

**TB Flats Wind Energy Project
Wyoming Industrial Siting Council Docket DEQ/ISC 18-01
State Agency Comment Form**

Response required to Industrial Siting before *May 25, 2018*

Instructions:

- a. Your agency is required by W. S. 35-12-110(c) to provide this information.
- b. Please print or type.
- c. A letter providing all required information may substitute for this form.
- d. Use additional pages as necessary.
- e. Consider only the aspects of the project which are in your *agency's* area of expertise.

Name of Agency: **Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)**

This form was prepared by (name and title): **Chris Wichmann – Division Manager - Natural Resource and Policy Division**

From the expertise of the agency, should the Industrial Siting Council *deny* a permit for the construction and operation of the project?

1. The agency has no reason to recommend denial of a permit. Check here XXX
2. The agency recommends denial of the permit. Check here and provide reasons:

Not Applicable

From the area of expertise within the agency, the Industrial Siting Council should consider the following as permit conditions on the construction or operation of the project (list):

It is the stance of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) to support Wyoming's private landowners and agricultural industry in sustaining a viable agricultural industry and way of life. We believe the Project being developed on private lands enhances private landowners ability to maintain their way of life while allowing for the continuation of traditional agricultural practices.

We recommend the developer work closely with the landowners when identifying potential locations for the turbines and roads. It is important to fully understand the landowners' agricultural operations to help avoid impacting their management and operations.

We encourage emphasizing successful reclamation and monitoring to occur on disturbed lands. Monitoring vegetation and reclamation trends is key to ensuring successful management of the resources impacted by the proposed project. We appreciate that you will work with the landowners on developing appropriate seed mixes for reclaiming disturbed areas, and not default to agency specific mixes.

One area of concern regarding the proposed plan is on page 7-6, Section 7.2.6 Topsoil and Vegetation, states that "...any colonizing noxious weeds will be controlled..." Monitoring and controlling noxious weed invasions should be mandatory; however, it does not address invasive species. We suggest all noxious and invasive species (example: cheat grass) will be monitored and controlled.

Describe the regulatory jurisdiction which your agency has over aspects of the project.

1. If no regulatory authority, then check here XXX and do not complete the remaining statements.
2. Regulation is by the following statutes:
3. Attach a statement of your agency's ability to regulate impacts of the project.