

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Midwest Region



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Final Environmental Impact Statement announced for Iowa's MidAmerican Energy Company's wind energy facilities

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces availability of the final environmental impact statement on an application for incidental take of threatened and endangered species at select wind facilities operated by MidAmerican Energy Company in Iowa. The documents are expected to publish in the Federal Register Monday October 7, 2019, under docket number FWS-R3-ES-2018-0037.

The Service developed the environmental impact statement to evaluate the effects of authorizing incidental take of federally protected species, including bats and bald eagles, at MidAmerican Energy Company's wind facilities in Iowa. Intentional take (harming, harassing, killing) is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act; incidental take may be allowed under provisions of an incidental take permit. Such permits may be issued when applicants develop an approved habitat conservation plan to address impacts to affected species.

MidAmerican Energy Company requested a permit for incidental take of federally endangered Indiana bat, federally threatened northern long-eared bat, federally protected bald eagle, the little brown bat, and tricolored bat. As part of its application, the company developed a habitat conservation plan that outlines measures to minimize impacts to these covered species, and actions that will mitigate for any loss of these species at its covered wind facilities.

Measures to lessen impacts to bats and bald eagles include adjusting operations of wind turbines at night during peak bat activity during the year to avoid collisions with bats; conducting landowner education; and removing carrion near wind turbines that may attract bald eagles. MidAmerican will also conduct fatality monitoring and adaptive management to ensure measures are effective.

To mitigate for any loss of bald eagles or covered bat species at its turbines, MidAmerican will protect and restore priority habitat and sponsor toxic substance abatement and eagle

rehabilitation programs. . Funding will be provided for monitoring and mitigation of mitigation lands and for conservation activities to benefit the covered species.

The final environmental impact state and habitat conservation plan may be viewed at [link]. The Service expects to sign the Record of Decision [date]

For more information, go to

<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/RockIsland/te/MidAmericanHCP.html>

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.

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