

“strings,” with generally approximately 200 to 300 feet between turbines in each string. FPL Energy is considering using either 660-kilowatt (kW) turbines similar to those used at the existing Vansycle Wind Project, or larger, up to 1,300-kW (1.3 MW) turbines if needed to meet the demand for power. If the 660-kW turbines are used, the turbines will be about 165 feet tall at the turbine hub, and about 245 feet tall including the turbine blades. The diameter of the circle covered by the rotors will be about 154 feet. Each turbine will be mounted on a tubular steel tower installed on a concrete foundation approximately 20 feet in diameter. The pad will be buried up to 15 feet underground. If the 1,300-kW turbines are needed, all these dimensions will be somewhat greater. Agricultural activities generally can take place directly adjacent to the turbine pads.

The turbine towers will be tubular steel structures. The turbines will be linked to each other using underground electrical cables. Power from all turbines in the project will be transmitted by a combination of underground and overhead cables to similar strings and then to a proposed substation to be located in Washington. The fenced substation site will occupy approximately one to two acres. From the substation site, power from the project will be transmitted by new above-ground lines (likely H-frame wood towers) to interconnect with one or more existing transmission lines: about eight to ten miles to a 115-kilovolt (kV) BPA transmission line located north of the Walla Walla River and/or a 230-kV PacifiCorp transmission line located two miles to the west of the project (south of the Walla Walla River). Other facilities required as part of the project are access roads, an operations and maintenance (O&M) building, and a water tank. Most of the access roads will consist of improved, graveled, existing farm roads, with some construction of new graveled roads in areas where usable farm roads do not exist. The O&M building will probably be located near Hatchgrade Road to provide good visibility of the turbines.

FPL Energy proposes to begin construction in late 2000 or early 2001. The Stateline Wind Project is scheduled to begin commercial operation late in 2001, and would operate for at least 25 years.

#### Process to Date

FPL Energy has filed an application for a Conditional Use Permit from Walla Walla County, Washington, Regional Planning. Oregon Department of Energy has received and approved FPL Energy's

request for Expedited Review of FPL Energy's Application for a Site Certificate. In addition, the Oregon Department of Energy and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have suggested that the EIS address both the Stateline Wind Project (at a site-specific level) and a broader Potential Wind Development Area (at a broad, programmatic level). This Area was the subject of a baseline avian study conducted in the mid-1990's. Some environmental analyses have already been conducted by FPL Energy for the Stateline Wind Project. Surveys for sensitive plant and animal species were conducted in the spring of 1999 and surveys for sensitive animal species and cultural resources were conducted in the spring of 2000. Scoping will help identify what additional studies will be required.

#### Alternatives Proposed for Consideration

The alternatives include the proposed action (executing a power purchase agreement with FPL Energy for up to 300 MW of electrical energy from the proposed Stateline Wind Project) and the No Action alternative. In addition, at least two transmission alternatives will be examined in the EIS.

#### Identification of Environmental Issues

For other wind projects, noise, visual impacts, cultural resources, and impacts to sensitive plant and animal species have been identified as potential environmental issues. The scoping process will help identify the range of environmental issues that should be addressed in this EIS. Maps and further information are available from BPA at the address above.

When completed, the Draft EIS will be circulated for review and comment, and BPA will hold public comment meetings for the Draft EIS. BPA will consider and respond to comments received on the Draft EIS in the Final EIS, expected to be published in late 2000 or early 2001. BPA's subsequent decision will be documented in a Record of Decision (ROD).

The EIS will satisfy the requirements of the NEPA and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The State of Oregon will coordinate its Energy Facility Siting process with the NEPA/SEPA process.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on May 25, 2000.

#### Terence G. Esvelt,

*Acting Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Bonneville Power Administration

#### Coeur d'Alene Tribal Trout Production Facility

**AGENCY:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of floodplain and wetlands involvement.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces BPA's proposal to fund construction of a supplementation hatchery facility for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in floodplain and wetlands located in Kootenai and Benewah Counties, Idaho. In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements, BPA will prepare a floodplain and wetlands assessment. The assessment will be included in the environmental assessment being prepared for the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. A floodplain statement of findings will be included in any finding of no significant impact that may be issued following the completion of the environmental assessment.

**DATES:** Comments are due to the address below no later than June 20, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to Communications, Bonneville Power Administration—KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. Internet address: comment@bpa.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eric N. Powers—KECN-4, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon, 97208-3621, phone number 503-230-5823, fax number 503-230-5699.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The project would involve construction of a fish hatchery and two acclimation ponds. The hatchery would be located within the 100-year floodplain of Rock Creek (T47N, R4W, Section 31); the acclimation sites would affect wetlands associated with the tributaries of Benewah Creek (T45N, R3W, Section 17) and Alder Creek (T45N, R3W, Section 33).

Maps and further information are available from BPA at the address above.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on May 25, 2000.

#### Thomas C. McKinney,

*NEPA Compliance Officer.*

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