



# Piikani Wind Project

January 2026

## Welcome to the Piikani Wind Project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document

Piikani Nation is currently advancing the development of the Piikani Wind Project on Piikani reserve lands. This document has been prepared to provide additional information and respond to common questions about the project.

This document is supplementary to the previous FAQ distributed in December 2023. If you wish to view a copy of the previous FAQ, please visit the website at [www.prdl.ca/piikani-wind](http://www.prdl.ca/piikani-wind), or directly at [403-965-3092](tel:403-965-3092), or [wind@prdl.ca](mailto:wind@prdl.ca).

## Piikani Wind Project Progress

### How Big is the Project?

The Piikani Wind Project is a utility-scale wind power project with up to 22 wind turbines, with a combined generating capacity of approximately 154 megawatts (MW).

In addition to the turbines, the project includes supporting infrastructure such as:

- underground electrical collection lines
- a meteorological (wind-measurement) tower
- access roads
- an on-site substation
- an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility
- a temporary construction laydown yard

The project will be located within the hay lease area on Piikani land.

The physical footprint of the project—meaning the land directly disturbed by turbines, roads, and facilities—is approximately 147 hectares.

The broader project area, which includes setbacks and spacing between turbines, is approximately 3,460 hectares. Most of this land will continue to be used for existing activities.



# Piikani Wind Project

January 2026

## **How big are the turbines?**

Modern wind turbines are tall structures designed to capture wind efficiently. We expect the turbines could be as tall as 200 metres to the top of the blade tip. Each turbine includes a tower, three blades, and a nacelle (the housing at the top). While turbines are tall, they are widely spaced, and only a small portion of land at each turbine location is permanently disturbed.

## **What does this project not change?**

The project does not change land ownership, treaty rights, or traditional land use, and it does not prevent farming or grazing. Construction will only proceed with required approvals and Nation leadership support.

## **What does this project mean for Piikani youth?**

The Piikani Wind Project is about building skills, protecting the land, and creating future opportunities for Piikani youth—while keeping culture, tradition, and Nation leadership at the centre of decision-making.

## **What progress has been made since December 2023 open house?**

Since the December 2023 open house, all required environmental studies have been completed in Q2 2025.

A final project layout was prepared for permitting and regulatory review, identifying the proposed locations of wind turbines, access roads, and the on-site substation.

Several key technical studies were completed, including:

- a Noise Impact Assessment
- a Shadow Flicker Study
- Visual Simulations from multiple viewpoints

Results from these studies indicate that the project meets applicable guidelines and is not expected to cause unacceptable effects to nearby homes or the environment. See the package materials for all the study maps and visual simulation results.



# Piikani Wind Project

January 2026

Discussions with turbine suppliers and construction companies have also begun to better understand available turbine options, construction methods, project scheduling, and costs.

A Detailed Environmental Risk Report was submitted to Indigenous Services Canada, as required, and is currently under review.

The project remains in the regulatory review stage, and no final investment decision has been made.

Traditional Knowledge Services work was completed, including mapping and site visits led by Piikani Nation knowledge holders. The project layout was refined to avoid culturally and traditionally important places.

Geotechnical studies were completed in September 2025 to assess soil and ground conditions and to inform turbine foundation and road design.

## **Who regulates what?**

The wind project and the transmission line are reviewed through separate processes by different authorities. The Piikani Nation is responsible for developing the wind project on Piikani land, including the wind turbines, roads, collection system and the on-site substation.

- Indigenous Services Canada is reviewing the environmental work for the project on reserve, including the Detailed Environmental Risk Report.
- The Alberta Utilities Commission regulates how the project connects to Alberta's electricity system and reviews certain technical aspects of the interconnection.
- The transmission line that connects the project substation to the Windy Flats Substation is a separate project. This will be planned, permitted, built and operated by AltaLink, and reviewed through AltaLink's own regulatory and consultation processes.
- The transmission line is not part of the Detailed Environmental Risk Report review and is assessed independently.

## **How will this impact me day to day?**

Wind projects can affect people in a few main ways, including sound, shadow flicker, and how they appear on the landscape. The Piikani Wind Project has been



# Piikani Wind Project

January 2026

designed to avoid shadow flicker at nearby homes, and studies show that residences are not expected to experience shadow flicker.

Project sound levels have been carefully modeled by independent experts. Results show that noise levels are expected to remain within applicable guidelines.

Visual simulations have been prepared to help show what the project may look like from different viewpoints, including nearby roads and residences.

For most people, day-to-day activities are expected to continue much as they do today, with turbines operating quietly in the background once construction is complete.

## **Where will the wind project connect to the transmission line?**

The connection to the electrical grid will be decided through the Alberta Electric System Operator Cluster Assessment Process. We are currently in Stage 3 of the System Operator's 6-stage process.

AltaLink Management Ltd. is responsible for building and managing the interconnection.

## **What should I expect during construction (traffic, dust, noise, working hours)?**

Construction will be temporary and may involve increased traffic, dust, and noise during active work periods. Standard mitigation measures, such as dust control, traffic planning, and environmental monitoring, will be used to reduce impacts. Construction is expected to occur mainly during daytime hours, and disturbed areas will be reclaimed once work is complete.

## **How are cultural and traditional places being protected?**

Piikani-led Traditional Knowledge Services informed project planning and layout changes. Culturally and traditionally important places were identified and avoided, with ongoing consultation and monitoring planned during the construction. What happens at the end-of-life, will the land be restored?

The project will go through decommissioning and reclamation (dismantling turbines, removing above-ground infrastructure, reclaiming compacted soils, recontouring, revegetation, and long-term land use considerations) at the end-of-life.



## Project Development Status

### Where are we in the development process?

Any potential investment in the Piikani Wind Project follows a five-stage review process to ensure that decisions are well-informed and carefully considered:

1. Investment Proposal
2. Initial Screening
3. Business Case Development
4. Investment Decision
5. Post-Investment Review

The project is currently in the Business Case Development stage.

- During this stage, site conditions, wind speeds, access to the electrical grid, and environmental and regulatory requirements have been studied.
- The next step is to complete a detailed business case, which will evaluate costs, risks, benefits, and long-term value to the Piikani Nation.
- This business case will support the Piikani Nation Chief and Council in deciding whether to proceed to the Investment Decision stage.

### What approvals are needed before construction?

Before construction can begin, the Piikani Wind Project must complete a coordinated approvals process involving the Piikani Nation, federal authorities, and provincial regulators. Approval from **Piikani Nation Chief and Council** is required at key stages and prior to construction. **Indigenous Services Canada** must complete its review of the Detailed Environmental Risk Report and issue the necessary authorization for project activities on reserve.

The application to the **Alberta Utilities Commission** is planned in the first quarter of 2026 for approval of the interconnection of the generating facility. Required permits under Piikani Nation laws and bylaws must also be obtained. Final interconnection approvals are required before the project can be energized.

Construction will only proceed once all required approvals are in place and Piikani Nation leadership has confirmed that the project may move forward.



# Piikani Wind Project

January 2026

## Who will own the proposed turbines?

The Piikani Nation will own all or most of the wind turbines and may choose to partner with another company to support the development of the project.

## What are the benefits to Piikani Nation and members?

The Piikani Wind Project is expected to deliver long-term economic and community benefits and aligns with the Piikani Nation Community Development Plan (2009). The project supports key Nation priorities, including maintaining the agricultural land base, preventing pollution, fostering sustainable economic development, and advancing wind energy as a strategic focus.

If the project proceeds, expected benefits include:

- **Long-term revenue** to support Nation priorities and programs
- **Employment and contracting opportunities** during construction and operations, where feasible
- **Training and skills development** opportunities for Nation members
- **Nation ownership** and long-term participation in clean energy development on Piikani land

## Sound

### How is sound from wind projects regulated in Alberta?

Sound for the Piikani Wind Project was assessed using widely accepted Alberta guidelines as a benchmark. A Noise Impact Assessment, completed by qualified experts using methodologies consistent with Alberta Utilities Commission Rule 012 where applicable, indicates that predicted sound levels are expected to remain within applicable guideline limits.

### Are noise impacts from other facilities or equipment considered in the wind project's sound modeling?

Yes. The noise assessment considered cumulative sound, meaning it evaluated how sound from the Piikani Wind Project would combine with sound from other nearby sources. This includes existing wind projects and other relevant equipment in the area, such as Weather Dancer.



# Piikani Wind Project

January 2026

The results show that combined sound levels are expected to remain within applicable guideline limits.

## Visual Representation

### What will the wind project look like once completed?

Visual simulations are included in this information package to show how the project may look once built.

## Shadow Flicker

### What is shadow flicker, and what are the effects?

Shadow flicker is a temporary visual effect caused by rotating turbine blades under certain sun conditions. Studies show it does not harm human health. Project-specific studies indicate that nearby homes are not expected to experience shadow flicker.

## Contact Us

Members can contact us by phone at 403-965-3092 or by email at [wind@prdl.ca](mailto:wind@prdl.ca). Concerns raised during development, construction, or operation will be addressed as part of ongoing project management.

**We are excited to advance the Piikani Wind Project to the next step.**

**Check out our new video on our website!**

**[www.prdl.ca/piikani-wind](http://www.prdl.ca/piikani-wind)**