



MINUTES

Subject:	Golden South Wind (GSW) Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meeting #4
Date and Time:	Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:30pm
Location:	Zoom Webinar (Virtual Meeting)
Facilitator:	Chris Downie, Dillon Consulting Limited
Attendees:	Chris Downie, Dillon Consulting Limited – CLC Facilitator Cathy Zhao (GSW/Potentia Renewables Inc.) – CLC Coordinator James Marzotto (GSW/Potentia Renewables Inc.) – Project Manager Juergen Kraus (GSW/Potentia Renewables Inc.) – Wind Construction Coordinator Malcom Blanchard (GSW/Potentia Renewables Inc.) – Construction Manager Steven Harris (GSW/Potentia Renewables Inc.) – Facility Manager Scott Langstaff (Borea Construction) – GSW Construction Contractor Larry Foster – CLC Community Member Trevor Karst – CLC Community Member Ken Bahuaud – CLC Community Member Three Unidentified Members of the Public
Regrets:	Doug McIntosh (GSW/Potentia Renewables Inc.) – Director, Wind Operations

Meeting Minutes

1. **Introductions**
2. **COVID-19 Protocols and Updates**
 - Potentia Renewables Inc. (PRI) continues to work with Borea Construction to implement site-specific safety measures that observe and adhere to local, provincial and federal health orders and guidelines.
 - Site-specific safety measures currently implemented on-site include:
 - Verifying the body temperature of every worker, visitor and delivery driver before entering the construction site.
 - A full-time medic remains on site.
 - Mandatory face masks and social distancing when appropriate.
 - Completion of the Preventative Measures Questionnaire at the end of each shift.
 - Completion of the COVID-19 Orientation Questionnaire by all workers and delivery drivers upon arrival to site.
 - Starting next week, instant COVID-19 testing procedures will be implemented for project personnel arriving from outside of the country prior to entering the site.
 - Potentia will continue to monitor the evolution of COVID-19 in Canada, and work with Borea and the local community to implement changes as the need arises.
3. **Construction Update**
 - Recently, a newsletter and comment form for the Golden South II Wind Energy Project (GS II) was sent out to residents living in and nearby the Rural Municipality (RM) of Stonehenge. To clarify, this is not for the Golden South Wind Energy Project. The GS II is

a proposed project that was submitted to SaskPower in early November as a response to the recent SaskPower Request for Proposals. It would be an expansion to the existing project. If there are any questions regarding this proposed project, more information can be provided at the end of the CLC meeting, during the Q&A session.

- Road construction is 100% complete.
- The substation is complete and going through testing.
- The Operations & Maintenance Building is 90% complete, and the operational crew will be moving into the building within the next week.
- The transmission line from the PRI substation to the SaskPower substation entering the switchyard is live as of this week.
- Nearly 60% of project components have arrived on-site. Some delays in delivery of the components have occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 10 turbines have been installed to date. PRI is aiming to have one turbine in operation before the end of 2020.
- Construction is scheduled to continue into late-December, at which point activities will wrap up on-site for the Holidays. Construction will resume either shortly before or shortly after the New Year.
- There will be some night shifts taking place to speed up the construction process, which will continue into 2021 until the project declares commercial operation.
- Deliveries of the turbine components will be completed by the end of February 2021.
- PRI is aiming to reach the **Commercial Operation Date (COD) in March 2021.**
- Prior to COD, various tests will be completed:
 - Commissioning tests
 - Performance tests
 - Availability tests
 - Power curve tests
 - Tests on electrical system

4. **Introducing the Operations Team**

- Doug McIntosh – Director, Wind Operations
- Pawan Gaur – Manager, Wind Operations
- Steven Harris – Facility Manager of Golden South Wind Operations
 - Steven is currently living in Coronach, but he is moving to Assiniboia shortly
 - Prior to joining PRI, Steven was employed at SaskPower at the Poplar River Power Station
- As the turbines are erected, they will come online one by one after each turbine is commissioned
- Once all the turbines have been erected, the project will declare COD and be transitioned from the construction team to the operations team
- More details on the project's operation phase will be provided at the next CLC meeting as the project prepares for COD. If you would like more information regarding the project's COD or operation phase, you can always send your questions to our email assiniboiawind@potentiarenewables.com.

5. **Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting**

- No action items were raised during CLC Meeting #3

6. **Review of Submitted Questions**

- Inquiry from a local construction company on potential opportunity to work on the project
 - PRI confirmed that the local construction company's information was passed on to Juergen Kraus, the Wind Construction Coordinator, who has reached out to discuss potential opportunities. No follow up was required.
- One of the CLC members requested an update on the construction status in August 2020, specifically with regards to getting components to site and staff getting sent home.
 - The Project has experienced delays as it navigates constructing through a global pandemic, but PRI is making every effort to catch up and finish the project early in 2021. We continue to receive turbine components which will allow us to increase our crew size to the original plan.
- Inquiry from a member of the public about the crane company and opportunity for a crane operator apprenticeship.
 - Cathy Zhao provided the crane company's name and the company's website to the member of the public. The website listed the company's contact information and available positions. No follow up was required.
- A member of the public expressed concerns about the distance of the turbines to town, the state of Leeville Street due to construction, and the environmental impacts of the turbines on birds.
 - GSW is following the required setbacks from noise receptors, such as houses, and the provincial regulations on sound-levels:
 - The closest non-participating landowner residence is 900 metres away from a turbine.
 - Modelled sound levels are limited to a level that is typically no more than 40dBA, as instructed by the province.
 - GSW is aware that Leeville Road has experienced heavy use as a result of the GS project construction. Given the heavy loads required of a project of this size, and the large components, it is expected that the road will be impacted. This is why GSW entered into an agreement with the Town of Assiniboia to pay for both the road maintenance and capital loss use.
 - Regarding impacts on birds, we have undertaken numerous studies to assess the potential environmental effects of the project and to minimize these potential effects. As part of our permitting process, we have conducted pre-construction spring and fall migration surveys for the migratory birds to confirm the best siting processes and locations. The surveys and results were reviewed and approved by the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment. The survey methods included actual on-the-ground assessments at and surrounding the proposed turbine locations within the project area. We have also committed to

conducting post-construction surveys as described in Saskatchewan's Adaptive Management Guidelines for Saskatchewan Wind Energy Projects, which identifies fatality levels that trigger further action to reduce impacts for different bird species. It is important to note that, while the project will almost certainly injure or kill individual birds, leading conservation societies like the Audubon Society of America recognize that climate change is a greater threat to bird populations than the potential local impacts caused by wind turbines.

- A photographer commissioned by the Globe and Mail requested permission to take photos of the project.
 - Juergen Kraus, PRI's Wind Construction Coordinator, contacted the photographer on October 29, 2020, and they completed a site visit on November 4, 2020. Photos were taken and no follow up was required.
- A member of the public expressed concerns about the turbines' impact on the geese.
 - We understand your concern for the geese, and we have undertaken numerous studies to assess the potential environmental effects of the project and to minimize these potential effects. We are unable to guarantee that the project will not affect geese, however, data from other projects and from published literature indicates that geese have a 95-99% avoidance rate of turbines in flight, so we expect mortality rates from collisions with turbines to be low for geese (certainly a tiny fraction of the bag limits allowed for the hunting of geese in the area). Furthermore, if the post-construction monitoring surveys find that geese are being impacted by the turbines, there are mitigation options available, which will be implemented following consultation with the Ministry of Environment. All of the information obtained from the studies as well as the proposed mitigation measures have been provided to the Ministry of Environment and were approved.

7. **CLC Members Open Discussion and New Questions**

- Will project components continue to be delivered throughout the winter season?
 - PRI staff confirmed that components will continue to be delivered throughout the winter season, weather and road conditions permitting.
- Will any turbines be coming online before the end of the year?
 - PRI staff confirmed that they are aiming to have one turbine operational by late December 2020.
- Are you still having troubles with one of the transformers?
 - PRI staff confirmed that one of the substation transformers requires a bushing replacement, which is expected to be completed next week. There are two transformers in the station, and each transformer can accommodate up to 140 MW, so no capacity issues are anticipated.
- The CLC members have been hearing interest from members of the public about touring the Golden South project site. Will this be an option?
 - PRI staff said they would certainly look into making tours available to interested parties once the project has entered the operation phase.

- The CLC members thanked PRI for providing information on the GS II project and are glad to hear about the strict procedures in place to mitigate COVID-19 risks on-site, especially with the recent rise in active cases across the province.
 - PRI staff indicated that any questions pertaining to the GS II project can be directed to the project email (goldensouthii@potentiarenewables.com) or the Golden South project website (assiniboiawind@potentiarenewables.com)
- Regarding the information packages that were mailed out, why did some landowners receive package, while others who live near the project did not receive one?
 - PRI staff confirmed that mail-outs were sent to all the available PO boxes and mailboxes along the Canada Post delivery route that are located within 2 kilometres of the GS II Wind Energy Project's project area.
 - Information newsletters on the GS II project were also posted in the RM of Stonehenge's office.
- Has there been much public interest in the GS II project? The CLC members have not heard many questions from members of the public.
 - PRI staff confirmed that they have received a few comments from the public that expressed interest and/or raised questions regarding the project.
- Previously discussed concerns were raised about whether the GS project would be properly decommissioned and reclaimed, in the event that PRI were to leave the project. Are funds set aside to account for the decommissioning and reclamation phase?
 - PRI staff confirmed that the environmental permits and approvals for the project require that PRI be responsible for project decommissioning and reclamation, once the project reaches its end of life. At this point the project will be decommissioned and reclaimed in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements.
 - PRI staff confirmed that PRI and its parent company, Power Energy Corp. have a proven track record of responsible project ownership and management, and they are committed to the long-term operation of the project.
 - Through the Power Purchase Agreement with SaskPower, the project will support itself and remain viable as long as SaskPower is operational. The anticipated lifespan of the turbines is 25 to 30 years, at which point they must be recertified to continue operation.

8. **Opportunities for the Public to Speak**

- Three unidentified members of the public were present during the meeting; however, none of the guests raised any questions or concerns.

9. **Timing of Next CLC Meeting**

- CLC Meeting #5 - Projected for spring/summer of 2021
 - It is anticipated that this meeting will be held online as well, given restrictions on public gatherings, however that will be confirmed at a later date.
 - Once the exact date has been determined, it will be advertised in local media and communicated with CLC members directly.

10. **Review of Action Items**

None.

11. **Adjournment**

Project Contacts

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