

ZED Clean Energy Project Referral Details

The province of British Columbia has received four applications to utilize Crown land for the purpose of wind power generation.

Two projects are proposed in the Pennask Creek area (Pennask and Westbank) and two in the Shinish Creek area (Shinish and Summerland). Each project would consist of 7 turbine generators, a meteorological tower and transmission lines; one substation and operations and maintenance building would serve all four projects and is proposed within Pennask project.

Each project has a 14-15 MW capacity; this is below 50MW threshold for energy projects, therefore environmental assessment is not required. This stage of the wind power project involves the construction, testing and operation of turbine towers and all associated structures and improvements, such as transmission lines and roads.

The applicant hired several consultants/qualified professionals to aid them in completing development plans. They are Golder Associates (Aquatic and Terrestrial Environment Assessments, Archaeological Assessment and Socio-Economic Assessment), Cornerstone Planning Group (First Nations consultation), and Hatch (Engineering). If the projects were approved, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) would issue general area Licenses of Occupation (GLOOs) under the *Land Act*. These would later be converted into short-term Licenses of Occupation for each project component to allow ZED to construct the projects. After construction is completed and areas surveyed as appropriate, FLNRO would issue long-term tenures in the form of leases, statutory right of ways or licenses of occupation with terms matching the terms of the Electricity Purchasing Agreements with BC Hydro. The long-term tenures would allow the operation and maintenance of the wind farms. Consultation is focused on the general area License of Occupation (GLOO) area. No further consultation will be conducted after the decision is made, as the GLOO represents the maximum possible area of impact; the final long-term tenures represent the minimum area. Subsections 1.3 and 1.4 of development plans list the potential tenures required.