



**Verified Carbon
Standard**

CROW LAKE WIND EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROJECT



Blue Delta Energy

Document Prepared By

Blue Delta Energy, LLC

Project Title	Crow Lake Wind Emissions Reduction Project
Version	1.0
Report ID	CrowLake_MR_Feb-Dec_2021
Date of Issue	03-November-2022
Project ID	756
Monitoring Period	01-February-2021 to 31-December-2021
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CONTENTS

1	PROJECT DETAILS.....	3
1.1	Summary Description of the Implementation Status of the Project	3
1.2	Sectoral Scope and Project Type	3
1.3	Project Proponent	4
1.4	Other Entities Involved in the Project	5
1.5	Project Start Date	5
1.6	Project Crediting Period	5
1.7	Project Location	5
1.8	Title and Reference of Methodology	6
1.9	Participation under other GHG Programs.....	7
1.10	Other Forms of Credit.....	7
1.11	Sustainable Development Contributions	7
2	SAFEGUARDS	8
2.1	No Net Harm	8
2.2	Local Stakeholder Consultation	8
2.3	AFOLU-Specific Safeguards	9
3	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS	9
3.1	Implementation Status of the Project Activity	9
3.2	Deviations	11
3.3	Grouped Projects	11
4	DATA AND PARAMETERS.....	12
4.1	Data and Parameters Available at Validation	12
4.2	Data and Parameters Monitored.....	15
4.3	Monitoring Plan.....	16
5	QUANTIFICATION OF GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS	18
5.1	Baseline Emissions	18
5.2	Project Emissions	18
5.3	Leakage.....	18
5.4	Net GHG Emission Reductions and Removals.....	18

1 PROJECT DETAILS

1.1 Summary Description of the Implementation Status of the Project

The Crow Lake Wind project site is located east of Chamberlain, South Dakota comprised of 108 wind turbines. The site originally was divided among three owners:

- 100 GE 1.5-megawatt turbines owned by Prairiewinds SD 1, Inc. (PWSD1) - a wholly owned subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC);
- 7 turbines owned by South Dakota Wind Partners (SDWP), a South Dakota limited liability company; and
- 1 turbine owned by the Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI).

Subsequent to the Project's Initial Validation, there have been two significant changes to the ownership structure:

1. On July 14th, 2017, SDWP sold and assigned their 7 turbines to PWSD1
2. On December 31st, 2017, PWSD1 was merged into BEPC and subsequently dissolved

Thus for the Monitoring Period covered in this report (February 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021), 107 of the 108 turbines at the Crow Lake Project site were owned by BEPC, and the output from MTC's turbine was purchased pursuant to the PPA between MTC and BEPC. The 108 turbines described above have an aggregate nameplate capacity of 162 megawatts (MW). Construction of the project started September 29, 2010. The commercial operation date of this project is February 1, 2011, and it has been in continuous operation to date.

In addition to purchasing the output of the MTI turbine, BEPC operates and controls the turbine pursuant to an Operation and Management Agreement with MTI. The wind turbines at the Crow Lake project site are interconnected to the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) at the Wessington Springs (SD) 230-kV Switchyard, which is located within the Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) region. Effective October 1, 2015, the owners elected to join the SPP, and the system's generation is now subject to SPP's oversight. The turbines on the Crow Lake project site generate emissions reductions by delivering onto the bulk transmission system electricity generated by use of a renewable fuel source (wind).

This project was developed on a voluntary basis, and it was not and is still not required by any of the owners to meet any state renewable portfolio requirements. In addition, the monetization of the green attributes from this project was part of the justification of the economics of the project to BEPC as they have more cost-effective alternatives to obtain energy from grid connected resources, absent the value of the green attributes.

The project achieved total net GHG emission reductions of 126,095 tCO₂e in the Monitoring Period (February 1, 2021–December 31, 2021).

1.2 Sectoral Scope and Project Type

As a grid-connected renewable energy project, the project activity may be principally categorized under Sectoral Scope Number 1: Energy (renewable/non-renewable sources). The Project is a stand-alone project and is not a grouped project.

1.3 Project Proponent

Organization name	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Contact person	Zane Zuther
Title	Planning Analyst
Address	1717 East Interstate Avenue Bismarck, North Dakota 58503-0564
Telephone	(701) 557-5638
Email	zzzuther@bepc.com

Organization name	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Contact person	Rebecca A. Kern
Title	Vice President - Resource Planning and Rates
Address	1717 East Interstate Avenue Bismarck, North Dakota 58503-0564
Telephone	(701) 557-5752
Email	bkern@bepc.com

Organization name	Mitchell Technical College
Contact person	Mark Wilson
Title	President
Address	1800 East Spruce Street Mitchell, South Dakota 57301
Telephone	(605) 995-3023
Email	mark.wilson@mitchelltech.edu

1.4 Other Entities Involved in the Project

Organization name	Blue Delta Energy, LLC
Role in the Project	Consultant and authorized representative for BEPC
Contact person	Kenneth Nelson
Title	President
Address	458 Grand Avenue, Suite 201 New Haven, Connecticut 06513
Telephone	(475) 441-7939
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1.5 Project Start Date

The commercial operation date of the project is February 1, 2011.

1.6 Project Crediting Period

The Initial Crediting Period for the Project started on February 1, 2011, and concluded on January 31, 2021, for a total of 10 years. The Project has applied for a second crediting period from February 1, 2021, thru January 31, 2031, in conjunction with this verification. The period covered by this Monitoring Report is from February 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021.

1.7 Project Location

The Crow Lake Wind project is located across the span of Aurora, Jerauld and Brule counties, east of Chamberlain, South Dakota on a 36,000-acre plot of land at grid coordinates:

Latitude: 43.8° N Longitude: -98.8°.



Figure 1 Map of Project location



Figure 3 Image of Project

1.8 Title and Reference of Methodology

Title

ACM0002 – “Grid-connected electricity generation from renewable sources”

Reference

<http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/DB/XP2LKUSA61DKUQC0PIWPGWDN8ED5PG>

Version

Version 20.0

Tools used

- TOOL07 – “Tool to calculate the emission factor for an electricity system” (Version 7.0)
- TOOL11 – “Assessment of the validity of the original/current baseline and update of the baseline at the renewal of the crediting period” (Version 3.0.1).

1.9 Participation under other GHG Programs

The Project is not registered under any other GHG Programs.

1.10 Other Forms of Credit

1.10.1 Emission Trading Programs and Other Binding Limits

The Project and its operations/activities are not currently covered under any Emission Trading Programs or subject to any other mechanism that includes GHG allowance trading.

1.10.2 Other Forms of Environmental Credit

The Project is currently listed in M-RETS (the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System), a third-party registry created to record on a monthly basis the generation of renewable energy MWhs and issue renewable energy credits (RECs) corresponding to that generation. BEPC has a Qualified Reporting Entity (QRE) group that reports the number of MWhs generated each month to M-RETS, which in turn issues RECs and assigns them unique serial numbers for each MWh. For the creation of VCUs, the RECs for which VCUs are being claimed will be retired in M-RETS and the reason for doing this (VCU creation) will be documented in M-RETS. The retirement of these credits and subsequent identification of the reason is provided to the verifier and ensures that those RECs will not be double sold, such that VCUs can be created with confidence.

The RECs generated by the Project are currently eligible under the Iowa and Minnesota Renewable Portfolio Standards as well as under the Center for Resource Solutions' Voluntary Green-e Energy program (thru January 31, 2026). Over the course of the Initial Crediting Period, the Project's generation was:

- used to generate VCUs from 2009-2014
- sold as Voluntary Green-e RECs from January 1, 2015 - June 30, 2018,
- used to generate VCU's from January 1, 2018 thru December 31, 2019
- sold as Voluntary Green-e RECs from January 1, 2020 thru May 31, 2020
- split between Voluntary Green-e RECs and VCUs from June 1, 2020 thru July 31, 2020
- used to generate VCU's from August 1, 2020 thru October 31, 2020
- split between Voluntary Green-e RECs and VCUs from November 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020
- used to generate VCU's from January 1, 2021 thru January 31, 2021

Importantly, VCUs were never created from the environmental attributes associated with generation where the attributes were monetized through the sale of RECs.

As noted above, all of the Project's RECs generated during this Monitoring Period (the first period under the second crediting period) are being retired to create VCUs and were not used, claimed, or retired in any other program.

1.11 Sustainable Development Contributions

No SDG related activities were implemented during this Monitoring Period, nor does the project make any claims to have contributed to any SDG Goals over its lifetime.

2 SAFEGUARDS

2.1 No Net Harm

The largest potentially negative environmental impact is avian mortality, and BEPC is committed to operating the project to minimize the occurrence of such events. During various times BEPC has temporarily shut down the project due to whooping cranes in the project area. BEPC has developed a formal program and conducts training for all project employees twice a year on the whooping cranes' spring and fall migrations; any contractors who are scheduled to be onsite during the migration period are also required to take the training. The training program describes how to recognize a whooping crane, how to track them once spotted and how to protect them from the wind turbines.

BEPC is unaware of any potentially negative socio-economic impacts. In fact, the local community has been very involved in the project and has benefited from it both economically as well as in a number of social criteria. The project spent a great deal of money improving the local roads during the construction phase and also contributes to the local economy thru its payment of local taxes to as well as wind lease payments to the local landowners. In addition, the involvement of SDWP attracted more than 600 local farmers and residents as investors, who benefited financially from either equity or debt interests in the Project. The South Dakota Farm Bureau, the South Dakota Farmers Union and the South Dakota Corn Growers Association worked with BEPC in structuring this unique community-based carve out that serves as a model for public participation and engagement.

2.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation

While there was extensive stakeholder engagement during the initial permitting phase of the project (as documented in the Initial Project Description), for the most part at this point communications are limited to when issues arise. To that end BEPC maintains the following policies:

- Crow Lake Wind, like all wind projects, is subject to certain local, state and federal oversight and has staff that is responsible for all ongoing reporting requirements as well as any ad hoc requests. Many of these reports are in the public domain (e.g. the Energy Information Association publishes annual generation data from the facility).

- During the permitting and construction phase there were regularly scheduled meetings with the public. Beginning with the Project's commencement of commercial operations there are no formally scheduled meetings, and issues are addressed as they arise. At this time BEPC is unaware of any pending landowner issues, though when BEPC is notified of a stakeholder concern they have procedures in place to direct the concern to the appropriate department, such as the Plant Operations, Right of Way or Legal team.
- Regarding first responders, BEPC holds annual emergency response meetings on the wind farm site, where the safety coordinator invites all local public officials including the Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, ambulance services, emergency dispatch center, and emergency management coordinator.

Due to the substantial economic and social benefits it has generated for the community, the Project has and continues to enjoy tremendous local support. There have been to date no stakeholder requests for project modifications other than an inquiry from GE Renewable Energy regarding the potential to repower the facility.

2.3 AFOLU-Specific Safeguards

For non-AFOLU projects, this section is not required.

3 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

3.1 Implementation Status of the Project Activity

Crow Lake Wind came online on February 1, 2011 and overall has experienced normal operations since then. Over the course of the Monitoring Period the Project experienced the following events that impacted its electrical generation:

- Icing– The Project was partially derated due to icing of equipment on:
 - 2/3/2021 to 2/4/2021
- High Winds – The Project was partially derated due to high winds on:
 - 12/21/21 – 12/22/21
- Turbine Availability - The Project was partially derated due to unscheduled turbine issues on:
 - 2/4/21 - 2/25/21
 - 4/2/21 – 4/5/21
 - 5/3/21
 - 6/5/21 – 6/7/21
 - 6/19/21 – 7/13/21

- 7/22/21 – 7/26/21
 - 8/15/21 – 8/16/21
 - 8/23/21 – 8/25/21
 - 8/30/21 – 8/31/21
 - 10/18/21
 - 11/8/21 – 11/11/21
 - 11/15/21
- Power Line/Feeder Line Outages – The Project was totally derated due to unscheduled transmission equipment outages:
 - 2/2/21
 - 2/3/21
- Meter Testing – The Project was totally derated due to a check meter test on:
 - 11/16/21
- Wind turbine, tower and transformer maintenance – The Project was partially derated for periods to perform scheduled equipment maintenance on:
 - 7/26/21 – 7/29/21
 - 8/25/21 – 8/31/21
 - 10/13/21 – 10/15/21
 - 11/3/21 – 11/5/21
 - 11/11/21 – 12/17/21
 - 12/20/21 – 12/22/21
 - 12/27/21 – 12/30/21

Other than these curtailments, no other unscheduled outages or events took place and the project operated normally.

A Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories SEL-734 revenue grade meter (Serial No. 2009160413) installed at the Wessington Springs 230-kV Switchyard interconnection point to SPP measures the amount of power delivered to the grid by the Crow Lake project on a continuous basis; data is aggregated hourly and is reported in a MV90 report with 8760 separate data points for the number of kWh generated each hour. Both WAPA and the Basin-QRE Group read this meter on a monthly basis, and the Basin-QRE Group reports the number of megawatt hours (MWhs) generated to the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS), which then issues Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to the project's account. As noted in the project description, the project's registration in M-RETS is being used for reporting purposes only – all certificates for which VCUs are being generated will be retired.

Per the project description, both the MV90 data and the corresponding M-RETS generation records are being provided to corroborate the number of MWhs and RECs generated. For the Monitoring Period there were no significant discrepancies identified and the only variations for February thru December 2021 were due to the rounding of fractional MW's. The difference

between the annual M-RETS value and the MV90 value is an extremely small 0.000325% due to monthly rounding.

- As documented in the project description, the Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories meter, (Model SEL-734, Serial No. 2009160413) is required to be tested at a minimum of every three years, though BEPC has requested that WAPA conduct a test on an annual basis. For 2021 the test was conducted by WAPA on 3/18/2021, and the meter was found to be operating in a satisfactory manner.

3.2 Deviations

3.2.1 Methodology Deviations

No methodology deviations were applied during this Monitoring Period.
No methodology deviations were applied during previous reporting periods.

3.2.2 Project Description Deviations

Monitoring period of 2/1/2021 – 12/31/2021: We recognize no deviations from the Project Description filed as part of the application for the Project's Second Crediting Period.

3.3 Grouped Projects

Crow Lake Wind is a stand-alone project and is not a grouped project.

4 DATA AND PARAMETERS

4.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation

Data / Parameter	$EF_{grid,CM,y}$
Data unit	Metric tons / MWh
Description	The CO ₂ emissions factor for the grid displaced due to the project activity, during the year y in metric tons CO ₂ /MWh, as calculated by the combined operating margin (CM), which is a weighted average of the Simple Operating Margin and Build Margin.
Source of data	Calculated based on Tool for calculating emissions intensity of the grid; Sources include EIA 923/860/930 databases and EIA fuel emissions factors
Value applied	0.3730
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	$w1 * \text{Simple OM} + w2 * \text{Build Margin}$, where $w1 = 0.75$, $w2 = 0.25$, Simple OM = 0.4763 and Build Margin = 0.0630 For detailed calculations see Section 4 of the Updated Project Description for the Second Crediting Period.
Purpose of Data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments	The ex-ante option is chosen

Data / Parameter	$EF_{grid,OMsimple,y}$
Data unit	Metric tons / MWh
Description	Simple Operating Margin CO ₂ emissions factor in year y
Source of data	Calculated based on Tool for calculating emissions intensity of the grid; Sources include EIA 923/860/930 databases and EIA fuel emissions factors
Value applied	0.4763
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	Calculated based in tool for calculating emissions intensity of the grid. For detailed calculations see Section 4 of the Updated Project Description for the Second Crediting Period
Purpose of Data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments	The ex-ante option is chosen

Data / Parameter	EG _{m, y}
Data unit	MWh
Description	Net quantity of electricity generated by power unit m in year y (m includes all power units except low cost must run power units)
Source of data	EIA 923 database
Value applied	Varies by unit
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	N/A
Purpose of Data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments	N/A

Data / Parameter	For simple operating margin - EF _{EL, m, y}
Data unit	Metric tons / MWh
Description	CO ₂ emissions factor of power unit m in year y (tCO ₂ / MWh)
Source of data	EIA 923 databases and EIA Fuel emissions factors
Value applied	Varies by unit
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	Calculated using EIA 923 / EIA 860 databases and EIA Fuel emissions factors
Purpose of Data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments	N/A

Data / Parameter	FC _{i, m, y} and NCV _{i, y}
Data unit	MMBtus
Description	Amount of fossil fuel type i consumed by power unit m in year y (mass or unit volume) and the Net Calorific Value (energy content) of fossil fuel type i in year y
Source of data	EIA 923
Value applied	Varies by unit
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	The EIA 923 database provides the product of these two factors and provides the MMBtus consumed for electricity generation for each plant in the grid.
Purpose of Data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments	N/A

Data / Parameter	EF _{CO2,i,y}
Data unit	Kg CO2e/MMBtu
Description	CO2 emissions factor of fossil fuel type i in year y
Source of data	EIA 923 database and EIA Fuel Emissions Factors
Value applied	Varies by fuel type
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	EIA fuel emissions factors are default values that have been used to prepare GHG inventories.
Purpose of Data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments	N/A

Data / Parameter	EF _{grid,BM,y}
Data unit	Metric Tons / MWh
Description	CO2 emissions factor of fossil fuel type i in year y
Source of data	Calculated using Option A2 for simple OM, but including all units as defined in the methodology. EIA 923/860 databases and EIA Fuel Emissions Factors
Value applied	0.0630
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	For detailed calculations see Section 4 of the Updated Project Description for the Second Crediting Period
Purpose of Data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments	N/A

Data / Parameter	For Build Margin - EF _{EL,m,y}
Data unit	Metric Tons / MWh
Description	CO2 emissions factor of power unit m in year y (tCO2 / MWh)
Source of data	EIA 923/860 databases
Value applied	Varies by unit
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	Calculated using EIA 923 / EIA 860 databases and EIA Fuel emissions factors, based on Option A2 as described under the Simple OM found in Section 4 of the Section 4 of the Updated Project Description for the Second Crediting Period
Purpose of Data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments	This factor uses the power generation efficiency factor and the CO2 emissions factor of fossil fuel type l in year y.

Data / Parameter	For Build Margin - $\eta_{m,y}$
Data unit	MMBtus / MWh
Description	Average net energy conversion efficiency of power unit m in year y
Source of data	Default table, Annex 1
Value applied	Varies by unit
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied	This is required by the Tool for the option chosen.
Purpose of Data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments	N/A

4.2 Data and Parameters Monitored

Data / Parameter	EG facility, Feb-Dec 2021
Data unit	MWhs
Description	Quantity of net electricity generation supplied by the project plant/unit to the grid from February thru December 2021
Source of data	Project activity revenue meter at the site (SEL-734 Meter)
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied	Revenue grade meters record power generated on a continuous basis. Production is then aggregated at an hourly interval so that an 8760 hourly production shape is available for each year. Data monitoring takes place on a monthly basis, when when Basin-QRE interrogates the meter and submits the data to the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS) to create RECs. This monthly data from M-RETS is what will be used to calculate the emissions reductions.
Frequency of monitoring/recording	Data Recording: Continuous Data Aggregation: Hourly Data Monitoring/Reporting: Monthly
Value monitored	EG facility, Feb-Dec 2021 = 338,058 MWh
Monitoring equipment	The Project operator has installed a Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories SEL-734 revenue grade meter (Serial No. 2009160413) metering device.
QA/QC procedures to be applied	Per the interconnection agreement and WAPA Metering Guidelines. This meter was tested on 3/18/2021.
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Calculation method	Meter readings
Comments	N/A

4.3 Monitoring Plan

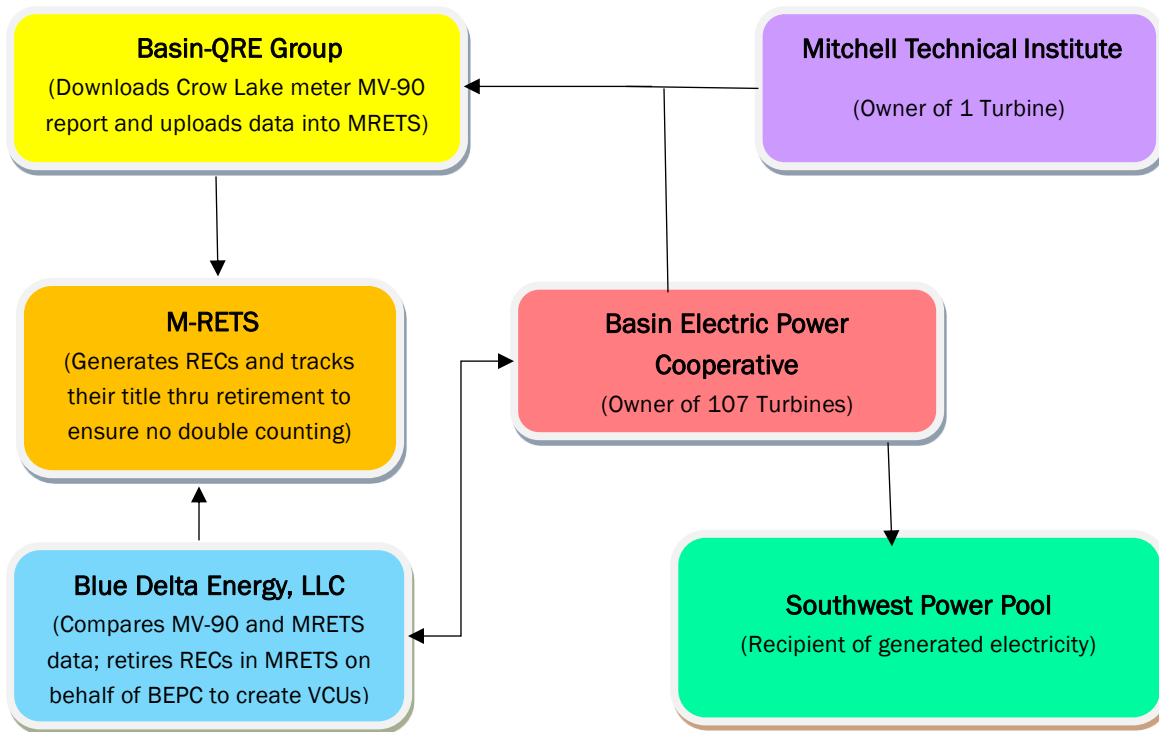


Figure 4 Relationship of parties involved in tracking the Project data

Parties Involved in tracking the Project Data:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative: owner and operator of the Project.

Mitchell Technical Institute: owner of 1 Turbine of the Project.

Southwest Power Pool (SPP): the recipient of all electricity generated by the Project.

Basin-QRE Group: the internal entity at BEPC responsible for downloading the aggregated hourly data from the meter using MV-90 software and uploading the monthly electricity generation to the M-RETS Renewable Electricity registry.

M-RETS: an independent non-profit data registry responsible for creating RECs (including verifying the volume based on error checks) and tracking the providence of the RECs from creation thru their retirement as part of the creation of the VCUs.

Blue Delta Energy, LLC: the consultant and authorized representative for BEPC responsible for preparing the verification and validation documents for the Project on behalf of BEPC. Blue Delta personnel were involved with the original Project validation and have completed all the previous Monitoring Reports for the Project.

For contact information of the parties involved in the project, see Sections 1.3 Project Proponent and 1.4 Other Entities Involved in the Project.

The following provides a summary of the data recording, collection, verification and processing procedures for the Project as well as the QA/QC and retention standards:

- Data Monitoring
 - A Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories SEL-734 revenue grade meter (Serial No. 2009160413) records power delivered to the SPP grid on a continuous basis.
 - Data recording takes place on a monthly basis when the Basin-QRE group uses MV-90 software to interrogate the SEL meter and download an Excel report (the “MV-90 report”) which aggregates the generation on an hourly basis.
 - The Basin QRE group then uploads this file into the M-RETS Renewable Electricity registry, which performs validation checks on the input data as a part of its REC creation process.
 - The M-RETS RECs represent the Project’s electricity generation (EG_{facility, year}) used to calculate the Project’s emissions reductions.
 - Based on the Interconnection Agreement between PWSD1 and WAPA as well as the WAPA Metering Guidelines, meter calibrations are to take place every three years at a minimum, though BEPC normally requests testing on a more frequent basis.
 - For the period covered in this Monitoring Report, BDE’s senior management reviewed both the source level MV-90 reports and compared them to the annual quantity of RECs created in MRETS, and also reviewed the meter test to see if there were any errors or non-conformities that need to be addressed by BEPC.
 - Once BDE was satisfied with its accuracy, the M-RETS data was used in the calculation of the emissions reductions.
 - BDE will retire the RECs in M-RETS prior to the creation of the VCU, and the M-RETS REC retirement report will be provided to the Verifier.
 - Monitoring records will be retained for 12 years.
 - The final step of non-conformance resolution is to review and (if necessary) update the appropriate sections of the QA/QC procedures.
- BEPC provides access to the revenue quality metering device as well as information for all test, measurement, and project operating equipment. This information is updated over the life of the project as devices are replaced. The device record will include a basic specification sheet for each metering device used to measure the Project’s generation to the grid.
- Calibration Log: During this crediting period, a test of the SEL-734 meter was conducted by WAPA on 3/18/2021, and the meter was found to be operating in a satisfactory manner, and no recalibration was required.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS

5.1 Baseline Emissions

The total MWhs generated (as reported in M-RETS) for the period February 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021 is 338,058 MWhs

The Baseline Emissions are calculated by multiplying the MWhs utilized, by the combined margin ($EF_{grid,CM,y}$), which is 0.3730 metric tons CO₂e / MWh.

Hence the Baseline Emissions are:

$$338,058 \text{ MWhs} * 0.3730 \text{ metric tonnes} / \text{MWh} = 126,095 \text{ metric tons.}$$

5.2 Project Emissions

Per the methodology ACM0002, project emissions from this project are zero. Per the methodology, we do not consider project emissions because this is not a geothermal, solar thermal, or hydro project.

5.3 Leakage

Per the methodology ACM0002, no leakage is considered.

5.4 Net GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
Feb-Dec 2021	126,095	-	-	126,095
Total	126,095	-	-	126,095