



Construction News & Views

Vol. 9 No. 7

April 2013

A message from SACA'S President

The perennial sticky issue of immigration reform is again rearing its ugly political face in the news. Mainstream media continues to promote the plight of illegal immigrants as victims of an outdated and discriminatory system. As border residents, we know the truth about the character of many who cross our borders illegally. Drug runners and felons of all sorts wind up in Cochise County which cost our legal system millions of dollars each year.



Mike Rutherford

A new Rasmussen Report shows the vast majority of American voters believe our southern border needs to be secured before a dialogue begins to address allowing the more than 11 million illegal immigrants currently here to stay. There isn't any question that the system needs an overhaul, but rewarding lawbreakers to stay isn't the answer. It's a direct slap in the face for those who have lawfully gone through the immigration pro-

President continued on page 7

Member Profile: United Rentals

United Rentals is a nationwide equipment rental company specializing in construction equipment. Our Sierra Vista office is located at 648 E Fry Blvd, and consists of local employees with over 90 years of combined industry experience. Our diverse customer base includes construction and industrial companies, utilities, municipalities, government agencies, independent contractors and homeowners. We provide every customer with access to the best people, equipment and solutions in the industry.

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sistently recognized as one of the nation's top military-friendly employers.

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2013 SACA Home and Garden Show

Vendors from the SACA Home and Garden Show display their products to future customers and answer questions. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success, and we look forward to seeing you next year.



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SACA April 2013 Calendar of Events**General Membership Meeting**

Location: PDS Country Club, St. Andrews Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ

Date: April 17, 2013 • Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Luncheon \$15 at door

April 17, 2013 will be our monthly membership meeting and we look forward to seeing you all there to support our organization and each other. What a great time to network with your fellow colleagues and mingle with friends. Find out what is happening in our great county. Our speaker will be Mark J. Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff.

Upcoming SACA EventsApril 17, 2013 * **Membership Meeting** * PDS CC – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

April 23, 2013 * **Building Code Technical Committee**
 Douglas Visitor's Center - 9 a.m.

April 25, 2013 * **MSHA Refresher Training** * SACA Office – 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.**Government Meetings**

Cochise Cty Board of Supervisors	Every Tues., 10 a.m.	County Buildings, Bisbee, AZ
Sierra Vista City Council	2nd & 4th Thurs., 5 p.m.	City Hall, 2nd Floor
Benson City Council	2nd & 4th Mon., 7 p.m.	City Hall
Bisbee City Council	1st & 3rd Tues., 7 p.m.	City Hall
Willcox City Council	1st & 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.	City Hall

ATTENTION**SACA MEMBERS!**

The SACA newsletter is looking for members' business stories to publish. Do you have a story about your business that you'd like other SACA members and the general public to hear? Please contact us at (520) 458-0488, or email us at admin@sacasceo.qwestbusiness.net

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Get to know our General Membership Meeting Speaker for April

Our April GMM speaker for April will be Cochise County Sheriff Mark J. Dannels. Sheriff Dannels is a 29-year veteran of law enforcement. He holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Management from Aspen University and is a Certified Public Manager from Arizona State University. He has over 3000 hours of law enforcement training in his portfolio. He attended Disney's Leadership and Executive Training programs and is a graduate of the Rural Executive Management Institute.

He began his law enforcement career in 1984 after serving a successful tour in the U.S. Army. He progressed through the ranks with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to the position of Deputy Commander after working numerous specialty assignments and leadership roles. He was instrumental in the creation of the Southeastern Arizona D.U.I. Task Force and the Special Operations Unit. He was instrumental in propos-

ing and being awarded over 1 million dollars in grant funding to assist the Sheriff's Office. He was appointed by former Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano to the D.U.I. Oversight Commission and later elected to the position of Chairman.

In 2008, he retired from Arizona law enforcement to accept an opportunity to serve as the Police Chief for the City of Coquille in Oregon to build upon his leadership base. During his tenure as police chief, Sheriff Dannels was instrumental in solving a decade old murder case involving a local teenager that help restore community trust. Additionally, he revitalized professionalism and standardization within the department. During Sheriff Dannels' time in Oregon, he volunteered every 3 months and worked as a reserve deputy sheriff for the Cochise County Sheriff's Office by flying back to Arizona to fulfill his commitment and required hours. After a successful endeavor as Police Chief,



Sheriff Mark J. Dannels

Sheriff Dannels moved back to Arizona in 2011 to rejoin the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to pursue his goal of

being sheriff.

Sheriff Dannels has received numerous awards during his tenure that include the Medal of Valor, National Lifesaving award, American Police Hall of Fame Commendation, Deputy of the Year, MADD Recognition for Outstanding Efforts in Drunk Driving Enforcement, Fraternal Order of Police Member of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, Unit Citation Award, Sheriff's Medal, League of United Latin American Citizens and F.B.I. Community Service Award, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Governor's Office of Highway Safety Outstanding Deputy of the Year, Chamber of Commerce Positivity Award, and the Rotary Club Community Service Award.

Sheriff Dannels has 3 primary objectives: Organizational Development, Border Security and Community Outreach.

Next BCTC meeting April 23

The next meeting of the BCTC will be Tuesday, April 23, 2013. Scott Lehman of the City of Douglas will host the meeting at the Douglas Visitors Center, 345 16th Street (aka St Rt. 80). As you enter the west entrance to Douglas, proceed four blocks and turn right into the Visitors Center Parking Lot. Meeting begins at 9 a.m.

sharp and there will be refreshments.

APS will demonstrate the dangers of electricity with their soon-to-be retired "Weenie Wagon." You won't want to miss this training session. Please register online so we can plan appropriately for space and food. Bring your questions for building officials. Registration is FREE! See you there.

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Windfarm near Willcox a possibility

A Texas-based company is looking to build a 51-megawatt wind farm in the desert, about 21 miles west of Willcox, near Muleshoe and War Bonnet Ranch Roads.

Glenn Holliday of Houston, Texas, said Torch Renewable Energy, LLC (TRE) is submitting a Special Use Application (SUP) for development of the Red Horse 2 Wind Farm, in a Feb. 21 letter to Cochise County Planning Manager Michael Turisk.

"The proposed project will consist of 21-28 wind turbine generators and produce 51 MW of clean renewable energy to be sold to Tucson Electric Power," Holliday told the Range News.

The wind turbines will be up to 487

feet in total height, with a blade diameter of 191.5 feet.

The electricity generated by the project will produce enough renewable power to serve about 11,000 homes.

As to the project's economic impact, Holliday said that Red Horse 2 LLC "will invest between \$100 - \$125 million in infrastructure in Cochise County related to the project."

"We will source as much local talent and materials as possible during construction," said Holliday, adding that secondary impacts of about \$2.3 million "will be spent in the community during the construction phase for local services and local materials."

"The project will also create about four long-term stable high paying jobs for

local residents," he said.

"The project will create up to 50 direct jobs to Arizona during construction and hundreds of indirect jobs and revenue from the local economy from out of town consultants during the construction phase," according to the document, "Project Description and Proposed Use."

Other economic impacts include increased tax revenue for Cochise County, Holliday said.

Construction is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2013 and commercial operations should commence by the end of 2014.

"The wind farm will create electricity with zero emissions and zero water usage in an arid region," Holliday said.

Having recently garnered the support of the Willcox City Council, TRE's proposal is headed to Cochise County Planning and Zoning Commission, probably at its 4 p.m., meeting on Wednesday, April 10.

Jeff Stoddard, with the City's Development Services Department, recommended that the Council approve the plant's construction at its March 18 meeting.

In addition to creating the "50 jobs for the construction of this project," as well as the four jobs for the plant's operation, Stoddard added that it would "possibly bring other industries related to this project to the Willcox area in the near future."

At its March 25 meeting, the Council voted unanimously to send its letter of approval to County Planning and Zoning.

In his Feb. 21 letter to Turisk, Holliday explained that the existing conceptual design would aim to comply with County Zoning Regulation 1822: Wind Energy Systems.

"Torch has been working with SWCA on environmental studies for the project since last year," he told the Range News.

"We have been working with and will continue to work closely with Arizona Game and Fish (AGFD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS) to ensure proper study methods are utilized," Holliday said.

"A complete cultural resource study will be completed in the next few months and the final turbine array will be based on information attained from archaeological and environmental studies," he said.

Holliday indicated that "the impact to neighboring property owners will be minimal," with the majority of the of the land surrounding the site owned by the State and "sparsely populated."

"The nearest property owner to the west of the project is more than two miles from the farthest west wind turbine," said Holliday, explaining that the Larry Todd family is to the north.

The Todds, who have a lease to graze cattle on the State Land the project proposes to use, "have indicated that they are supportive of this project and may house a turbine on their land," said Holliday, adding, "TRE is currently in negotiations with the Todds to come to a final agreement."

"As we have mentioned, we are on a tight development schedule, and hope that the contents of this application are sufficient to be on the meeting agenda for April 10," he said in his Feb. 21 letter to Turisk.

Wings Over Willcox Event Chairman Homer Hansen said that in general, he is a proponent of wind energy, "primarily those designed for individual residences, ranches, farms - small scale has less of an impact on migratory corridors and it is direct to the source that is using it."

"Large plants require transmission lines, etc.," he explained.

In this particular case, Hansen questioned "how can they plan construction in the fourth quarter of 2013 if the avian and bat studies are not expected to be completed until November 2013?"

Holliday responded that avian and bat studies will be complete in October and a Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS) and Eagle Conservation Plan (ECP) will be completed by mid-November.

"The purpose of the BBCS is to develop and implement a program to identify and avoid risks to avian and bat species that could result from the construction of the wind farm," he said. Windfarm continued on page 5

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Windfarm continued from page 4
tion and operation of the project,” said Holliday, explaining that it would also address “how to avoid and/or minimize impact and provides mitigation measures should impact be expected to occur.”

He told the Range News the ECP’s purpose is to “address the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act definition of ‘disturb,’ and will present advanced conservation practices and compensatory mitigation methods to achieve no-net loss in the eagle population.”

Holliday said that construction is planned to begin by the middle of December and continue through January, consisting mostly of earthwork.

He explained that turbines will be installed in the second quarter of 2014.

“The project schedule provides sufficient time for adjustments to the project

design should the BBBS or ECP indicate the need to alter design parameters to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts to birds and bats,” Holliday told the Range News.

Hansen had expressed his concern that the avian and bat studies would “not even cover a full cycle of avian and bat lives. The reported coverage is for winter and spring only. This disregards summer (breeding species) and fall (when numbers of migrants are actually at their greatest).”

Holliday responded that “wintering avian studies have been conducted and completed and all data have been shared with the agencies. Studies are being continued through spring, summer and the fall months of 2013.”

All avian studies are being conducted in accordance with recent USFWS

“Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines,” as well as its “Draft Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance;” and the AGFD’s “Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Wildlife from Wind Energy Development in Arizona,” he said.

“Anabats have been installed on both meteorological towers and the data is being studied by an expert bat ecologist,” said Holliday, explaining, “The Anabat is the most respected bat detector in the industry and is used to study active, passive and mobile monitoring of the bat community.”

Hansen had also questioned if there were any surveys for the area’s ground wildlife, adding, “These are known to be impacted, as well.”

“I’m not stating we shouldn’t do the project; however, there seems to be a rush here and a willingness to start a

project with incomplete data,” Hansen told the Range News.

Responding to those concerns, Holliday said that SWCA began on the ground surveys in the winter of 2012.

“Species from the AGFD special-status species list, that have the potential to occur within and/or out to 10 miles of the project area boundary, were identified prior to field surveys,” he told the Range News.

“During ground surveys SWCA staff surveyed habitat for all potential species. ADOT’s Wildlife Linkages Assessment Tool was used to identify any wildlife corridors,” Holliday said.

“After evaluation it was determined that the development and operation of the proposed project would not likely affect the breeding or movements of any

Windfarm continued on page 8



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The importance of workplace lighting

Safety at work is one of the biggest concerns for any business owner. The lighting of any property can hugely influence personal well-being and health, motivation and performance.

In the workplace lighting has to meet occupational health and safety requirements. What has to be taken into consideration when it comes to office lighting is not just the aesthetics of how the lighting is incorporated into the building but the impact it has on the workers and in turn the business.

The first and most obvious reason for high quality lighting is how light can eliminate workplace trips and falls. The better lit an area is the safer it is, and if all workers can clearly see any hazards the easier it is for them to avoid them.

Any glare or shadowy areas can cause someone to walk right into a dangerous situation or avoidable hazard, which can lead to all manner of serious injuries.

As well as the obvious safety issues concerning the lighting systems that you use in your workplace there are other issues such as productivity and health effects, which can include unnecessary fatigue and eyestrain.

In any role it is vitally important that each employee can clearly see what they are doing, ranging from an office worker at a desk to a mechanic in a garage. If your lighting solutions are not of a high quality than neither will the work you employees are producing.

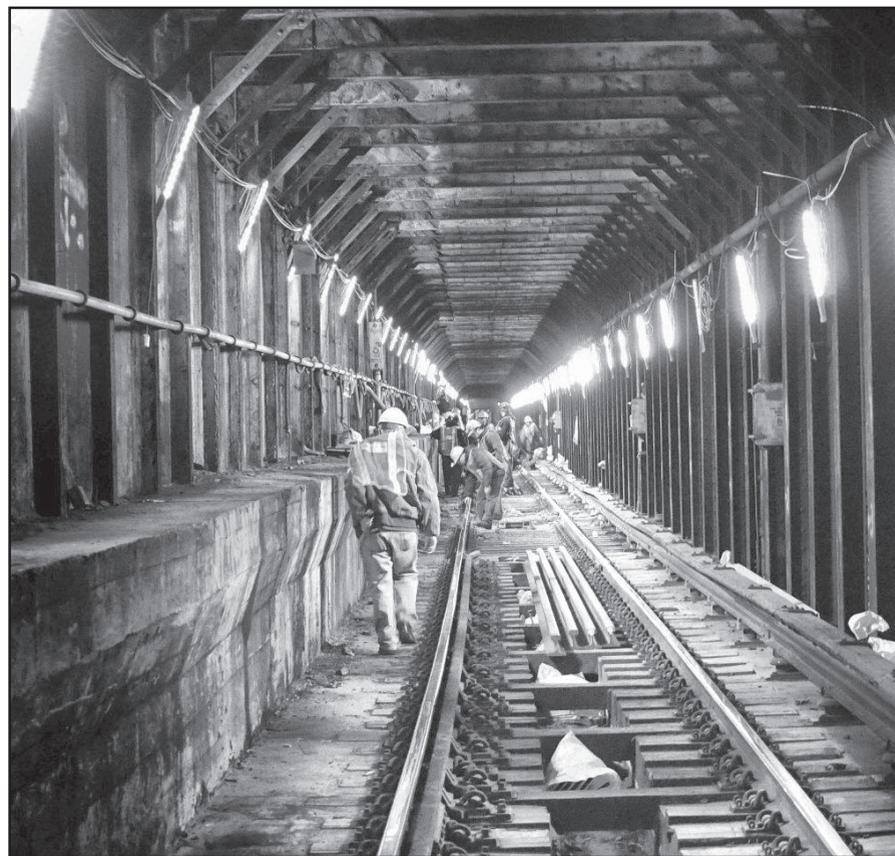
Another extremely important factor of good lighting is two illnesses called Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) and Seasonal Affective Disorder, both of which can be caused by poor lighting. They can cause people to become extremely lethargic, irritable and generally lack energy, which is very disruptive in the workplace. Both illnesses can and often lead to depression, which can in turn lead to long periods of time where the affected are unable to work.

Planning the right choice of workplace lighting depends on what area of business the building is being used for.

In most cases the best possible choice of all round high quality lighting is LED light panels. Unrivalled in brightness LED lighting will brighten up the darkest of spaces.

Creating a well-lit and refreshing atmosphere is key in any space, from a corridor to a meeting room, and a far cry from low wattage suspension lighting, LED lights will ensure a brighter area and in turn a better workplace.

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tant advances within the industry since the invention of the light bulb and thanks to energy efficiency and cost effectiveness is becoming a widely popular choice.

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WAM! April is Water Awareness Month

Warmer temperatures typically mean an increase in our daily water use, both indoors and outdoors. Living in the dry southwest, it's important to be aware of how much water we use every day to protect our area's most precious resource.

That's why Arizona celebrates April as Water Awareness Month (WAM) and encourages everyone to visit the Arizona Department of Water Resources WAM interactive website at www.waterawarenessmonth.com to learn more about how to make the most of our water use, not just in April, but every day.

The WAM website is overflowing with water conservation tips, ideas and activities, including an interactive calendar listing workshops, events and resources for every day during the month of April. It's your one-stop-shop for everything water conservation. Here are just a few examples:

- "Hide and Seek: Find the Leak"

President continued from page 1

cess. Senators Schumer, Flake, Bennett, and McCain witnessed a woman from the Mexico side scaling the 18-foot wall into Nogales, AZ during their visit this past month. She was quickly apprehended by Border Patrol agents, but served as an eye-opening event for those who are constructing an immigration reform bill. Our border is obviously not secure despite what Homeland Security Secretary, Janet Napolitano says. For the facts about the border, I recommend *One If By Land* written by the author of *Shootout at Miracle Valley*. Contact me to get a copy.

While the wrangling continues, Arizona is once again fighting another federal challenge in the U.S. Supreme Court. The law that requires proof of citizenship before allowing someone to register to vote is up for examination. The latest Rasmussen Report national telephone survey found that 71% of *Likely U.S. Voters* believe everyone should be required to prove U.S. citizenship before being allowed to register to vote. Common sense tells us that it's only right to make sure American citizens are voting in elections. But common sense seems to be in short supply these days.

There isn't a doubt that a secure border will not only make us safer, but actually help our economy. The dollars now going to pay for medical, legal, and social services for illegal immigrants can be used in much better ways. Once the economy is in better condition, with a secure border and the issuance of work visas for those who want to work in the U.S. legally, both sides of the border can help each other.

includes tips and resources for finding and fixing leaks

- "Grow Green Kids" has interactive games, puzzles and activities for children of all ages

- "Water Your Plants Automatically" takes the mystery out of programming irrigation/sprinkler timers

You can also "like" us on Facebook (facebook.com/wamaz) and follow our Tweets.

For more information on Water Awareness Month, visit www.waterawarenessmonth.com or waterwise.arizona.edu

Local Water Events in April:

April 13: *Water Expo*

Come to the Water Expo at The Mall in Sierra Vista! From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 13, over 25 local exhibitors will be showing off their water saving products, services or information. There will be demonstrations, talks and displays. For the kids, the Rolling River, the Leaky House and the Run-

ning Toilet Relay will be offered all day. Come on by! This event is sponsored by the Water Wise Program, the City of Sierra Vista, The Cochise Water Project, Liberty Utilities, Ecoblue Cube, The Sierra Vista Herald, Oasis Water Harvesting, Castle and Cooke Homes and Southern Arizona Rain Gutters.

WAM! Water Geocache

Do you like to geocache? Anyone with a smartphone or GPS device can! During WAM! there will be geocaches around the Sierra Vista area near something to do with water. Will you be able to find them all? For more information, visit waterwise.arizona.edu



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Windfarm continued from page 5 of these animals over the long terms, or fragment any of these species' habitats," he said.

Holliday went on to say that the project site is located on previously disturbed land.

"A considerable amount of soil disturbance has occurred as a result of decades of agricultural practices (cattle and horse ranching) over the entire project area," he told the Range News.

"There has been no observed presence of prairie dogs, rabbits, or squirrel colonies within the site and there is limited water within or near the site," said Holliday, adding, "The low carrying capacity for small mammals makes the project area an unlikely habitat for raptor and larger mammal species."

TRE had submitted notices of proposed construction to the FAA on Jan. 18 this year.

"All turbine locations were found to have a 'determination of no hazard,' and therefore are approved by the FAA."

Cochise County Airport Manager Louise Walden said it is her understanding that "the FAA has told them to light the towers."

As to the proposed project's impact on the Willcox airport, she said, "The location is far enough away that it should not be a concern to those who use the airport."

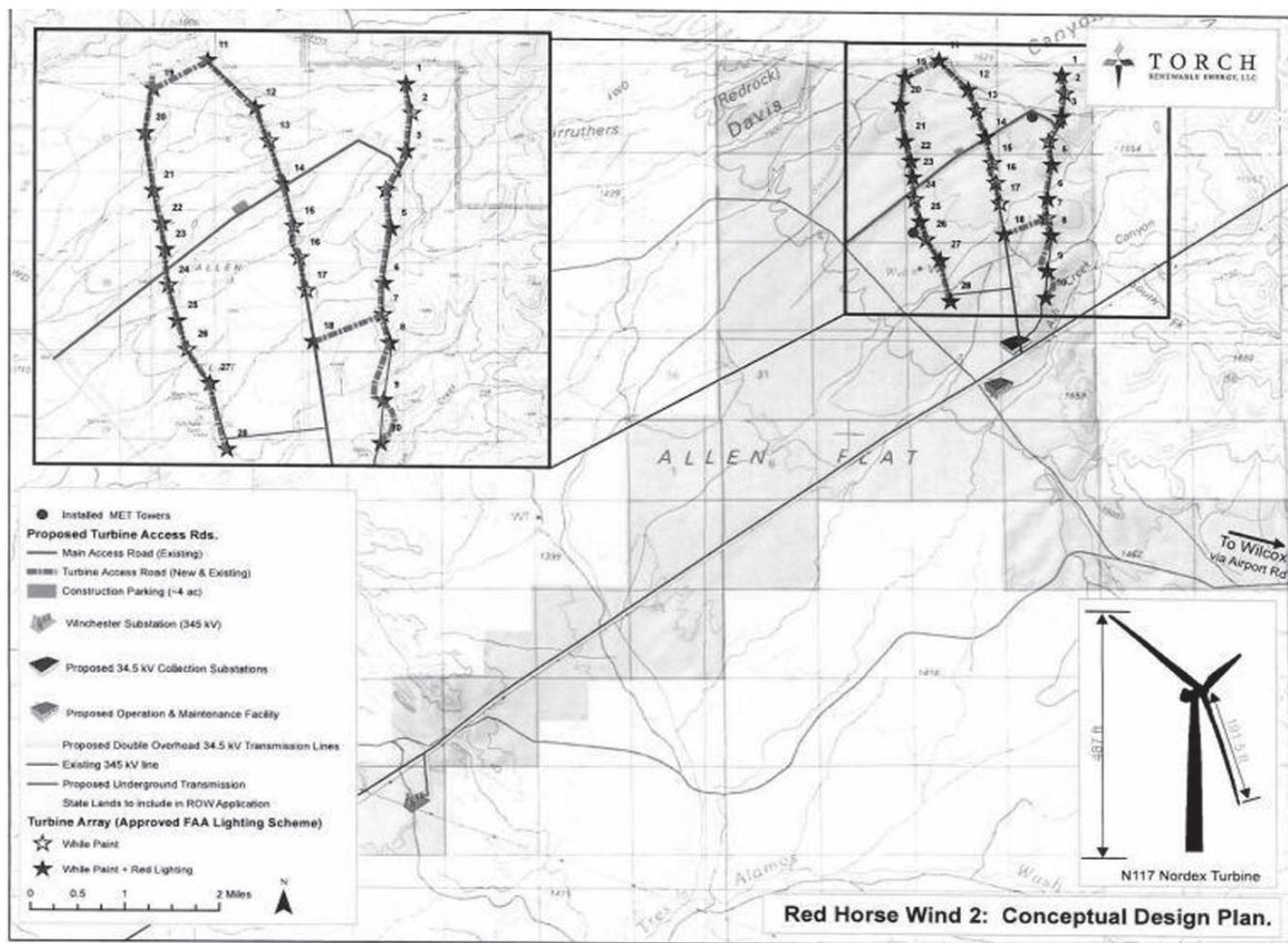
Walden added, "I am in favor of wind and solar power and like the idea of clean energy."

President C.J. Dorland, with Inde Motorsports Ranch, at 9301 W. Airport Road, said his understanding is that the project is about 12 miles from Inde "so we will not see or hear the windmills."

He told the Range News that the proposed wind farm would not have any impact on their "current or future operations."

"We are supportive of the project because we are in favor of renewable energy, and the project will create numerous local jobs- both short term and long term," Dorland said.

"Our only concern is the condition of Airport Road, and from our talks with



Torch they are prepared to spend the money necessary to repair any and all damage to the road," he told the Range News.

According to the document, "Activities and Impacts for Proposed Use," the new road construction for turbine access setup and maintenance will consist of 16-foot wide aggregate roads and temporary 10-foot compacted shoulders.

"The shoulders will be de-compacted after installation of the turbines, and reclaimed to their condition," Holliday said.

"The majority of the impact to the neighboring property owners will occur during construction, which is expected to be completed in less than one year."

Holliday told the Range News, "We are really excited about his project, and think it will be a huge success for the communities of Willcox and Benson, Cochise County, and the State of Arizona."

March Building Permits Issued

The Building Division has issued 98 permits during the month of March. The total valuation was \$3,009,586. Of these, 2 were new residential permits with a valuation of \$1,192,379. There was no new commercial permit issued with a valuation of \$650,000. Here is an overview for the year:

Residential	2013	2012
March	6	23
Year-to-date	11	45
Year-to-date Valuation	\$2,086,879	\$3,046,856
Commercial	2013	2012
March	0	0
Year-to-date	1	3
Year-to-date Valuation	\$650,000	\$12,876,107