Wildlife Workgroup

Call Summary

November 28, 2011

Updates on Recent NWCC Activities

Updates on Wildlife Workgroup Research Webinars

- In October and November, NWCC and AWWI hosted three research webinars, which featured presentations from researchers about their wind and wildlife research.
- These webinars were very successful, with over 100 people registered for each.
- The recordings of these webinars are posted on the NWCC website at http://www.nationalwind.org//issues/wildlife/researchwebcasts.aspx

Note on Small Edits to Comprehensive Guide

- Two small revisions have been made to the Comprehensive Guide to Studying Wind Energy/Wildlife Interactions.
- The main change includes an update to the formula to calculate the relative index to collision risk (R) for bird species observed in the project area, which is at the bottom of page 41 of the document (page 49 of the pdf). The *F term* was removed as this was mistakenly included in the original draft
- There is also now a disclaimer included in the report highlighting the following:
    - "Any specific technologies or vendors mentioned in this Guide are either included as examples or as references to work carried out using these technologies/vendors. The mention of specific technologies is not an endorsement of these over other technologies."

Save the Date for Ninth WW WG Research Meeting

- The *ninth* Wind Wildlife Research Meeting will be held from November 27-30, 2012. The location for the meeting will be selected and the meeting will be planned under the new contract to manage the NWCC (see below for more info).

Note on Accomplishments Reports

- NWCC Staff are drafting two reports to document the accomplishments of the NWCC Transmission and Wildlife Workgroups over the years. These reports will be posted on the NWCC website and sent out over email on Wednesday, November 30.

Update on NWCC Status

- Patrick Gilman, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and Karin Sinclair, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), provided an update on the status of the NWCC.
- The management and facilitation of the NWCC is done under a contract with the Department of Energy. This contract, which was a 5 year contract between DOE and RESOLVE and Kearns & West, expires on November 30.
- DOE recognizes the continued importance of the work of the NWCC and will continue to fund it (focusing on wildlife efforts) through NREL. A solicitation for facilitation of the NWCC was open for about 2 months, with proposal due on November 15. NREL is reviewing the submissions and

expects to have a new contract in place by the end of the year, if possible, although the contracting process may take a bit longer.

- Throughout this time, the NWCC website should remain active and Patrick Gilman (Patrick.Gilman@ee.doe.gov) or Karin Sinclair (Karin.Sinclair@nrel.gov) can be contracted with any questions.
- Patrick, Karin, and NWCC staff all expressed their thanks to the Wildlife Workgroup for its significant work over the years.

Sector Updates

Al Manville, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), provided updates on FWS activities.

- The Service's second draft of the **Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines (WEG)** has been completed in-house. They and are going to or are at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB for review, which will be followed by a short interagency review. Any re-writing clarifications will then be completed, with publication anticipated sometime early in 2012, barring any additional delays.
- FWS is developing a **WEG training module** initially for Service staff followed later for use by the public.
- The Service's second **Draft Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance (ECPG)** is currently under Service internal review. Once the rewrite is completed, it will be readied for submission to OMB, followed by interagency review, and subsequent public comment.
- The **proposed rule for permitting "take"** with 30 year permit tenure is currently at OMB, which has deemed it "significant," thereby allowing up to 90 days for review. This will then to be followed by a public comment period. Publication will occur in early 2012, barring any further delays.
- **Bird and Bat Conservation Strategies (BBCS)** are still being developed in-house and are not yet ready for public release. These were originally called Avian Protection Plans (APPs) or Avian and Bat Protection Plans (ABPPs) and were then renamed as Migratory Bird and Bat Conservation Strategies. They are now being called BBCSs to address non-migratory avian species and bats.
- Alison La Bonte, formerly of the Office of Science Technology Policy (OSTP), has been working for the past six months with Laurie Allen (USGS), other Federal representatives including Patrick Gilman (DOE), Ray Brady (BLM), Meghan Sadlowski (USFWS/DMBM), and Al Manville on the availability of **"tools" currently developed or in the process of being developed to assess project risk to species and habitats from commercial wind development at the landscape and site locations.** A preliminary draft is on an inter-agency website—allowing update of this "living document." This will later to be made available to the public.
- One of these "tools" is the **Rapid Assessment Methodology (RAM)**, which is currently under development by USGS/Northern Prairies (Doug Johnson and Courtney Amundson) in collaboration with DMBM (Meghan Sadlowski). The Stage 1 draft is currently under internal review, including work on the risk criteria.

Participants

Laurie Allen, USGS
John Anderson, AWEA
Melissa Bridendall, ARCADIS U.S., Inc
Travis Brown, PacifiCorp Energy
Christi Calabrese, EDP Renewables
Chad Cross, SWCA Environmental Consultants
Noel Cutright, We Energies
James Damon, OWN Energy

Jenny Davenport, DeTect, Inc
Edgar DeMeo, Renewable Energy Consulting Services, Inc
Sean Fitzgerald, Atwell
Patrick Gilman, Department of Energy
Michael Gray
Celia Greenman, Colorado Division of Wildlife
Larry Hartman, Minnesote Department of Commerce
Jim Hays, The Nature Conservancy, Kansas
Rachel Jankowitz, New Mexico Game and Fish
Doug Johnson, U.S. Geological Survey
Brad Kovach, KC Harvey Environmental, LLC
Deron Lawrence, CH2M Hill
Jay Lorenz, CH2M Hill
Al Manville, U.S. FWS
Cathy Mattson
Sue Phillips, USGS, Southwest Biological Science Center
Jay Pruett, The Nature Conservancy
Marissa Reed, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Derek Rieman, EDP Renewables
David Reinke, Shell
Jason Ritzert, WEST
John Rogers, Union of Concerned Scientists
Russ Romme, AECOM
Jerry Roppe, Iberdrola Renewables
Tanya Shenk, NPS
Lynn Sharp, Tetra Tech
Karin Sinclair, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Mike Sponsler, BHE Environmental
Kenton Taylor, WEST
Leslie TeWinkel, Fish & Wildlife Solutions LLC
Jon VanDerZee, EDP Renewables
Allison Vogt, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Erin Wiedower, Akuo Energy
James Woehr, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Abby Arnold, Kearns & West, NWCC Staff
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