

Section 8. Wind, Small

The technical requirements specified in this section apply to small wind systems, which are, as defined in § 4280.103, wind energy systems for which the rated power of the wind turbine is 100kW or smaller and with a generator hub height of 120 ft or less. Small wind systems are either stand-alone or connected to the local electrical system at less than 600 volts.

(a) Qualifications of project team. The small wind project team should consist of a system designer, a project manager or general contractor, an equipment supplier of major components, a system installer, a system maintainer, and, in some cases, the owner of the application or load served by the system. One individual or entity may serve more than one role. Authoritative evidence that project team service providers have the necessary professional credentials or relevant experience to perform the required services must be provided. Authoritative evidence that vendors of proprietary components can provide necessary equipment and spare parts for the system to operate over its design life must also be provided. The application must:

- (1) Discuss the small wind turbine manufacturers and other equipment suppliers of major components being considered in terms of their length of time in business and the number of units installed at the capacity and scale being considered;
- (2) Describe the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to service, operate, and maintain the system for the proposed application; and
- (3) Discuss the project manager, system designer, and system installer qualifications for engineering, designing, and installing small wind systems, including any relevant certifications by recognized organizations. Provide a list of the same or similar systems designed, installed, or supplied and currently operating with references, if available.

(b) Agreements, permits, and certifications. Identify all necessary agreements and permits required for the project and the status and schedule for securing those agreements and permits, including the items specified in paragraphs (b)(1) through (5).

- (1) Identify zoning, building, and electrical code issues, and required permits and the anticipated schedule for meeting those requirements and securing those permits.

- (2) Identify available component warranties for the specific project location and size.
- (3) For systems planning to interconnect with a utility, describe the utility's system interconnection requirements, power purchase arrangements, or licenses, where required, and the anticipated schedule for meeting those requirements and obtaining those agreements. This is required even if the system is installed on the customer side of the utility meter. For systems planning to utilize a local net metering program as their interconnection agreement, describe the applicable local net metering program.
- (4) Identify all environmental issues, including environmental compliance issues, associated with the project on Form RD 1940-20, "Request for Environmental Information," and in compliance with 7 CFR part 1940, subpart G, of this title.
- (5) Submit a statement certifying that the project will be installed in accordance with applicable local, State, and national codes and regulations.

(c) Resource assessment. Provide adequate and appropriate data to demonstrate the amount of renewable resource available. Indicate the source of the wind data and the conditions of the wind monitoring when collected at the site or assumptions made when applying nearby wind data to the site.

(d) Design and engineering. Provide authoritative evidence that the system will be designed and engineered so as to meet its intended purpose, will ensure public safety, and will comply with applicable laws, regulations, agreements, permits, codes, and standards. Small wind systems must be engineered by either the wind turbine manufacturer or other qualified party. Systems must be offered as a complete, integrated system with matched components. The engineering must be comprehensive, including turbine design and selection, tower design and selection, specification of guy wire anchors and tower foundation, inverter/controller design and selection, energy storage requirements as applicable, and selection of cabling, disconnects, and interconnection equipment, as well as the engineering data needed to match the wind system output to the application load, if applicable.

(1) Provide a concise but complete description of the small wind system, including location of the project, proposed turbine specifications, tower height and type of tower, type of energy storage and location of storage if applicable, proposed inverter manufacturer and model, electric power system interconnection equipment, and application load and load interconnection equipment as applicable. Identify possible vendors and models of major system components. Provide the expected system energy production based on available wind resource data on a monthly (when possible) and annual basis and how the energy produced by the system will be used.

(2) Describe the project site and address issues such as access to the wind resource, proximity to the electrical grid or application load, environmental concerns with emphasis on historic properties, visibility, noise, bird and bat populations, and wildlife habitat destruction and/or fragmentation, construction, and installation issues and whether special circumstances such as proximity to airports exist. Provide a 360-degree panoramic photograph of the proposed site, including indication of prevailing winds when possible.

(e) Project development schedule. Identify each significant task, its beginning and end, and its relationship to the time needed to initiate and carry the project through startup and shakedown. Provide a detailed description of the project timeline, including system and site design, permits and agreements, equipment procurement, and system installation from excavation through startup and shakedown.

(f) Project economic assessment. Provide a study that describes the costs and revenues of the proposed project to demonstrate the financial performance of the project, including the calculation of simple payback. Provide a detailed analysis and description of project costs, including design, permitting, equipment, site preparation, system installation, system startup and shakedown, warranties, insurance, financing, professional services, and operations and maintenance costs. Provide a detailed description of applicable investment incentives, productivity incentives, loans, and grants. Provide a detailed description of historic or expected energy use and expected energy offsets or sales on a monthly and annual basis. In addition, provide other information necessary to assess the project's cost effectiveness.

(g) Equipment procurement. Demonstrate that equipment required by the system is available and can be procured and delivered within the proposed project development schedule. Small wind systems may be constructed of components manufactured in more than one location. Provide a description of any unique equipment procurement issues such as scheduling and timing of component manufacture and delivery, ordering, warranties, shipping, receiving, and on-site storage or inventory. Provide a detailed description of equipment certification. Identify all the major equipment that is proprietary and justify how this unique equipment is needed to meet the requirements of the proposed design. Include a statement from the applicant certifying that "open and free" competition will be used for the procurement of project components in a manner consistent with the requirements of 7 CFR part 3015 of this title.

(h) Equipment installation. Describe fully the management of and plan for site development and system installation, provide details regarding the scheduling of major installation equipment, including cranes and other devices needed for project construction, and provide a description of the startup and shakedown specifications and process and the conditions required for startup and shakedown for each equipment item individually and for the system as a whole. Include a statement from the applicant certifying that equipment installation will be made in accordance with all applicable safety and work rules.

(i) Operations and maintenance. Identify the operations and maintenance requirements of the system necessary for the system to operate as designed over the design life. The application must:

(1) Ensure that systems must have at least a 5-year warranty for equipment and a commitment from the supplier to have spare parts available. Provide information regarding system warranty and availability of spare parts;

(2) Describe the routine operations and maintenance requirements of the proposed system, including maintenance schedules for the mechanical, electrical, and software systems;

(3) Provide historical or engineering information that supports expected design life of the system and timing of major component replacement or rebuilds. Include in the discussion, costs and labor associated with the operation and maintenance of the system, and plans for in-sourcing or out-sourcing; and

(4) For owner maintained portions of the system, describe any unique knowledge, skills, or abilities needed for service operations or maintenance.

(j) Dismantling and disposal of project components. Describe a plan for dismantling and disposing of project components and associated wastes at the end of their useful lives. Describe the budget for and any unique concerns associated with the dismantling and disposal of project components and their wastes.