

# Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit for the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) for the Buckeye Wind Power Project Champaign County, Ohio

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*Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
DES# 12-25*

*Volume I*

Prepared by

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ohio Ecological Services Field Office  
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104  
Columbus, Ohio 43230

In cooperation with

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Huntington District  
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## COVER SHEET

- a. Title: Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit for the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) for the Buckeye Wind Power Project Champaign County, Ohio
- b. Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- c. Lead Agency: United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- d. Cooperating Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- d. Abstract: The permit applicant, Buckeye Wind LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of EverPower Wind Holdings, Inc., proposes to construct a commercial wind energy facility in Champaign County, Ohio (Project). The Project would occur within an approximately 32,395 ha (80,051 ac) area, consist of 100 turbines and associated access roads and infrastructure, and would generate up to 250 MW of electricity.

The Project has the potential to generate about 657,000 MWh of electricity annually with zero emissions. The energy generated by the Project would collect to an electric substation in Union Township in Champaign County.

The Project would be constructed in a location that supports the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). Buckeye Wind has developed a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to ensure that impacts to the federally listed Indiana bat are adequately minimized and mitigated in accordance with the requirements of Section 10 of the ESA. The USFWS received an application for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from Buckeye Wind for the Project on February 23, 2012.

Key issues associated with construction of this Project include impacts to water resources; removal of native vegetation; impacts to wildlife (including migratory birds and bats); impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species; preservation of cultural resources; and impacts to visual resources.

The USFWS has not selected a preferred alternative for the proposed action at this time. The USFWS is seeking public input for the selection of the preferred alternative during the public comment period for the DEIS. Following the public review and consideration of comments received, the preferred alternative will be chosen and announced in the FEIS.

e. Contact:

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f. Transmittal:

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the USFWS staff in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit for Permit for the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) for the Buckeye Wind Power Project Champaign County, Ohio is being made available to the public in June 2012 for a 90-day comment period, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The public is invited to comment on this DEIS by September 27, 2012. Comments can be submitted by one of the following methods:

*Electronically:* Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal:

<http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter **FWS-R3-ES-2012-0036**, which is the docket number for this notice. Then, on the left side of the screen, under the Document Type heading, click on the Notices link to locate this document and submit a comment.

*By hard copy:* Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R3-ES-2012-0036; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.