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Wind



Developers push wind farm up to 300MW in Texas Panhandle

National Wind and KRS Energy will develop a community wind farm up to 300 megawatts (MW) in Randall County in the Texas Panhandle. They did not provide a cost estimate or construction timetable.

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"Community wind projects operate under a business model that allows both landowners who receive turbines and even those who don't, the opportunity to share in project revenues," says Randy Darnell, a member of the advisory board of Buffalo Wind Energy, the company created to carry out the project.

"This provides greater profit distribution throughout the local community. It's about keeping project proceeds local," he says.

Buffalo Wind Energy currently has 14,500 acres under lease between Amarillo and the town of Umbarger, along with the direct equity

participation of 12 area families.

"Studies show that community wind projects increase local economic impacts up to five times more than that of non community-based projects," says Travis Moen, project director for National Wind, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which is managing the project.

He says power to be produced will be sold to both the Texas market, but also to electric utility members of the Southwest Power Pool, a regional non-profit transmission operator.

"Projects like these help rural Texas communities reinvent themselves, adding permanent jobs, local tax base and a steady stream of income to local landowners," an official with KRS Energy, headquartered in Centennial, Colorado.

Richard A. Kessler

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