALBANY.WY.US

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION AGENDA
COURTHOUSE, ROOM 105
FEBRUARY 10, 2021
VIA ZOOM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WORK SESSION AGENDA: 9:00 a.m.

1. ConnectGen Informational meeting regarding the Rail Tie Wind Project;
Wyoming Industrial Siting Permit Application.
(Audio and Visual) Register access via Project webpage: www.railtiwind.com
(Audio Only) Call-In number (Toll-Free): 833-946-1567.
2. Discuss Grants Office.
3. Adjourn.

SUE IBARRA
COMMISSIONER

PETE GOSAR
COMMISSIONER CHAIRPERSON

HEBER RICHARDSON
COMMISSIONER

SENT VIA U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 22, 2021

**Albany County County Clerk
525 Grand Avenue, Suite 202
Laramie, WY 82070**

2021 JAN 25 AM 10:40

RECORDED
INDEXED
ALBANY COUNTY CLERK

Subject: Rail Tie Wind Project; Wyoming Industrial Siting Permit Application

To Whom it May Concern,

ConnectGen Albany County LLC (ConnectGen) is proposing to construct and operate the up to 504-megawatt (MW) Rail Tie Wind Project (Project). The Project is a utility-scale wind energy conversion system located in southeastern Albany County, Wyoming, and encompasses approximately 26,000 acres of rangeland on private and Wyoming State Lands near Tie Siding, Wyoming. A Project Location Map is included as **Attachment 1**.

ConnectGen held a jurisdictional determination meeting with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Industrial Siting Division (ISD) on September 1, 2020. The ISD staff determined that the Project was within the jurisdiction of the Industrial Siting Council since the Project is a commercial wind energy facility consisting of twenty (20) or more turbines (W.S. § 35-12-102). They also determined the Study Area for the permit application to be Albany County including the City of Laramie. ConnectGen is applying for an Industrial Siting Section 109 Permit to construct and operate the Rail Tie Wind Project, as required by the Wyoming Industrial Development Information and Siting Act, and plans to submit the application to the ISD in April 2021, with a public hearing tentatively planned for late Summer 2021. Copies of the application will thereafter be available at public libraries and local government offices in Albany County. In addition, the submittal of an Albany County Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) Permit is planned for Spring 2021 with hearings tentatively planned for Spring and Summer of 2021.

As required by the Wyoming Industrial Development Information and Siting Act Rules and Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 5 (b) and Section 8(l), this letter serves as a notice for the intent to submit an application. This notice includes a Project description and location, the expected construction period, the number of construction workers, transportation routes for construction materials, the anticipated economic benefits of the Project, the anticipated impacts from the Project, and methods for comment on the Project and participation at scheduled informational meetings.

Project Description

The proposed Project layout includes 120 wind turbine generators, each approximately 4.2 MW in size, for a maximum nameplate capacity of 504 MW (**Attachment 2**). No federally managed lands are located within the Project Area. The Project proposes to interconnect to the existing transmission system of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) via the Ault-Craig 345-

kilovolt transmission line, which runs through the Project Area. The Project would include the following components:

- 120 wind turbines and related equipment
- Up to 52 miles of new permanent access roads
- Up to 73 miles of underground electrical collection and communication lines
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system (installed with the collector lines)
- A single Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Facility
- Two Project substation facilities
- Approximately 4.4 miles of overhead generation tie (gen-tie) line
- Up to three permanent meteorological towers (MET towers)

A Project Site Plan is included as **Attachment 2**. The Project Site Plan is representative of the Project layout, but remains preliminary because Project final engineering and micro-siting have not yet been completed. Final turbine numbers, layout, configuration, and turbine type are subject to change based on turbine availability, final engineering, and other economic and environmental considerations.

Construction Schedule and Workforce

The Project will be constructed in two stages, each approximately 252 MW. Construction activities are scheduled to begin in March 2022 and will continue for 20 months. It is anticipated that the first 252 MW stage would be completed and fully operational by the end of 2022, and second stage operational by December 2023. Construction of each phase would begin in March and end in December.

The estimated onsite construction workforce would range from 59 in March (2022 and 2023) to 195 in July 2023; the peak in 2022 would be 178 in July. Over the 20-month construction schedule, there would be a monthly average of approximately 120 workers onsite. Operation of the Project is expected to provide permanent, full-time employment for 23 workers, all of whom are anticipated to reside in Albany County.

Transportation Routes

The primary access to the Project will be via U.S. Highway 287 (U.S. 287), which bisects the Project. Access will also be available via Interstate 80 (I-80) just east of the Project at the Vedauwoo Exit (Exit 329) and then west to Monument Road (CR 234). From these access points, the Project will utilize various county and private roads in and adjacent to the Project, as well as new turbine access roads to connect to individual turbine sites. It is anticipated that the transportation routes for construction materials will utilize the same network of roads, but this has not been finalized at this time.

There are numerous Project component delivery routes being considered for the Project. Project components being delivered by truck may be delivered from the south via Interstate 25 (I-25) between the Colorado state line and the I-80 interchange in Cheyenne, then west along I-80 to

the U.S. 287 interchange in Laramie, then south along U.S. 287 to the Project Area. It is also possible that Project components being delivered via truck along I-80 from I-25 may use the Vedauwoo Exit (Exit 329) to access the Project Area. Another alternative haul route would utilize the southern approach to the Project Area via U.S. 287 from Fort Collins, Colorado.

Project components being delivered via rail (Union Pacific Railroad) to Laramie would travel via truck south via U.S. 287 or southeast along I-80 to the Vedauwoo Exit (Exit 329). Delivery of the Project components from the Laramie rail yard would likely utilize the portion of I-80 between Snowy Range Road (Exit 311) and U.S. 287.

Socioeconomic Summary

Construction and operation of the Project will provide direct and indirect economic benefits for local governments and the state of Wyoming. During construction the Project would employ an estimated average of 120 workers over the 20-month construction period. Project-related expenditures and spending by construction workers would also support jobs and income elsewhere in the local and state economy. These expenditures would also generate substantial short-term increases in state and local sales and use tax revenues. Workers temporarily relocating to work on the Project are expected to primarily seek short-term accommodation (rental housing, hotel and motel rooms, and RV spaces) in Laramie. Housing needs for non-local workers are estimated to average about 80 units over the 20-month construction period, with a short-term peak demand of about 130 units in July 2023. This demand is expected to be met by existing housing resources that are normally vacant and available for rent. Operation of the Project will provide direct employment for 23 on-site workers, as well as support jobs and income elsewhere in the state and local economy. Ad valorem tax revenues generated by the Project will support local governments and schools and continue for the operating life of the Project. In addition, the Project would generate annual excise tax revenues, estimated at nearly \$2 million once both phases of the Project have been operating for three years. Smaller amounts of ongoing state and local sales and use tax revenues will also be generated over the life of the Project.

Environmental Summary

The Project is a renewable energy project that would result in no carbon, sulfur, nitrogen, or mercury air emissions. The Project would not consume water resources in the process of generating wind energy, nor would it produce substantial quantities of solid waste.

The Project is regulated under the jurisdiction of numerous federal, state, and local agencies and has been designed to comply with rigorous environmental standards and avoid environmental impacts where practicable. The Project is subject to the highest level of federal environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); an environmental impact statement (EIS). WAPA is the lead federal agency responsible for preparing the EIS.

Project design incorporates federal, state, local agency, and public input provided during the Project scoping and permitting process to consider and address potential environmental impacts. Most impacts to environmental resources will occur during construction and will be temporary

and short-term and localized to the vicinity of Project activities. Based on an extensive environmental analysis, this Project does not pose a threat of serious injury to environmental resources. ConnectGen will coordinate with federal, state, and local officials during construction, operation, decommissioning and reclamation of the Project to address potential impacts to environmental resources in accordance with all applicable regulatory requirements and guidance. ConnectGen will obtain all necessary permits prior to initiation of major construction activities.

WAPA's EIS is anticipated to provide a thorough analysis of impacts on environmental resources. ConnectGen, in coordination with various stakeholders, has developed the Project to include plans and environmental protection measures designed to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to human health and safety, property, and the environment that could potentially occur as a result of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project. The plans and measures address topics including impacts to vegetation and wildlife, environmental health and safety, spill prevention and control, stormwater pollution prevention, emergency response, and management of hazardous wastes and materials. ConnectGen will be responsible for ensuring their construction and monitoring contractors and employees implement all identified measures and plans.

Informational Meeting

ConnectGen plans to host a public informational meeting for the Project on February 10, 2021. This meeting is open to the public, as well as interested agencies and government organizations, and will provide additional details about the Project, as well as the opportunity to provide comments, ask questions, and discuss concerns.

Pursuant to statewide health orders regarding COVID-19, the informational meeting for this Project will be held online (webinar format) and can also be accessed by telephone. Additional details are provided below.

When: Wednesday February 10, 2021 – 1st session at 9 a.m., 2nd session at 5 p.m.

How to Join the Webinar:

- (Audio and Visual) Register and access via the Project webpage: www.railtiewind.com
- (Audio Only) Call-In number (Toll-Free): 833-946-1567

Invitation to Participate

ConnectGen invites you to provide your agency's comments and feedback in order to adequately address and consider this input directly with your agency, as well as incorporate this input into the Industrial Siting permit application and the overall permitting and construction planning process.

You may provide input via email to info@railtiewind.com, via phone at (888) 910-9717, or by mailing your comments to:

Amanda MacDonald
Project Manager, ConnectGen LLC
1001 McKinney St. Suite 700
Houston, TX 77002

Respondents are encouraged to provide input for ConnectGen's consideration by February 26th, 2021. Please be sure to include your name and contact information with your comments so that we may follow-up with you accordingly. We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your input.








Sincerely,

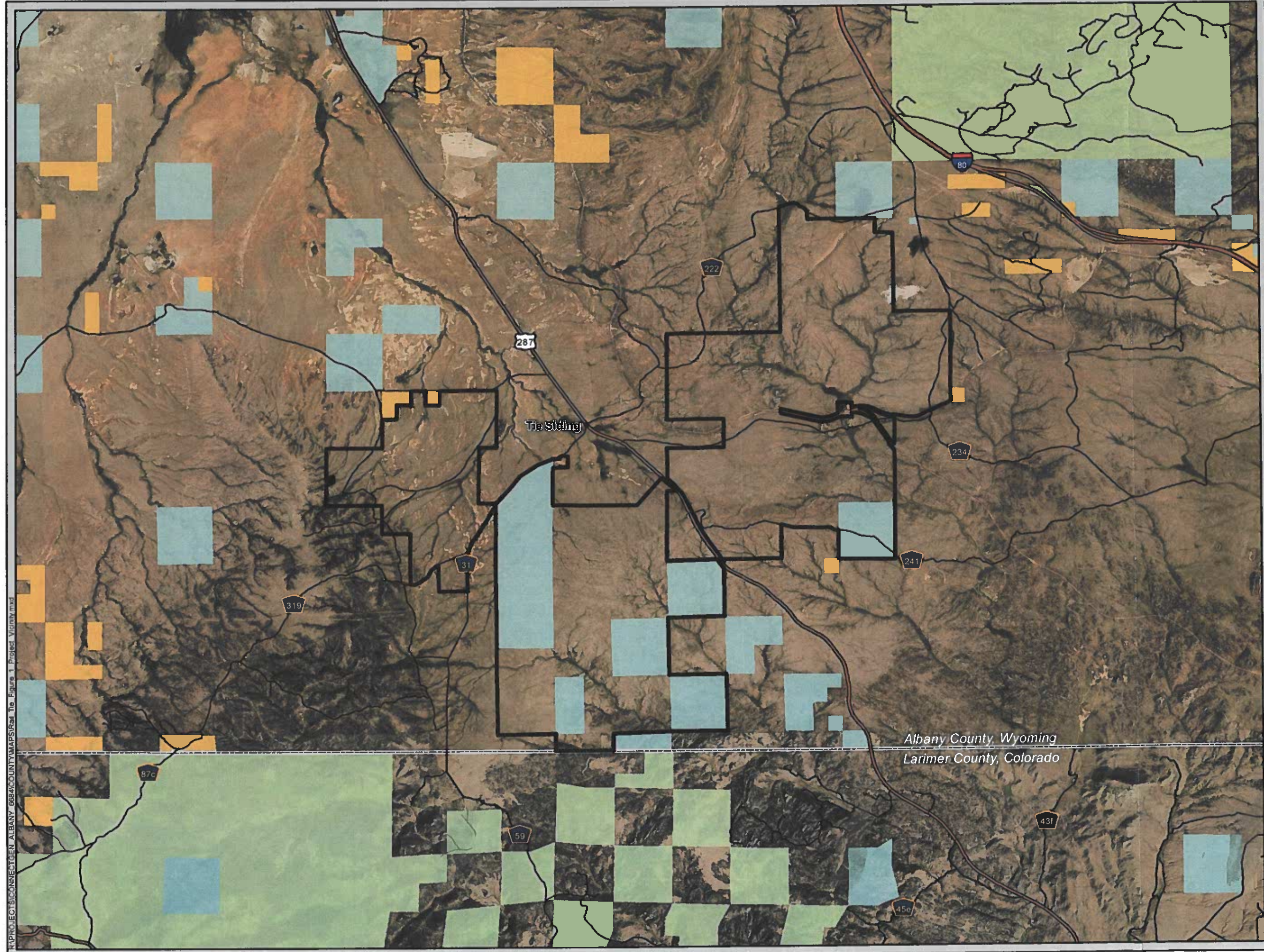
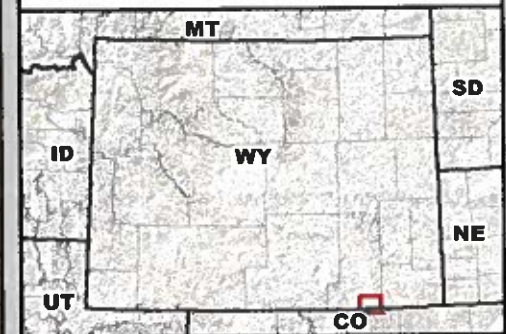
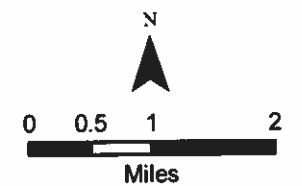
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amanda MacDonald'.

Amanda MacDonald
Project Manager
ConnectGen Albany County LLC

Attachment 1 – Project Location Map
Attachment 2 – Site Plan















Attachment 1 – Project Location Map

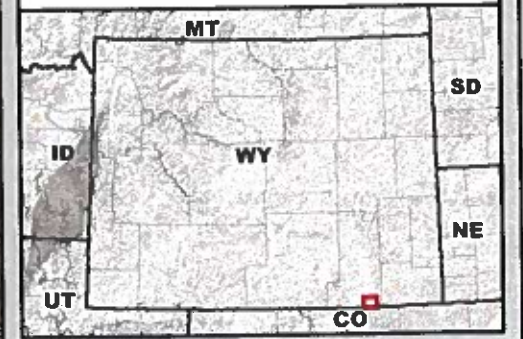
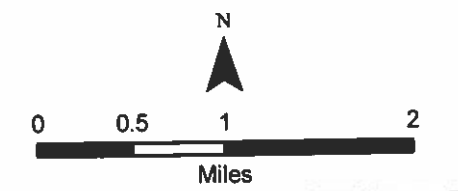
-  Project Area
-  State/County Boundary
-  BLM Lands
-  USFS Lands
-  State Lands
-  Highways
-  County Roads



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Attachment 2 – Project Site Plan

-  Project Area
-  Turbine
-  Met Tower
-  Access Road
-  Collection Line
-  Crane Path
-  Transmission Line
-  Project Substation
-  Interconnection Substation
-  Laydown Yards
-  O&M Site
-  State/County Boundary
-  Highways
-  Other Roads



PROJECT: CONNECTGEN ALBANY 6684TECH REPORTS\MAPS\TRANSPORTATION\Rail Tie Figure 1 Project Layout.mxd

