

Appendix A
Notification Materials

Appendix A-1
Notice of Intent

The Service proposes to approve the HCP and to issue an ITP with a term of 21 years to the applicant for incidental take of the covered species caused by covered activities associated with the construction and operation of the Project, if permit issuance criteria are met.

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The development of the draft HCP and the proposed issuance of an ITP under this plan is a Federal action that triggers the need for compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). We have prepared a draft EIS to analyze the environmental impacts of three alternatives related to the issuance of the ITP and implementation of the conservation program under the proposed HCP. The three alternatives include the proposed action, a no-action alternative, and a larger wind energy generation project alternative.

The proposed action alternative is construction and operation of the Project, implementation of the HCP, and issuance of the ITP.

Under the no-action alternative, the proposed Project would not be constructed, the proposed HCP would not be implemented, and no ITP would be issued.

The larger wind energy generation project alternative would include the construction and operation of a larger generation facility of up to 42 MW. This alternative would consist of up to 12 WTGs, each with a generating capacity of up to 3.3 MW, implementation of a HCP, and issuance of the ITP.

Public Comments

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. We specifically request information, views, and opinions from the public on our proposed Federal action, including identification of any other aspects of the human environment not already identified in the draft EIS pursuant to NEPA regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 1506.6. Further, we specifically solicit information regarding the adequacy of the Na Pua Makani Wind Energy Project pursuant to the requirements for ITPs at 50 CFR parts 13 and 17.

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comments, you should be aware that

your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety. Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we use in preparing the EIS, will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at our Pacific Islands Field Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Next Steps

We will evaluate the permit application, associated documents, and public comments in reaching a final decision on whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The HCP and EIS may change in response to public comments. We will prepare responses to public comments and publish a notice of availability of the final HCP and final EIS. We will also evaluate whether the proposed permit action would comply with section 7 of the ESA by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, in our final analysis to determine whether or not to issue an ITP. If the requirements are met, we will issue the ITP to the applicant. We will issue a record of decision and issue or deny the ITP no sooner than 30 days after publication of the notice of availability of the final EIS.

Authority

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of section 10(c) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32) and NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Richard Hannan,

Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 2015-14194 Filed 6-11-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R3-ES-2015-0033; FF03E00000-FXES11120300000-156]

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Midwest Wind Energy Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement; notice of scoping meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), advise the public that we intend to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the impacts of several alternatives relating to the proposed issuance of Endangered Species Act (ESA) Incidental Take Permits (Permit(s) or ITP(s)) under the Midwest Wind Energy Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). We also provide this notice to announce a public scoping period.

The MSHCP is being prepared by the Service and their planning partners for wind energy development within an eight-state Plan Area. The activities covered under the MSHCP (“Covered Activities”) include the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of wind energy facilities within portions of the Plan Area where ESA incidental take coverage may be considered, as well as activities associated with the management of mitigation lands. The planning partners have requested incidental take coverage for eight species in the MSHCP (“Covered Species”), including six species that are federally listed, one species that is not federally listed but may become listed during the term of the MSHCP, and the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act; 50 CFR 22.11). As allowed under the Eagle Act, we anticipate extending Eagle Act take authorization for bald eagle through the section 10(a)(1)(B) permit(s) associated with the MSHCP, provided permittees are in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the ITP and Eagle Act.

DATES: The public scoping period begins with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and will continue through August 11, 2015. The Service will consider all comments on the scope of the EIS analysis that are received or postmarked by this date. Comments

received or postmarked after this date will be considered to the extent practicable. The Service will also conduct eight scoping meetings during the scoping period:

- July 13, 2015—Elliott Recreation Center, 1000 E. 14th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 5 to 7 p.m.
- July 14, 2015—Warner Park Community Center, 1625 Northpost Drive, Madison, Wisconsin, 5 to 7 p.m.
- July 15, 2015—Iowa State University Memorial Union, Campanile Room, 2229 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa, 5 to 7 p.m.
- July 16, 2015—Battle High School, Commons, 7575 East Street Charles Road, Columbia, Missouri, 5 to 7 p.m.
- July 20, 2015—Letts Community Center, 1220 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, Michigan, 5 to 7 p.m.
- July 21, 2015—Columbus Downtown High School, Commons, 364 South 4th Street, Columbus, Ohio, 5 to 7 p.m.
- July 22, 2015—World Sports Park, Ballroom, 1313 South Post Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, 5 to 7 p.m.
- July 23, 2015—Illinois Wesleyan University Memorial Center, Young Main Lounge, 104 E. University Avenue, Bloomington, Illinois, 5 to 7 p.m.

The scoping meetings will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions, discuss issues with Service and State staff regarding the EIS, and provide written comments.

In addition, the Service will host an online webinar on July 28, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. central time. Information on how to participate in the webinar is provided on the Internet at: <http://www.midwestwindenergyhceis.org>.

ADDRESSES: To request further information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods:

- *U.S. Mail:* Regional Director, Attn: Rick Amidon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437-1458.
- *Electronically:* Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal, at <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the search box enter Docket Number FWS-R3-ES-2015-0033.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Amidon, Ecological Services, at the address shown above or at (612) 713-5164 (telephone). If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, please call the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We publish this notice under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its

implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR 1506.6, and pursuant to Section 10(c) of the ESA and Section 668a of the Eagle Act. We intend to prepare a draft EIS to evaluate the impacts of several alternatives related to the potential issuance of ITPs under the MSHCP from Covered Activities. The permits would authorize the incidental take of species included in the MSHCP that could occur as a result of existing and future wind energy development and operations. The planning partners intend to request a 45-year permit term.

The primary purpose of the scoping process is for the public and other agencies to assist in developing the EIS by identifying important issues and alternatives related to the MSHCP and the Service's proposed action (issuance of ITPs under the MSHCP).

Background

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits "take" of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered under section 4 (16 U.S.C. 1538, 1533, respectively). The ESA implementing regulations extend, under certain circumstances, the prohibition of take to threatened species (50 CFR 17.31). Under section 3 of the ESA, the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1532(19)). The term "harm" is defined by regulation as an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3). The term "harass" is defined in the regulations as an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3).

Under section 10(a) of the ESA, the Service may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed fish and wildlife species. "Incidental take" is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA contains provisions for issuing ITPs to non-Federal entities for the take of endangered and threatened species, provided the following criteria are met:

- The taking will be incidental;
- The applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impact of such taking;

- The applicant will develop a HCP and ensure that adequate funding for the plan will be provided;

- The taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and

- The applicant will carry out any other measures that the Secretary may require as being necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the HCP.

Regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32.

Eagles are protected under the Eagle Act, which prohibits take and disturbance of individuals and nests. "Take" under the Eagle Act includes any actions that pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, destroy, molest, and disturb eagles. "Disturb" is further defined in 50 CFR 22.3 as to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, (1) injury to an eagle, (2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior. 50 CFR 22.11 allows Eagle Act take authorization to be extended to permittees authorized to take eagles by an ITP issued pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. Take coverage for bald eagles provided through an ITP applies for the duration of the permit, or until the amount or level of take authorized has been met, provided the permittee complies with all terms and conditions provided in the ITP.

Proposed Plan

The MSHCP is being prepared by the Service and their planning partners for wind energy development within an eight-state Plan Area. The planning partners include the conservation agencies for seven of the eight states within the Plan Area, the American Wind Energy Association, a consortium of wind energy companies, and The Conservation Fund. The following summarizes information provided in the draft MSHCP.

The MSHCP Plan Area encompasses all lands within the political boundary of Region 3 of the Service, which includes eight states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The geographic area where incidental take authorization would be allowed under the MSHCP ("Covered Lands") are a subset of the Plan Area and specifically exclude lands that are within: (a) 20 miles of

sensitive bat hibernacula identified by the Service and state wildlife agencies; (b) 3 miles of the shores of the Great Lakes; (c) 1 mile of the edges of rivers supporting bird and bat migration corridors and/or concentrations of wintering waterfowl; (d) floodplain areas along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers; (e) high bat concentration areas in Indiana and Missouri; and (f) bird migratory areas in Illinois and around large lakes in Minnesota. In 2012, the Service prepared a notice of intent to prepare the MSHCP (77 FR 52754). Public comment during that scoping process informed the geographic scope of Covered Lands included in the MSHCP.

The MSHCP does not preclude the development of wind energy projects outside of Covered Lands; however, those projects would not be eligible for participation in the MSHCP. Mitigation measures under the MSHCP (e.g., habitat protection and restoration) may occur throughout the Plan Area, as appropriate for the conservation of Covered Species.

Covered Activities under the MSHCP include actions necessary to construct, operate, maintain and repair, decommission and reclaim, and repower commercial multi-turbine wind energy projects with Covered Lands. Covered Activities also include management of compensatory mitigation lands and monitoring. The MSHCP anticipates 33,000 megawatts (MW) of new wind energy may be installed within the Covered Lands over the term of the permit(s). New wind energy development would vary by state. The actual implemented build-out of new wind development projects may be less than the maximum anticipated build-out, depending on the number and generation capacity of wind energy projects that are issued take authorizations under the MSHCP. The Plan Area also currently supports approximately 13,681 MW of installed wind energy. Existing commercial multi-turbine wind facilities would be able to "opt in" to the MSHCP if they meet all of the requirements of the MSHCP for existing facilities and implement the required avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. Repowering of existing commercial wind energy facilities would also be included. There would be no limit on the number of qualifying existing wind energy facilities that may opt-in to the MSHCP.

The MSHCP would cover eight species that are subject to injury or mortality at wind turbine facilities, including six federally listed species and two unlisted species. The six

federally listed species covered under the MSHCP include: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Kirtland's warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (Great Lakes population and northern Great Plains population which are two distinct population segments), and interior least tern (*Sternula antillarum athalassos*). The unlisted species included in the MSHCP are little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Species may be added or deleted as the MSHCP is developed based on further analysis, new information, agency consultation, and public comment.

The proposed permit term under the MSHCP is 45 years. During the first 15 years, proposed and existing commercial multi-wind energy projects may apply for and receive take authorizations under the MSHCP. The duration of take authorizations issued to new projects would be 30 years from the time project operations commence or up to the 45 year term of the MSHCP. The duration of take authorizations issued to existing commercial multi-turbine wind energy projects would extend from the time of issuance until the project is decommissioned and reclaimed up to a period of 30 years.

The MSHCP would be implemented as both a "template" HCP for wind energy project proponents and a "programmatic" HCP implemented through a "master permittee." Under the template HCP, the Service would directly issue individual permits to applicants that agree to implement the MSHCP. Under the programmatic HCP, the Service would issue a permit to a master permittee, who would be responsible for issuing certificates of inclusion to wind energy companies that agree to implement the MSHCP at their facility. Issuance of certificates of inclusion by the master permittee would be completed in coordination with, and with concurrence from, the Service. The master permittee is anticipated to be comprised of a Board with representation from the wind energy industry and wind energy development-related conservation interests.

Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requires that Federal agencies conduct an environmental analysis of their proposed actions to determine if the actions may significantly affect the human environment. Based on 40 CFR 1508.27 and 40 CFR 1508.2, we have determined that the proposed MSHCP may have significant effects on the human environment. Therefore, before

deciding whether to issue Federal permits under the MSHCP, we will prepare an EIS to analyze the environmental impacts associated with those actions.

The EIS will consider the impacts of the proposed action—the issuance of section 10(a)(1)(B) permits under the ESA on the human environment. The EIS will also include analysis of a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed action. Alternatives considered in the EIS may include, but are not limited to, variations in the permit term or permit structure; the No Surprises timeframe allowed under the ITPs; the level of take allowed; the level, location, or type of conservation, monitoring, or mitigation provided in the MSHCP; the scope of Covered Activities; the list of Covered Species; or a combination of these factors. Additionally, a No Action Alternative will be included. Under the No Action Alternative, the Service would not issue ITPs, and wind energy developers would be obligated to prepare an independent Section 10(a)(1)(B) application and/or eagle permit application; avoid incidental take of federally-listed species and bald eagle; or be subject to enforcement action by the Service.

The EIS will identify and describe direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on biological resources, land use, air quality, water quality, water resources, socioeconomics, climate, and other environmental resources that could occur with the implementation of the proposed action and alternatives. The Service will also identify measures, consistent with NEPA and other relevant considerations of national policy, to avoid or minimize any significant effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment. Following completion of the environmental review, the Service will publish a notice of availability and a request for comment on a draft EIS, which will include a draft of the proposed MSHCP.

Request for Information

We request data, comments, new information, or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, Tribes, industry, or any other interested party on this notice. We will consider these comments in developing the draft EIS. We seek specific comments on:

1. Biological information and relevant data concerning Covered Species;
2. Additional information concerning the range, distribution, population size, and population trends of Covered Species;

3. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that implementation of the proposed Covered Activities could have on endangered, threatened, and other Covered Species, and their communities or habitats;

4. Other possible alternatives to the proposed action that the Service should consider;

5. Other current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on Covered Species;

6. The presence of archaeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns, which are required to be considered in project planning by the National Historic Preservation Act; and

7. Identification of any other environmental issues that should be considered with regard to the proposed MSHCP and permit action.

Public Availability of Comments

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed above in the **ADDRESSES** section. Before including your address, phone number, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—might be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we use in preparing the EIS, will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at the Services Midwest Regional Office in Bloomington, Minnesota. (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section). You may obtain copies of this notice on the Internet at: <http://www.midwestwindenergyhceps.org>, or from the Midwest Regional Office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section).

Scoping Meetings

See **DATES** for the date/s and time/s of our public scoping meetings. The primary purpose of these meetings and public comment period is to provide the public with a general understanding of the background of the proposed action and to solicit suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives we should consider when drafting the EIS. Written comments will be accepted at the meetings. Comments can also be submitted by methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Once the draft

EIS and proposed MSHCP are complete and made available for review, there will be additional opportunity for public comment on the content of those documents.

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meetings should contact the Midwest Region using one of the methods listed above in **ADDRESSES** as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please make contact no later than one week before the public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), section 668a of the Eagle Act (16 U.S.C. 668a–668d), and per NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 40 CFR 1506.5 and 1508.22).

Dated: May 29, 2015.

Lynn Lewis,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. 2015–14408 Filed 6–11–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS–R3–ES–2013–N194;
FXHC11300300000–156–FF03E00000]**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for Enbridge Line 6B Oil Discharges Near Marshall, MI

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe; and the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of the Pottawatomi Indians have written a Draft Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft Plan), which describes proposed alternatives for restoring injured natural resources and compensating for losses resulting from the discharges of oil from Enbridge's Line 6B oil pipeline near Marshall, Michigan, in July 2010. The Draft Plan was prepared in accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the availability of the Draft Plan and to seek written comments.

DATES: Written comments must be postmarked no later than July 27, 2015.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* You may obtain copies of the documents by any of the following methods:

- *Online:* <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/MichiganEnbridge/index.html>.

- *Email:* Lisa L. Williams, at lisa_williams@fws.gov. Do not use any special characters or forms of encryption in your email.

- *In-person:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101, East Lansing, MI 48848.

- *U.S. mail:* Lisa L. Williams, Contaminants Specialist, at the Coolidge Road address above.

Submitting Comments: You may submit comments to Lisa L. Williams at the Coolidge Road address above or via email at kzoorivernrda@fws.gov with “Enbridge NRDA Comment” in the subject line

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Technical Information: Lisa Williams, (517) 351–8324.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOI, acting through FWS; the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe; and the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of the Pottawatomi Indians have written a Draft Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft Plan), which describes proposed alternatives for restoring injured natural resources and compensating for losses resulting from the discharges of oil from Enbridge's Line 6B oil pipeline near Marshall, Michigan, which occurred July 25–26, 2010. The Draft Plan was prepared in accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). DOI and the two tribes prepared this Draft Plan in cooperation with our co-Trustees: The Department of Commerce (DOC), acting through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the State of Michigan, acting through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the Michigan Department of Attorney General (MDAG). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the availability of the Draft Plan and to seek written comments. This notice is provided pursuant to Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) regulations

Appendix A-2
News Release

News Release

Midwest Region



5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437
612-713-5360

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2015

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hosts Public Information Meetings in Eight Midwest States for Regional Wind Energy Habitat Conservation Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is inviting public input as it develops an environmental impact statement on the potential impacts of issuing incidental take permits for covered species under the draft Midwest Wind Energy Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan.

Public meetings will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time at the following locations:

- **July 13 – Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Elliot Recreation Center, 1000 E. 14th St. 55404
- **July 14 – Madison, Wisconsin.** Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive, 53704
- **July 15 – Ames, Iowa.** Iowa State Memorial Union, Campanile Room, 2229 Lincoln Way, 50011
- **July 16 – Columbia, Missouri.** Battle High School Commons, 7575 E. St. Charles Road, 65202
- **July 20 – Lansing, Michigan.** Letts Community Center Gymnasium, 1220 W. Kalamazoo Street 48915
- **July 21 – Columbus, Ohio.** Columbus Downtown High School Commons, 364 South 4th Street 43215
- **July 22 – Indianapolis, Indiana.** World Sports Park Ballroom, 1313 South Post Road, 46239
- **July 23 – Bloomington, Illinois.** Illinois Wesleyan University, Memorial Center, Young Main Lounge, 104 E. University Avenue, 61701

The first hour of each meeting will be an informal open house, followed by a brief presentation at approximately 6:00 p.m. After the presentation, the informal open house will resume.

The Service also will host an online public meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at 1 p.m. CT. To participate, you can call a toll-free number and join a web conference:

- Log on to <http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=741848583&p=&t=c> to view a Service presentation about the Midwest Wind Energy Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan and scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement.
- To listen to the presentation and ask questions, call toll-free 1-888-324-7813. Enter passcode 9116767# to join the call.

For more information on this meeting, go to <http://www.midwestwindenergyhcpeis.org>

The draft plan is being prepared by the Service and their planning partners, including state wildlife agencies for seven of the eight states within the plan area, the American Wind Energy Association, a consortium of wind energy companies and The Conservation Fund. States within the plan area include Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The plan addresses incidental take of eight species that may be injured or killed at wind turbine facilities. The covered species include Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, Kirtland's warbler, Great Lakes and northern Great Plains populations of the piping plover, and least tern, all listed under the Endangered Species Act. Also covered are the bald eagle, protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the little brown bat, a species of concern.

Habitat conservation plans are agreements between a private landowner or a non-federal company or group and the Service, allowing permit applicants to undertake otherwise lawful activities on their property that may result in the incidental death, injury or harassment of covered species; the applicant agrees to conservation measures designed to minimize and mitigate the impact of those actions.

Individuals unable to attend the meetings may submit comments and materials through August 11, 2015, by any of the following methods:

U.S. Mail:

Regional Director, Attn: Rick Amidon
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

Electronically:

Visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov. In the search box enter (Docket Number FWS-R3-ES-2015-0033).

More information about the draft EIS for the proposed Midwest Wind Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan can be found at <http://midwestwindenergyhcpeis.org>. Information about endangered species in the Midwest can be found at www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered.

Additional opportunities for public comment during development of the environmental impact statement will be provided when the draft statement is released for public comment, which is anticipated for early spring of 2016.

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>.

Connect with our Facebook page at [facebook.com/usfwsmidwest](https://www.facebook.com/usfwsmidwest), follow our tweets at twitter.com/usfwsmidwest, watch our YouTube Channel at [youtube.com/usfws](https://www.youtube.com/usfws) and download photos from our Flickr page at [flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest).

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Appendix A-3
Stakeholder Notification

Interested Party Mailing List

Name	Business Name	Job Title	Email	Address	City, ST Zip
Aaron N. Hecht	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources US Animal Health Association	Veterinarian	aaron.hecht@ky.gov	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources #1 Sportsman's Lane	Frankfort, KY 40601-
Aaron Sargeant			a_rostrata@hotmail.com		
Acciona Wind Energy	Acciona Wind Energy			155 Fawcett Drive	West Branch, IA 52358-
Ajax Eastman	Maryland Conservation Council	Vice President	ajaxeast@msn.com	2304 South Road	Baltimore, MD 21209-4430
Alexandra Peek			Shetalks2much@verizon.net		
Allen Kurta	North American Society for Bat Research	Chair of the Board	akurta@emich.edu	Eastern Michigan University 900 Oakwood St 401E Mark Jefferson Science Complex	Ypsilanti, MI 48197-
Amber Gentry			wouldyoutell@yahoo.com		
Amber Tucker	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Region 7 - ENST/NEPA Team	tucker.amber@epa.gov	11201 Renner Blvd.	Lenexa, KS 66219-
American Bird Conservancy	American Bird Conservancy		gfenwick@abcbirds.org	P.O. Box 249	The Plains, VA 20198-2237
Ami Colon-Treyge			aec102@hotmail.com		
Amie Shovlain	Western Bat Working Group	At Large Representative		Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest 420 Barrett St	Dillon, MT 59725-
Andreas Streit	Eurobats	Executive Secretary	astreit@eurobats.org	See Notes - German Address	
Andrew Bacon	Michigan Nature Association	Stewardship Coordinator	abacon@michigannature.org	326 E. Grand River Ave.	Williamston, MI 48895-
Angie Vargas			Angelica.Vargas1776@gmail.com		
Ann Dithmer			anndithmer@yahoo.dk		
Ann Edwards			lrtpp@yahoo.com		
Ann Mayo			ann3mayo@gmail.com		
Annie Brock			peace1313@gmail.com		

Apex Clean Energy	Apex Clean Energy			Queen Charlotte Building 236 East High Street	Charlottesville, VA 22902-
Barbara Graham			Olb413@aol.com		
Barbara Kerber	Wisconsin Department of Transportation		barbara.kerber@dot.wisconsin.gov		
Bayard Catron			glasshotel@hotmail.com		
Becky Abel	Western Bat Working Group	Secretary	becksabel@gmail.com	Idaho Department of Fish and Game PO Box 25	Boise, ID 83707-
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Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is opening a public scoping period for preparation of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) that will evaluate the proposed Midwest Wind Energy Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (multi-species HCP). Specifically, the EIS will evaluate several alternatives relating to our issuance of Endangered Species Act incidental take permits under the multi-species HCP. The EIS will also evaluate impacts from issuing a programmatic permit under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for incidental take of bald eagles that may result from operation of wind energy facilities covered under the multi-species HCP. Scoping offers the public and other agencies an opportunity to participate in development of the EIS and assists the Service in identifying issues and concerns. Scoping begins with publication in the *Federal Register* of the Notice of Intent on June 12, 2015, which opens a public comment period that ends August 11, 2015.

The draft multi-species HCP addresses incidental take of eight species that may be injured or killed at wind turbine facilities. Habitat conservation plans are agreements between a landowner or non-federal company or group and the Service, allowing permit applicants to undertake otherwise lawful activities on their property that may result in the incidental death, injury or harassment of covered species; the applicant agrees to conservation measures designed to minimize and mitigate the impact of those actions. In addition to measures to avoid, minimize and mitigation all potential incidental take of covered species, the multi-species HCP includes measures for long-term conservation of covered species. An HCP is required under the Endangered Species Act for anyone to apply for an incidental take permit.

The incidental take permits that we would issue under the multi-Species HCP would authorize take that could result from existing and future wind energy development and operations in parts of eight states in the Service's Midwest Region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin). Species included in the multi-species HCP (i.e., covered species) are six federally listed species: Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, Kirtland's warbler, piping plover (Great Lakes population and northern Great Plains population), and interior least tern; and two unlisted species - little brown bat and the bald eagle. The bald eagle is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Partners with the Service in the effort to prepare the multi-species HCP include the conservation agencies for seven of the eight states, The Conservation Fund, and the American Wind Energy Association. The American Wind Energy Association is representing a consortium of wind energy companies. The planning partners intend to request a 45-year permit term covering these species.

The primary purpose of scoping is to provide an opportunity for the public and other agencies to assist in developing the EIS by identifying important issues and alternatives related to the multi-species HCP and the Service's proposed action (issuance of incidental take permits under the multi-species HCP and a programmatic eagle permit under the Eagle Act). We are requesting data, comments, new information, or suggestions. Specifically, we are seeking comments on:

- Biological information and relevant data concerning covered species;

- Additional information concerning the range, distribution, population size, and population trends of covered species;
- Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that implementation of the proposed covered activities could have on endangered, threatened, and other covered species, and their communities or habitats;
- Other possible alternatives to the proposed action that the Service should consider;
- Other current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on covered species;
- The presence of archaeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns, which are required to be considered in project planning by the National Historic Preservation Act; and
- Identification of any other environmental issues that should be considered with regard to the proposed multi-species HCP and permit action.

You may submit your comments and materials by any of the following methods:

U.S. Mail:

Regional Director, Attn: Rick Amidon
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services
 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990
 Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

Electronically: Visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov. In the search box enter (Docket Number FWS-R3-ES-2015-0033). This docket number will not be accessible until Friday, June 12.

More information about the draft EIS for the proposed Midwest Wind Multi-Species HCP can be found at <http://midwestwindenergyhcpeis.org>. We will also be holding public information meetings in all of the eight states of the project area. The meetings will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time at the following locations:

- **July 13 – Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Elliot Recreation Center, 1000 E. 14th St. 55404
- **July 14 – Madison, Wisconsin.** Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive, 53704
- **July 15 – Ames, Iowa.** Iowa State Memorial Union, Campanile Room, 2229 Lincoln Way, 50011
- **July 16 – Columbia, Missouri.** Battle High School Commons, 7575 E. St. Charles Road, 65202
- **July 20 – Lansing, Michigan.** Letts Community Center Gymnasium, 1220 W. Kalamazoo Street 48915
- **July 21 – Columbus, Ohio.** Columbus Downtown High School Commons, 364 South 4th Street 43215
- **July 22 - Indianapolis, Indiana.** World Sports Park Ballroom, 1313 South Post Road, 46239
- **July 23 - Bloomington, Illinois.** Illinois Wesleyan University, Memorial Center, Young Main Lounge, 104 E. University Avenue, 61701

We will also host an online public meeting on Thursday, July 28, 2015 at 1:00 pm (CST). For more information on this meeting, go to www.midwestwindenergyhcpeis.org.

Additional opportunities for public comment during development of the EIS will be provided when the draft is released for public review and comment, which is anticipated for spring of 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Amidon (Phone: 612-713-5164 – Email: rick_amidon@fws.gov).

Thank you,

Appendix A-4
Tribal Notification

Tribal Notification List

Prefix	Last Name	First Name	Title	Tribe
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Mr.	DeFoe	Reginald	Director-Natural Resources	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Mr.	Swader	Tony	Trust Lands Administrator	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Mr.	Robinson	Richard	Director - Division of Resource Management	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Ms.	Dirlam	Deb	Director - Office of the Environment	Lower Sioux Indian Community
Ms.	Klapel	Susan	Commissioner of Natural Resources	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Mr.	Miller	Gabriel	Wildlife Biologist	Prairie Island Indian Community
Mr.	Pemberton	Allen	Director-DNR	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
Mr.	Ellison	Stanley	Director Land and Natural Resources	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Mr.	Wold	Scott	Environmental Director	Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
Ms.	Hedstrom	Monica	Director-DNR	White Earth Nation
Mr.	Schott	Kelly	Interim Program Director-Natural Resources	Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
Mr.	Soulier	Ervin	Natural Resources Director	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Mr.	Daniels	Lawrence	Natural Resource Administrator	Forest County Potawatomi Community
Ms.	Karash	Karen	Division Manager-DNR	Ho-Chunk Nation
Mr.	Thayer	Mark	Director-Conservation	Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe
Mr.	Wawronowicz	Larry	Natural Resources Director	Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Mr.	Cox	Walter	Director-Conservation	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
Mr.	Bunker	Greg	Manager-Environmental Office	Stockbridge-Munsee Community
Mr.	Webster	Shad	Director-DNR	Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
Mr.	Abel	Chad	Administrator - Treaty Rights and Natural Resources Division	Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Ms.	Starhia	Katie	Environmental/Natural Resources Director	St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

Ms.	Van Zile	Tina	Environmental Director	Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Wisconsin
Mr.	Soulier	Ervin	Natural Resources Director	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Mr.	Daniels	Lawrence	Natural Resource Administrator	Forest County Potawatomi Community
Ms.	Karash	Karen	Division Manager-DNR	Ho-Chunk Nation
Mr.	Thayer	Mark	Director-Conservation	Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe
Mr.	Wawronowicz	Larry	Natural Resources Director	Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Mr.	Cox	Walter	Director-Conservation	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
Mr.	Bunker	Greg	Manager-Environmental Office	Stockbridge-Munsee Community
Mr.	Webster	Shad	Director-DNR	Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
Mr.	Abel	Chad	Administrator - Treaty Rights and Natural Resources Division	Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Ms.	Starhia	Katie	Environmental/Natural Resources Director	St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
Ms.	Van Zile	Tina	Environmental Director	Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Wisconsin
Mr.	Soulier	Ervin	Natural Resources Director	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians