

Suggested Principles for Developing Recommendations by the
US DOI Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee
(As modified following phone call of July 7th, 2008)

Premises

- 1) The Committee defines wildlife as birds, fishes, mammals, and all other classes of wild animals and all types of aquatic and land vegetation upon which wildlife is dependent, but the Committee will focus its efforts on those species the Committee and the FWS feel are most likely to be affected by wind power development.
- 2) The Committee agrees that a precautionary approach should be used in cases of potentially serious but uncertain threats to wildlife.
- 3) The Committee recognizes that it is possible and essential to avoid, minimize, and mitigate negative impacts on wildlife populations and habitats while balancing expected impacts with the costs of undertaking necessary studies and monitoring.

Principles

1. The Guidelines should provide a consistent methodology for conducting pre-construction risk assessments and post-construction impact assessments to guide siting decisions by developers and agencies
2. The Guidelines should encourage communication and coordination between the developer and relevant state and federal agencies during all phases of wind energy project development
3. The Guidelines should provide mechanisms to encourage their adoption and use by all federal agencies, as well as the wind energy industry, while recognizing the primary role of the lead agency in coordinating specific project assessments
4. The Guidelines should complement state and tribal efforts to address wind/wildlife interactions and provide a voluntary means for these entities to coordinate and standardize review of wind projects with the USFWS
5. The Guidelines should provide a clear and consistent approach that increases predictability and reduces the risk of liability exposure under federal wildlife laws
6. The Guidelines should provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate the diverse geographic and habitat features of different wind development sites
7. The Guidelines should present mechanisms for determining mitigation, when appropriate, in the event of unforeseen impacts to wildlife during construction or operation of a wind energy project

8. The Guidelines should define scientifically rigorous and cost-effective study designs that improve the ability to predict direct and indirect wildlife impacts locally and regionally
9. The Guidelines should include a formal mechanism for revision in order to incorporate experience, technological improvements, and scientific advances that reduce uncertainty in the interactions between wind energy and wildlife

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