

Requirements for Issuing a Technical Assistance Letter for Avoidance of Indiana and Northern Long-eared Bat Take at Wind Energy Facilities in Indiana

In order to meet the standard of insignificant or discountable take of Indiana and northern long-eared bats associated with a technical assistance letter (TAL) stating no Incidental Take Permit is recommended, the following minimum level of minimization measures and monitoring must be met. The TAL will be valid as long as the below measures are implemented, and results of monitoring indicate take of listed bats is unlikely. Annual reports describing the minimization measures implemented, the methods and results from mortality monitoring, and turbine operational compliance data should be submitted to the Indiana Field Office by December 31 of each monitoring year.

Minimization measures:

- turbines should be sited at least 1,000 feet away from all suitable summer habitat
 - if turbines occur within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat then those turbines are feathered up to a cut-in speed of 6.9 m/s from ½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise during the summer season, May 16 – July 31
- all turbines are feathered up to a cut-in speed of 5.0 m/s from ½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise during the spring migratory season, March 15 – May 15; and all turbines are feathered up to a cut-in speed of 6.9 m/s from ½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise during the fall migratory season, August 1 - October 15
- for projects with summer resident Indiana and/or northern long-eared bats, all turbines are feathered up to the manufacturers cut-in speed from ½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise during the summer season, May 16 – July 31
- turbine operation should be based on a 10 minute rolling average at minimum

Monitoring effort:

- ten percent or 10 turbines, whichever is greater, should have cleared plots (40 meter radius, centered on the turbine) during the first three years of operation only
- all remaining turbines should be searched on roads and pads only during the first three years of operation
- searches should be conducted once per week during the spring and fall migratory seasons, March 15 - May 15 and August 1 - October 15 respectively (this search frequency may need to be adjusted depending on the results of the carcass removal trials)
- if turbines occur within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat then those turbines should be searched once weekly during the summer season, May 16 – July 31
- searcher efficiency and carcass removal trials should be completed during each search season each year of monitoring
- after the initial three year period, all turbines should be searched on roads and pads only every five years for the life of the project
- incidental finds by company personnel should be monitored and reported during all years of operation under a TAL