

# NATIONAL WIND COORDINATING COLLABORATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

February 2, 2009

## Dates To Remember

**Renewables Forum & NWCC Business Meeting Planned for March 10 - 11** – Along with other co-sponsors, the NWCC is planning a half-day forum on March 10<sup>th</sup> to focus on national and regional renewables initiatives for 2009. The NWCC Steering Committee Business Meeting will follow the forum on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The meetings will be held in Washington, DC. The NWCC Business Meeting is open to the public, although Steering Committee members will have priority for registration.

**First 2009 Wildlife Workgroup Call: February 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 Eastern** – The first Wildlife Workgroup call of the year is planned for February 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm Eastern (1:30pm Central, 12:30pm Mountain, 11:30am Pacific). Join us to learn about progress on the Birds & Bats Factsheet, the Methods & Metrics Document, and the Grassland Shrub Steppe Species Collaborative (GS3C). On this call, we will also hear from you about various wind and wildlife initiatives around the country. If you do not already receive notifications of the Wildlife Workgroup calls and wish to, please sign up [here](#).

**Wind Energy Production Forecasting Webinar** – The third in the series of webinars co-sponsored by WAPA, NWCC and other organizations is scheduled for Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at noon Eastern. This webinar will cover techniques, methodologies, and tools for integrating large-scale wind power. To sign up to learn about the latest research in wind forecasting and hear case studies comparing changes in wind generation to changes in load, please contact Ryan Harry, BCS, Inc., at [rharry@bcs-hq.com](mailto:rharry@bcs-hq.com).

**Environmental Benefits and Costs Webinar** – As a follow-up to the work of the Environmental Benefits and Costs Workgroup, a briefing will be held on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm Eastern. It will feature updates from David Policansky, National Academy of Sciences, on the NAS comparative lifecycle assessment of environmental impacts from energy generation and from Mark Jacobson, Stanford University, on a Stanford study on the comparative environmental

### NWCC CONFERENCE CALLS

*Steering Committee call – Wednesday,  
February 4, 1:00 pm ET*

*Wildlife Workgroup call –  
Wednesday, February 4, 2:30 pm ET*

*Grassland Shrub Steppe Species  
Collaborative call - Friday, February  
6, 2:00 pm ET*

*Co-sponsored by NWCC, WAPA, and  
Others: Wind Energy Production  
Forecasting Webinar – Monday,  
February 9, 12:00 – 2:00 pm ET*

*Environmental Benefits & Costs  
Webinar – Tuesday, February 10,  
12:00pm ET*

*Steering Committee call – Thursday,  
February 26, 1:00 pm ET*

impacts and benefits of multiple electrical generation technologies. If you are not a member of the Workgroup and would like to join the briefing, please contact Taylor Kennedy at [tkennedy@resolv.org](mailto:tkennedy@resolv.org).

**AWEA Wind and Transmission Workshop** – On March 17 – 18 in Overland Park, Kansas, the [AWEA Wind & Transmission Workshop](#) will bring together the leading experts on transmission issues to discuss the latest developments in the field and the most pressing issues confronting wind power. For more information, an agenda, and registration, please visit <http://www.awea.org/events/transmission09/>.

**Wind Power Siting and Environmental Issues Webinar Presentations Now Online** – The second in a series of webinars co-sponsored by NWCC, WAPA, and other organizations was held on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Presentations from this webinar, which focused on wind turbine siting, wildlife and habitat impacts, and the comparative benefits of wind development, are now online at: <http://www.nationalwind.org/workgroups/wildlife/windpower.htm>. A recording of the webinar will also be posted soon. For a complete [winter/spring 2008 – 09 webinar schedule](#), visit our website at [www.nationalwind.org](http://www.nationalwind.org).

## NWCC WORKGROUP UPDATES

### Wildlife:

**On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Grassland Shrub Steppe Species Collaborative (GS3C)** will receive an annual report from Kansas State University on KSU's annual study on wind and Greater Prairie Chickens. In addition, the group will review an updated budget from KSU associated with proposed alterations to the study design. NWCC staff will also update the collaborative on external efforts relating to wind energy and sage grouse.

**Wind Wildlife Research Meeting VII proceedings – Available in March:** Proceedings from *Wind Wildlife Research Meeting VII* summarizing over 22 presentations on recent wind and wildlife research will be complete in March. Stay tuned for a publication announcement.

**Updates to NWCC Methods & Metrics Document** – Revisions to [Studying Wind Energy/Bird Interactions: A Guidance](#)

### NWCC EVENTS

*Renewables Forum* – March 10 (half day), Washington, DC (confirmed)

*Steering Committee Business Meeting* – March 11, Washington, DC (confirmed)

### MAGIC MOMENTS

Updated Calendar of Events: [click here](#)

### CONTACT NWCC STAFF:

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[Document](#) (aka Methods & Metrics Document) are underway. A draft decision-making framework, which will be included as an appendix in the completed Method & Metrics Document, has been developed by Western EcoSystems Technology and is currently under review by an external committee. The Oversight Committee should receive the draft framework for comment in February, followed by a first draft of the revised Method & Metrics Document.

**Updates to NWCC Birds & Bats Factsheet** – [Wind Turbine Interactions with Birds and Bats: A Summary of Research Results and Remaining Questions](#) (aka Birds & Bats Factsheet) is undergoing a rigorous update by Pandion Systems in collaboration with a diverse review committee.

**Wind/Wildlife Activities & Events Table** –The NWCC wind power / wildlife studies, activities, and events table is available [online](#). Please send information on wind / wildlife meetings, studies, or publications to Taylor Kennedy at [tkennedy@resolv.org](mailto:tkennedy@resolv.org) for inclusion in this table and the [NWCC calendar](#).

### **Transmission:**

**Layperson's Guide to Wind Integration** – The draft *Layperson's Guide* has been completed and disseminated to the review committee for comment. A conference call has been scheduled for early February so the review committee may provide guidance for the final revisions to the *Guide*.

**Transmission Updates** – The brief from the December 12<sup>th</sup> NWCC Transmission Update featuring the NERC Integration of Variable Generation Task Force report and the new Upper Midwest Transmission Development Initiative is complete and has been circulated and posted on the [NWCC website](#). Planning for the next Transmission Update is underway – stay tuned for more information.

**Transmission Workgroup** – The January 15<sup>th</sup> Transmission Workgroup call was well attended, and participants received updates on Southwest Power Pool, Midwestern Governors Association, and Western Renewable Energy Zones activities. Participants expressed interest in holding a national meeting focused on cross-regional transmission implementation issues, perhaps in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The NWCC is exploring the feasibility for such a meeting and anticipates the March 10<sup>th</sup> forum will provide further guidance for the idea. The next Transmission Workgroup call, previously scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>, will be rescheduled due to conflicts; please keep an eye out for rescheduling emails.

**Midwest** – A Midwest Transmission Planning Committee met by conference call to discuss role of the Midwest in NWCC

activities in 2009. Planners felt the region's needs would best be met by Midwestern leaders taking part in the larger, cross-regional meeting suggested by the Transmission Workgroup.

