Eagle Permits Conference Call – May 19, 2010

[redacted]

1. **Next Eagle Calls – Wed, May 26, 2010**
   Next Regular Permits Call – Thurs, May 27, 2010

2. **Regional Issues**

[redacted]**Region 8.** [redacted]

B. Region 2 [redacted]

C. Region 3 (Mags)

There is a large power company that wants to put a large transmission line across the Minnesota River (actually, across all of Minnesota). There are two possible crossings for this line - the power company wants us to tell them which one to pick. Here are the details:

Northern Site: has nests in the area, currently already a smaller power line crossing in this area. Pros: right of way area already torn up. Cons: nests nearby, and transmission line will be built above existing distribution line, adding many additional planes to this line and increasing collision risk.

Southern Site: has nests in the area, and a winter concentration area. No power line crossing in this area yet, so right of way would need to be cleared. Cons: everything listed, Pros: fewer planes, in theory reducing collision risk.

We have told the power company that there is a possibility they will take eagles, and will need a permit for this. They have told us that they don't think they will take any eagles, so a permit isn't necessary. There isn't great literature out there separating eagle collision from electrocution mortality, or differentiating transmission from distribution lines. They are willing to develop something like an APP (but for some reason don't want to call it an APP) - has anyone done a project specific APP?

Additional questions:
-does anyone know how to access and query the USFWS Injury/Fatality reporting program database?
-does anyone know anything about BSI (bird strike indicators) - I know there has been some research on them and they seem to be accurate in recording strikes on transmission lines. I'd like to try to get this power company to enter into a monitoring program.

Discussion: Mags' contact at Audubon feels the northern crossing would be less deleterious because the southern crossing involves wintering migrants that would not necessarily be familiar with the line hazards. Also, concentration areas also attract eagles in larger numbers than the northern site would have a given time.

(Mags) Who maintains the injury/fatality database and how can others get access. [redacted] (LE in R2).

([redacted]) What about the argument that "but for" the wind power out west, the new power lines would not be needed. Shouldn't the actions be treated as connected for purposes of evaluating impacts? Although the Eagle Act doesn't really provide for this broad an evaluation, associated NEPA documents should look at the wind development and the power line as interconnected. Has Mags checked with ES folks to see what kind of NEPA document has been prepared?

Action: ([redacted]) Send everyone an email with the communications between his office and DoE on a similar scenario (DONE).

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E. [redacted]

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