

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Generators

#9



COMPLETE

Collector: Follow Up #2 (Email)

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Q1: What is the name of the project?

Spion Kop

Q2: When did ...

... construction of the project begin? 03/20/2012,

... the project begin operating? 12/01/2012

Q3: Did Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard, enacted in 2005, contribute to your decision to build?

Yes,

Please provide details of why it did or did not.
NorthWestern Energy is obligated under Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard to purchase output from eligible renewable projects.

Q4: What was the project investment (in \$ dollars)?

\$83,900,949

Q5: How many Montana contractors or subcontractors were hired during construction?

22

Q6: Please list the contractors and subcontractors

- Dick Anderson Construction
- DJ& A
- Annala Fencing
- Oswald construction
- Paradise Fencing
- Riley 4 Securities
- Schellinger Construction
- Terracon
- Tetra Tech
- Asplund Enterprises
- Boland Construction
- Fire Guys
- Contract Flooring
- Windy City Excavation
- United Materials
- Christmas Roofing
- Klinefelters Insulation
- Lonesome Dove
- MacDonald Heating and Cooling
- Mountain West Steel
- United electric
- Summit Plumbing

Q7: How many people were employed in Montana during construction?

790 MT residents were employed during construction

Q8: What were the average earnings per job?

\$33.17

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Q9: How many full-time permanent jobs has the project created in Montana and what are the average earnings per job?

5 @ approximately \$75,000 annually

Q10: How many Montana or local vendors are utilized in support of the project?

approximately 10

Q11: In general, can you describe how those vendors are utilized?

Local vendors are used for services typical for a commercial operation and include for example; trash removal, weed control, road maintenance, rodent control, and bottled water services.

Q12: How much in Montana property taxes (15-6-157, MCA) have been paid for the project in:

Year 1 of construction or operation?	255684
Year 2 of construction or operation?	0
Year 3 of construction or operation?	0
Year 4 of construction or operation?	0
Year 5 of construction or operation?	0
Year 6 of construction or operation?	0

Q13: Is the project currently receiving a state (Montana) or federal tax abatement?

Yes

Q14: What is the abatement?

Montana New or Expanding Industry (15-24-1402 MCA)

Q15: When will the tax abatement expire?

Enter a date: 12/31/2021

Q16: What are the estimated property taxes following expiration of the abatement?

400,000.00

Q17: How much in local property taxes (15-6-157, MCA) have been paid in Montana, and in what county, for the project in:

Year 1 of construction or operation? 255,684.11, Judith Basin

Q18: What was the amount of business equipment taxes (15-6-138, MCA) paid in Montana conjunction with the project in:

Year 1 of construction or operation? 0

Q19: Is the project subject to Montana's wholesale energy transaction tax (15-72-104, MCA)?

No

Q20: If yes, what was the amount paid in:

Year 1 of operation? \$0

Q21: Is the project subject to Montana's electrical energy producers tax (15-51-101 MCA)?

Yes

Q22: If yes, what was the amount paid in:

Year 1 of operation? \$33,288

Q23: Has the project paid or will the project in the future pay facility impact fees for local governmental units and school districts in Montana (15-24-3004, MCA and 15-24-3005, MCA)?

Yes

Q24: If so -

To what government entity?	Judith Basin County
How much in year 1?	209753
How much in year 2?	104876
How much in year 3?	104876

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Q25: In general terms how much is paid for land leases in Montana needed for the project?

Approximately \$200,000 annually.

Q26: How much is paid for Montana state land leases?

\$0

Q27: Are there additional taxes paid in Montana in conjunction with the project that you feel the committee should include in its analysis?

Yes,

Please list those taxes and the year and amount paid
Montana Consumer Counsel Tax & Montana Public Service Commission Tax totaling approximately \$40,000 annually.

Q28: Have community donations or additional financial contributions been made in the Montana community where the project is located?

Yes,

If yes, please list.
\$10,000 donated to the Geysers school for purchase of iPads

Q29: Please provide any additional thoughts on how the project has contributed to Montana or your local economy?

Respondent skipped this question

Q30: Has Montana's renewable energy standard assisted in leveraging Montana's competitive advantage in developing new electric transmission?

No,

Please elaborate on why or why not?
From a transmission providers perspective, the RPS itself does not seem to have promoted the development of new electric transmission. The RPS standard does seem to have resulted in more use of the existing transmission system in certain areas and also in direct interconnection facilities for projects striving to be part of the RPS solution. However, at this point larger scale transmission additions have not occurred as a result of the RPS

Q31: Please provide any additional thoughts on Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard

Respondent skipped this question

Q32: FINAL SUBMISSION: All questions are complete and this survey is ready for submission (select no if you wish to return and complete this survey later).

Yes