



For Immediate Release

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SunZia Signs Major Anchor Tenant for Transmission Project

PHOENIX, AZ (September 6, 2013) – Today SunZia Transmission, LLC announced the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) with First Wind Energy, LLC, as an anchor tenant in the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project for a reservation of up to 1,500 megawatts of transmission capacity from one of its wind energy projects in development in New Mexico.

First Wind is developing high-capacity wind generation projects in central New Mexico.

“This marks yet another major accomplishment in the progress made thus far for the SunZia Project,” said Tom Wray, SunZia’s Project Manager. “Expressed interest for transmission service from renewable generators across SunZia has exceeded the project’s available capacity”.

“Wind is one of New Mexico’s valuable energy resources. If SunZia can resolve its siting challenges, First Wind plans to accelerate the development of this project in Central New Mexico,” said Kurt Adams, First Wind’s Executive Vice President & Chief Development Officer.

The Bureau of Land Management has led the preparation of an environmental impact statement on the SunZia Project since May 2009. The Final EIS was issued by BLM in June, with an expected Record of Decision by October of this year. The issuance of this decision will culminate nearly 5 years of environmental study and examination of the project.

About First Wind

First Wind develops, finances, builds and operates utility-scale renewable energy projects throughout the United States. Based in Boston, First Wind currently operates wind power facilities in the Northeast, the West and Hawaii, with combined capacity of more than 1,000 megawatts (MW) – enough to power about 300,000 U.S. homes each year. For more information on First Wind, please visit www.firstwind.com or follow us on Twitter [@FirstWind](https://twitter.com/FirstWind).

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

SunZia Southwest Transmission Project is an extra-high-voltage transmission project that will help enable the delivery of energy, including renewable energy to customers in the Desert Southwest, while greatly improving the reliability of the existing high voltage electrical grid. The system will span approximately 500 miles between Arizona and New Mexico. It includes up to two new 500kV transmission lines and five electrical substations that will provide up to 3,000 megawatts of new capacity. Once all local, state and federal permits have been obtained, final design and engineering, acquisition of rights-of-way, and construction are scheduled to begin in 2014, with initial operation scheduled by 2016. www.SunZia.net

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