

National Wind Coordinating Collaborative

Monthly Update

JUNE 2010

NWCC BUSINESS

NWCC HONORED AS “OUTSTANDING PARTNER” BY WIND POWERING AMERICA

Wind Powering America honored the NWCC at the May 28 State Summit in Dallas, TX, with the Wind Powering America Outstanding Partner Award. The award reads: “for its leadership and technical integrity in addressing and communicating wind’s greatest challenges.”

Congratulations to all NWCC Steering Committee and Workgroup members who have contributed to the success of the Collaborative.

Please join us in thanking Wind Powering America for recognizing the work of the NWCC through the years.

NWCC ATTENDS AWEA’S WINDPOWER CONFERENCE IN DALLAS, TEXAS

From Sunday, May 23 to Wednesday, May 26, the NWCC was featured in the display hall at AWEA’s annual WINDPOWER Conference in Dallas, Texas. The NWCC booth featured an entirely new display as well as many recent NWCC publications. Staff had the opportunity to meet with dozens of interested parties who inquired about NWCC’s accomplishments and upcoming activities. Thank you to all who stopped by the booth!

WILDLIFE

NWCC RELEASES THE FACT SHEET, “WIND TURBINE INTERACTIONS WITH BIRDS, BATS, AND THEIR HABITATS: A SUMMARY OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND PRIORITY QUESTIONS”

On June 2, NWCC Wildlife Workgroup released the fact sheet, “Wind Turbine Interactions with Birds, Bats, and their Habitats: A Summary of Research Results and Priority Questions,” which can be downloaded here: <http://www.nationalwind.org/publications/bbfactsheet.aspx>. The fact sheet summarizes what is known about bird and bat interactions with land-based wind power in North America, including habitat impacts, and what key questions and knowledge gaps remain. It uses a three-tiered classification of wind-wildlife relationships based on the weight of the evidence and agreement, or lack thereof, among researchers in the field on each particular statement contained in the Fact Sheet.

- “What Studies Have Shown” are conclusions widely supported by peer-reviewed studies and on which there is broad consensus among researchers.
- “What Is Less Well Understood” presents ideas reached by some field studies, but either the evidence is too limited to support a firm and broadly applicable conclusion, there is some evidence to the contrary, or there is some controversy regarding the idea among researchers.
- “Areas Where Little Is Known” presents questions to which even tentative conclusions cannot yet be reached based on current information and data gaps. These questions are hypotheses yet to be tested or are gaps in current knowledge that have been identified by researchers.

PLANNING FOR THE WIND WILDLIFE RESEARCH MEETING VIII CONTINUES

Abstracts for the Eighth Wind Wildlife Research Meeting were due May 10, 2010. Over 70 abstract submissions were received in the following categories:

1. Fatality Impacts to Birds and Bats
2. Cumulative and Landscape-Scale Impacts to Specific Species or Groups
3. Impacts to Wildlife Habitat and Behavior
4. Mitigation Techniques and Technology
5. Understanding of the Current Knowledge of Offshore Wind and Wildlife Issues

A panel of experts will review and score all submitted abstracts to determine which should be presented at the meeting, which should be shown as posters, and which are not appropriate for the meeting. The planning committee will review submissions and notify authors of acceptance by mid- to late-July.

Parties interested in co-sponsoring the meeting should contact Lauren Flinn at lflinn@resolv.org. We would like to recognize our current cosponsors: *Stantec, Horizon Wind Energy, BP Wind Energy, Iberdrola Renewables, Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative, American Wind Wildlife Institute, U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, US Offshore Wind Collaborative, and Great Lakes Wind Collaborative.*

MAY WILDLIFE WORKGROUP CALL FEATURES WESTERN GOVERNORS’ ASSOCIATION WILDLIFE EFFORTS

The Wildlife Workgroup met by phone on May 19 to learn about the Western Governors’ Association (WGA) Wildlife Corridors and Crucial Habitat Initiative from Madeleine West of WGA. Additionally, Christy Johnson-Hughes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wildlife Workgroup Core Group member, updated the group on the status of the Wind Turbine Guidelines Federal Advisory Committee work. The recommendations are currently in the Assistant Secretary of the Interior’s hands, but the review has been delayed due to the response to the oil spill. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing for a department level briefing and discussing how to conduct training and make it available to all interested sectors. Callers provided sector updates and NWCC staff updated callers on the NWCC’s booth at AWEA’s WINDPOWER conference, representation on the Wildlife Workgroup Core Group, the status of the Eighth Wind Wildlife Research Meeting, and the status of the Birds and Bats Fact Sheet and Methods and Metrics Document.

The next Wildlife Workgroup call is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 14, from 2:30-4pm Eastern**. To join the Wildlife Workgroup, click here: <http://www.nationalwind.org/members/register.aspx>.

TRANSMISSION

RENEWABLES, TRANSMISSION, AND CONSERVATION LEADERS CONVENE IN COLORADO

On May 10 & 11, leaders from wind, solar, hydropower, and geothermal technologies, representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity and Office Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, conservationists, and transmission experts convened in Golden, Colorado, to explore whether the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative (NWCC) should formally include solar, hydro, and geothermal technologies in western transmission activities. Participants discussed a wide range of transmission and renewables topics and agreed that a broader, unique collaboration that provides a forum for discussion and strategy development on the most difficult technical and policy issues impacting transmission expansion in the Western Interconnection would be useful. A call to discuss a proposed scope of work is planned for early June.

NCSL & NWCC TRANSMISSION POLICY INSTITUTE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 17 & 18

The Transmission Policy Institute, a two-day workshop that will provide state lawmakers with the foundation needed to understand issues surrounding wind integration, transmission planning and siting, and how to appropriately allocate transmission costs is scheduled for June 17 and 18 in Denver, Colorado. This workshop will convene state lawmakers and transmission experts. It is intended to explore ways to promote collaboration between states and regions, and help lawmakers formulate policies that can assist states in ensuring that transmission development promotes clean, reliable electricity sources. This is being co-hosted by the **National Conference of State Legislatures** and NWCC.

JUNE TRANSMISSION UPDATE AND TRANSMISSION WORKGROUP CALL

The NWCC Transmission Update call on **Tuesday, June 15 at 1 pm Eastern** will feature concerns being raised in the Pacific Northwest about increasing amounts of wind power being contracted for utilities from outside the region, but with delivery through renewable energy credits (RECs), not necessarily with power. About half of all installed wind capacity in 2008 in the Northwest was contracted for utilities in California to meet the California RPS.

If California increases its RPS from the statutorily required level of 20% by 2010 to 33% by 2020 there could be an increase in demand for eligible renewables from about 3,670 MW to 8,620 MW by 2020. This could mean less access to renewables in the Northwest, and make it more difficult for Washington and Oregon to meet their own statutory renewable energy requirements. Further, it could mean higher energy costs, among other issues in the Northwest.

Joining us on the call will be Jeff King of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council; Doug Marker of the Bonneville Power Administration; and either Ken Dagoon or John Audley of the Renewables Northwest Project.

The NWCC Transmission Workgroup will convene directly after the update, at **2:00 PM Eastern**. An agenda is under development and will be distributed in advance of the call.

For more information on these calls, contact James Damon at jdamon@resolv.org.



JUNE DATES TO REMEMBER

NWCC Transmission Planning Metrics Call

Friday, June 4, 12:00-2:00 Eastern

NWCC Transmission Update Call

Tuesday, June 15, 1:00-2:00 Eastern

NWCC/NCSL Transmission Policy Institute

June 17-18, Denver, Colorado

NWCC Transmission Planning Metrics Meeting

June 22, Washington, DC

NWCC Steering Committee Call

Week of June 28, TBD

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