

BEKEVAR

WIND FACILITY POWER LINE PROJECT



 **SaskPower**
Powering our future[®]



ABOUT THE PROJECT

We're bringing more renewable energy to Saskatchewan! In June 2021, SaskPower announced the 200-megawatt (MW) Bekevar Wind Facility that will be built north of Moose Mountain Provincial Park in the rural municipality (RM) of Hazelwood.

Innagreen Investments in partnership with Cowessess First Nation, will build, own, manage and sell electricity generated from the wind facility back to SaskPower.

Construction of the new wind farm began in the summer of 2023 and is expected to be complete by the end of 2024. When finished, the facility will power 100,000 homes on average.

WHY IT'S NEEDED

SaskPower's goal is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 50% from 2005 levels by 2030. Wind power does not emit GHG, meaning this project gets us closer to our goal.

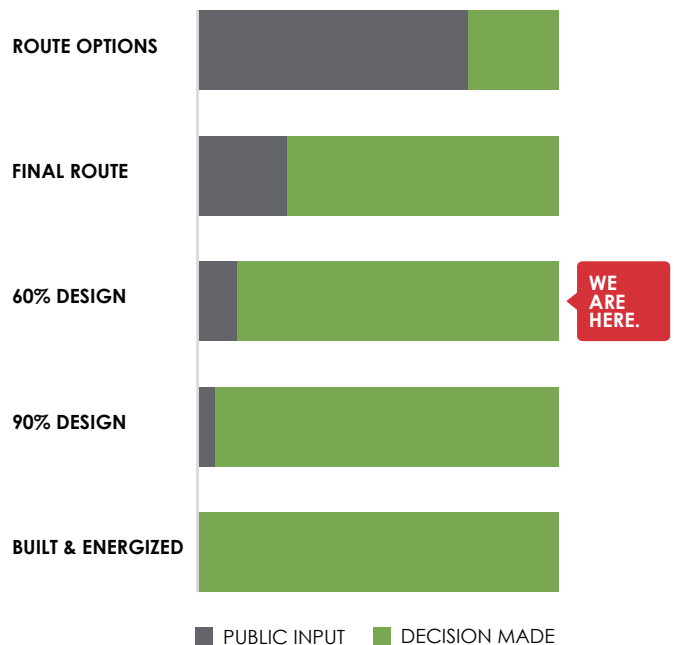
MAKING THE POWER AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMERS

SaskPower needs to build a new 230-kilovolt (kV) single circuit transmission line to bring the power from the wind facility to our customers. The line will be about 10 kilometres long and will be strung on steel H-frame (i.e., two-pole) structures connecting the Bekevar Wind Facility to our Kennedy Switching Station. Between the start and end points of the line, there would be about 40 to 45 structures total. Three-pole deflection structures with anchors will also be used where the line turns direction.

Construction of the new line will begin in the fall of 2023 and finish before the end of 2024

HOW WE USED YOUR FEEDBACK

Your inputs are an important part of our power line routing process. In October 2021, we met with landowners and other stakeholders to discuss route options. Thank you to all who gave their time and shared their feedback including concerns and questions about impacts to agricultural operations, residences and the environment. After evaluating all the route options, the preferred route stood out as having the least impacts overall. See map for more details.



WHAT'S NEXT?

We're contacting landowners impacted by the preferred route with additional information. We're also following up with them through phone calls to see if they have any questions or other concerns.

Before construction begins, SaskPower will reach out to impacted landowners to discuss easement and compensation for areas taken out of agricultural production.

WHAT ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT?

At SaskPower, we recognize that what we do today impacts our future. We're always working hard to reduce our impact and protect the environment. This means staying on top of our environmental practices at all stages of our work. As we plan projects, we use various tools like databases, satellite imagery and field surveys to understand the environment. As projects move forward, we'll make sure all protection standards are in place.

Ahead of construction work, we'll develop a plan to mitigate or avoid impacts to rare and endangered species and their habitats, and any sensitive landscape features or heritage resources. We'll follow all applicable provincial environment assessment and approval processes.

IS WIND POWER GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

The lifecycle (fabrication, installation, etc.) of a wind turbine produces fewer GHG emissions than the lifecycle of power plants that use coal or natural gas – though solar, hydro, and nuclear have low lifecycle GHG emissions too.

When a wind turbine reaches the end of its life, producers must:

- meet decommissioning and remediation requirements in Saskatchewan
- meet landfill bylaws
- meet landowner lease agreements

Wind towers and blades also have potential salvage value, and recycling turbine blades is another emerging sector.

Independent Power Producers are required to follow the *Wildlife Siting Guidelines for Saskatchewan Wind Energy Projects* and the *Adaptive Management Guidelines for Saskatchewan Wind Energy Projects* to avoid zones where wind projects are considered higher risk to wildlife populations or natural lands, or could conflict with areas like provincial parks, conservation easements, etc.

WHAT ABOUT LAND RIGHTS?

Landowners play a major role in bringing power to our homes and businesses. If the power line ends up on your land, we'll work with you to secure an easement. That's an agreement between SaskPower and the landowner for a right-of-way.

The right-of-way is needed to ensure safety for construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line. It is important to ensure proper clearance is maintained around our power lines.

TRANSMISSION LINE SCHEDULE

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Initial Consultation: | Completed |
| • Follow-up Consultation: | Completed |
| • Engineering / Design Complete: | Fall 2022 |
| • Easement / Permitting Complete: | Winter 2022/23 |
| • Construction Start: | Fall 2023 |
| • Construction Complete / Power-up: | Fall 2024 |

PLANNING SASKATCHEWAN'S ENERGY FUTURE

Our company is facing big decisions when it comes to our future. To reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and meet federal regulations, SaskPower will be retiring about 1,300 megawatts (MW) of conventional coal by 2030. This generation needs to be replaced by lower- or non-emitting power sources. SaskPower is working on three additional wind projects that will bring a total of 585 MW of emissions-free power online in coming years. We're also evaluating the full range of low or non-emitting power sources, including wind, solar, nuclear power from small modular reactors, geothermal, interconnections with other jurisdictions, energy storage and more. Learn more at saskpower.com/futuresupply.

THINGS WE CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING A PROJECT



ENVIRONMENT:

We consider many factors like land cover, wetlands, waterbodies, and potential archaeology, as well as potential impact on rare and endangered plants and animals and their habitats. When avoidance isn't possible, we will work with stakeholders and regulators to find the most responsible way to offset or mitigate impacts. We follow Environmental Beneficial Management Practices.



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE:

We engage Indigenous communities to seek invaluable knowledge. Local and Indigenous knowledge refers to the understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings like hunting, fishing, trapping, ceremonial and spiritual uses.



LAND USE:

We recognize that land and resource use is important to agricultural operations, property owners, communities and resource users like hunters and trappers, commercial operators, nature, environmental organizations and the public. We consider how resources or access to resources may be affected as well as community land use plans and proximity to communities, residences, habitable buildings, outbuildings.



SOCIAL:

We consider the social value communities place on landscapes, points of interest, economic benefits to local communities, job opportunities and recreation activities.



TECHNICAL:

We consider engineering and construction standards as well as access, terrain, design, system reliability, proximity to required and other existing infrastructure. SaskPower is committed to ensuring public safety and safe access for construction and maintenance activities.



COST:

We consider capital costs (project budget), operating budget (long term maintenance), land acquisition costs and impact on power rates.