

# Hand Hills Wind Project

## Newsletter

### Project Update

In April 2021, we announced a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Shell Energy for the Hand Hills Wind Project. This PPA will directly support the construction of the Project, which could begin as early as fall 2021.

In addition, we are proud to share that in December 2020 the Hand Hills Wind Project received a permit from the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to begin construction and reach commercial operation in 2022. This permit is the result of over eight years of development work including environmental surveys, engineering design, and stakeholder consultation.

In early 2020, BluEarth submitted an application to the AUC to construct the 130 MW wind project. In September 2020, a public hearing was held to gain more insight into the Project, and as a result, the project permit was granted. We expect that construction could begin in fall 2021 and the project will be operational in late 2022. The construction of the Hand Hills Wind Project will benefit the local economy with approximately 175 jobs at peak construction and indirect revenue from local services (restaurants, hotels, gas stations, etc.) and suppliers (gravel, equipment, materials, etc.). Once operational, the Hand Hills Wind Project will provide Alberta with renewable energy, create local wind technician jobs, and increase municipal tax revenues.

As a result of technological advancements, we are proposing updated wind turbine technology which increases the efficiency of the Hand Hills Wind Project with no adverse environmental impact. The previously chosen turbine technology, the SiemensGamesa 4.5 MW wind turbine, is now able to achieve 5.0 MW of capacity at a reduced hub height of 95.5 meters tall. This will allow the Project to operate at an increased nameplate capacity of 145 MW. We have completed an updated Noise Impact Assessment for these updated machines to confirm there will be no increase to noise levels at any receptor. This report can be viewed on our website at [blueearthrenewables.com/handhills](http://blueearthrenewables.com/handhills).

	Approved Project (Current Status)	Proposed Change
Project Capacity	130 MW	145 MW
Number of Turbines	29 turbines	29 turbines
Turbine Capacity	4.5 MW per turbine	5.0 MW per turbine
Turbine size	107.5m hub height, 145m rotor diameter	95.5m hub height, 145m rotor diameter
Homes Powered	65,000 homes annually (*estimate)	68,900 homes annually (*estimate)

A Letter of Enquiry will be filed with the AUC to capture this technology update and to provide the necessary noise reports and environmental letters to indicate no additional impacts are expected from the updated turbine technology. In addition, we plan to apply for development permits from Starland County and Special Areas 2 this summer. As development work continues, we are committed to keeping our landowners and the rural municipalities of Starland County and Special Areas 2 up to date. If you have any additional questions or feedback on the Project, please contact us at [projects@blueearth.ca](mailto:projects@blueearth.ca) or 1-844-214-2578.

# Building a Wind Facility

Construction of the Hand Hills Wind Project is expected to begin as early as fall 2021 and the project will be operational in late 2022. Below is an overview of the key steps involved in building a wind facility from civil works to operation. As we approach construction, we will keep the community informed with a construction plan of what to expect.



**Civil Works.** The ground area is prepared and construction of roads and laydown areas begin.



**Turbine Foundations.** Foundations for the wind turbines are constructed from concrete and steel.



**Equipment Delivery.** Turbine components including the tower, blades and nacelle are delivered to site.



**Turbine Assembly.** Turbines are assembled and installed using cranes.



**Electrical Components.** Construction of the electrical collector system, substation and interconnection point is completed.



**Clean Up & Commissioning.** The construction site is cleaned up and the facility begins making power.

Learn more at [www.blueearthrenewables.com/handhills](http://www.blueearthrenewables.com/handhills)

BlueEarth Renewables brings together extraordinary people with the power to change the future™ by delivering renewable energy to the power grid every day. We are a leading, independent, power producer that acquires, develops, builds, owns and operates wind, hydro and solar facilities across North America. Our portfolio includes 658 MW (556 MW net) of nameplate capacity in operation, under construction and contracted pre-construction and over 2,000 MW under development.

**Visit:** [www.blueearthrenewables.com/handhills](http://www.blueearthrenewables.com/handhills)

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