



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Alaska Peninsula/Becharof
National Wildlife Refuge

Information Sheet

PLACEMENT OF THREE VERTICAL AXIS TURBINES ON REFUGE ADMINISTRATIVE LANDS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge is considering placing three vertical axis wind turbines (VAWT) on refuge administrative lands. The funding for this project is provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The installation of wind turbines will help reduce the refuge's greenhouse gas emissions and save the federal government money by decreasing utility costs. The USFWS is under the mandate of Executive Order 13423, (Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management), requiring federal agencies to "lead by example in advancing the nation's energy security and environmental performance" by achieving a number of goals, including increased purchases of renewable power sources and increased usage of renewable power. Thus, the installation of turbines will reduce the use of diesel at the refuge.

The Service is proposing the placement of three turbines on lands administered by the refuge. The locations are: Headquarters Duplex (Quarters 5); Quarters 1 and Quarters 2.

These turbines are the preferred small-scale, renewable electrical power source over more conventional propeller-driven wind generators, based on comparable performance, 25-year reliable history of operation in cold climates, proven viability and favorable environmental and operational characteristics.

Wind power correlates directly with wind speed and swept area. Vertical axis wind turbines don't

produce more power than conventional wind generators but they can produce more kilo-watt



hours (kWh) per year than horizontal axis generators of equal swept area because they harvest wind over a much broader spectrum of wind speeds (4 miles per hour (mph) to 120 mph). Individual turbines will be rated between 5 and 10kWh each. These turbines are approximately 60 feet above ground and will take up eight feet by eight feet of surface area on the ground.

The Service will evaluate the proposed wind turbine project through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process. The NEPA process is designed to involve the public and gather and analyze the best available information before the Service makes a decision. We are currently in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the wind turbine project.

The EA will identify potential impacts that the proposed wind turbine installation project could have on the environment, as well as identify measures to mitigate these impacts. As the lead agency, the USFWS is responsible for the development of the EA, which includes:

- A process for public participation
- Identifying project issues and concerns
- Identifying the purpose and need for the proposed action
- Describing the affected environment
- Developing alternatives
- Evaluating the effects of the alternatives for the proposed project

The schedule for the proposed EA is as follows:

Public Scoping	November 2009
Public Comment on EA	January 2010
Final EA	April 2010

We are requesting input from federal and state agencies, local governments, private organizations, refuge users, and the public to help identify the issues associated with the proposed project. Public scoping comments can be submitted to the USFWS using the following methods:

- Electronically through the USFWS Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuge Manager Bill Schaff at bill_schaff@fws.gov
- Mail comments to:

Refuge Manager – Bill Schaff
 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR
 P.O. Box 277
 King Salmon, AK 99613

- Fax comments to: (907)246-6696

This is not the only opportunity you will have to comment on this project. When the EA has been prepared and distributed, you will have an opportunity to make further comments. If you would like to be kept informed about this project, please complete and return the “Interest Response Form” and you will be placed on the mailing list.

