

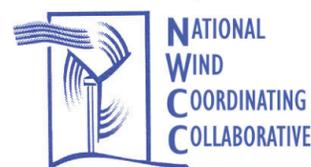
National Wind Coordinating Collaborative

Monthly Update

FEBRUARY 2010

RENEWABLES AND TRANSMISSION FORUM PLANNING CONTINUES

In collaboration with the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, AWEA, the National Hydropower Association, the Midwest Governors' Association and others, the NWCC will host the Renewables and Transmission Forum: Transition to a Reduced Carbon Energy Economy on February 22, 2010 in Washington, DC. Participants will engage a smaller, participatory audience in a focused dialogue about inter- and intra-regional opportunities and challenges for integrating renewables into the grid. For more information about this important dialogue, including a draft agenda, accommodations and registration options visit: <http://www.nationalwind.org//issues/2010transmissioninterconnectionplanningforum.aspx>.



NWCC WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Lauren Flinn is the new NWCC Associate, replacing Taylor Kennedy. Lauren will be responsible for staffing the Wildlife Workgroup, managing siting activities, and the maintaining the NWCC website. Lauren received her BA from Williams College and has a Masters of Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at the University of California Santa Barbara. She was most recently an Outreach Associate for the Community Environmental Council and has a strong background in climate change policy. Lauren can be reached at lflinn@resolv.org or 202.965.6213. We will miss Taylor and wish her well in her new role as a RESOLVE Associate.

JANUARY WILDLIFE WORKGROUP CALL FEATURES WIND WILDLIFE RESEARCH EFFORTS

The Wildlife Workgroup met by phone on January 20 to hear about ongoing research and updates on Wildlife Workgroup activities. A representative from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology updated the group on a workshop convened by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, American Bird Conservancy, and Johnson Foundation in the summer of 2009, during which participants discussed current and potential uses of radar for monitoring migrant birds and bats and their migration.

Additionally, Jon Belak of EDM International informed the group about an upcoming study that will look at potential on-site activities to prevent bat mortalities as an alternative option to siting wind facilities away from bats.

A summary of that call will soon be distributed to the Wildlife Workgroup. To join the Wildlife Workgroup visit: <http://www.nationalwind.org/members/register.aspx>. The next Wildlife Workgroup call is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 10, from 2:30-4pm Eastern**.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR WIND WILDLIFE RESEARCH MEETING VIII AND MEETING LOCATION CHOSEN

The NWCC's eighth biennial Wind Wildlife Research Meeting is scheduled for October 19-21, 2010, with a Wildlife Workgroup meeting on October 22, 2010. REGISTRATION will open summer 2010.

Call for Abstracts

The committee expects to release a call for presentation abstracts in mid-March 2010, with responses requested by mid-May. To sign up to receive that call for abstracts, please visit: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=cNYt_2bFmt0yRPbH_2bJe7KlYA_3d_3d.

Cosponsors

Parties interested in co-sponsoring the meeting should contact Lauren Flinn at lflinn@resolv.org.

Location

The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel in Lakewood, CO. A limited number of rooms have been discounted and will be available until reserved or until 5 p.m., September 18, 2010. Rooms are expected to fill quickly, so please make your reservations soon. Call 888-627-7027 and request the Wind Wildlife Research Meeting VIII block or group code REJ18A.

SAGE GROUSE COLLABORATIVE FORMED

Given increased attention to the interaction between sage grouse and wind energy development, the NWCC has adopted a new subgroup under its Grassland Shrub Steppe Species Collaborative (GS3C). The GS3C now features two active subgroups – one focusing on sage grouse and the other investigating potential impacts to greater prairie chicken.

The new Sage Grouse Collaborative will bring together developers, state and federal wildlife agencies, and academics to perform robust research on potential impacts to sage grouse from wind energy development. The collaborative's oversight committee is currently being finalized; once complete, the committee will begin fundraising and identifying research partners. The Sage Grouse Collaborative will hold its first Steering Committee meeting on February 2-3 in Boulder, Colorado. For more information, contact Jennifer Bies at jbies@kearnswest.com.

GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN SUBGROUP TO BEGIN FOURTH YEAR OF RESEARCH

The Greater Prairie Chicken subgroup will soon begin its fourth year of research, conducted by Kansas State University. This project is expected to continue through 2011.

In the past, the GS3C has also examined other species, as in its 2007 publications, Songbird Protocol and Critical Literature Review on Grassland and Shrub Steppe Birds. On a recent call, members agreed that additional subgroups may be formed, as needed, to engage on other species in the future.

OUTREACH FOR DOE MARKET ACCEPTANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

In 2010, the NWCC will assist DOE in the dissemination of information about recent DOE wind market acceptance and environmental research grants. The NWCC will serve as a clearinghouse for wildlife and siting research information and will seek to increase stakeholder understanding of these initiatives. The NWCC will explore with grantees how to leverage their findings in other parts of the country where siting challenges could benefit from increased outreach.

JANUARY TRANSMISSION WORKGROUP CALL FEATURES FORMER FERC CHAIRMAN

Former FERC Commissioner and Chairman James Hoecker joined the call to discuss WIRES' Petition for Rule Making on Cost Allocation Principles. WIRES is a national non-profit association of investor, member, and publicly owned entities dedicated to promoting investment in a strong, well-planned, and environmentally beneficial high voltage electric transmission grid. Siting the changing transmission market where bulk power can serve multiple regions, Mr. Hoecker stated that the beneficiaries of transmission have changed, resulting in an uncertainty about whether the public interest requires a broadening or narrowing of the pool of customers who should pay for existing or new facilities. To read the full petition, visit http://www.wiresgroup.com/images/WIRES_Petition_on_Cost_Allocation_111209.pdf. Our next Transmission Workgroup call will be held on **Tuesday, March 16 from 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern** (1:00 CT/ 12:00 MT/ 11:00 PT). To join the Transmission Workgroup visit: <http://www.nationalwind.org/members/register>.

FEBRUARY TRANSMISSION UPDATE TO FEATURE TRES AMIGAS AND "RETPP"

Our next NWCC Transmission Update call will be on **Tuesday, February 16 at 1:00 PM Eastern** (12:00 CT/ 11:00 MT/ 10:00 PT) and will explore the proposed Tres Amigas 5,000 MW transmission superstation in New Mexico. If built, would consist of a three-way AC/DC transmission and link ERCOT and the Eastern and Western Interconnections. Frank Barbera of Tres Amigas, LLC will be joining the call to discuss the project.

We will also hear from Cynthia Hinman, a Senior Market Design and Policy Specialist from CAISO about the California ISO's proposed Renewable Energy Transmission Planning Process (RETPP) that CAISO expects to file with FERC in the coming months. The RETPP is designed to advance the development of transmission needed to achieve the state's 33 percent renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 2020 through the improvement of transmission planning and generation interconnection processes. The proposed RETPP details a process that involves forming a conceptual transmission plan built on the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI), followed by input from stakeholders before a finalized plan is determined and proposals are received. For more information on the call, visit: <http://www.nationalwind.org/about/blog.aspx>.

IN HONOR OF ANDY LINEHAN

Andy Linehan passed away January 8, 2010. Andy's career in energy spanned more than two decades; he was a valued member of the NWCC almost since its inception. Recognized as a leader within the wind industry, he was a "pioneer" and "the driving force behind [Iberdrola's] commitment to responsible wind development." He was an esteemed participant in the NWCC and the wind-wildlife realm for the past decade; he was a founding board member of the American Wind and Wildlife Institute and the Bats and Wind Energy Collaborative. He also served as a valued member of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee.

The wind industry has honored Andy by establishing the Andrew Linehan Award for Environmental Excellence. This award will be given to industry leaders who mirror Andy's contribution to responsible siting and permitting of wind projects, proactive approach to wildlife issues, and efforts to advance the "highest environmental standards for the industry."

Colleagues have also established the Andy Linehan Scholarship fund in honor of Andy's legacy. The Reed College scholarship will assist students with financial need to pursue a degree from the school's environmental studies program. To contribute to the fund, please visit <http://giving.reed.edu> and click the Give Online button. Use the comments field at the end of the page to direct the gift toward the Andrew Linehan Scholarship. You may also call 1-877-865-1469 and ask to make a gift to the Andrew Linehan Scholarship.

In addition to his professional achievements, Andy was known for his kindness and his passion for life. He will be missed.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

February 16
NWCC Transmission Update
1:00-2:00 PM Eastern
February 18
NWCC Steering Committee Call
1:00-2:00 PM Eastern
February 22
NWCC Renewables and Transmission Forum - Washington, DC
February 23
NWCC Business Meeting
Washington, DC

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