

Rail Tie Wind Project Albany County, Wyoming

Mitigation Action Plan DOE/EIS-0543

October 28, 2024 (Version 1)

INTRODUCTION

This Mitigation Action Plan (MAP) summarizes the measures documented in the Record of Decision (ROD) and Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts of the Rail Tie Wind Project (Project).

ConnectGen Albany County LLC (ConnectGen) applied to interconnect the Project to WAPA's existing transmission system via the Ault-Craig 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that intersects the Project Area, under the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA's) Large Generator Interconnection Process.

The Project is a utility-scale wind energy facility located in southeastern Albany County, Wyoming. The Project encompasses approximately 26,000 acres of ranchland on private and Wyoming State Lands near Tie Siding, Wyoming (Project Area). No federally managed lands are located within the Project Area. The Project has a maximum nameplate capacity of 504 megawatts (MW).

For construction planning and site optimization, the Project consists of two separate geographic stages (the Western Stage and the Eastern Stage, roughly divided by U.S. Highway 287), each up to 252 MW. Construction activities are scheduled to begin in late 2024. It will take at least two years to fully construct the Project.

WAPA prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and a Final ROD was signed by WAPA on July 11, 2022. Environmental protection measures that are integral to the Project and that were evaluated in the EIS are summarized in Table 2-6 of the Final EIS ([Rail Tie Wind Project Final Environmental Impact Statement](#)). Table 2-7 summarizes the plans ConnectGen will develop for implementing the protection measures in Table 2-6 to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.

This MAP may be revised as more specific and detailed information becomes available.

Source*	Number/ Section	Measures	Implementation				Responsible Party	
			Pre- Construction	Construction	Operations	Decommission	ConnectGen	WAPA
ROD	1	Install an Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) consistent with approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).		X			X	
ROD	2	Develop a Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) to satisfy the stipulations of the Programmatic Agreement and identify specific avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.	X				X Completed	X Completed
ROD	3	Establish a one-mile spatial buffer around known eagle nests.	X	X	X	X	X	
ROD	4	Prepare an eagle conservation plan.	X				X Completed	
ROD	5	Apply for an eagle incidental take permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.	X				X Completed	
HPTP	1	Treatment Measure 1: Provide funding to Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails (SPHST) for historic preservation efforts at Ames Monument National Historic Landmark (NHL): Within 90 days from the start of Project construction, or as agreed by ConnectGen and SPHST, ConnectGen shall provide funding to SPHST to support SPHST’s historic preservation-related efforts at Ames Monument. This funding serves as mitigation of adverse visual Project effects to the NHL.		X			X	
HPTP	2	Treatment Measure 2: Provide funding to the Wyoming State Museum for an Exhibit: Within 90 days from the start of Project construction, or as agreed by ConnectGen and the Wyoming State Museum Director, ConnectGen shall provide funding to the Wyoming State Museum to financially support the State Museum’s development of their planned Exhibit. This funding serves as mitigation of adverse visual Project effects.		X			X	

*ROD: Record of Decision; HPTP: Rail Tie Wind Project Historic Properties Treatment Plan Treatment Measures.