

National Wind Coordinating Collaborative

Monthly Update

APRIL 2010

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE WIND WILDLIFE RESEARCH MEETING VIII NOW AVAILABLE

The call for abstracts for the Eight Wind Wildlife Research Meeting was widely distributed on Monday, March 29.

The call for abstracts and the abstract submission form can be found on the meeting website:

<http://www.nationalwind.org//issues/wildlife/researchmeetingviii.aspx>. Abstracts are being solicited in the following categories, with responses requested by May 10, 2010.

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

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

BIRDS AND BATS FACTSHEET

In the next few weeks, the NWCC Wildlife Workgroup will be releasing a new fact sheet entitled, "Wind Turbine Interactions with Birds, Bats, and their Habitats: A Summary of Research Results and Priority Questions." This fact sheet is an update of the 2004 fact sheet entitled, "Wind Turbine Interactions with Birds and Bats: A Summary of Research Results and Remaining Questions," and is a result of extensive work by a technical team of experts and a subset of volunteers from the Wildlife Workgroup. The fact sheet summarizes what is known about onshore bird and bat-wind interactions, including habitat impacts, in North America and what key questions and gaps remain. The fact sheet is undergoing final review for publication and will be released online and advertised on the NWCC homepage. Printed versions will be available at AWEA's WINDPOWER conference at the NWCC booth, as well as at the Wildlife Research Meeting VIII.

MARCH WILDLIFE WORKGROUP CALL

The Wildlife Workgroup met by phone on March 10 to hear about ongoing research efforts by its members and updates on Wildlife Workgroup activities. 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. During the week of March 1, the FAC held its final meeting, culminating two and a half years of work, and reached tentative agreement on the Guidelines, with a set of final edits agreed to. The edited document will be posted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website as soon as it is available. Jenn Bies, Kearns and West, updated callers on the Sage Grouse Collaborative; the Steering Committee has already secured enough funding for one study in 2011 and seeks to obtain funding for a few more studies. Callers also provided sector updates and NWCC staff updated callers on the status of the Eighth Wind Wildlife Research Meeting, outcomes from the Business Meeting #41. A summary of that call will soon be distributed to the Wildlife Workgroup. To join the Wildlife Workgroup, click here: <http://www.nationalwind.org/members/register.aspx>. The next Wildlife Workgroup call is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 12, from 2:30-4pm Eastern**.

MARCH TRANSMISSION WORKGROUP CALL

The Transmission Workgroup convened a call on March 16 to discuss the NWCC developing National Transmission Planning Principles and convening a strategic discussion in the west on how to integrate the transmission interests of solar and other renewables into the NWCC. These proposed activities were introduced at the February 22 NWCC Renewables and Transmission Forum. Conference calls to determine a roll for the NWCC, develop proposals, and establish next steps have been scheduled; we will provide a more detailed overview on the next Transmission Workgroup call scheduled for **Tuesday, May 18, from 2:00-3:00 Eastern**.

WIND TURBINE GUIDELINES FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REACHES CONSENSUS

After a three day meeting on March 2-4, the Wind Turbine Guidelines Federal Advisory Committee reached consensus on draft wind turbine guideline recommendations on minimizing the impacts of land-based wind farms on wildlife and habitat. The press release can be accessed here:

<http://www.fws.gov/news/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=2F72EC87-0A47-6BFF-C6FC5AD47B597A17>

APRIL TRANSMISSION UPDATE CALL

The next NWCC Transmission Update call scheduled for **Tuesday, April 20 at 1:00 Eastern** will explore the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Notice of Inquiry (NOI) on integrating variable generation, which was issued in January 2010. The NOI was issued by FERC to solicit public comments on the barriers that impede variable generation integration and whether reforms to FERC's rules or procedures may be necessary. Mk Shean, of FERC, will discuss the NOI's contents and goals, as well as provide some preliminary details on the comments received, if the information is available.

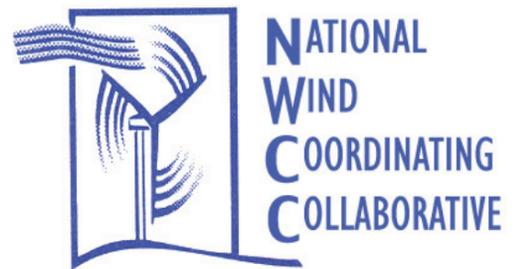
We will also hear about a proposal to develop a real-time energy balancing tool in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). The proposal consists of two parts: a Seams Coordination Tool that would calculate relief from transmission congestion through various actions and an Energy Imbalance System (EIS) tool that would rely on a regional security-constrained economic dispatch for balancing energy. WECC recently approved a proposal to undertake a cost benefit analysis of EIS and the Seams Coordination Tool. Stephen Beuning, the Director of Market Operations at Xcel Energy, will discuss this proposal.

There is no charge to join this call. Please use the following phone number and pin to access the call:

Call Information

Call-in Number: 1-800-820-4690

Access Code: 2029878643#



APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER

NWCC Transmission Update

Tuesday, April 20, 1:00-2:00 Eastern

NWCC Steering Committee Call

Thursday, April 29, 1:00-2:00 Eastern

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