

WIND DECOMMISSIONING AND BONDING





Wind Bonding and Decommissioning Requirements

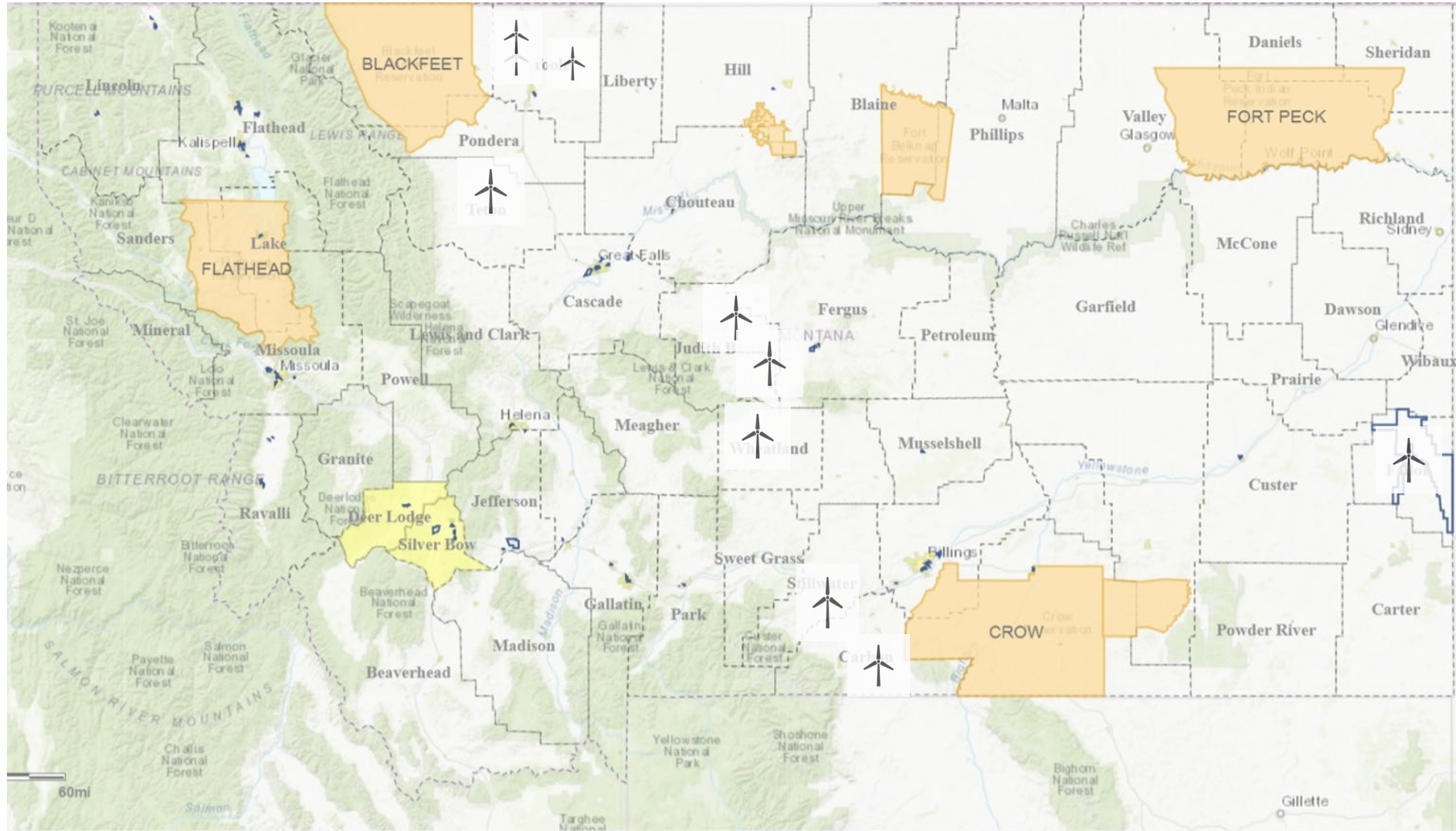
- Enacted in 2017
- Statute: 75-26-3, MCA
- Rules: 17.86.101-122, ARM
- Generally requires :
 - Certain wind/solar facilities to submit decommissioning plans to DEQ and to;
 - Submit a bond to DEQ 15 years after operation date
- Required after facility has already been built
- Not a permitting requirement

Facilities Covered

- Wind facilities 25MW and greater
- Exemptions:
 - Facilities that are already bonded with other state, federal, tribal, county or local governments
 - Still must submit a bond for portion of facility that is not already bonded
 - Facilities that have “private bonding”
 - Landowner owns at least a 10% or greater share of the wind generation facility



Operating Wind Facilities 25 MW and Greater



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Facility Name	Owner	Nameplate Capacity	Location
Judith Gap	Invenergy	135MW	Meagher County
Diamond Willow	Montana Dakota Utilities	30MW	Fallon County
Greenfield	Greenbacker Group	30MW	Teton County
Glacier Wind I&2	Naturener	210MW	Glacier and Toole Counties
Rim Rock	Naturener	189 MW	
Spion Kop	NorthWestern Energy	40MW	Judith Basin County
South Peak	Allete Clean Energy	80MW	Judith Basin County
Stillwater	Pattern Energy	80MW	Stillwater County
Big Timber	Con Edison	25 MW	Sweetgrass County
Pryor Mountain	Pacificorp	240MW	Carbon County

Bonding and Decommissioning Plan Timeline

Submit Initial Decommissioning Plan to DEQ

One year after commercial operation date



Submit Final Decommissioning Plan to DEQ

One year before bond is due



Submit Bond to DEQ

15 years after commercial operation date

Abandoned Facilities

- Definition of “abandonment”
 - Generating 10 percent or less of the monthly maximum generation potential, as determined by the facility's nameplate capacity, each month for 12 consecutive months
- Decommissioning and reclamation activities must commence within 90 days of abandonment

Repurposed Facilities

- Significant investment in facility that extends its useful life by more than 5 years
- More common than abandonment
- Existing bond must be released
- Submit a revised decommissioning plan within 6 months of repurposing
- Submit a new bond within 5 years of repurposing



Altamont Pass, California

Photo credit: San Francisco Chronicle

Decommissioning Requirements

- Removal of wind turbines
- Removal of overhead transmission lines, associated buildings and equipment
- Removal of underground cables to at least 24 inches
- Removal of concrete foundations and slabs to at least 36 inches
- Repair to damaged roads
- Reclamation and revegetation of wind site
- Alternative restoration with landowner agreement



Bond Calculation

- Must factor in current salvage value (copper, steel)
- Must include cost of dismantling and removal of wind turbine
- Consider landowner agreements for alternative restoration
- Other decommissioning and contracting costs to DEQ
- Character and nature of the site where the facility is located

Questions

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