

## **Orion Renewable Energy Group LLC Montana Project Development Summary**

Orion Renewable Energy Group LLC (Orion) has been working on the development of wind projects in Montana for over four years. Orion has focused much of its effort on finding suitable development sites that utilize Montana's excellent wind resource, have compatible land uses, and have access to existing transmission infrastructure that could bring Montana wind-generated power to markets that are demanding cost-effective renewable energy sources. Since 2012, Orion has investigated several potential sites in eastern Montana and has focused development on the Clearwater Wind Farm located in Rosebud and Custer Counties.

The proposed Clearwater Wind Farm is north of Miles City, Montana, will be up to 750 megawatts (MW), and will interconnect into the electric grid at an existing substation north of Colstrip, MT via a new 345 kilovolt electric transmission line approximately 70 to 95 miles in length. In November 2015, Orion's subsidiary, Clearwater Energy Resources LLC, filed a Public Notice in connection with the state's Major Facility Siting Act (MFSA) so that the new transmission line may qualify for a statutory exclusion from the MFSA under Section 75-20-104(8)(a)(ii), Montana Code Annotated.

For several years Orion has built strong relationships with landowners and local officials and has engaged State and Federal agencies to better inform the development of these projects. Orion has met with Custer and Rosebud County Commissioners numerous times and continues to provide updates to key stakeholders. Orion has also met with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources to review ongoing environmental studies. Orion will also continue to consult with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality throughout all phases of project development.

Orion has a strong track record of successful wind project development. The principals of Orion Renewable Energy Group LLC (Orion) have been pioneers in expanding the use of renewable energy in the United States, Great Britain, and around the world for over 20 years. Approximately 4,700 MW of renewable energy projects in operation worldwide have been developed by Orion's management team, including over 3,700 MW in the United States. Orion's success is the result of expertise in siting, development, origination, finance, construction and operations. Orion looks forward to applying its expertise to create significant long-term investment to Montana's rural economy by bringing to market affordable Montana renewable energy.