

Teleconference Call
November 28, 2006

**State Agency Dialogue:
Approaches to
Reducing Wildlife
Impacts from Wind
Development**

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Wind & Wildlife: State of the State Role

- ④ **State policy support for renewable energy -- 20+ States with Renewable Portfolio Standards; wind is primary, least cost resource**
- ④ **States have primary wildlife trust responsibilities**
- ④ **Regulating wind power is largely a state and local responsibility**
- ④ **Some avian mortality is inevitable in wind projects**
- ④ **Wildlife agencies have enormous discretion in how to implement wildlife laws**
- ④ **State & local agencies have limited experience with wind projects**
- ④ **Lack of specific, detailed state regulations or guidance on wildlife impacts from wind; case by case decisions**
- ④ **Growing state efforts to adopt guidelines (CA, NY, MA, PA, VT ...)**

Patchwork of State Approaches

- **In many states, local jurisdictions regulate wind under zoning ordinances and conditional use permits that do not specifically address wildlife (NY, PA)**
- **In some states, energy siting boards make “public good” decisions, considering input from state wildlife departments as one factor in balance**
- **State NEPAs sometimes require state and local governments to assess environmental impacts and mitigation for proposed actions (CA, NY, WA)**
- **Most state have endangered species laws but no prosecution or take permits issued**

Possible Value/Goals of State Cooperation

- **Avoid state-by-state, case-by-case approaches to promote responsible wind siting across country**
- **Share data to increase understanding of risks & mitigation effectiveness**
- **Identify & develop consistent, effective protocols, techniques, and tools to assess risk**
- **Form state/federal partnerships to ensure coordinated, consistent, streamlined review of wind projects**
- **Establish coordinated and cooperative state & national research agenda**

Concept for Moving Forward

- ④ **States create & participate in fixed-duration collaborative**
- ④ **Potential objectives:**
 1. **Share information**
 2. **Seek to standardize approaches**
 3. **Develop model guidelines**
 4. **Coordinate research agenda**
 5. **Represent state voice to USFWS federal advisory committee**
- ④ **Participants – state agencies. Other participants? Federal agencies? Observers?**
- ④ **Geographic focus? National? Regional subgroups?**
- ④ **Establish a “Task Group” for design phase**
- ④ **Distribute proposals to state representatives for review, discussion & decision**

Contact Information



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