

EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. 1320B – 396 11th Avenue SW Calgary, Alberta T2R 0C5 Toll-free: 1-844-624-0330 www.sharphillswindfarm.com www.edpr.com

July 17, 2017

Dear Stakeholder,

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the Sharp Hills Wind Farm. EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. (EDPR Canada) held our first public open house on February 15, 2017. Since then, we have continued to engage with the community and filed our Buildable Areas Phase 1 Application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on May 18, 2017 (Proceeding 22665; EDP Renewables SH Project GP Ltd.). We are moving on to our Phase 2 Application, which requires continued work on identifying the turbine type and the final infrastructure layout. We will continue to engage with the community, landowners, and local government, and we look forward to receiving your feedback about the Project.

Accompanying this letter are two documents that will give you further information on the Project and our Participant Involvement Program:

- an updated Project Information Package, which includes updates on the studies we've conducted, the proposed schedule for the permitting process, and updates about the Project; and
- an updated map, which includes the revised Project boundary and proposed turbine locations, collector system and access roads, as well as substation location and potential temporary laydown areas.

Also accompanying this letter is the AUC Brochure — Public involvement in a proposed utility development.

We are considering two proposed turbine models: Option A (Vestas V136 3.6 MW) and Option B (Senvion 3.7M144). We will file only one turbine model with the AUC application. As a result of these changes, we are proposing 102 turbine locations for the eventual placement of 81 to 83 turbines, with a maximum capacity of 3.7 megawatts each and a total project capacity of up to 300 MW. You can find more details on the updated turbine models in the Project Information Package and on the updated map.



You're Invited

EDPR Canada will host our second community open house to give stakeholders an opportunity to learn more about the Project and our company. We look forward to meeting with you at the open house.

Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Sedalia Hall, 1st Avenue, Sedalia, Special Area 3, Alberta

Project Overview

The Sharp Hills Wind Farm is a proposed 300-megawatt project near Sedalia and New Brigden, Alberta. The Project is within Special Area 3 and Special Area 4, on approximately 47,000 acres of private land. The Project is bounded by Township Roads 340 and 310 to the north and south, respectively, and is between Range Roads 40 and 63 to the east and west, respectively. If approved, the Project will have between 81 to 83 turbines and associated infrastructure.

About EDP Renewables Canada Ltd.

EDPR Canada acquired two wind power projects: one from Alberta Wind Energy Corporation in 2015, and another from Eolectric Development Inc. in 2016. EDPR combined and expanded these lands to form Sharp Hills Wind Farm.

EDP Renewables S.A. (EDPR) has been developing, owning, and operating renewable energy power plants in North America since 2007. EDPR currently operates 5,200 megawatts of wind energy projects in Canada, Mexico and the United States. Globally, EDPR operates 10,000 megawatts of wind energy projects in 11 countries.

Contact Us

If you're unable to attend our public open house and wish to receive more information, please contact us directly at **1-844-624-0330** or **canada.ab@edpr.com**. For additional information on our project, please visit our website at **www.sharphillswindfarm.com**.

Kind regards,

Ryan O'Connor Project Manager, EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. Toll-free: 1-844-624-0330 or Email: canada.ab@edpr.com

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ONGOING DEVELOPMENT WORK

EDPR is completing public consultation, updating and finishing the Phase 2 environmental evaluation and other studies, continuing the wind resource assessment, and concluding the Project design engineering and preliminary construction planning. EDPR is also finalizing permitting activities, including the Phase 2 AUC application, AESO interconnection process, and other required permits.

NEXT STEPS

EDPR will continue meeting with community stakeholders, government officials, and local businesses throughout the course of the Project. EDPR is interested in hearing from all stakeholders on their ideas and concerns regarding the Project. This input will help to ensure the local environment is respected and the local community is a part of the development process.

We will include a summary of stakeholder comments in our Phase 2 Application to the AUC. To learn more about the AUC application and review process and how you can be involved, please review the brochure included in this package titled "Public Involvement in a Proposed Utility Development." Or, please contact the AUC by phone at **780-427-4903** (call toll-free by dialling **310-0000** before the number) or by email at **consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca**. You can access the AUC's website at **www.auc.ab.ca**.

WHO IS EDPR?

EDPR is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario and has a development office in Calgary, Alberta. The EDPR team commissioned its first Canadian project, the South Branch Wind Farm, in 2014 near Brinston, Ontario. EDPR operates under EDP Renewables North America LLC (EDPR NA). EDPR NA and its subsidiaries develop, construct, own, and operate wind farms and solar parks throughout North America. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, EDPR NA has over 40 wind farms, two solar parks, and 13 regional and development offices across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. EDPR NA operates more than 5,200 MW of renewable energy projects.



EDPR NA is owned by EDP Renováveis, S.A., a global leader in the renewable energy sector that develops, constructs, owns, and operates renewable generation facilities. The company operates in the United States, Spain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and the United Kingdom.

SHARP HILLS WIND FARM July 2017

MEET THE TEAM For more information about the Project, please contact:





For more information on EDPR and Sharp Hills Wind Farm, please visit our website at: **sharphillswindfarm.com**

Or you can contact us at:

EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. 396 11th Avenue SW, Suite 1320B, Calaarv, AB T2R 0C5

Ryan O'Connor Project Manager 403-263-7345

Darren Carl Project Developer 416-502-9463

Phone: 403-263-7345 Toll Free: 1-844-624-0330 Email: canada.ab@edpr.com



SHARP HILLS WIND FARM July 2017

ABOUT THE PROJECT

As you may be aware, the Sharp Hills Wind Farm (the Project) is being developed by EDP Renewables SH Project Limited Partnership, a subsidiary of EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. (EDPR). The Project is up to 300 megawatts (MW) and located near Sedalia and New Brigden, Alberta in Special Areas 3 and Special Areas 4 on approximately 47,000 acres of private land.

The proposed Project is bounded by Township Road 340 and Township Road 310 to the north and south, respectively, and is between Range Road 40 and Range Road 63 to the east and west, respectively. EDPR will seek all necessary signoffs from the Special Areas Board and Alberta Environment and Parks. EDPR will also seek approval from the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for the Project.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the Project. We are moving on to our Buildable Areas Phase 2 Application with the AUC, and we would like to provide you with a Project update.

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

Through the Alberta Electric System Operator's (AESO) Renewable Electricity Program, Alberta is changing its mix of power generation to include a larger volume of renewable energy. Wind power is low-cost, emissions-free electricity, and it can help Alberta diversify its power sources and reduce emissions from the electricity sector.

EDPR submitted an application to the AESO's request for qualification in June 2017, and we intend to continue to participate in the Renewable Electricity Program.

INVITATION TO THE SECOND OPEN HOUSE

To learn more about this Project, please join us at our second public open house:

Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:00 – 8:00 PM

LOCATION: Sedalia Hall, 1st Avenue Sedalia, Special Area 3, Alberta

SHARP HILLS WIND FARM

JULY 2017

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UPDATES TO WIND TURBINE SELECTION & LAYOUT

Based on stakeholder feedback, engineering design, and further environmental studies, the proposed Project will move forward with 102 turbine locations. These locations will be for the eventual placement of 81 to 83 turbines, with a maximum capacity of up to 3.7 MW each. We are considering two proposed turbine models at this time: Option A and Option B. We will present details for each option at the open house.

Option A:

- Vestas V136
- 83 turbines on 102 potential turbine locations
- 3.6 MW capacity per turbine
- 132-metre hub height
- Rotor diameter of 136 metres
- Total proposed Project capacity of 298.8 MW

- Option B:
- Senvion 3.7M144
- 81 turbines on 102 potential turbine locations
- 3.7 MW capacity per turbine
- 128-metre hub height
- Rotor diameter of 144 metres
- Total proposed Project capacity of 299.7 MW

You can see the proposed turbine locations for both Option A and Option B in the map included in this package. A number of factors will determine which turbine locations we select, including our environmental evaluation, which we will submit to Alberta Environment

and Parks (AEP) in July 2017, ongoing stakeholder engagement, and additional environmental surveys, which we will conduct in summer 2018. We will include only one turbine option in our application to the AUC.

UPDATES TO THE PROJECT BOUNDARY & OTHER PROJECT DETAILS

Project boundary: We have reduced the Project boundary following our Phase 1 application and as a result of stakeholder feedback and consultation with AEP. The updated Project boundary and proposed turbine locations are reflected on the map included in this package.

Collector system: The Project will use a medium-voltage power collector system consisting of above ground and underground cables that link each turbine to the Project substation. The collector system is on the map included in this package.

Access roads: The Project will use access roads during the wind farm operations and maintenance phase. The Project may also require upgrades to public roads in the area. The access roads are on the map included in this package.

Interconnection: The Project will interconnect to ATCO Electric Ltd.'s 240-kilovolt transmission system (Line 9L46). This interconnection will be at a new switchyard (New Brigden 2088S) at the Project collector substation (Sedalia 363S). As shown on the maps included in this package, EDPR has proposed to have both the Project collector substation and the switchyard on SW-16-32-5-W4M.

Operation and maintenance building: The Project will have an operation and maintenance building on SW-28-31-5-4. The location of the proposed operations and maintenance building is on the map included in this package.

Other facilities: There will be a temporary laydown area during construction and up to three permanent meteorological towers. We have identified three proposed locations for the temporary laydown area on NE/NW-33-31-4-W4M, SW-16-32-5-W4M, and NE-8-32-5-W4M on the map. The locations of the proposed meteorological towers are also on the map included in this package.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

EDPR has conducted desktop and field studies* focusing on:

- Wildlife: Birds, bats, leks, and sensitive species
- **Vegetation:** Habitat mapping and sensitive species
- Wetlands: Mapping and classification

* In consultation with the Alberta Environment and Parks Fish and Wildlife Officers and in accordance with the Wildlife Guidelines for Alberta Wind Energy Projects (2011) and the Alberta Sensitive Species Inventory Guidelines.



EXPECTED PROJECT SCHEDULE *

We expect the Project phases to have the following timelines:

TIMELINE

Q3 2015 — • —	EDPR acquired the sou Project from Alberta Wi
Q2-Q3 2016 — • —	Completed environmen
Q2-Q3 2016 — • —	Completed bird and ba
Q4 2016 — • —	EDPR acquired the nor of the Project from Eole
Feb. 15, 2017 — • —	First open house
May 18, 2017 — • —	Submission to AUC for Buildable Areas Applica
June 2017 — • —	Completed second yea field studies
Aug. 17, 2017 — • —	Second open house
Q3 2017 — • —	Anticipated submission AUC for Phase 2 AUC A
2018 — • —	AUC approval anticipat
Q2-Q3 2018 — • —	Final Project engineerir
Q3 2018 — • —	Site mobilization

04 2019 — — Anticipated commercial operation date

Public consultation will run throughout the development, construction, and operational phases.

* Project schedule subject to change

LOCAL BENEFITS

The Sharp Hills Wind Farm will benefit the local community in a variety of ways, including:

- Creation of up to 300 construction and 15–20 permanent local jobs in operations and maintenance
- Contract opportunities during construction in excavation and civil works, aggregate supply, etc.
- Contract opportunities for local businesses in snow clearing, road maintenance, fencing, reclamation, etc.
- - Property tax payments

EDPR will continue to complete the

following desktop and field studies:

• Historical resources: Archaeological and

• Noise: Impact assessment

cultural features

Development Phase (18–48 months) **Construction Phase** (up to 18 months) **Operations Phase** (20–25 years, or beyond) **Decommissioning Phase** (6–12 months)

PROJECT MILESTONE

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Phase 1 ation ır environmental

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ng complete

• Increased local spending on goods and services during the Project's development, construction, and operational phases

 Road Use Agreement, with potential for upgrades to public roads

• Neighbour agreements for landowners in proximity to the Project

• Landowner lease payments and Setback Waiver agreements



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SHARP HILLS

Proposed Project Layout for 300MW Wind Farm









Project Information Package (JULY 2017)

Step 6: The public hearing process*

The public hearing process provides an opportunity for those who have been unable to resolve their concerns with the applicant and have made a filing, to express their views directly to a panel of Commission members. The panel reviews the initial filings and grants what is referred to as standing to those who may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed project. Standing is necessary to continue involvement as an intervener in the proceeding which may include the filing of evidence and participation in an oral or written hearing.

The AUC will issue a notice of hearing setting out the hearing date, location and additional process steps and deadlines. An AUC public hearing operates similarly to a court proceeding and is a quasi-judicial process. The general public is welcome to attend as an observer and the hearings are often broadcast online so that those interested can listen-in.

Participants in a hearing can either represent themselves or be represented by legal counsel. In addition, participants may hire experts to assist in preparing and presenting evidence to support their position.

Persons who hire legal counsel or technical experts must be aware that while reimbursement for the costs of legal and technical assistance may be available under Rule 009, recovery of costs is subject to the Commission assessing the value of the contribution provided by counsel and technical experts. People with similar interests and positions are expected to work together to ensure that any expenditures for legal or technical assistance are minimized and costs are not duplicated.

Step 7: The decision

For electric transmission facilities, the need for transmission development filed by the Alberta Electric System Operator to the AUC must be considered to be correct unless someone satisfies the Commission that the needs application is technically deficient, or that to approve it would be contrary to the public interest. For electric needs applications, the Commission can either approve, deny, or send the application back with suggestions for change.

Commission decisions made about applications filed for a specific utility development, including electric transmission lines, gas utility pipelines and power plants, may be approved, approved with conditions or denied. Decisions are typically released within 90 days from the close of the record as a written report. The decision, available on the AUC website, will summarize the Commission's findings and state its reasons for the decision with any conditions or approval time limits if applicable.

Sometimes needs and facility applications are considered together in a single proceeding.

Step 8: Right to appeal

A participant in a hearing who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Commission may request that the Commission review and vary its decision. Such a request must follow the procedure set out in Rule 016: *Review of Commission Decisions*.

A dissatisfied participant may also file a leave to appeal motion in the Court of Appeal of Alberta within 30 days from the date the decision is issued.

Step 9: Construction and operation

Any applicant that receives a permit to construct and licence to operate a facility from the Commission must adhere to any conditions that were set out in the decision. If you notice something during the construction or operational phases of a project that concerns you, bring this to the applicant's attention. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, please bring your concerns to the attention of the AUC.

*Denotes opportunity for public involvement

The Alberta Utilities Commission is committed to ensuring that Albertans whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by utility development in Alberta have the opportunity to have their concerns heard, understood and considered. If you believe you may be directly and adversely affected, you can become involved in the AUC application and review process.

Contact information

Phone: 780-427-4903 Email: consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca

Dial 310-0000 prior to the 10-digit number and then press 1 for toll-free access anywhere in Alberta.

Information session

It is our goal to ensure that you understand the process, and your opportunities for involvement in proceedings to consider utility development applications. For those interested in having an AUC staff member further explain the application and review process or answer questions you may have about your involvement in utility development proceedings, please contact us as we may schedule a formal information session for you. The virtual information session on our website, found under Involving Albertans, will also provide you with further details which could assist you in understanding the process and having your say in a utility development proceeding.

This brochure provides general information only. Specific participation opportunities may differ depending on the type of application.



Public involvement in a proposed utility development

Understanding your rights and options for participating in a proceeding to consider applications for a proposed project in your area

INTERNA

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Application process

Step 1* Public consultation by the applicant.

Step 2 Application filed with the AUC.

Step 3 The AUC issues a notice of application or notice of hearing.

Step 4*

Interested parties submit filings to the AUC with any outstanding issues or objections.

If the AUC does not receive any submissions, the application will be reviewed and a decision may be made without a hearing.

Step 5*

The AUC issues a notice of hearing, if it was not already issued in Step 3.

• Continued opportunity for consultation and negotiation with the applicant.

Step 6* Public hearing

Step 7

The AUC issues its decision. Below are the options the AUC may consider for: Needs applications from the Alberta Electric System

Operator:

- Approval of application.
- Return to the Alberta Electric System Operator with suggestions.
- Denial of application.

Facilities applications:
Approval of application.
Approval of application with conditions.
Denial of application.

tep

Option to appeal decision or ask the AUC to review its decision.

Step 9 Approvals, construction and operation of facility, if approved.

Having your say

Early discussions with the applicant about proposed utility developments will often result in greater influence on what is filed in the application for approval. Utility developments include natural gas pipelines, electric transmission lines and substations (including Alberta Electric System Operator needs identification documents), and power plants. Should you have concerns related to a proposed utility development, it is best to have early and ongoing discussions with the applicant.

If your objections cannot be resolved, or you have outstanding concerns upon the filing of an application with the AUC, you have an opportunity to submit an initial filing with your objections in writing to the AUC containing the following information:

- How you may be affected by the proposed project and the location of your land or residence in relation to it or any alternative proposed in the application.
- The potential effect the proposed project may have on your property or interest in the property .
- A description of the extent to which you may be affected, and how you may be affected in a different way or to a greater degree than other members of the general public.

Following this initial filing, you may be able to fully participate in the proceeding. This could include having legal representation and participation in a public hearing. It is important to note that any applied for routes and segments (preferred and alternate) could be chosen as the approved route in the AUC decision.

Step 1: Public consultation prior to application* Prior to filing an application with the AUC for the approval of a proposed utility development, the applicant is required to conduct public consultation in the area of the proposed project, so that concerns may be raised, addressed and if possible, resolved.

The requirements for consultation and notification, namely the participant involvement requirements, are set out in Rule 007 for electric facilities and Rule 020 for gas utility pipelines.

Potentially affected parties are strongly encouraged to participate in the initial public consultation, as early involvement in discussions with an applicant may lead to greater influence on project planning and what is submitted to the AUC for approval.

Step 2: Application to the AUC

When the participant involvement requirements have been completed, the proponent of the utility development files an application with the AUC. The application must indicate the issues which came up during the public consultation and any amendments considered or made to the project. Any unresolved objections or concerns which arose from the public consultation must be identified in the application.

*Denotes opportunity for public involvement

Step 3: Public notification

The Commission will issue a notice when it receives an application that, in the Commission's opinion, may directly and adversely affect the rights of one or more people. The notice is typically sent by mail to residents in the project area and may also be published in local newspapers. The notice will provide key dates, contacts and participation information for those interested in becoming involved in the application process.

Step 4: Public filings to the AUC*

If you have unresolved objections or concerns about the proposed project filed with the AUC for approval and wish to participate in an AUC proceeding, you must make an initial written filing. Your filing must include your contact information, concern or interest in the application, an explanation of your position and what you feel the AUC should decide. Please be aware that any information or materials filed with the AUC, except information granted confidentiality, is available to the public.

Filing your concerns

The eFiling System is a web-based tool created to manage applications and filings made to the AUC through a proceeding-based review. This system gives access to all public documents associated with applications filed with the AUC and is the most efficient way to provide your input to the AUC and monitor the related proceeding filings. Those who do not have access to the Internet can send filings, evidence and other material by mail or fax and the AUC will upload the submission on your behalf.

Participant cost reimbursement

A person determined by the Commission to be a local intervener can apply for reimbursement of reasonable costs incurred while participating in an AUC proceeding. Details regarding recovery of participants' costs are described in Rule 009: *Rules on Local Intervener Costs.*

Step 5: Consultation and negotiation*

The Commission supports ongoing efforts to reach a positive outcome for the applicant and all affected parties. The Commission encourages the applicant and those who have made filings to continue to attempt to resolve any outstanding issues. If all concerns can be satisfactorily resolved this may eliminate the need for a formal hearing. However, if there continues to be unresolved issues, typically those matters will be addressed at an AUC public hearing.

veryone knows about the environmental benefits of wind energy and now technological advances have made it one of the lowest cost options for new electricity generation. Wind energy is an abundant and affordable source of energy, and like elsewhere in Canada and around the world, is becoming an increasingly important part of Alberta's electricity supply mix. One of Canada's first commercial wind farms was installed at Cowley Ridge in southern Alberta.

Today, over 900 wind turbines with a capacity of nearly 1,500 megawatts produce enough electricity each year to power more than 600,000 Alberta homes.

Alberta has some of Canada's best wind resources, and combined with new turbine technology could supply at least 50 per cent of Alberta's electricity demands. Wind energy produces clean and renewable electricity that complements and diversifies conventional energy sources, providing a hedge against volatile fossil fuel prices and helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

Wind energy is producing other benefits for Alberta, too. Successful host communities are being further sustained by growth in incomes for rural landowners, new tax revenues, and employment opportunities for trades people and contractors. Here are just a few of Alberta's success stories ...



Photo courtesy of Capital Power

Responsible. Sustainable.

For all successful projects, an essential element of their success has been an open and responsive relationship with the communities in which they are located. As the voice of Canada's wind energy sector, the Canadian Wind Energy Association's (CanWEA) mission is to actively promote that same kind of responsible and sustainable growth throughout our industry. A national non-profit association, CanWEA serves as Canada's leading source of credible information on wind energy and its social, economic and environmental benefits.

Share your support for wind energy today by visiting **friendsofwind.ca**

Learn more at **canwea.ca**



Photo and cover photo courtesy of TransA

Wind. For My Community.

Providing clean, affordable power, new local jobs and investments for Alberta.



Vulcan County

Wind Farm: Blackspring Ridge Wind Project

Highlights: 350 construction jobs, 20 permanent positions, revenue sharing with landowners

The 300 MW Blackspring Ridge Wind Project, jointly owned by EDF EN Canada and Enbridge, is the largest wind facility in western Canada and among the biggest in the country. More than 350 jobs were created during the construction of the project. Comprised of 166 Vestas 1.8 MW turbines, the site generates enough emissions-free electricity to power 140,000 homes. The majority of the workforce was hired from southern Alberta and millions of dollars were injected into the Alberta economy. In addition to creating close to 20 permanent jobs in operations and maintenance, the Blackspring Ridge project provides significant economic benefits in other ways, including increased property tax revenues for Vulcan County and innovative revenue sharing with landowners across the 48,000-acre project site. EDF EN Canada,

Enbridge and Vestas will also work collaboratively over the next five years to support the community adding to the nearly \$20,000 they have already awarded to local organizations.

Blade signing ceremony at the Halkirk Wind Farm. → Photo courtesy of Capital Power

I am honored to have been involved in such a monumental project. To see all of the wind turbines across our beautiful countryside is truly remarkable. I think the Blackspring Ridge Wind Farm shows the world the huge opportunities for untapped renewable energy in southern Alberta. The community of Carmangay is proud to be part of this project, helping to reduce our carbon footprint and offering renewable energy for generations to come. 77

Mayor Kym Nichols, Village of Carmangay

Paintearth County

Wind Farm: Halkirk Wind Farm **Highlights:** \$40 million in tax revenue over 25 years, 16-18 full-time jobs

Capital Power's 150 MW Halkirk Wind facility has brought significant benefits to the community. Offices in the village of Halkirk house 16-18 full-time administrative, maintenance and operations personnel. Area landowners hosting the wind farm's 83 Vestas 1.8 MW turbines and other project infrastructure receive annual lease payments, while the village and the County of Paintearth benefit from a steady stream of new revenue. An estimated \$40 million in tax payments will flow to local municipalities and schools over the expected 25-year life of the project. At the peak of construction, there were about 270 workers on site, and about a quarter-of-a-million person-hours of labour were logged. Wherever possible, local hiring was done and local suppliers were used. Capital Power continues to give back to the community by supporting community initiatives and local organizations, as well as providing educational tours for local schoolchildren.

It means a lot for the county. It's a tax base, the landowners are getting revenue from the towers themselves, and I think the Village of Halkirk is really going to benefit because Capital Power has put up a shop and an office complex. That'll certainly help our village. **11**

Mayor Dale Kent, Village of Halkirk

Municipal District of Pincher Creek

Photo courtesy of David and Flora DeCock

Wind Farm: Summerview phase 1 & phase 2 **Highlights:** \$12 million into the local economy during construction, + \$5.8 million annually

TransAlta's Summerview phase 1 & 2 wind projects, which have a combined capacity of 136.2 MW, produce enough electricity to power 55,000 Alberta homes and to offset more than 257,000 tonnes of CO² a year. They also provide the Municipal District of Pincher Creek with \$1.2 million in annual tax revenue to help fund new community services and infrastructure, and local landowners with over \$500,000 each year in royalty payments. Add in operating and maintenance support that includes eight full-time technicians, donations to community organizations ranging from the 4-H Club to the local hospital's Trees of Hope campaign and environmental research, and the ongoing local economic benefits add up to more than \$5.8 million a year. Another \$12 million was injected into the region's economy during construction of the projects, which created 45 personyears of employment and utilized the services of 28 local contractors.



Wheatland County

Wind Farm: Wintering Hills Wind Power Project **Highlights:** Stable income for landowners, new tax revenue for county

The 88 MW Wintering Hills Wind Project is located in the heart of Alberta's farming country, about 21 kilometres southeast of the community of Drumheller. The project's 55 GE 1.6 MW turbines started to generate electricity in 2011, producing enough clean electricity to power about 35,000 homes a year. Approximately 150 workers were on site at the height of construction, with ongoing operations and maintenance carried out by a permanent staff of six. Royalties paid to landowners hosting wind turbines provide a stable source of income to help smooth commodity price swings, while property tax payments bring new revenue to Wheatland County. The project's owners, Suncor Energy and Teck Resources Limited, have contributed an additional \$50,000 to various community partners and projects in the region. Wintering Hills also has a positive impact on Alberta's environment, displacing more than 200,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases a year and helping Suncor and Teck meet their sustainability goals.

It's sure nice to have an idea of a pretty good chunk of income that you are going to have available in the next 20 - 25 years. You can make some plans and have a little money set aside. You're not always sure of a lot of other things when you farm, so this is kind of a nice, reliable number that you have to work with. *IT* Gary Sproule, landowner

It was some added income for us, and it actually made it so that we could purchase our home quarter from my dad. It gave us that feeling of satisfaction that we own our own land and are able to not have a major mortgage because of it. It's important for me to have land for my family to live on and understand agriculture and the country way of life. It also makes me feel good when I look out and see those wind turbines turning. Basically it powers my farm. It is derived right off my land. IT
Dixon Hammond, farmer who hosts three wind turbines on his land

Having wind turbines on our land has been very positive. Knowing that they produce sustainable green energy is important to us and their revenue is a plus. The wind turbines came at an opportune time for us. The income they provided helped us as cattle producers to get through the BSE crisis. **11**David and Flora DeCock, landowners