

U.S. Army Signs Lease for Novel Energy Resilience Project on Fort Sill



Artist rendering provided by PSO

On June 5, the Army and PSO signed a 30 year lease for siting of a 36 MW natural gas power plant and up to 14 MW of solar on Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

WASHINGTON, June 26, 2020: On June 5, The U.S. Army and Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) signed a long-term lease to allow PSO to construct, own, and operate a 36 megawatt (MW) natural gas power plant, and up to 14 MW of solar on Fort Sill in Oklahoma. This Fall, PSO will seek approval from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) to proceed with the project. If approved, as in-kind consideration for the lease value, Fort Sill would have first right to draw power from the generation equipment during grid outages.

Benefits to the community would include increased grid reliability and power to local PSO customers during normal grid operations. It would also support Army readiness by being able to provide 100% of the power needed to sustain Fort Sill's critical missions for at least 14 days during grid outages.

"Army installations like Fort Sill require secure access to energy to accomplish critical missions," said Alex A. Beehler, assistant secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy and Environment). "When we can achieve this objective, while also benefitting the local community, it's a win-win solution."

If approved, PSO, a subsidiary of American Electric Power, would fund, construct, own, operate, and maintain the project, which is designed to serve power to utility customers on the grid in Oklahoma during normal grid operations. As conceived, in the event of a grid service disruption, the project would be able to continue to provide utility power to Fort Sill independent of the grid using the power generated onsite.

The proposed project is the result of collaboration between the U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives, Fort Sill, PSO, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"We're excited about the benefits of this partnership for the Army and local community," said Major General Kenneth L. Kamper, commanding general, Fort Sill. "This project will strengthen the local power grid and provide power to sustain Fort Sill's critical missions."

This project is another example of the Army's ongoing commitment of collaboration with industry, local utilities, and other stakeholders to achieve modern community and installation infrastructure to provide assured access to diverse supplies of energy in support of critical missions.

The proposed project is supported by a 30-year lease term with an option to extend for 10 additional years, under statutory authority 10 USC §2667, for approximately 80 acres on Fort Sill.

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Hon. Alex A. Beehler
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