

Joint Press Release

City of Union
Sandra Patterson
(541) 562-5197
admin@cityofunion.com

Union County
Shelley Burgess
(541) 963-1001
sburgess@union-county.org

City of Union Approves Resolution in Support of Antelope Ridge Strategic Investment Program

*Negotiations result in \$2 million directly to the City
if the project is approved*

City of Union, OR, January 12, 2011 – At Monday night’s hearing the Union City Council approved a resolution in support of a revised Strategic Investment Program (SIP) Agreement that mitigates the City’s principle concerns with the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm. The agreement was approved by a 4-2 vote. A subsequent motion approving a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Horizon Wind Energy, formalizing the City’s commitment to work with Horizon Wind Energy in good faith, passed unanimously.

The resolution and MOA, the result of a series of good-faith mediated meetings between the City of Union, Union County and Horizon Wind Energy during the past several months, ensures that more than \$2 million will go directly to the City of Union if the project is built.

“While the process has been difficult, we were ultimately able to reach an agreement during this window of opportunity that we feel is fair and in the best interests of City of Union residents, one that ensures the City residents receive the maximum benefit should the project go forward,” said Bill Lindsley, Mayor of Union City. The MOA between the City and Antelope Ridge is not an approval of the project; the siting decision on the project will be made by the State of Oregon.

Horizon Wind Energy and Union County negotiated a Strategic Investment Program (SIP) for the proposed Antelope Ridge Wind Farm last fall. The SIP benefits Union County residents by keeping 70 percent more revenue and fees in Union County than with a traditional property tax structure.

Over the 15-year term of the SIP, revenue generated by the proposed 300-megawatt (MW) project will infuse more than \$42 million into Union County. In addition, the SIP includes a dedicated education enhancement fund that will provide \$1 million directly to local schools with a 300 MW project. With yesterday’s City approval of a resolution in support of the revised SIP agreement, if the Commissioners vote to accept the SIP Agreement, and the project goes forward, the City of Union would now receive approximately \$2 million of the estimated \$42 million.

“The Antelope Ridge SIP funds would provide the means to create a strong economic engine for Union County, providing funds for community reinvestment that will help create more businesses and more jobs, and in turn generate revenue,” stated County Commissioner Mark Davidson, who led the negotiation for the County. “We are pleased to have reached an agreement with the City on how we can all benefit from the project,” Davidson continued.

The SIP also provides incentive for Horizon Wind Energy to make a significant, \$600 million capital investment to create a new source of clean, homegrown renewable energy, as well as local jobs, local spending and revenue that will benefit Union County.

“We’ve all worked hard and in good faith to arrive at an agreement that is fair and equitable to the City and the County. One that allows the greatest amount of tax revenue from Antelope Ridge to stay locally, benefiting the closest nearby community of the City of Union, as well as the entire county.

Similar discussions have been initiated with the second-closest community to the project, the City of North Powder. Following resolution of those discussions, the revised SIP will be released for public review and the formal SIP hearing will be scheduled for recommencement.

About the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm:

The Antelope Ridge Wind Farm project is in the process of being permitted through Oregon’s Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). The project application was deemed complete December 30, 2010 after nearly three years of study and review, and is now available for public comment.

EFSC will hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 in Union to take public testimony on the project (time and place to be determined). The application is available for review on the Antelope Ridge web site at <http://www.horizonwindfarms.com/western-region/under-dev/antelope-ridge.htm>, and is also available in hard copy at the Union and La Grande public libraries.

###