



Finavera Renewables

Community Consultation

May 2007

Summary Report

Proposed Wind Energy Projects in British Columbia's South Peace Region

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Executive Summary

Project Overview

Finavera Renewables is a publicly traded company dedicated to developing renewable energy resources and technologies.

Finavera Renewables has four proposed wind projects in British Columbia's Peace Region for which designs concepts are currently being developed. Three are located near Tumbler Ridge and one is located near Chetwynd. All of the project sites are located on Crown land and are primarily situated on ridge-tops. Each project will have approximately 35 to 65 turbines.

All projects are subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*. Each of the projects is currently in the pre-application period. During this time, Finavera Renewables is developing high-level design concepts and conducting initial research to support development of a formal application for environmental assessment review.

Finavera Renewables conducted an early project design stage consultation with residents, community groups and businesses in the Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge areas in May 2007. The objectives for this consultation were:

1. To ensure that residents and businesses in the Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek communities are as well informed as possible about Finavera Renewables' proposed wind projects.
2. To ensure that Finavera Renewables is aware of the potential impacts from its proposed projects so they can be considered and appropriately addressed throughout project design and environmental assessment.
3. To create an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed projects.

The following report, which summarizes the results of this consultation, will be posted to the Finavera Renewables web site and made available to the province's Environmental Assessment Office.

Community Consultation Program

An open house and two stakeholder meetings were conducted in each of Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge on May 9 and 10 and May 15 and 16, 2007, respectively. Individuals were made aware of the consultation by the following methods:

- 148 community and business groups were identified and invited through e-mail and telephone call to attend the consultation events.
- More than 8,000 information flyers were distributed by Canada Post to residents and businesses in Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek.

- 12 advertisements were run in local newspapers:
Peace River Block News (1)
The Mirror (2)
Tumbler Ridge News (2)
Coffee Talk Express (5)
Chetwynd Echo (2)
- Information was available on Finavera Renewables' website: www.finavera.com

Individuals could participate in the consultation by:

- Attending one of two open houses
- Attending one of four small group stakeholder meetings
- Accessing the website, which had an automated feedback form
- E-mail
- Phone
- Fax

77 individuals participated and 44 returned feedback forms.

Key Results

Results from Feedback Forms

The following are the key results from the feedback forms:

93% of participants agreed with wind energy as an alternate energy source in British Columbia. Overall, the results were:

	Level of Agreement				
	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Support for Wind Energy as an Alternate Energy Source in British Columbia	0%	2%	5%	21%	72%

Participants said that the following had the most significant positive influence on their support for wind energy:

- New job opportunities
- Green energy source
- BC's energy self-sufficiency

Overall the results were:

Indicators	Level of Influence			Positive or No Effect
	Negatively Influences My Opinion (#)	No Effect on My Opinion (#)	Positively Influences My Opinion (#)	
New job opportunities	0	10	33	100%
Green energy source	1	1	42	98%
BC's energy self-sufficiency	2	3	39	95%
Tourism opportunities	3	20	18	93%
Effects on recreation	7	14	19	83%
Road access to sites	9	18	15	79%
Noise	9	20	13	79%
Visual effect	9	24	10	79%
Effect on vegetation, wildlife, watercourses, fish	14	6	21	66%

Results from Small Group Stakeholder Meetings

The key themes from comments at the stakeholder meetings included:

1. Participants said they appreciated Finavera Renewables' consultation strategy and the fact that Finavera Renewables was bringing information to the community so early in the process.
2. Participants supported the proposed projects and wind energy in general.
1. Participants had a number of questions about the technical aspects of the project and said they were looking forward to further project design information.
2. Some participants asked about a setback between private land and proposed wind turbines (Peace River Regional District has proposed 1.6 km).
3. Participants expressed some concern about the impact of turbine operation on migratory birds, bats and eagles.
4. Some participants expressed concern about the potential impacts of increased road access on caribou and recreational trails. Others noted potential benefits for recreation and commercial opportunities, such as community forests.
5. Participants provided input to the study maps.

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Finavera Renewables CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

1. Introduction

1.1 Finavera Renewables

Finavera Renewables is a publicly traded company dedicated to developing renewable energy resources and technologies. Its portfolio of clean, sustainable energy projects and technologies includes:

Wave Energy

Finavera Renewables owns the 'AquaBuOY' wave energy technology. AquaBuOYs are wave energy converters based on proven, survivable buoy technology, which act as miniature off-shore power plants to provide clean, renewable energy for large population centers nearby. Finavera is developing several wave power projects worldwide, and is currently investigating the potential for use of this technology near Ucluelet.

Wind Energy

Finavera Renewables has numerous wind projects under development in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ireland. In BC, Finavera is currently pursuing four potential projects in the Peace Region and has several potential sites under investigation in the Cascades.

Design concepts are currently being developed for the four projects in the Peace. Three are located near Tumbler Ridge and one is located near Chetwynd. All of the project sites are located on Crown Land and are primarily situated on ridge-tops. Each project will have approximately 35 to 65 turbines. The exact locations of wind turbines have yet to be determined.

1.2 Finavera Renewables' South Peace Wind Energy Projects

The wind projects that Finavera Renewables is proposing for the South Peace region of British Columbia include:

Wildmare

- A proposed 74 MW wind energy project
- The proposed project would consist of approximately 37 wind turbines
- Turbines would be placed on ridge tops at least 5 km northwest of the Chetwynd town centre

Bullmoose

- A proposed 112 MW wind energy project
- The proposed project would consist of approximately 56 wind turbines
- Turbines would be placed on ridge tops located at least 22 km west and northwest of the Tumbler Ridge town centre

Tumbler Ridge

- A proposed 100 MW wind energy project
- The proposed project would consist of approximately 50 wind turbines
- Turbines would be placed on ridge tops located at least 7 km north and southwest of the Tumbler Ridge town centre

Mount Clifford

- A proposed 80 MW wind energy project
- The proposed project would consist of approximately 40 wind turbines
- Turbines would be placed on ridge tops located approximately 50 km south of the Tumbler Ridge town centre

All projects will be subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*. Each of the projects is currently in the pre-application period. During this time, Finavera Renewables is developing high-level design concepts and conducting initial research to support development of a formal application for environmental assessment review.

1.3 Community Consultation

The consultation had the following objectives:

- To ensure that residents and businesses in the Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek communities are as well informed as possible about Finavera Renewables' proposed wind projects.
- To ensure that Finavera Renewables is aware of the potential impacts from its proposed projects so that they can be considered and appropriately addressed throughout project design and environmental assessment.
- To create an opportunity for the public to comment on these proposed projects.

The results of this consultation will be made available to the province's Environmental Assessment Office.

2. Consultation Design

2.1 Consultation Approach

The consultation on the proposed Finavera Renewables wind energy projects in the South Peace regions of British Columbia was conducted between May 9 and May 16, 2007.

A list of 148 community and business organizations was compiled using community directories, contacts with community groups and Finavera Renewables' existing database.

Small group meetings were organized as follows:

- Organizations and individuals were contacted by e-mail and telephone and invited to participate in the consultation program
- Participants and representatives of organizations were confirmed by e-mail or a telephone call closer to the date

Two open houses were held and advertised through:

- The company website (www.finavera.com)
- Information mailer
- Advertisements in community papers

2.2 Public Information Program

a. Information Mailer

Between March 9 and 16, 2007 an information mailer was sent to over 8,000 residences and businesses in Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek. This mailer provided background on Finavera Renewables and the proposed wind energy projects. It informed the public of upcoming opportunities to participate in Finavera Renewables' consultation program and directed them to look for advertisements in community papers.

b. Advertisements

Advertisements for the open houses were run in the following newspapers:

Newspaper	Publication Date
<i>Peace River Block News</i>	14-Mar-07
<i>The Mirror (Dawson Creek)</i>	16-Mar-07 27-Apr-07
<i>Tumbler Ridge News</i>	14-Mar-07 2-May-07
<i>Coffee Talk Express</i>	14-Mar-07 16-Mar-07 19-Mar-07 7-May-07 9-May-07
<i>Chetwynd Echo</i>	16-Mar-07 4-May-07

2.3 Participation Methods

a. Open Houses

Open houses were held in Chetwynd on May 9 and in Tumbler Ridge on May 15, 2007 between 5 and 8 PM.

At the open houses, display boards were provided that included maps of the proposed sites for the wind energy projects and background on Finavera Renewables and its consultation and technical studies programs. Handouts with the same information as the display boards, as well as about various aspects of wind energy projects, were available. Finavera Renewables' project team (staff and consultants) was present to answer participants' questions and gather comments. Participants were encouraged to add information to the display maps that will be used as the basis for technical and environmental studies, as well as to complete feedback forms before they left.

b. Small Group Stakeholder Meetings

Small group stakeholder meetings were held as follows:

Chetwynd

- May 10, 1-3 PM - business groups
- May 10, 6-8 PM - community groups

Tumbler Ridge

- May 16, 1-3 PM - business groups
- May 16, 6-8 PM - community groups

The small group stakeholder meetings were organized using an informal round-table format. Finavera Renewables' project team was present at all meetings. Each meeting had a facilitator and a note-taker. After introductions, the facilitator provided an overview of the consultation program, the purpose of the meeting and the agenda. Information materials and a feedback form were provided to all participants and Finavera staff briefly reviewed the material provided.

Participants were provided with an opportunity to provide their comments and ask questions, as well as to add information to the display maps. Also, participants were asked to complete a feedback form before they left the meeting.

c. Website

All information and an automated feedback form were available on Finavera Renewables website (www.finavera.com).

d. Phone/Fax and Mail

The public could also provide their feedback by mail or fax, or they could phone in and provide their comments.

2.4 Participation

A total of 77 people participated in the consultation program and 44 returned feedback forms or provided comments through the website.

A total of 14 people attended the Chetwynd open house and 24 people attended the Tumbler Ridge open house, including one member of the media. A total of 34 people participated in the stakeholder meetings and an additional 5 people participated through the Internet.

3. Key Theme Results

3.1 Feedback Forms

The following provides a summary of input by consultation question:

Question 1: In which Finavera Renewables project are you most interested?

	Level of Interest		
	Not At all Interested (#)	Somewhat Interested (#)	Very Interested (#)
Wildmare	5	6	24
Bullmoose	0	11	28
Tumbler Ridge	1	14	26
Mount Clifford	0	15	20

Question 2: Which factors most influence your opinion about wind energy?

	Level of Influence			
	Negatively Influences My Opinion (#)	No Effect on My Opinion (#)	Positively Influences My Opinion (#)	Positive or No Effect (%)
Green energy source	1	1	42	98%
Effect on vegetation, wildlife, watercourses, fish	14	6	21	66%
Road access to sites	9	18	15	79%
BC's energy self-sufficiency	2	3	39	95%
Noise	9	20	13	79%
Tourism opportunities	3	20	18	93%
Effects on recreation	7	14	19	83%
New job opportunities	0	10	33	100%
Visual effect	9	24	10	79%
Other (specify)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation positively influences my opinion • Noise impact on wildlife • Road access on caribou • Migratory birds • Cumulative effect on environment of more wind projects 			

Question 3: Support for Wind Energy as an Alternate Energy Source in British Columbia

Please rate your support for the following element:	Level of Agreement				
	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Support for Wind Energy as an Alternate Energy Source in British Columbia	0%	2%	5%	21%	72%

Question 4: Do you have any additional questions about wind energy?

- Honest discussion.
- No questions BUT a suggestion incorporate "kitchen table" meetings with all residents nearest the turbines. Many of these people fall through the cracks.
- No. My concern is that there are too many projects coming on stream. Would prefer that a project would be located away from populated areas.
- Why aren't there more turbines in rivers like in New York?
- Potential of debris on blades and cleaning. If cleaned by water, (how) changes of ice build up on blades?
- Not at present. I will review literature and info provided (websites).
- What are the effects on wildlife bear elk caribou etc.?
- What is the construction phase impact on Tumbler Ridge, number of people involved? What are the impacts during the operation phase - traffic to each site for service?
- How to mitigate impact on wildlife - caribou - fire control - for wildfires - how to protect lines of sight from town.
- Studies on noise impact on wildlife.
- What percentage of homes could be served by the wind turbines energy output?

Question 5: Do you have any additional questions about Finavera Renewables?

- I would be interested in the details around wildlife and vegetation surveys including design, analyses and results.
- How will local people be involved in the project? In other words what job positions do you have open on a long-term basis?
- No – quite well explained, interested however in ongoing project (near Chetwynd).
- Correct map for District of Chetwynd boundary. Chetwynd community forest proposal east of Wildmare Creek – if forest tenure granted, need to coordinate roads.
- Please ensure citizens of Tumbler Ridge have MANY public opportunities to engage in this process.
- Will ask via e-mail.
- What involvement the town council can have to help develop or promote these projects? Also interested in purchasing power directly from the project for the town.

- Already covered in discussions with [Finavera representatives]:
 - 1) maintain access to hiking destinations, e.g., Mt. Spieker, Mt. Clifford
 - 2) Ensure road and power line access does not interfere with trail system, e.g., Bergeron Falls
 - 3) concern re Golden eagles during migration - ensure adequate research is done and the results communicated.
- Affect on wildlife and recreation areas – major concern.
- Local contractor used in construction where possible is absolutely necessary.
- Would be interested in projects in Alberta.
- Support / contracts for local operators – joint venture opportunities for District of Tumbler Ridge.
- Hopefully you will be hiring local companies/contractors for construction & maintenance.
- Interest in supplying medical and safety services during construction.

Question 6: How would you like to be kept informed?

	#	%
E-mail	35	64%
By householder mailer	6	11%
Community paper	3	5%
Web site	3	5%
Open House/Meeting	8	15%

Question 7: Near which community do you live?

	#	%
Chetwynd	11	25%
Tumbler Ridge	23	52%
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancouver • Toors Lake • Prince George • Dawson Creek (2) 	5	11%
No response	5	11%

3.2 Small Group Stakeholder Meetings and Open Houses - Key Themes

The following are the key themes of comments provided in the consultation meetings:

1. Participants said they appreciated the Finavera Renewables consultation strategy and the fact that Finavera Renewables was bringing information to the community so early in the process.
2. Participants supported the proposed projects and wind energy in general.
3. Participants said they were looking forward to further project design information.
4. Participants had a number of questions about the technical aspects of the project, including:
 - How big are the turbines?
 - How long does the project last?
 - How are the transmission cables connected?
 - Where will the turbines will be located and will they be seen from town?
5. Some participants asked about a setback between private land and the proposed turbine areas (the Peace River Regional District recently proposed a 1.6 kilometre setback).
6. Participants expressed some concern about the impact of turbine operation on migratory birds, bats and eagles.
7. Participants expressed concern about the impacts of road access to turbine sites on caribou and recreational trails.
8. Participants had questions about the environmental assessment review process.
9. Participants inquired as to what companies are involved in the studies and project development, including what opportunities there would be for local businesses.
10. Participants provided input to the study maps, including corrections and additions to data such as location of power lines and recreational trails as well as fish presence in various streams.