

Win-Win Partnerships with SONRI

Balancing Renewable Energy with Military Missions

Bottom Line Up Front: SONRI teamed with Texas A&M University to develop a geospatial mapping tool and protocols to identify conflicts between renewable energy development and military missions on behalf of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC). This new tool is already reaping benefits in promoting conversations and collaboration between the renewable energy industry and military missions in the state.

The Story

Renewable energy is big business in Texas. Texas now produces more wind energy than any other state, and an industry that



was virtually nonexistent in the 1990s now employs over 25,000 people. Lease income from wind turbines helps Texas farmers and ranchers, and generates millions of dollars a year for Texas schools, veterans, and universities from the 30+ million acres of land managed by the General Land Office and Permanent University Fund.

The military is also big business in Texas, and the missions stationed in the state are critical components of our National Defense Strategy. Texas is home to three Air Force and two Navy bases producing hundreds of new pilots annually. All told, the military has a \$100+ billion impact on the Texas economy, making it the third largest industry in the state. Hundreds of Military Training Routes crisscross the state, and blocks of special use airspace provide the room needed for helicopters, fighters, bombers, airlifters, and flying trainers to do their jobs. Large wind farms with hundreds of turbines pose challenges to flying safety and the ability to train realistically. But do national security needs outweigh the rights of landowners to productively use their land, particularly when such use also supports critical national priorities like clean energy and jobs?



TMPC partnered with Texas A&M University to sponsor a study of the impacts of renewable energy on military missions. Texas A&M turned to SONRI for expertise in military missions and land use to develop a tool that provides all stakeholders with accurate information about military interests. The approach was to promote communication and collaboration, and the team succeeded admirably. Though still in beta testing as of late 2019, the tool is already reaping benefits in helping wind developers select sites that minimize impacts, and help military planners work with developers to mitigate other impacts. "This is not about clean energy versus the

military mission, It is about understanding each other's needs and working together," said Col Russell Diggers, Commander, 80th Flying Training Wing, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

SONRI: Ready to Help You

SONRI's extensive experience in government, the military, community planning, and the private sector provides our clients with unique perspectives and winning skills that ensure success. SONRI is ready to support you and your partners to help you achieve your goals now and into the future. To learn more about how we can help your organization be a leader, visit www.sonricorp.com.



Contact: Steve Bonner

Email: steve.bonner@sonricorp.com

Phone: 210-387-8628