

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Environmental Assessment UT-040-07-20
UTU-82972 and UTU-82973
September 3, 2008**

**Milford Wind Corridor Project
Millard and Beaver Counties, Utah**

**Milford Wind Corridor, LLC
c/o First Wind
85 Wells Avenue, Suite 305
Newton, MA 02459
(617) 964-3340 Phone
(617) 964-3342 Fax**

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Cedar City Field Office
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive
Cedar City, UT 84720
(435) 865-3005 Phone
(435) 865-3058 Fax**

**Fillmore Field Office
35 East 500 North
Fillmore, UT 84631
Phone (435) 743-3100
Fax (435) 743-3135**



Areas disturbed during removal of the transmission line from the ROW would be restored and rehabilitated as near as possible to their original condition and would be available for the same uses that existed prior to construction of the project.

2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

2.3.1 Alternative Wind Energy Facility Site

Lands to the south of the proposed project area were considered for development of the Wind Energy Facility. These other sites were eliminated because they are closer to residential areas in Milford, and locating wind turbines there might interfere with the flight path to the Milford Municipal Airport.

2.3.2 Alternative Transmission Line Interconnection

Interconnection to local PacifiCorp 46-kV to 230-kV transmission lines was considered as an alternative to building a longer 345-kV transmission line and interconnecting to the IPP substation near Delta, Utah. These smaller, existing transmission lines were eliminated from further consideration because they would not provide sufficient capacity to optimize economies of scale necessary to achieve an investment-grade wind energy project.

2.3.3 Utah State Route 257 Corridor Alternative Transmission Line Route

Serious consideration was given to an alternative transmission line route that would have in part utilized the BLM-designated Utah State Route 257 and Union Pacific Railway corridor. This transmission line alignment would have followed the same route as the proposed transmission line to the base of the Cricket Mountains. There it would have turned eastward toward Utah State Route 257, which it would have followed north-northeast approximately 35 miles, and then diverged east, north, and west around Delta, Utah, to the IPP substation. This alternative was presented during public scoping of the project in September and October of 2007. Many of the resource studies conducted for the proposed transmission line route were also conducted for this alternative route. The Utah State Route 257 alternative transmission line route was ultimately eliminated from further consideration in May 2008 because the route was unacceptable in Millard County due to incompatible land use designations and planned land uses in the portion of the county through which it would have passed. This alternative would also have crossed a large playa area near Clear Lake, where construction could have resulted in potential disturbance and impacts to wetland resources.

2.3.4 Other Alternative Transmission Line Routes

A number of other alternative transmission line routes were considered. These alternative routes were eliminated because they would not have utilized BLM-designated corridors as fully as the proposed transmission line route analyzed in this EA. One alternative route extending north from the Wind Energy Facility was eliminated due to increased disturbance and impacts to sage grouse habitat.