U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines
Distributed Wind Projects

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Presentation Goals

• Provide context of “distributed wind”
• Highlight the differences of distributed wind and utility-scale wind
• Provide insight into how the tiered approach is applied to distributed wind
• Stimulate questions
Wind Power
Background

- Wind turbines come in different sizes
- Wind turbines can be installed in different ways
- The energy from the turbine can be used locally or remotely
Utility-Scale Wind

- Wind farm
- Large project footprint
- Tall towers
- Energy is generally delivered to distant loads
Community-scale Wind

- Fewer units
- Smaller project footprint
- Shorter towers
- Energy meets a local need
Turbine Sizes

Small, Distributed Wind

- Single unit
- Very small project footprint
- Shorter towers
- Energy meets an on-site need

< 100kW
Installation type

Single turbine  Small cluster  Wind Farm

*Same (wind turbine) model in each of these examples*
Differences in Project Siting Options and Adjacent Use
Figure 12. Jefferson Salamander Results on Cobble Hill (Shows DEIS layout)
Siting Options and Adjacent Use
Siting Options and Adjacent Use

Fish and Wildlife 1,000’ setback line
Differences in Project Siting Options and Adjacent Use
Utility-scale
- $ XXX,000,000

Community-scale
- $ X,000,000 – $ XXX,000

Residential-scale
- $ XX,000 - $X,000
Distributed Wind and the WEG

- FWS recognizes that appropriately sited distributed wind projects represent a very low risk to species and habitat
- Generally subject to only Tier 1 and Tier 2 reviews
- Viewed on a “sliding scale”
Tier 1
Landscape-Level

• Provides “general ecological context” of the proposed project
• Identifies habitat or species of concern in the project area
Figure 12. Jefferson Salamander Results on Cobble Hill (Shows DEIS layout)
• Characterize a potential site in terms of risk to species or habitat by the project
  – Developer should seek appropriate, independent review of findings
  – Sliding scale applies
Sliding Scale?

Confirmation of findings by local, high-school biology instructor

Environmental study with nationally recognized biological consultant
• FWS is committed to increasing transparency and right-sizing of the tiered approach for distributed wind projects

• The tiered approach promotes voluntary and effective communication between developers and FWS

• DWEA will continue to work with FWS to identify appropriate resources for developers as well as guidance and sample documentation
Thank you

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