



COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

114 South Second Street
Dayton WA 99328

Phone: (509) 382-4676
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(Threshold) Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS)

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-970

Description of proposal:

Dayton Wind Energy Project: Area would be situated on private lands approximately 5 miles northeast of the City of Dayton, in Columbia County, Washington, east of Highway 12, between Turner and Patit Roads. The project would produce up to 90 MW of electricity and would require construction of wind turbines erected on tubular steel towers up to 260 feet tall. Each turbine and tower combination would be up to approximately 415 feet in height (measured from the ground to the turbine blade tip at its highest point).

Approximately 11 miles of new turbine string corridor, 20 foot-wide permanent roads plus turbine foundations and turbine crane pads and access roads. This will have a permanent impact of approximately 28 acres.

The following information is a modification to the Dayton Wind Project SEPA Checklist and has been incorporated into Columbia County's review of the Project.

The Cup application and SEPA Checklist that was submitted on March 6, 2007 indicates that there will be no substation within the boundaries of the Dayton Project area and that a 34.5 kV overhead line will be constructed to connect the wind turbines within the Dayton Project area to a new substation currently under construction on the adjacent Marengo Project. After further analysis, Blue Sky Wind requests that the description of the Dayton Project be modified include the potential for a 34.5/230kV substation within the boundaries of the Dayton Project area as well as a 230 kV overhead power line that will connect the Dayton Project substation to the 230 kV overhead line presently under construction for the Marengo Project.

We expect that the Dayton Project substation would have a permanent footprint of approximately 2 acres and that no additional property would be disturbed on a temporary basis. We also expect that the sitting of and the temporary and permanent footprint of the 230 kV overhead line would be similar to that of the overhead 34.5 kV line described in the CUP application and SEPA checklist. In addition, the Dayton Project substation would be located so as to minimize impact to native habitat (e.g. located in a previously-disturbed agricultural field).

Proponent:

Blue Sky Wind, LLC an affiliate of RES (Renewable Energy Resources) America Developments, Inc.
One SW Columbia Street, Suite 460, Portland, Oregon 97210

Location of proposal:

Project Area: Dayton Wind Energy Project: Area would be situated on private lands approximately 5 miles Northeast of the City of Dayton, in Columbia County, Washington, east of Highway 12, between Turner and Patit Roads.

Specific Locations: Township 10N, Range 39E, Sections 1,2 and 12
Township 10N, Range 40E, Sections 4,7,8,9,16,17 and 18

Lead agency:

Columbia County Planning & Building Department
114 South 2nd Street, Dayton, Washington 99328-1341

The lead agency has determined that this project will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This determination is made after reviewing a completed environmental checklist in addition to mitigative measures submitted by the proponent. The lead agency has found the proposed measures reasonably sufficient to mitigate potential adverse impacts and is thereby issuing a mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (WAC 197-11-350). In support of this determination, the lead agency has incorporated the following documents by reference:

- A. Dayton Wind Energy Project SEPA checklist.
- B. Hopkins Ridge (Blue Sky) Wind Energy Project SEPA Checklist and Report, Attachment A: Mitigation Measures, prepared by CH2MHILL, October 2004.
- C. Baseline Avian Studies For The Proposed Hopkins Ridge Wind Project prepared by Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc., Final Report, April 30, 2003. Post Construction Avian and Bat Monitoring, January 26, 2007
- D. Wetland and Other Water Delineation Report, Dayton Wind Energy Project, March 2007.
- E. Visual Simulation, Dayton Wind Energy Project, March 2007.
- F. Mitigation Measures / Conceptual Mitigation Plan, March 2007.

This determination may be withdrawn if substantial changes are made to the proposal or if new information indicates the proposal is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts. The environmental checklist, referenced documents, and other information is on file with the lead agency and is available to the public upon request.

This MDNS is issued under WAC 197-11-3502). The lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by April 6, 2007.

Responsible Officials: Clark A. Posey Planning Director Jeromy W. Phinney Senior Planner

Address: 114 South Second Street
Dayton, Washington 99328-1341

Phone Number: (509) 382-4676
Fax Number: (509) 382-3125
Date: March 22, 2007

Signature Clark A. Posey 3/22/07

Signature: Jeromy W. Phinney 3-22-07