



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Elk Wind Farm

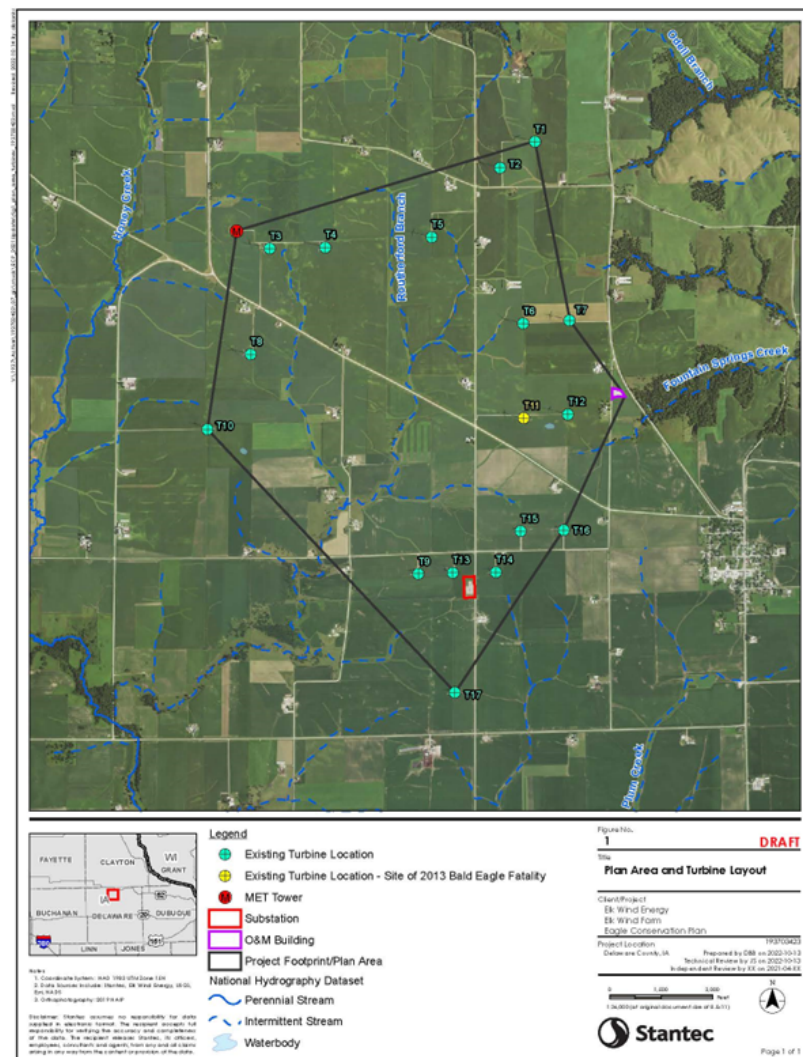
Project Description

Elk Wind Energy LLC, a company held under Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company LLC (Applicant), has constructed and is currently operating the Elk Wind Farm (Project) located in northern Delaware County, Iowa, near the town of Greeley. The Project consists of 17 turbines, producing up to 42.5 megawatts of electricity, an operations and maintenance building, an underground electrical collection system, overhead transmission lines, access roads, and a permanent un-guyed meteorological (met) tower. The Project area contains approximately 2,752 acres.

Potential Eagle Impacts

There may be incidental bald eagle mortality due to the operation of the Project. Take, including killing of eagles, is prohibited by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act without a permit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been delegated the authority to issue eagle take permits, where the incidental take is associated with, but not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity, and is determined to be compatible with the preservation of eagles. The Service will issue incidental take permits for such take only after an applicant has committed to undertake all practical measures to avoid and minimize such take and mitigate anticipated take in accordance with the regulations.

We received an application for a 30-year bald eagle incidental take permit from the Applicant for the Project. The Applicant has provided an Eagle Conservation Plan that summarizes Project design, construction, and ongoing operational measures taken to avoid and minimize impacts to both bald and golden eagles. The Service has evaluated risks to eagles at the Project and has determined the Applicant's monitoring and adaptive management plan is sufficiently rigorous to avoid and minimize impacts to eagles at the site. The applicant will conduct eagle fatality monitoring at the project site according to their monitoring plan. Eagle take permits require that

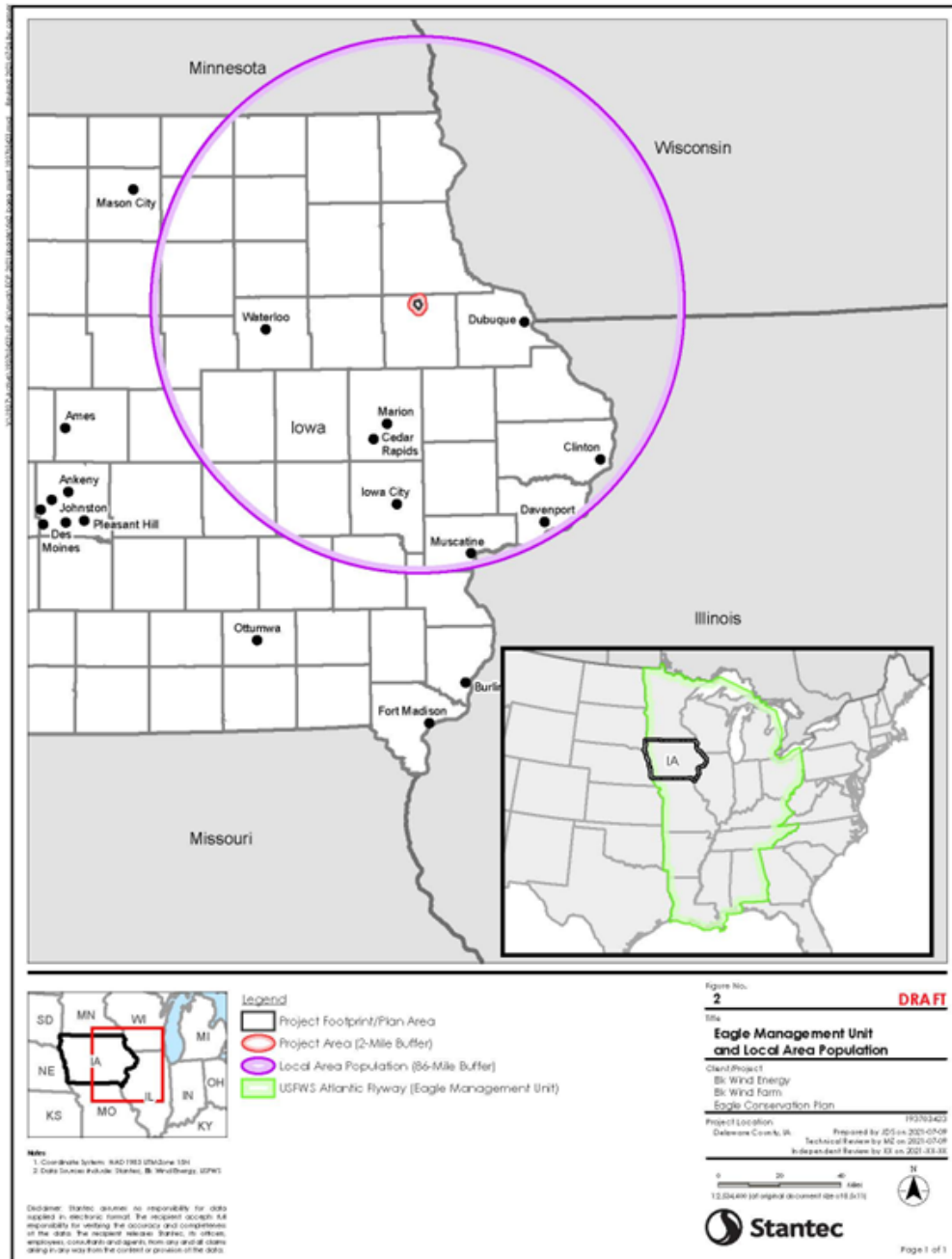


any observed fatalities be reported to the Service. The Service tracks estimated take that has been authorized for bald eagles and golden eagles within each eagle management unit and local area population. It is the Service's responsibility to track whether the take level is exceeded or is likely to be exceeded, and whether that take is compatible with the preservation of eagles.

Environmental Review

The Service has an independent statutory responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate its own actions related to the Project, here defined as the possible issuance of an incidental take permit. Given the limited scope of the Service's potential action and the simplicity of this permit application, we have determined that a full Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Service's action is not necessary. Using procedures laid out in the Service's [Migratory Bird Permitting Handbook](#) (2024), we have documented that the authorization of eagle take and the Service's responsibility to ensure that authorized take is compatible with the preservation of bald and golden eagles.

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Should additional information be needed, please contact us at:

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