The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) invites the public to an open house and scoping meeting to be held on January 15, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The USFWS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the potential impacts of the issuance of a Programmatic Take Permit (permit) pursuant to the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA; 16 USC 668 – 668d) and implementation of the associated Eagle Conservation Plan. The permit would authorize the incidental taking of bald eagles resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed Great Bay Wind Energy Project (Project) in Somerset County, Maryland.

The public scoping meeting provides an opportunity to express your views and identify issues to address in the EA process. Background information on the Applicant’s proposed project and the USFWS Programmatic Take Permit, as well as the EA process, will be presented. The meeting format will be:

• Informational open house from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.
• Brief overview presentation from approximately 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.
• Public comment period to follow until 8:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the JM Tawes Technology & Career Center at 7982 Crisfield Highway, Westover, Maryland 21871.

Please contact Sarah Nystrom, USFWS Northeast Region Office, (413) 253-8592 or Sarah_Nystrom@fws.gov for more information about the public meeting. The meeting is accessible to wheelchair users. If you require additional accommodations, please make requests at least one week in advance of the meeting.