

## Construction begins on McFadden wind farm

---

By DUSTIN BLEIZEFFER  
Star-Tribune energy reporter  
Thursday, July 30, 2009 9:19 PM MDT

Rocky Mountain Power said construction has commenced on the McFadden Ridge I wind energy project in Albany County -- the utility's seventh wind project in Wyoming in the past two years.

"All turbine components have been delivered to the project site, excavation and foundation work is in progress and the installation of turbines will begin in early August," principal project manager Chris Johnson said in a prepared statement on Thursday.

McFadden Ridge I consists of 19 General Electric wind turbines, capable of generating a combined 28.5 megawatts of electricity. The wind farm is expected to be in-serve by the end of the year.

McFadden Ridge I is located near Rocky Mountain Power's High Plains wind project, which also is under construction and is scheduled for completion this fall. High Plains will consist of 66 wind turbines in Albany County, capable of generating a combined 99 megawatts.

Johnson explained that McFadden Ridge was originally proposed to be constructed in 2010, with a generating capability of up to 88.5 megawatts. But the schedule was modified to construct the project in phases.

The first phase will be completed this year. Timing for additional turbines is yet to be determined.

Johnson said the reason for changing the timing was wind turbine availability and efficiencies gained by using the same contractor to construct the High Plains and McFadden Ridge I projects within the same calendar year.

Contact energy reporter Dustin Bleizeffer at 307-577-6069 or {M7dustin.bleizeffer@trib.com}. Read his energy blog at [tribtown.trib.com/DustinBleizeffer/blog](http://tribtown.trib.com/DustinBleizeffer/blog).