UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WIND TURBINE GUIDELINES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHARTER

1. **Official Designation:** Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee

2. **Scope and Objective:** The Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) on developing effective measures to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitats related to land-based wind energy facilities.

3. **Duration:** The Committee will exist from the date of the charter until its purpose is achieved or this charter is revoked or not renewed. We expect that the Committee will last for 2 years.

4. **Official to Whom the Committee Reports:** The Committee reports to the Secretary through the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

5. **Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support:** The Service will provide support services for activities of the Committee.

6. **Estimated Operating Costs:** Estimated operating cost for the Committee is $210,000 per year for all direct and indirect expenses, including independent facilitation, staff support, meeting expenses, and work products. It is expected that one FTE will be required to support the Committee.

7. **Description of Duties:** The Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on:

   a. the Service interim guidelines on how to avoid and minimize wildlife impacts from land-based wind energy facilities;
   b. balancing potential impacts to wildlife with the cost of acquiring the information necessary to assess those impacts prior to selecting sites and designing facilities;
   c. the scientific tools and procedures best able to assess pre-development risk or benefits provided to wildlife, measure post-development mortality, assess behavioral modification, and provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts; and,
   d. a process for coordinating State, tribal, local, and national review and evaluation of the impacts to wildlife from wind energy facilities to standardize approaches and requirements, and achieve compliance with State and Federal laws and international treaties.

8. **Allowances:** All Committee members serve without compensation. Travel costs will be provided for Committee members who are special Government employees.

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:** It is estimated that the Committee will meet four times per year, and at such other times as determined by the Designated Federal Officer.

10. T**ermination Date:** The Committee is subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and will take no action unless the charter filing is in compliance with the requirements of Section 9 of FACA. The Committee is subject to biennial renewal and will terminate 2 years from the date this charter is filed, unless, prior to that time, this charter is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

11. **Committee Membership:** The Committee will not exceed 22 members, appointed by the Secretary to achieve balanced representation of wind energy development, wildlife conservation, and government. The members will include representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal agencies, as well as representatives from other interested parties, including, but not limited to, States, tribes, wind energy development organizations, nongovernmental conservation organizations, and local regulatory/licensing commissions. The committee will include one or more experts on wind energy/wildlife interactions as special Government employees to provide technical advice. Alternate members may be selected and appointed by the Secretary. Alternates will attend meetings as a member of the Committee only in the absence of the primary member.

The term of office for appointed members and alternates will be 2 years. The Secretary may remove Committee members and alternates at his discretion.

12. **Designated Federal Officer:** The Designated Federal Officer is the Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 400, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members:** No Committee or subcommittee member may participate in any specific party matter, including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation, with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest. In addition, the Department of the Interior will provide materials to those members appointed as special Government employees, explaining their ethical obligations with which the members should be familiar. Consistent with the ethics requirements, members will endeavor to avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Committee's operations, activities, or advice. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

14. **Subgroups:** The Committee may establish such workgroups and subcommittees as it and the Designated Federal Officer deem necessary for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. Such subgroups may not be created, compile information, or conduct research without the direction of the Committee as a whole and must report to the full

Committee.

15. **Authority:** The Committee is created in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 703-712, Migratory Bird Treaty Act; 16 U.S.C. 668-668-d, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, Endangered Species Act; and 42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq., National Environmental Policy Act.

Secretary of the Interior

Date Signed OCT 24 2007

Date Filed OCT 26 2007