

Is There a Community-Scale Wind Project Near You?

The Radar Operations Center (ROC) has been working with field sites since 2006 to understand and estimate the potential impact of large, utility-scale wind farms. However, we are now beginning to learn (mostly from WFOs) of planned community-scale projects, which are defined by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) as less than 20 Megawatts, but typically much less and with only one turbine installed. Many of these single-turbine projects support school districts, commercial parks, farmers, etc.

While these projects may not seem as likely to impact WSR-88D data/products and resulting forecasts and warnings as utility-scale wind farms, if the turbine(s) is located within ~3km of the radar and blade tips extend above the deck of the WSR-88D tower, the impacts can be large. For example, the hub (nacelle) of a single large turbine in the radar's line-of-sight at 3km can significantly block the radar beam and cause a data shadow through the entire range of a radial (1 deg).

Please notify the ROC at wind.energy.matters@noaa.gov if you become aware of a proposal to install this type of wind project close to your WSR-88D. As with larger wind farm projects, we will assess the potential impacts on the radar/operations and work with the developer, if needed. The ROC will increase our outreach efforts to the community wind developers to increase their awareness of WSR-88D locations and potential impacts.

Tim Crum
ROC Director's Office

ROC Stars



The Radar Operations Center (ROC) employs dedicated professionals working for the betterment of the WSR-88D program. We are proud of our employees, many of whom have been recognized for their efforts. Please join us in congratulating the following ROC award recipients:

- 2010 Oklahoma Federal Executive Board Employee of the Year Nominees:
 - Technical, Professional & Admin. GS-9 & Above, (Civilian) - Chris Calvert
 - Clerical/Admin. Assistant (Civilian) - Cindy Laffoon
 - Supervisory (Civilian) - Marty Williams
 - Outstanding Team Effort - Greg Cate, Lt.Col. Stephen Cocks, Richard Murnan, Dave Zittel, Joe Chrisman, Darcy Saxion, Richard Ice, Steven Smith, Michelle Collier and Stephen Castleberry
- ROC Employee of the Quarter - FY11
 - 1st Quarter - Ray Gonzalez, Program Branch
 - 2nd Quarter - Jerrod Walker, Program Branch
 - 3rd Quarter - Dan Hoffman, Program Branch
 - 4th Quarter - Bob Heelan, Operations Branch
- ROC Team Member of the Quarter - FY11
 - 1st Quarter - Mark Roper, Director's Office
 - 2nd Quarter - Jason Close, Engineer Branch
 - 3rd Quarter - Gail Grimes, Program Branch
 - 4th Quarter - Brandy Bauer, Program Branch

Nancy Beck
ROC Director's Office