



# THAR SHE (USED TO) BLOW

## EXELON'S FIRST WIND DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT

Lawrence Liden

Senior Program Manager

Erik Johansen

Principal Project Manager

Timothy Clapp

Manager, Permitting and Environmental Affairs

Danielle Muschamp

Environmental Projects Specialist



2018 National Conference

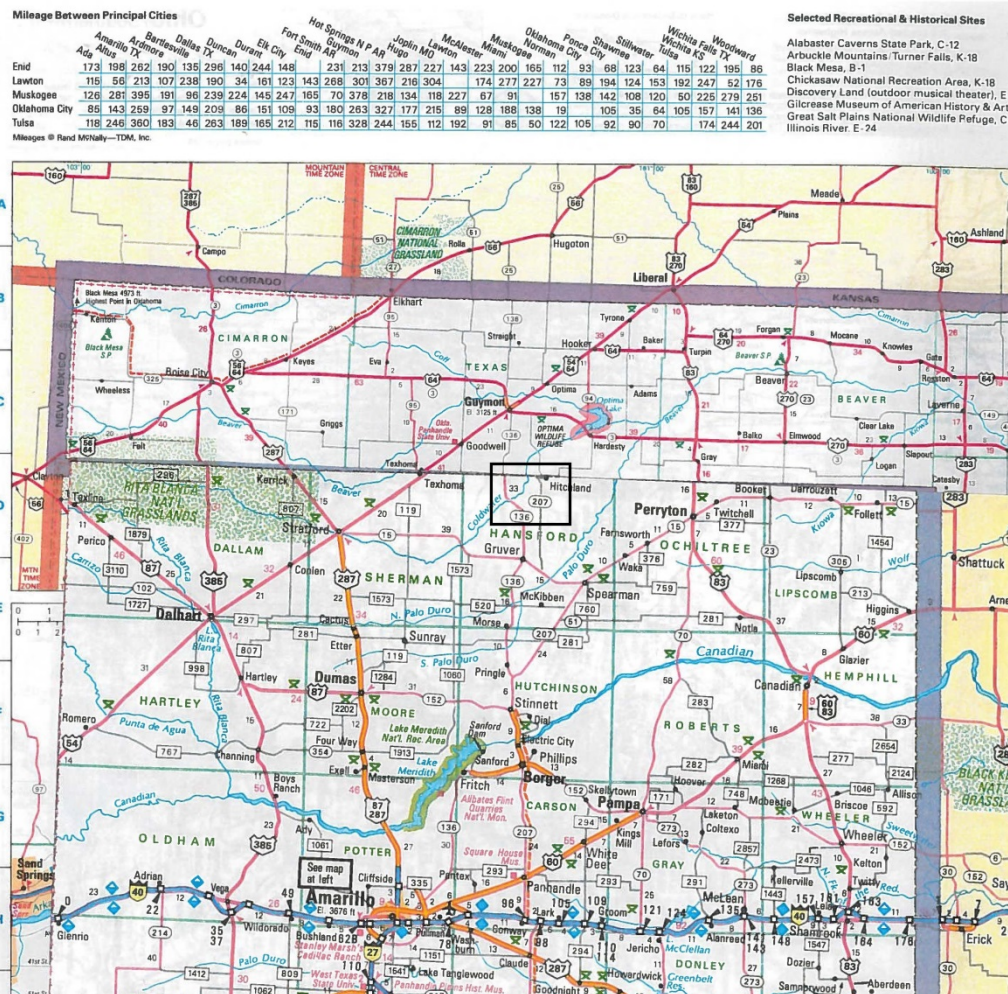
August 28, 2018



Exelon Generation®

# Exelon Wind 1, 2, 3

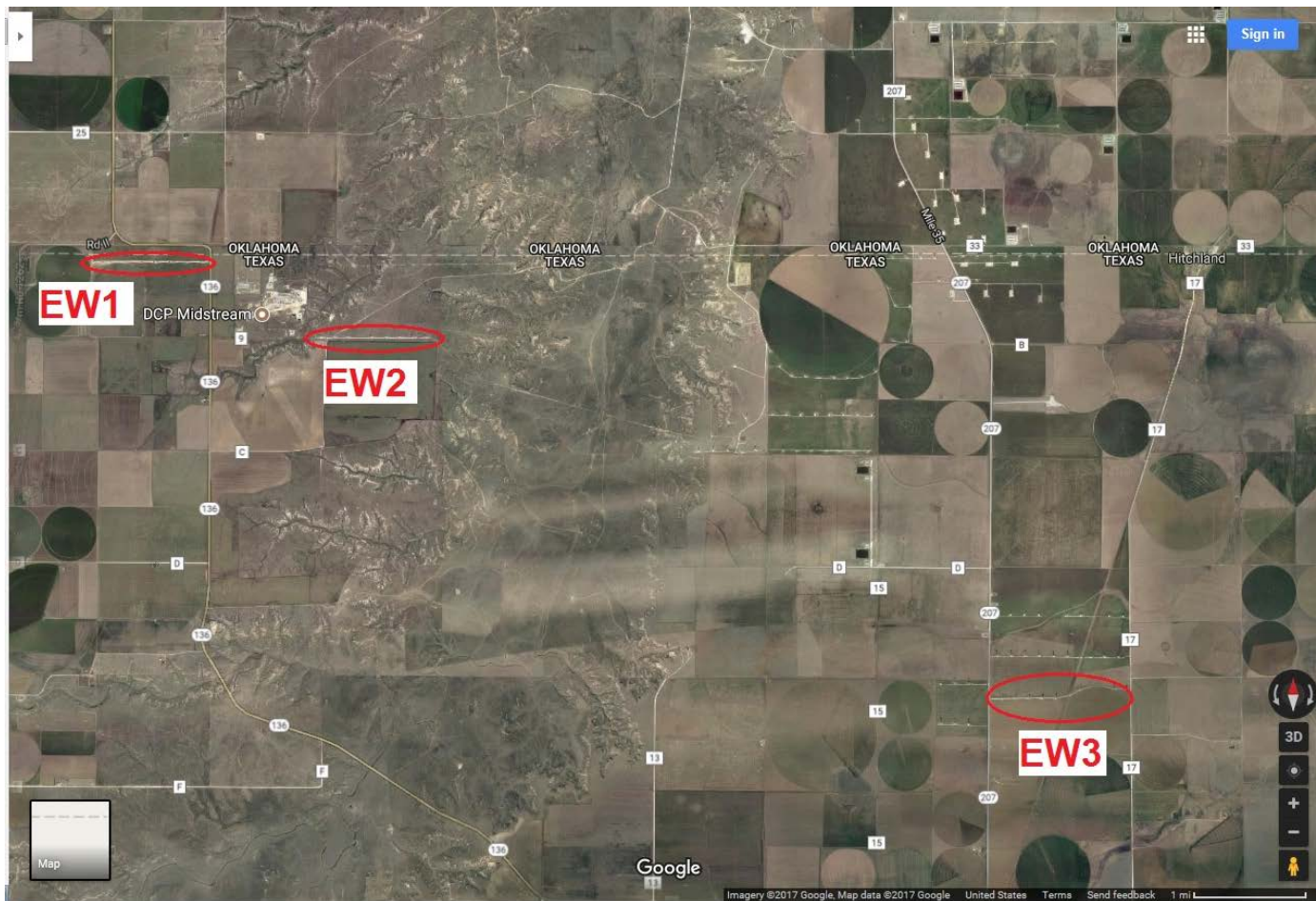
- Location – North Texas Panhandle (spittin' distance from Oklahoma)





# Exelon Wind 1, 2, 3

- Location – North Texas Panhandle - land uses







## Exelon Wind 1, 2, 3 – Adjacent Land Uses

Ag Feed crops:

Sorghum

Corn

Soybeans

Winter wheat

Hay

- Cattle  
(lovable, aren't they?)







## Site description

---

- General layout of wind farms





## Site description

---

- Tower orientation





## Site description

---

- Roadway







## Site description

---

- Roadway construction:
  - 16 FT wide x 1 FT deep x 1 mile long trench
  - Soil rolled into adjacent farm/crop land.
  - Caliche replaced soil & compacted to form roadbeds





## Site description – roadway material

---

- Caliche – a sedimentary rock, a hardened **natural cement** of calcium carbonate that can bind with other materials (soil, sand, gravel).
- Roadways are therefore, hard as CONCRETE! (at least when dry)



## Wind Tower description – Tower

- Height 72 meters
  - 4 sections – 18 m long
  - Tower diameter - 4.15m – 2.45 m







## Wind Tower description – Tower

---

- Tower interior

- **BIG** tube

- Ladder

- Cables





## Wind Tower description – Nacelle

- Dimensions:  
Length 8.3 m  
Width 3.2 m  
Height 3.6 m







## Wind Tower description – Tower base

---

- Steel re-enforced concrete
- 12-18 ft deep
- Base diameter - 4.15m – 2.45 m

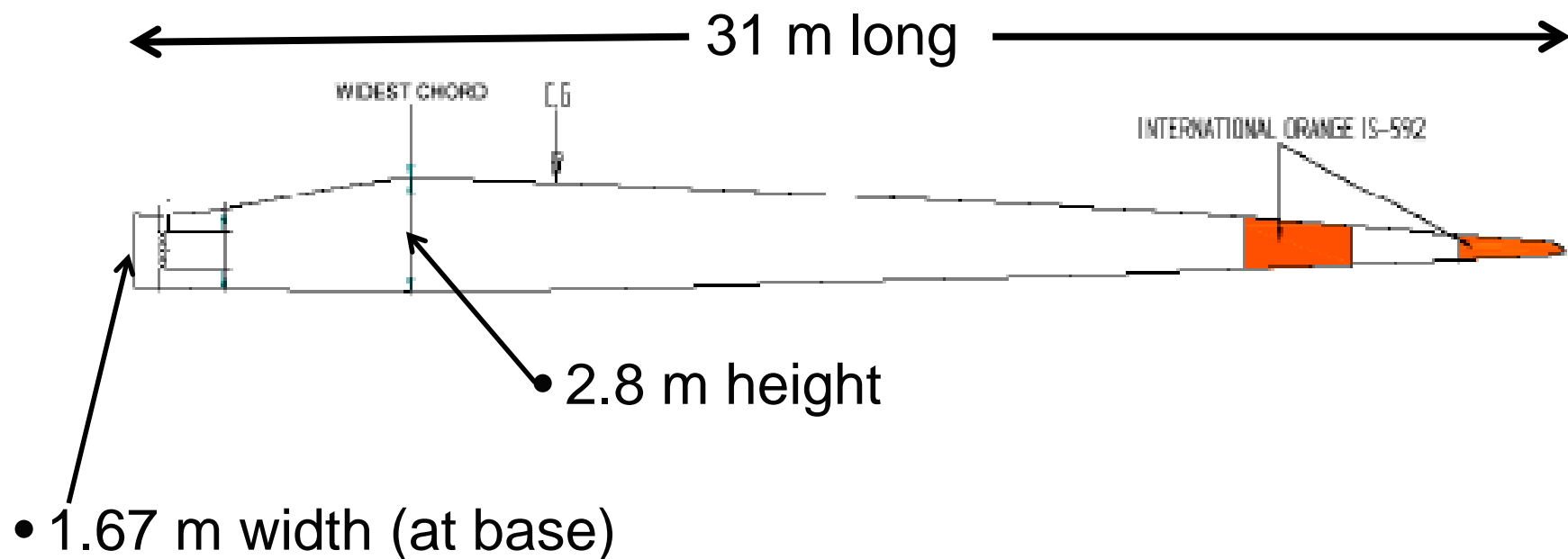






## Wind Tower description – Turbine blades

Each blade occupies a large amount of “air space”





## Wind Tower description - weights

---

- Weight (lbs)

- Tower 230,694
- Nacelle 97,709
- Hub 20,278

total 355,295





## Decommissioning Options

---

- Felling (explosives)
  - More difficult to reuse components
  - Safety concerns
  - Debris containment – crop damage
  - + Lower cost
- Crane dismantlement
  - Higher cost; susceptible to wind delays
  - Safety concerns - work at heights
  - + Process can be stopped immediately
  - + Undamaged components























































































































































































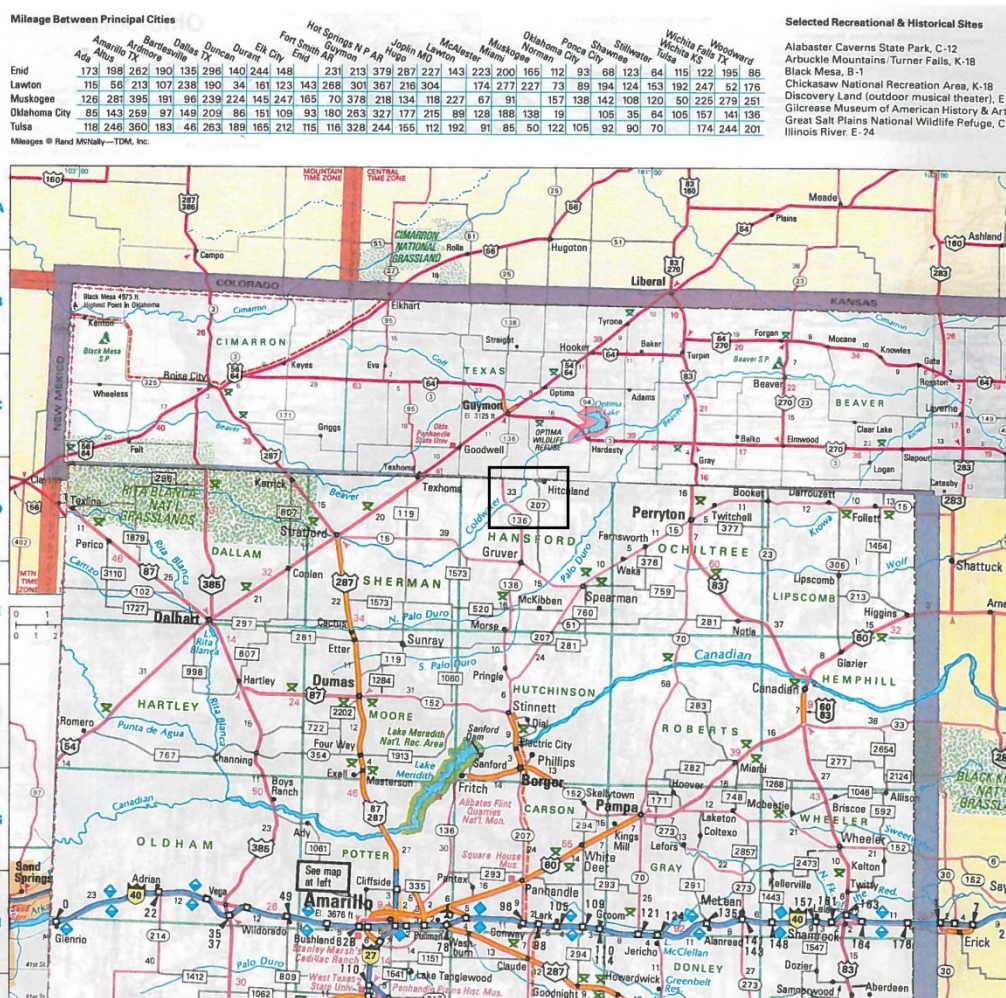








# OPERATIONAL CHALLENGE #1 – geographic location, north Texas almost in Oklahoma





## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGE #2 – WEATHER - WIND

---







## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGE #3 – WEATHER - RAIN

---



3:20 PM





## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGE #3 – WEATHER-RAIN

---



6:51 PM



## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGE #4 – AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH FARMING

---

- AVOID FARM OPERATIONS
  - Growing season – May through late Sept
  - Active crop farming adjacent to all sites (used as forage areas in winter)
  - Avoid interfering with crop planting or harvest operations



## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGE #5 – distance to recycling markets

---

- Recyclers in area –
  - Two small operations; two larger recyclers
    - Large recyclers not interested in towers
    - Small recyclers – can they manage heavy towers?
- Larger downstream recyclers distant
  - Closest LARGE downstream recycling operations – Ft. Worth, Denver





## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGE #6 – Laydown areas access

---

- Area occupied by:
  - 72 blades ~ 1.1 acre
  - 24 towers ~ 1 acre
  - 24 Nacelles & hubs ~ 0.2 acre
- Need ~ 2.3 acres (8985 m<sup>2</sup>) total  
(Roughly area of 1 ¾ football fields)





## ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE #1 – restoration of farm & ranch lands

---

- Removal of roadways
  - Several landowners elected to have roadways remain
- Replace with “clean soil”
  - Source of “clean soil” w/o bindweed was problematic
- Relocate/reuse caliche
  - Stockpile for ranchers’ use
  - Reuse in rebuilding some of access roads



## ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE #2 – ensuring clean soil (invasive weed species)

---

### **Bindweed**

*Convolvulus arvensis*

Climbing, creeping vine

Spreads via rhizomes  
and seeds (perennial)

Deep roots (~8-9 ft)

Strangles crops,  
persistent







## ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE #3 – Landfill availability for non-recyclables (blades)

---

- Only 3 municipal landfills in N Texas/OK/Kansas area:
  - Spearman Landfill, Spearman TX - ~ 20 miles
  - Amarillo City Landfill, Amarillo TX -~ 100 miles
  - Seward Co. Landfill, Liberal KS -~ 75 miles
- **NO COMMERCIAL LANDFILLS!**
- Sale for reuse is now best option!!

## Questions ?

