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Antelope Coulee Wind Project

January 2018 Project Update

Project Update

As part of TransAlta's ongoing consultation and engagement plans, we are pleased to provide stakeholders with an update on the Antelope Coulee Wind Project. After more than two years of performing development activities, including: environmental and geotechnical studies, historical resource assessments, engineering design and turbine layout, and stakeholder consultation, TransAlta is in the late stages of finalizing the Antelope Coulee Wind Project design to include in our proposal for the SaskPower Request for Proposals ("RFP") process, which will provide renewable wind energy to meet the Province's electricity needs.

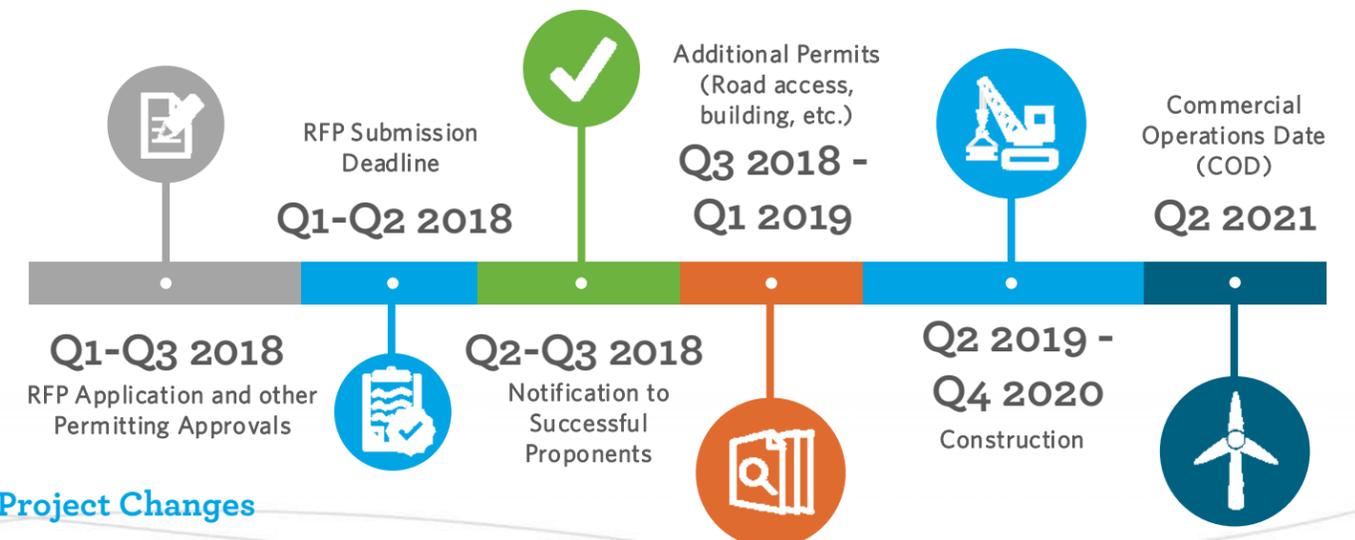
The Antelope Coulee Wind Project is located on approximately 17,200 acres of privately owned lands in the Rural Municipality of Webb No. 138. Much of the land is used for agricultural purposes, which complements wind power projects very well. The site is approximately 35 km southwest of Swift Current in Townships 13 and 14, Ranges 16 and 17, W3M.

The Antelope Coulee Wind Project is configured to host up to 55 wind turbines with a total project with a capacity of 200 MW.

In this Update, You'll Find:

- Project Schedule
- Project Changes
- Updated Project Layout Map
- Project Components
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Environmental Assessment
- SaskPower RFP Process
- Next Steps

Project Schedule



Project Changes

Stakeholders were provided with an initial site layout map at our public Open House in October 2016. Siting of wind turbines and other facilities related to the Project were determined based on several factors, including: regulatory setback stipulations, environmental setbacks and constraints, historical artifact discoveries, land quality and land type, aesthetics and visual impacts, sound impacts, engineering constraints, location of residences within the project area, and location of residences on adjacent lands to the Project.

Environmental and engineering studies, technology selection, and windfarm design has continued since our Open House. That work has contributed to some project updates including modifications to the underground collector system, number of turbines on-site and the re-location of several turbines to minimize impacts to residences on adjacent lands to the Project.

The project layout included in this update reflects the following changes that have occurred based on that work:

- Reduction of the total number of turbines from 65 to 55;
- The selection of turbine technology to be implemented;
 - 33 GE turbines with a nameplate capacity of 3.63 MW
 - 22 GE turbines with a nameplate capacity of 3.83 MW
- Tower height of 85 meters
- Blade rotor diameter of 130 meters

An updated project layout map has been included in this package which outlines the location of all facilities related to the Project.



Project Components

The Antelope Coulee Wind Project is located on approximately 17,200 acres of privately owned land in the Rural Municipality of Webb No. 138. The Project has the capacity to produce 200 MW of power. Below is information on the specific components of the Project.

Turbine Technology. The Project consists of fifty-five (55) GE wind turbines. Thirty-three (33) turbines with a nameplate capacity of 3.63 and twenty-two (22) turbines with a nameplate capacity of 3.83 for a total project capacity of 200 MW. The turbines are located on towers 85 meters in height and have a total rotor diameter of 130 meters.

Collector System, Substation and Interconnection. Turbines will be electrically connected through a buried underground 34.5kV system that will be approximately 82 km in total length.

The project will interconnect through a proposed substation that will connect to the 138kV or 230kV transmission line that intersects the Project lands. Depending on the final Project size the substation may be located at SE-8-14-16-W3 or NW-10-14-16-W3. A substation yard will be constructed and a new control building will be installed.

Meteorological Tower. Utilized for wind data monitoring, TransAlta is proposing three (3) potential locations for the installation of permanent meteorological towers. The final location will be determined at a later date and permitted at that time.

Roads & Access Points. Wherever possible we have endeavored to use existing access roads and access points that currently exist on the lands. There will be approximately 70 km of access roads built or upgraded within the project area.

Noise Impact Assessment

A Noise Impact Assessment (“NIA”) is currently underway to evaluate expected sound levels at all receptors (residences) within the Project area and adjacent to the Project. Noise models consider sound expected to be generated from the windfarm as well as other noise sources in the area. The Antelope Coulee Wind Project is designed to meet industry best practices in order to satisfy Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment requirements, and is currently modeled using the standards outlined in the Alberta Utilities Commission Rule 12: Noise Control. The results of the NIA will help determine the final Project layout.

Environmental Assessment

Several environmental studies have been performed at the Project site since 2009. These year-round studies have been conducted in accordance with provincial and federal wind guidelines and/or regulations. These studies included a variety of wildlife surveys and habitat assessments with an emphasis on birds and bats. We focused on the identification of sensitive wildlife habitat or features which may require setbacks outlined in the Saskatchewan Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species designated by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

The environmental assessments were completed in 2009 to 2011 and 2014 to 2017 by professional biologists. Environmental findings will be summarized in a formal Environmental Assessment report and provided to the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Branch (EAB) for review.

SaskPower RFP Process

SaskPower plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 40 per cent (from 2005 levels) by 2030. It will significantly increase the amount of renewable electricity in Saskatchewan’s generation mix from 25 per cent today to as much as 50 per cent by 2030.

In February 2017, SaskPower issued an RFQ to identify independent power producers to provide up to 200 MW of utility-scale wind capacity to the Province. Proposals will be evaluated through an open, fair and transparent process. The successful proponent will be announced by SaskPower in 2018, with the project expected to be in-service in early 2021.

Once operational, the 200 MW project will generate enough electricity to power approximately 80,000 homes.

Next Steps

TransAlta will be submitting a proposal to SaskPower for the Antelope Coulee Wind Project in 2018. Leading up to our submission we will continue to respond to stakeholder comments or inquiries regarding the Project.

As part of our ongoing consultation and engagement plans, we will continue to update stakeholders of any major milestones or significant project changes through our regular project updates or on our website.

We welcome your involvement and thank you for participating in the development process.

To learn more about the Antelope Coulee Wind Project, please visit our website or contact us directly.