

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1514
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Author:	Sen. McIntosh
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Bill Analysis

SB 1514 shortens the time-period a wind energy facility is considered abandoned from 24 months to 180 days as it relates to generating power. Commencement of construction is also modified to include any modifications to the natural state of the land. The measure requires the proper removal of a wind turbine or tower to be made at a depth of 48 inches below grade instead of 30 inches below grade. The measure provides for a 180-day extension for the 180-day abandonment period if the facility is maintained in good working order. The measure requires the facility to be decommissioned if it violates noise restrictions unless the wind turbine or group of wind turbines is brought into compliance within 180 days of the violations.

The measure requires any person seeking to construct a facility to first obtain a license from the Corporation Commission. The applicant must submit a complete description of the wind energy facility as well as the proposed timeline for construction. Such a facility shall also develop maintenance standards that comply with all building codes as well as emergency procedures. The permit application shall also be submitted to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the county clerk of every county in which all or a portion of the wind energy facility is to be located, and any landowner and resident located within 4 miles of the proposed site. The measure requires turbines to be setback a minimum of 1/4 of a nautical mile or 2 times the total height of the wind turbine as measured from the ground at its base to the maximum height of the blade tip from a nonparticipating landowner's property, whichever is greater. Nonparticipating landowners may sign a waiver for this requirement. The base of the turbine shall be 1/2 of a nautical mile from any residential structure. The applicant shall also pay for an environmental impact study to be focused on a 4-mile area around the proposed turbine.

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