

Building It The Right Way: Siting A Wind Farm

How Do Wind Developers Decide Where To Build New Projects?

- While wind resource availability is the most significant factor when siting a wind farm, developers consider multiple factors like community support, landowner partners, wildlife and environmental impacts, and access to transmission.
- Developers must also secure proper permits from all levels of government, from local to federal permits.
- The U.S. wind industry works hard to ensure that communities hosting wind farms have positive experiences with minimal disruption.

National Security Interests Are Rigorously Evaluated - The Department Of Defense (DoD) And Other Federal Agencies Review Wind Projects Prior To Construction

- The Department of Defense (DoD) has a robust review process to ensure wind farms don't impact military base operations.
- No wind project has ever been built over DoD objections.
- Developers must submit an application to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a review prior to construction. Project applications submitted to the FAA are automatically assigned to the DoD Siting Clearinghouse for review.
- The DoD review process includes detailed, site and mission-specific analysis, and the opportunity for local base commanders to provide input.
- If the DoD identifies a concern, project developers work with DoD to provide solutions, including changes to project like moving or reducing the number of turbines. In some cases wind companies have also paid for radar upgrades to mitigate potential impacts. According the DoD, discussions with the developers "have been a very effective means to mitigate potential impacts with minimal resources."
- As of 2016, the DoD has only formally objected to one project; the project was indefinitely suspended.
- At least five Texas wind projects have worked with the DoD formally to mitigate concerns, including payments to add or modify radars.

Existing Texas Policy, Leaving Control To Local Governments, Is Effective And Should Not Be Altered

- Texas is by far the nation's wind energy leader, producing more than the next three states combined.
- The wind industry supports more than 24,000 jobs in Texas and has provided \$42 billion in capital investment. Added revenue from wind helps local communities improve schools, fix roads and fund law enforcement. It's also a drought-proof cash crop for Texas farmers and ranchers, as landowners with turbines on their property were paid over \$60 million in lease payments in 2017 alone.
- This success story is the result of decades of conservative policy from leaders like Govs. George W. Bush and Rick Perry.