



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

11/30/21

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to notify you of an upcoming project in Antelope, Holt, and Wheeler Counties, Nebraska and to solicit your input on any issues of concern surrounding the project.

Thunderhead Wind Energy LLC (Thunderhead) has requested to interconnect their existing Thunderhead Wind Energy Center to Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) existing Grand Island-Fort Thompson 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line via Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) Holt County Substation (Interconnection Project).

The physical interconnection would occur via a 2,100-foot-long 345-kV transmission line (gen-tie line) to connect the existing Thunderhead Wind Energy Center collector substation to the Holt County Substation. The Thunderhead Wind Energy Center is located on private and state lands. The gen-tie line and the Holt County Substation are located on private land. The enclosed map shows the location of the existing Thunderhead Wind Energy Center and Grand Island-Fort Thompson 345-kV transmission line, as well as the gen-tie line and Holt County Substation. WAPA will provide federal oversight of the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate potential environmental effects associated with the Interconnection Project.

WAPA is announcing a public scoping period for the Interconnection Project. The scoping period provides an opportunity for the general public, stakeholders, government agencies, and tribal governments to identify issues and alternatives that will help WAPA define the scope of the EA. The scoping period will end on January 21, 2022.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual public scoping meeting will be held to provide an opportunity for interested parties to discuss the Interconnection Project with resource specialists and to submit comments. The virtual public meeting will be held on December 15, 2021 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm CT. Participants can join by computer, telephone, or other device. To join the meeting, please visit: <https://swca.zoom.us/j/98514015429> or dial (888) 475-4499 and use Webinar ID: 985 1401 5429. WAPA suggests joining the meeting 5 minutes prior and reviewing the enclosed virtual meeting instructions. The public meeting will be recorded.

How to Comment

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- By mail to:
Western Area Power Administration
Attn: Ms. Christina Gomer
2900 4th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59101

- By email to gomer@wapa.gov
- At the virtual online public scoping meeting
- By phone at (888) 311-1601

For your input to be considered during preparation of the draft EA, WAPA requests comments be postmarked no later than **January 21, 2022**. If you have any questions or need more information about the Interconnection Project, please contact WAPA using the methods listed above or visit the Interconnection Project website at the following link:

<https://www.wapa.gov/regions/UGP/Environment/Pages/Thunderhead.aspx>. Thank you for your time and interest in the Interconnection Project.

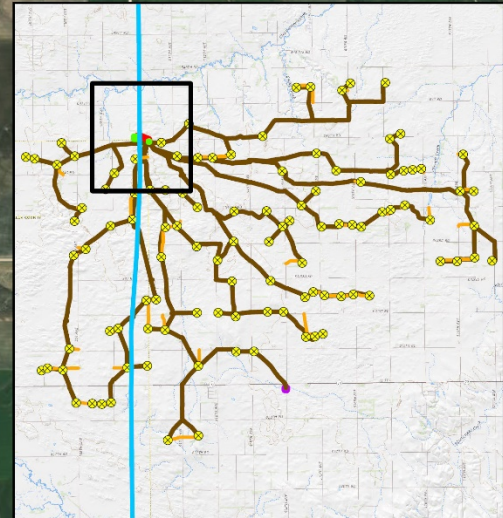
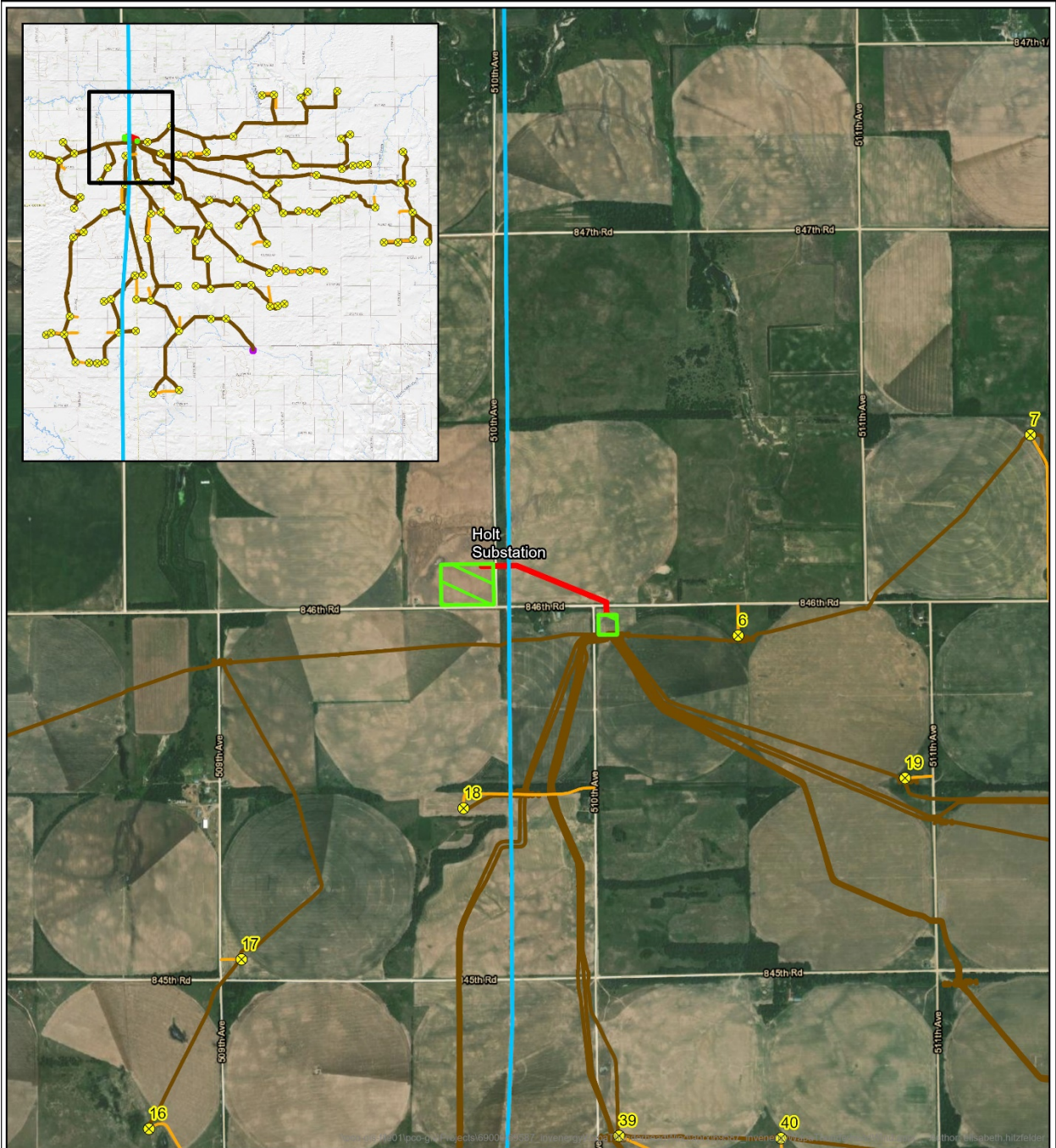
Sincerely,

CHRISTINA GOMER

Digitally signed by
CHRISTINA GOMER
Date: 2021.11.30
12:42:55 -07'00'

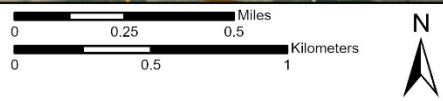
Christina Gomer
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosures - 3
Project Area Map
Virtual Meeting Instructions
Comment Form



Preliminary Overview Map

- Existing Turbine
- Generation Interconnection Transmission Line
- Existing Access Road
- Existing Collection Line
- Existing Transmission Line
- Substation
- Existing OM Building Area



Scale: 1:24,000
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 14N
 Base Map: World Imagery
 Date: 11/18/2021



THUNDERHEAD WIND ENERGY CENTER INTERCONNECTION PROJECT
SCOPING MEETING

December 15, 2021, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm CT

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held virtually. The meeting will be hosted on the Zoom Webinar application, which is free to download and use and can be accessed online or by phone.

Joining Zoom Webinar

1. On your meeting date and time, call into the meeting at least 5 minutes prior to the meeting start time to ensure you don't miss important information and can familiarize yourself with Zoom. You can join online using this link:
<https://swca.zoom.us/j/98514015429>

Or you can call in. **Dial:** (888) 475-4499

2. When you call in, you will be prompted to enter your **Webinar ID**. Enter your **Webinar ID** and press the # key
Webinar ID: 985 1401 5429

Due to internet connectivity issues in the area, we recommend that attendees pre-download the presentation materials to follow along during the meeting's presentation. Presentation materials are available for download at the following link:

<https://www.wapa.gov/regions/UGP/Environment/Pages/Thunderhead.aspx>.

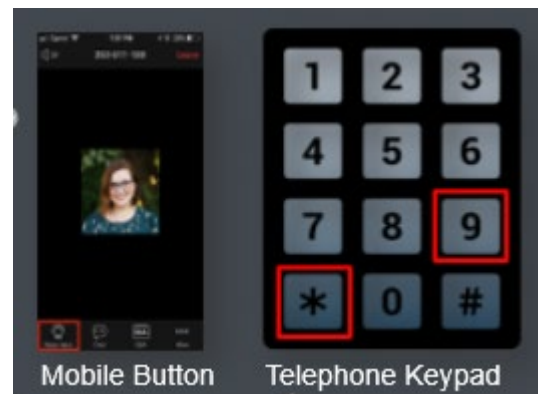
All attendees will be muted upon joining the virtual meeting and will be muted throughout the presentation. During the Q&A portion of the meeting, attendees may unmute to ask a question.

Phone Zoom Webinar Controls

Phone users will be able to use the hand raising function and unmute to ask questions during the Q&A portion of the meeting. The following commands can be entered using your phone's dial pad while in a Zoom meeting:

- ***6** - Toggle mute/unmute
- ***9** - Raise hand

To raise your hand via phone dial *9. Phone users will be called upon and unmuted by the meeting panel to ask their question when it is their turn to speak.





Western Area Power Administration

Thunderhead Wind Energy Center Interconnection Project

Virtual Online Public Scoping Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. CT

Meeting Link:
<https://swca.zoom.us/j/98514015429>
Dial-in at: 888 475 4499
Webinar ID: 985 1401 5429

Thank you for your interest in the Thunderhead Wind Energy Interconnection Project. Please complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the project mailing list and/or to provide comments. Any personally identifiable information, such as names, addresses, and email addresses included in a comment may be made available to the public. WAPA will accept comments submitted anonymously. Comments can be submitted:

- At the virtual online scoping meeting
- By phone at (888) 311-1601
- E-mailed to gomer@wapa.gov
- Mailed to Ms. Christina Gomer, NEPA Coordinator

Your comments are important to us and will be accepted through **Friday, January 21, 2022** for formal consideration in the NEPA process. WAPA will consider late comments to the extent practicable.

Please Print Contact Information Below:

Name:

Organization:

E-mail Address (optional):

Daytime Phone No. (optional):

Street Address:

City / State / Zip Code:

- Add me to distribution list
- Remove me from distribution list

Please Share Comments, Questions, or Concerns Below (continue on separate sheet if necessary):

Thank you for your time and interest in this project.



Please fold in thirds and tape

Place
postage
here

Ms. Christina Gomer
NEPA Coordinator - Upper Great Plains Region
Western Area Power Administration
2900 4th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59101
