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## GEO Named to DOE Wind Energy Regional Resource Center Team

Recent years have seen major growth in wind energy, and deployment projections indicate this trend will continue for all parts of the wind industry, from small distributed and community wind projects to massive land-based and offshore utility-scale facilities. Record numbers of Americans see wind energy as an important contributor to a secure and clean energy portfolio, and thousands of decisions are made every year at the household, local, state, and regional levels about wind energy development.

To help ensure that these decisions are made based on the most up-to-date information, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced six Wind Energy Regional Resource Centers, selected through a competitive process administered by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). The resource centers and their operators are:

- Northeast Wind Resource Center, operated by the Clean Energy Group and Sustainable Energy Advantage
- America's Islanded Grids Resource Center, operated by the Renewable Energy Alaska Project and Island Institute and covering islanded communities across the United States and U.S. Territories
- Northwest Wind Resource and Action Center, operated by Renewable Northwest Project
- Southeast Regional Resource Center for Wind Energy, operated by the Southeastern Coastal Wind Coalition

- Four Corners Wind Resource Center, operated by the Utah Clean Energy Alliance
- Midwest and Prairie Regional Wind Resource Center, operated by Windustry.

Working closely with DOE and NREL's broader outreach and education programs, these Regional Resource Centers will:

- Provide accurate, impartial information about challenges facing wind deployment in their regions to aid in efforts to overcome or mitigate these challenges
- Use best practices in education and outreach to deliver this information to create an educated stakeholder community
- Work with decision-makers to ensure they have the tools to make informed decisions about wind energy projects and related policies in their jurisdictions.

Green Energy Ohio is a partner organization of the Midwest and Prairie Regional Wind Resource Center, led by Windustry. The Center will focus on a 10-state region: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The following organizations have been identified as partners, thus far:

- Iowa Wind Energy Association
- Montana State Energy Office
- Renew Wisconsin
- South Dakota Renewable Energy Association
- Energy & Environmental Research Center (North Dakota)

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## OPSB Approves Scioto Ridge Wind Farm Project

The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) authorized Hardin Wind, LLC to construct the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm on March 17, 2014. The facility will consist of up to 176 wind turbines and associated electric transmission facilities in Hardin and Logan counties.

Hardin Wind, a wholly-owned subsidiary of EverPower Wind Holdings, Inc., will construct the Scioto Ridge project across 17,000 acres of leased private land in Lynn, McDonald, Roundhead, and Taylor Creek townships in Hardin County and Richland and Rushcreek townships in Logan County. The wind farm is associated with two additional OPSB cases that entail the construction of a 4.8 mile long 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and a 345 kV substation in McDonald Township.

The Scioto Ridge Wind Farm will have a nameplate capacity of up to 300 megawatts of electric generation. The project will include up to 60 miles of access roads, 83 miles of underground electric collection lines, and four meteorological towers in addition to the turbine structures and electric transmission facilities.

Hardin Wind filed its applications for the wind farm and the associated substation and transmission line on June 28 and

Sept. 30, 2013. At a local public hearing held by the OPSB on Jan. 8, 2014 in Kenton, Ohio, 22 area stakeholders testified regarding the three siting cases.

The OPSB's order subjects the combined projects to 28 conditions that Hardin Wind must implement and follow to ensure the sound construction and safe operation of the wind farm, substation, and transmission facilities, and to mitigate impacts to area residents and ecological resources.

"We've done host of different studies evaluating the project as a part of the state's rigorous siting process," says Jason Dagger, Project Manager at Everpower Wind Holdings, Inc. "There also exists several commitments that the project will be beholden to during both pre-construction and post construction in order to maintain the certificate."

As with other wind energy development, the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm boasts economic benefits to the state, including; \$2.7 million in annual payments in lieu of taxes, \$2 million in annual landowner payments, and eight to fourteen permanent jobs.

*-Source: OPSB & Everpower Wind Holdings, Inc.*