

Board of County Commissioners
BACA COUNTY
741 Main Street Springfield, CO 81073
Telephone: (719) 523-6532 ~ Fax: (719) 523-6584

Glen R. Ausmus, Two Buttes
District I

Troy Crane, Pritchett
District III

Peter L. Dawson, Campo
District II
May 9, 2007

Kristin Rau
Administrator

Shane Gutierrez
Excel Energy

To Whom It May Concern:

The intent of SB 100 is to create energy resource zones in Colorado based on energy RESOURCE potential in these zones...not based on existing interconnection requests. Identifying resource zones by number of interconnection requests on file is not fair to potential zones, such as Baca County, where the resources are potentially vast, but where existing transmission has not been sufficient to warrant filing interconnection requests. This perpetuates the "chicken and egg" problem that SB 100 was designed to fix. Regardless of the merits of the Eastern Plains Transmissions Project, it is unfair to wait on this project, which may or may not be built, when southeastern Colorado needs significant transmission upgrades based on the demonstrated viability of our wind energy resources. Baca County's one wind turbine, in Springfield, typically operates with a capacity factor of well over 40%. There are also approximately 21 anemometers currently yielding data in the county. We estimate +/- 300,000 acres that are currently leased for potential wind energy development. The following wind developers are pursuing interests in Baca County :

- 1) A.E.S.
- 2) R.E.S.
- 3) Horizon
- 4) Baca Green
- 5) Western Airnergy Partners
- 6) Eurus
- 7) PPM Energy
- 8) Iberdola Renewable Energy

With sufficient transmission, many thousands of megawatts of wind energy could be built in Baca County, providing affordable electricity for all of Xcel Energy's customers. We understand the short timeframe between now and the October 31 filing deadline. However, Baca County's transmission constraints are, and have long been, well known to Xcel Energy and the PUC. This short timeframe should not be a reason to ignore Baca County during this year's energy resource zone filing to the PUC. Along with one of the state's best wind resources, Baca County is sparsely populated, and its residents want to see wind development. This county, and all of southeastern Colorado, is not "NIMBY" territory.

Sincerely,

Glen R. Ausmus, Chairman
Baca County Commissioners

Troy Crane, Commissioner
Baca County District 3

Peter L. Dawson, Commissioner
Baca County District 2