



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
1520 Kelly Place  
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

POWER BUSINESS LINE

April 23, 2001

In reply refer to: PGCM

### **To: People Interested in the Blackfeet Wind Project**

Blackfeet I, Inc., is proposing to build a new wind energy facility, located in Glacier County, southeast of the town of Babb on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Montana (see enclosed map). Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to purchase the electrical output from the project. This letter briefly explains the proposal and invites you to public meetings in Browning and Babb to learn more. You are also invited to comment on the proposal.

#### **Thursday, May 10, 2001**

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Main Conference Room  
531 SE Boundary Street  
Browning, Montana

#### **Thursday, May 10, 2001**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Cattle Baron Restaurant  
U.S. 89 near milepost 40  
Babb, Montana

Both meetings will be informal, open houses. Come anytime during the meeting, when it is convenient for you. Members of the project team will be available to describe the proposal and answer your questions. We plan brief presentations around 3:00 p.m. in Browning, and at 7:00 p.m. in Babb.

### **Proposal**

In September 2000, Blackfeet I proposed to build and operate a wind generation facility on tribal, allotted, privately owned land southeast of the town of Babb on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Blackfeet I is studying a larger area initially and would locate the facility within that area based on wind conditions and environmental studies. The facility would generate 36 to 66 megawatts of power. (A megawatt is an electrical unit of power equal to 1,000 kilowatts.) The designs being looked at would place from 36 to 88 turbines in strings (or rows) with from 250 to 425 feet between each turbine. Blackfeet I has not yet chosen a turbine design, so exact numbers and distances are not yet known.

Power from the turbines would be collected by an underground and overhead cable loop. It would then travel 1 to 2 miles by underground or overhead cables to a new 1 to 2-acre substation located on the project site. From the substation, the power would interconnect into the existing Glacier Electric Cooperative's transmission line that connects to Browning Substation. This transmission line is currently operated at 34.5 kilovolts (kV) and would be energized at its design and constructed voltage rating of 115 kV in order to integrate the project.

The project would also require access roads, an operation and maintenance building, and onsite storage.

Blackfeet I would like to begin construction in mid to late 2002, with commercial operation starting in late 2002. The project would operate for at least 20 years.

### **Environmental Analysis**

Bonneville, as a Federal agency, must study, and make public, the environmental impacts, both adverse and beneficial, of a proposed project before it can take action. This policy is set out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Act requires that significant environmental impacts of a proposed action be discussed in an Environmental Impact Statement. Because BPA is proposing to purchase power from the Blackfeet Wind Project, we will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed project.

### **To Comment**

If you have comments on the proposed Blackfeet Wind Project, you can give them to us at the public meetings, leave a message on our toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519, send an e-mail to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov), or mail comments to: Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. If you comment by May 25, 2001, your ideas can affect the scope of our environmental studies.

### **For More Information**

If you have any questions about the proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, call my direct number (509) 527-6211, or send an e-mail to [trosborn@bpa.gov](mailto:trosborn@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Osborn  
Project Manager

Enclosure:  
Map