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**CHAPTER 19 STANDARDS FOR A NON-COMMERCIAL WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM (WECS) ACCESSORY TO PERMITTED USES**

**SECTION 19.010 Purpose**

This chapter describes how to apply for county approval of a proposed non-commercial WECS accessory to a permitted use and its associated transmission lines as specified in designated zones.

**SECTION 19.020 Review Criteria and Conditions**

In addition to the applicable criteria listed in [Chapter 3](#) and [Chapter 14](#), a non-commercial WECS and its associated transmission lines may be permitted in the designation zones subject to the following additional criteria and conditions:

- A. Accessory Use. The applicant(s) shall demonstrate how the WECS is accessory to another permitted use on the subject tract. Free standing equipment is a new accessory structure, equipment attached to an existing structure is an addition of the structure on which it is located.
- B. Size Limitation. The production of energy shall not exceed the needs of the use on the tract. The applicant(s) shall demonstrate how much energy is needed and how the proposed size and number of WECS match this. No more than two WECS shall be allowed on the same tract. Net-metering may be allowed,. Sale of power back to the electrical grid is permitted, provided that it is an occasional event, not ongoing over the course of the year.
- C. Height.
  - 1. Maximum Height. The total WECS height shall not exceed 200 feet.
  - 2. Minimum Height. The lowest point in the sweep of a WECS blade shall be a minimum height above the tallest current or foreseeable obstruction within a horizontal, 500 foot radius of a WECS or a radius of 10 rotor diameters (for horizontal axis) and 5 WECS heights (for vertical axis), whichever is greater, as described in (a), (b), and (c) below. The radius shall be measured from the center point of the tower.
    - a. At least 30 feet for a horizontal axis WECS on a site without site-specific wind direction data or representative off-site data.
    - b. At least 30 feet above current or foreseeable obstructions within 45 degrees of the direction(s) of prevailing wind for a horizontal axis WECS on a site with site-specific wind direction data or representative off-site data.
    - c. At least six feet for a vertical axis WECS.
- D. Setbacks.
  - 1. A WECS shall be setback from all adjoining property lines as described in (a) and (b) below. An



- K. Communications.** The proposed WECS shall not unduly reduce or interfere with electromagnetic communication signals. If undue reduction or interference occurs, the applicant shall return reception levels to pre-facility levels.
- L. Coordination:** The applicant shall demonstrate that all necessary state and federal permits, licenses, exemptions, variances, or authority are approved before initiating construction of the WECS.
- M. Removal:** An abandoned WECS shall be removed by the owner of the subject tract, or by Wasco County at the owner's expense, if after notice of abandonment by Wasco County, the WECS does not resume production of electricity within 6 months.

