

Lower Snake River Wind Facility

Providing clean, renewable energy



Wind power and agriculture go well together. More than 99 percent of the land at PSE's Lower Snake River Wind Facility remains available for farming and livestock grazing.



Wind energy brings temporary and permanent jobs to the local community, as well as a new source of income for landowners.

The Lower Snake River Wind Facility is Puget Sound Energy's newest and largest wind-power operation. Completed in early 2012, the facility is the largest wind farm, to date, in Washington. The operation builds on the success of PSE's two prior wind-power developments: the Hopkins Ridge Wind Facility in Columbia County, and the Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility in Kittitas County. With 773 megawatts of combined power-generating capacity, the three wind farms make PSE the largest utility producer of wind power in the Northwest and second-largest in America. Besides providing Washington homes and businesses with clean, renewable electricity, the wind facilities also make significant contributions to the local economy.

Location

The Lower Snake River Wind Facility-Phase I is in Southeast Washington, centered about 10 miles west of Pomeroy, Garfield County – or approximately 260 miles southeast of Seattle. The site covers 21,610 acres, nearly all private, locally owned crop and range lands. The facility's wind turbines, support structures and access roads cover only about 200 acres – less than 1 percent of the wind farm's total acreage. The rest remains available for agriculture.

Power Output

The Lower Snake River operation can generate up to 343 megawatts (MW) of electricity. The facility's average output meets the total annual power requirements of about 100,000 households. (PSE's wind projects generate electricity about two-thirds of the time, with the spin of their turbine rotors varying slightly according to local wind speeds.) Collectively, PSE's three wind farms produce enough power, on average, to meet the total electric consumption of more than 200,000 homes.

Facility Profile

Lower Snake River-Phase I contains 149 wind turbines, manufactured by Siemens Energy. Each turbine has 2.3 megawatts MW of generating capacity – enough to power about 700 homes. The turbines stand 430 feet from the ground to the tip of a vertical blade, with rotors measuring 331 feet in diameter. The site also contains two large substations, 64 miles of underground power lines that collect the project's power output, and 8 miles of overhead, high-voltage transmission lines that move the turbines' power onto the Bonneville Power Administration's regional transmission grid. BPA transmission lines deliver the wind power to PSE's power-distribution system.



Wind energy brings both temporary and permanent jobs to the community. Wind farms also provide a new source of income for local landowners, new economic activity for local businesses, and new tax revenue for local schools and public services.

Economic Benefits

Wind power provides a substantial economic boost to the communities that host wind farms. The Lower Snake River Wind Facility-Phase I created about 25 permanent, high-wage jobs in the Pomeroy area for the employees who maintain and operate the facility. During the project’s two-year construction, as many as 250 workers were on site building the facility. As with PSE’s Hopkins Ridge and Wild Horse facilities, the new wind farm also produced a notable increase in commerce for local retailers and service businesses. In addition, with the largest property-tax assessment in Garfield County, the Lower Snake River project is a major source of tax revenue for local schools and public services.

Future Development

The development permits for PSE’s Lower Snake River project authorize installation of up to 795 wind turbines in Garfield County and neighboring Columbia County. If fully developed, the project’s generating capacity could exceed 1,400 MW, making it one of the largest wind farms in America. PSE has not determined when the next phase of project development might occur. Future expansion of the Lower Snake River facility will be based on a variety of factors, including the energy demands of PSE customers, regulatory requirements, state and federal energy policies, and energy-market conditions.



Washington state’s Columbia County (west) and Garfield County (east).

For More Information

Go to PSE.com/LowerSnakeRiver

For Questions and Comments

Call PSE’s local community offices in Pomeroy and Dayton:

In Pomeroy, Garfield County:
509-843-5062

In Dayton, Columbia County:
509-382-2043