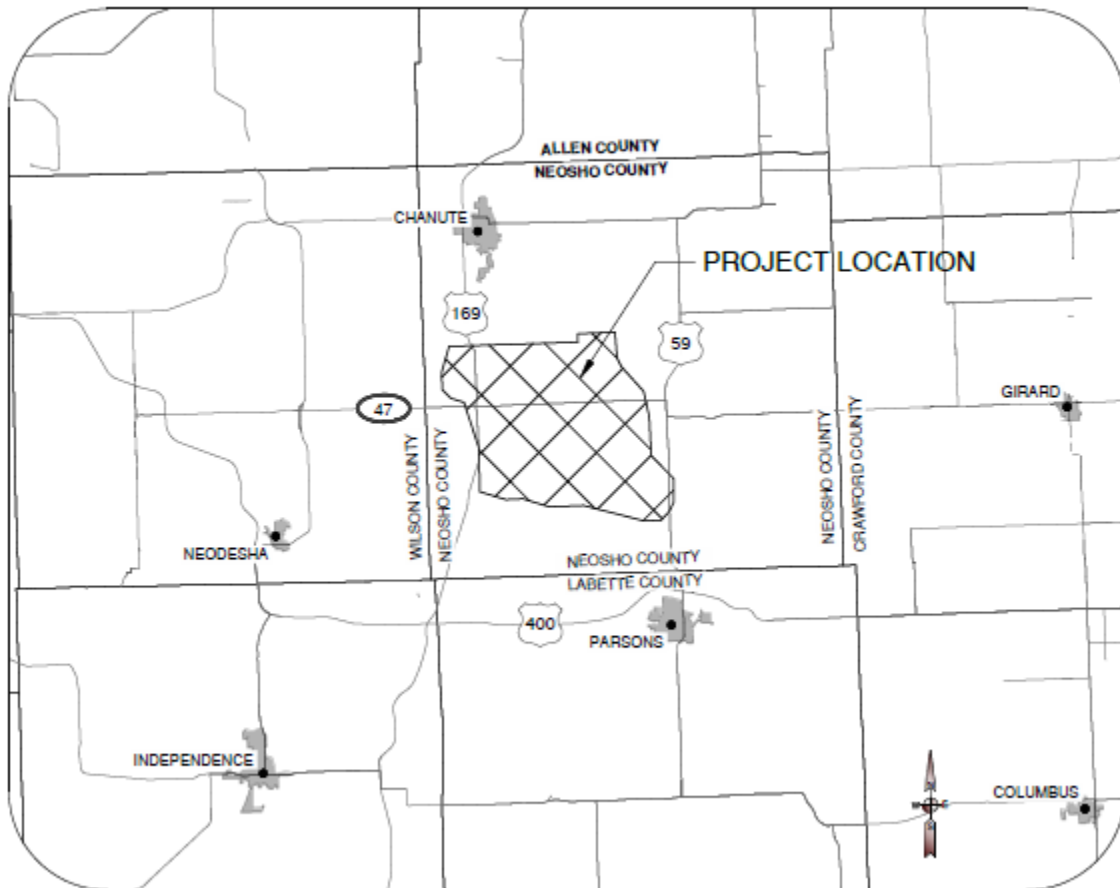


# Neosho Ridge Wind Project

*Neosho County, Kansas*



*Project Progress Report No. 16*

*November 2020*

**\*HC\* Indicates Highly Confidential \*HC\***

**\*\* Indicates Confidential \*\***



*Liberty Utilities – Empire District  
602 S. Joplin Ave.  
Joplin, MO 64802*

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*November 2020*

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## 1.0 Summary

From a development perspective, the majority of the activities have been completed and all that remains is a minor construction related permit with Neosho County. All major engineering design disciplines have been Issued for Construction (IFC).

Related to interconnection, the project has notified the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) of its election to proceed to Phase II of the DISIS and has submitted all of the necessary documentation required to proceed.

Construction on-site continues, see below for a high-level summary of the major activities that occurred during this reporting period:

- Public road culvert improvements as well as public road intersection improvements continued
- Crane pad construction was completed.
- Turbine component deliveries were completed.
- Turbine erection continued.
- Termination of collection system and installation of fiber optic cable continued.
- Installation of the SCADA system is nearly complete.
- Substation along with three circuits have been energized. Crews continue to test collection system circuits to prepare for energization.
- Vestas continued commissioning activities.
- Reclamation work continued turbine foundations, collection system, and public and access roads.

## 2.0 Safety

There were 6 incidents to report for this period:

- Vehicle – crew member struck an elk on the highway while driving back from R&R.
- Vehicle – crew members truck was stuck resulting in rear bumper damage.
- Vehicle - crew member struck a deer. The front bumper and driver side front door was damaged
- Property – crew member was pulling 5th wheel when it came unhooked causing damage to tailgate.
- Property - vehicle struck water valve curb stop on radius of Kiowa and 130th Rd. Rural water district was notified and corrections made.
- Property – main crane was swinging around to drop rigging to the ground when cable spool contacted nose cone of the hub of a turbine resulting in damage.

	Lost Time	Recordable	First Aid	Property Damage	Near Miss	Vehicle Incidents	Totals
This Period	0	0	0	3	0	3	6
Cumulative	0	0	13	69	2	19	103

### 3.0 Commercial Activities

#### 3.1 Purchase and Sale Agreement

Contractual milestones achieved during the report period are as follows:

- *Seller:*
  - Nothing to report
- *Purchaser:*
  - Nothing to report

Contractual milestones to be achieved in the next report period as follows:

- *Seller:*
  - Nothing to report
- *Purchaser:*
  - Nothing to report

#### 3.2 Turbine Supply Agreement and Service and Maintenance Agreement

During this reporting period, Vestas submitted to the project Excusable Event No.26 and Excusable Event No.27 under the Turbine Supply Agreement (TSA) which is provided in Appendix A. Please note, Excusable Event No. 24 and Excusable Event No. 25 had not been received during this reporting period. To date, Vestas has submitted to the project 24 Excusable Event Notices under the TSA and 1 Force Majeure Notice under the Service and Maintenance Agreement.

A notice of supplier non-conformance was submitted to Vestas by the project in reference to Supplier-caused delays in deliveries of lifting and rigging tools, V110 components delivered out of sequence, and dented tower tops, for the Neosho Ridge Wind Project. The notice of supplier non-conformance has been included in Appendix A.

At the time of this reporting period the final impact to the project cost and schedule as it relates to the Vestas Excusable Event submissions and submissions of supplier non-conformance by the project is unknown. Further details will be provided in subsequent reports.

### 3.3 Engineering, Procurement and Construction Agreement

There were no new Notices submitted by IEA to the project under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement during this reporting period. To date IEA has submitted 6 Notices under the EPC Agreement to the project.

IEA submitted a notice of potential builder's risk claim on the Builders Risk policy related to an incident at T-045 whereby high winds caused the turbine to oscillate during the erection process and dislodged tools and hardware located in the top tower section which resulted in damage to the internal components of this tower section. The claim is currently under review by the carriers of the Builders Risk policy and the extent of the damage from a cost perspective has yet to be finalized. The repair of the turbine tower section is being performed by Vestas and is expected to be complete in early 2021. The notice of potential builder's risk claim has been included in Appendix A.

Change Order #4 was executed during this reporting period and has been included in this report as Appendix B. Change Order #4 involves the construction delay costs and schedule relief granted to IEA as a result of the turbine tooling, equipment, and component delivery delays by Vestas from 06.14.20 through to the new anticipated Mechanical Completion Date of January 4, 2021 per Change Order #4. Change Order #4 has been included as Appendix B.

At the time of this reporting period the final impact to the project cost and schedule due to turbine tooling, equipment, and component delivery delays is unknown. Further details will be provided in subsequent reports as necessary.

### 3.4 Interim Generator Interconnection Agreement

The project has elected to proceed to DISIS Phase II. The necessary documents required to submit to SPP to move to Phase II has been included as Appendix C and are as follows:

- 1) Neosho - DISIS Phase II Letter (Executed-Combined)
- 2) Security Agreement (Executed)
- 3) Supporting Documentation
  - a. Attachment A to Appendix 1\_GIP\_052720
  - b. Appendix 3A to GIP Attachment A Form\_030920
  - c. Memorandum\_GEN-2017-009-TurbineChangemodification\_jwl
  - d. GEN-2017-009\_ Notice to Proceed with Turbine Change Modification (Email)
  - e. NEO\_Cable\_Z\_Calculation\_Collection 2020-04-29
  - f. NEO-COL-IMP-R1
  - g. NEO-One Lines\_2\_13\_20

## 4.0 Development Activities

Development activities for the period were minimal and a largely complete.

IEA has completed the installation of the collection system and therefore all activities related to relocating any underground infrastructure from local utilities should now be complete.

IEA continues to work towards obtaining all permits necessary to facilitate construction and is nearly complete. The project worked with Neosho County to add Additional roads to the Road Use and Maintenance Agreement in order to facilities deliveries of turbines component to two turbine locations in the north west portion of the project area. The final agreement will be provided in subsequent reports once finalized.

## 5.0 Construction Activities

Construction activities during the report period largely consisted of engineering and site work.

All engineering designs have now been issued for construction (IFC), however various engineering studies are on-going and nearly complete.

IEA continues construction on-site. The following provides an update on construction activities during this report period as well as the progress status of major activities:

- Public road culvert improvements as well as public road intersection improvements continued and are nearing completion.
- Crane pad construction was completed.
- Turbine component deliveries were completed.
- Turbine erection is on-going. IEA continue to submit mechanical completion certificates.
- Termination of collection system and installation of fiber optic cable continues.
- Installation of the SCADA system is nearly complete.
- Substation along with three circuits have been energized. Crews continue to test collection system circuits to prepare for energization.
- Vestas continued commissioning activities.
- Reclamation work is on-going for turbine foundations, collection system, and public and access roads.
- **WTG Access Roads**
  - Stripping: 195,360' of 195,360' = 100%
  - Cement Stabilized: 195,360' of 195,360' = 100%
  - Stoned: 195,360' of 195,360' = 100%

- **Turbine Foundations**
  - Sites Stripped: 139 of 139 = 100%
  - Excavated: 139 of 139 = 100%
  - Mud Mats: 139 of 139 = 100%
  - Rebar Installation 139 of 139 = 100%
  - Poured: 139 of 139 = 100%
  - Backfilled: 139 of 139 = 100%
  - Crane Pads Installed 139 of 139 = 100%
  
- **Offload/Erection**
  - Full Turbines Received: 139 of 139 = 100%
  - Full Turbines Erected: 85 of 139 = 61%
  - Tower's Wired 66 of 139 = 47%
  - Mechanical Completion Certificates 34 of 139 = 25%
  
- **Collection**
  - Cable Installed 592,615 of 592,615 = 100%
  - Terminations Installed 134 of 179 = 75%
  - Testing 7 of 14 = 50%
  
- **Substation**
  - Foundation 100%
  - Underground Electrical 100%
  - Steel And Equipment 100%
  - Switches 100%
  
- **Transmission Line**
  - Clearing 44,880 of 44,880' = 100%
  - Stage Poles and Materials 66 of 66 = 100%
  - Assemble Poles 66 of 66 = 100%
  - Set Poles 66 of 66 = 100%
  - 795 Conductor 198 of 198 = 100%
  - OPGW 66 of 66 = 100%
  
- **Commissioning**
  - Pre-Commissioning 9 of 139 = 6%
  - Commissioning Completion Certificates 11 of 139 = 8%

Vestas crews are on-site and have completed the coordination of turbine deliveries, inspections, and offloads with IEA. Crews continue to participate in turbine walkdowns and review of mechanical completion certificates (MCCs) that have been submitted by IEA; as of this reporting period, 34 turbines have achieved mechanical completion. Vestas has initiated commissioning activities and completed 11 turbines to date.

Construction of the O&M building continues on-site. Miller-Tippens continues with interior framing, electrical and HVAC activities. The O&M Building is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

For further details related to construction activities and the construction schedule, please refer to the Construction Management Monthly Progress Report from the Construction Manager, APEX Wind Construction, LLC which is included as Appendix D.



## 6.0 Project Cost Report

Project expenditures to date are \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*, plus \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* of recorded commitments, plus \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* of construction loan disbursements of the total budgeted expenditure of \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*. Empire has recorded commitments under US GAAP on the basis of milestones achieved by Neosho JV payable at closing. See the next page for a report detailing expenses by budget category. \*\* \_\_\_\_\_

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Neosho Ridge *HC*Highly Confidential in its Entirety*HC*					

## 7.0 Progress Photos



Blade Installation



Main Crane



Control Building Interior



Junction Box



Access Road