

Mohave County Wind Farm

Taking advantage of the wind in northwestern Arizona: This large-scale wind project will use public land to provide power to the power grid in the Western United States.



VITALS

Location: Mohave County, Arizona, about 40 miles northwest of Kingman.

Technology: Wind turbines, from 1.5 megawatts (MW) to 3.0 MW.

Electricity production capacity: Up to 500 MW (the project will be rated as either 425 MW or 500 MW, depending on the transmission line it connects to).

Company: BP Wind Energy North America, Inc.

BY THE NUMBERS – the project is expected to:

- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power 175,000 homes.
- ✓ Encompass a project footprint of 35,329 acres of BLM-managed land and 2,781 acres of Bureau of Reclamation land.
- ✓ Create 725 direct, indirect, and induced jobs during construction. The plant will have 30 full-time workers during operation; an additional 20 indirect or induced jobs are anticipated. Those employees' income will be about \$2.6 million annually.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: Cooperating agencies for this project are the Bureau of Reclamation, Western Area Power Administration, the National Park Service, the Hualapai Tribe, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and Mohave County.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: Careful evaluation of this project resulted in modifications and accommodations to make it fit in the environment, while retaining the economic viability of the proposal. Among the modifications:

- ✓ A decrease in acreage by about 19 percent in the project footprint.
- ✓ Installation of turbines is barred within some areas to avoid golden eagle nesting areas. A 1.2-mile buffer protects the nesting area.
- ✓ No turbine will be closer than a quarter-mile to private property.

- ✓ Use of wind energy means that there will be a potential reduction of thousands of tons of carbon dioxide that would have been emitted by burning fossil fuels to generate an equivalent amount of electricity.
- ✓ Flexibility in the size and number of turbines.

THE BIG PICTURE: The Department of the Interior surpassed the President's goal of authorizing 10,000 MW of renewable energy projects on public lands by the end of 2012. The Arizona Corporation Commission, which regulates private utilities, has required 15 percent of energy be from renewable sources by 2025. Likewise, the State of California has a 33 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard to be in place by 2020. The Mohave County Wind Farm is an important piece of meeting the state and national goals of energy independence.