

## STONY CREEK WIND FARM SOMERSET COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

WHM Consulting, Inc. (WHM) was retained by E.ON, the world's largest investor-owned energy service provider, to provide the skills required to move forward with environmental sensitivity. The project involved extensive site investigation and the design, permitting and installation of 35 wind turbines, each sized at 1.5 megawatts, on 3,000 acres of reclaimed and forested land along the Allegheny Plateau of southwestern Pennsylvania.

WHM provided an environmental evaluation of the lands to be utilized for this project. This inventory included assessment not only of water resources, endangered species and the turbine pad placement areas, but the special roadways needed to move materials to the mountaintops. Wetland delineations were performed by WHM on a total of 1500 acres and 1.85 miles of transmission line, taking 20 field crew days to complete. WHM coordinated three onsite meetings with agency representatives from the USACE and PaDEP for field verification of wetland boundaries. Based on our assessment, the required road designs were routed to minimize wetland and other adverse environmental impacts, thus minimizing permitting issues.

WHM prepared a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Joint Permit application for the Project, including PNDI (Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory) Coordination, Environmental Assessment, Cultural Resources Notice, an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, and an analysis of alternatives to the proposed activities including potential alternate locations, routings, designs, etc., that show avoidance and minimization of environmental impacts.

WHM teamed with Blazosky Associates, Inc. (BAI) to design sediment and erosion control facilities to minimize water quality impacts associated with project construction and soil washouts along these steep inclines. Such designs, by necessity, utilized ABACT (Anti-degradation Best Available Combination of Technologies) best management practices. All aspects of the project design were required to meet various regulatory requirements, as well as to stand up to public scrutiny. The WHM/BAI Team worked closely with several regulatory agencies to meet their specific design preferences in order to facilitate approval of an NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit. Prior experience with large-scale, environmentally and publically sensitive projects gave us the edge in properly managing this permitting project.

BAI continued to work with E.ON during construction to assure the proper implementation of the design and thereby prevent erosion/sedimentation concerns and violations.

Each 1.5MW wind turbine can produce enough energy to power approximately 332 homes for one year. Therefore, once constructed, the Stony Creek Wind Farm can potentially yield enough electricity to meet the needs of approximately 11,620 homes, without consuming valuable non-renewable resources. We are proud of our role in this project and the goals to which we aspire. We continue to work with E.ON on other wind farm and alternative-energy projects, which are in the mainstream of public consciousness.

