



# PLANNING DEPARTMENT

114 So SECOND ST • DAYTON, WA 99328

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**Clark A. Posey**  
PLANNING DIRECTOR  
Building Official

November 22, 2004

As an adjoining property owner you are hereby notified that:

PURSUANT TO R.C.W. 43.21C AND WAC 197-11-970, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:  
On November 16, 2004 the Columbia County Planning Department did issue a Mitigated  
Determination of Non-significance relative to the environmental impact of a Conditional Use  
Permit of the following described proposal; See Attached

Proponent: This application is submitted by Blue Sky Wind, LLC. 1 SW Columbia. Suite 460.  
Portland, OR 97258. For Hopkins Ridge Wind Project.

At the regular meeting in November a Public Hearing was scheduled by the Columbia County  
Board of Adjustment for Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:05 Location of the Public Hearing and  
General Meeting will be at the Youth Building at the Columbia County Fairgrounds Building 103.  
The Public is encouraged to attend. Signed written comments on the proposed project will also be  
accepted up until hearing time and will be read into record.

Complete information, including all environmental documents and copies of the proposal may be  
reviewed at the Columbia County Planning Department, 114 So 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Dayton, WA. 99328-  
1341 during normal business hours. Comments on this determination should be addressed to  
Clark A. Posey, Director of Planning, at the address listed below.

Written comments must be received by December 14, 2004.

Clark A. Posey

Columbia County/City of Dayton  
Planning Director  
114 So 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Dayton, WA 99328-1341

**(Threshold)**  
**Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance**  
**(DNS)**

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 197-11-970

**Description of proposal:**

Hopkins Ridge Wind Project: Construction of up to 233 wind turbine generators erected on tubular steel towers to produce up to 350 MW of electricity interconnected with existing transmission lines owned by PacifiCorp and the Bonneville Power Administration. Each turbine and tower combination will be approximately 360 feet in height mounted on reinforced concrete foundations spaced approximately 505 feet apart in linear groups of 1 to 24. The proposed project will include 23 miles of turbine string corridor consisting of 20 foot wide permanent roads, turbine and transformer foundations, and turbine crane pads impacting an area of approximately 78 acres in addition to 19 miles of permanent non-corridor roads impacting 46 acres. Project facilities include substations, interconnection switching facilities, and operation/maintenance building footprints which will impact approximately 10 acres.

**Proponent:**

Blue Sky Wind, LLC an affiliate of RES (Renewable Energy Resources) America Developments, Inc.  
One SW Columbia Street, Suite 460, Portland, Oregon 97258

**Location of proposal:**

Project Area: Approximately 10 miles northeast of Dayton, Columbia County, state of Washington paralleling the Tucannon River.

Specific Locations: Township 11N, Range 39 E, Sections 1, 11-13 and 24  
Township 11N, Range 40E, Sections 7-10, 13-30 and 32-36  
Township 10N, Range 40E, Sections 1-4 and 11-12  
Township 10 N, Range 41E, Sections 7-8 and 17-18

**Lead agency:**

Columbia County Planning & Building Department  
114 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Dayton, Washington 99328

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. Hopkins Ridge (Blue Sky) Wind Energy Project SEPA Checklist and Report, Attachment D: Mitigation Measures, prepared by CH2MHILL, October, 2004.
- B. Baseline Avian Studies For The Proposed Hopkins Ridge Wind Project prepared by Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc., Final Report, April 30, 2003.
- C. Wetland Delineation and Functional Assessment Report for the Hopkins Ridge (Blue Sky) Wind Energy Project prepared by CH2MHill, October 28, 2004.

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 DNS is issued under RCW 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by November 24, 2004

Responsible Officials: Jim Lapinski, Senior Planner    Clark Posey, Director  
Address:                    114 South Second Street, Dayton, Washington 99328  
Phone Number:            (509) 382-4676  
Date:                        November 9, 2004

Signature Clark G. Posey

Signature: Jim Lapinski

## **Additional information notice from the Planning Dept.**

You will also be receiving a notice directly from Bonneville Power Administration

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has been asked by RES America Developments to provide transmission services for 150 megawatts of the output of the proposed Hopkins Ridge Wind Project. As a Federal Agency, BPA must consider the environmental impacts of its interconnection decision under the National Environmental Policy Act. The proposed interconnection project involves constructing a switching substation adjacent to an existing BPA transmission line near the wind project. The switching substation would be located on a five acre parcel of land currently used for wheat farming, immediately east of the intersection of Hartsock Grade Road and Highland Road. BPA would construct the substation in the summer and fall of 2005.

BPA is conducting site visits and studies to assess the impacts of the proposed interconnection on various resources. A decision to interconnect will be made by January 2005. Comments on BPA proposal to interconnect the proposed wind project will be accepted until Dec. 15, 2004.

If you would like to comment please submit comments by calling 1-888-276-7790. Or, BPA, Communications - DM-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland OR 97293-4428, fax them to 503-230-3285 or send an email to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov).

Please include the name of this project with your comments. BPA personnel will also accept comments at the CUP hearing for the Hopkins Ridge Wind Project on December 14.