

Roundtable Responses to Additional Audience Questions

Wind Energy Training Broadcast #4 January 29, 2014

During the live broadcast, roundtable participants fielded questions from the audience online. Below are answers written by the roundtable participants to questions that they did not have time to address during the broadcast. The members of the roundtable included:

Christy Johnson- Hughes (Host, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Kathy Boydston (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies), Charles Newcomb (Distributed Wind Energy Association, Endurance Wind Power), and Jennifer Norris (Ohio Department of Natural Resources).

1. Are there suggested guidelines for pre-site monitoring for bird strikes (particularly coastal sites with concerns with migrating birds)?

(Kathy Boydston, Christy Johnson-Hughes): The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) [Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines](#) (WEG) are a good place to start. It will give a developer an idea of the potential risk for bird strikes in an area. For protocols on monitoring you could use the [Comprehensive Guide to Studying Wind/Wildlife Interactions](#). And, developers should always coordinate with the state fish and wildlife agency in the state where they are developing to find out if there is a state regulatory process or if the state has guidelines for wind energy development.

2. How are purchasers of turbines alerted to these guidelines?

(Kathy Boydston, Christy Johnson-Hughes): It is the intent of the WEG that through coordination with both FWS and state fish and wildlife agencies that purchasers/developers will become aware of and familiar with the WEG. Most states should have their guidelines on their respective websites. AFWA is developing a list of energy contacts in each state fish and wildlife agency that should be available soon. This list will provide a direct contact for developers/industry within each state fish and wildlife agency that should be able to provide that type of information, and if not, direct the developer to where within the agency they can acquire the information.

3. What are the noise-related issues associated with small wind turbines?

(Charles Newcomb): Small turbines are subject to the same sound testing regimens that large turbines are tested to so as to ascertain how loud they are, but there is no specific limit to how loud a turbine can be. Instead the market is managed through local ordinances and health guidelines that specify the permissible sound levels at property boundaries or nearby residences. Turbines that are louder than others may have more

difficulty meeting these requirements and as a result realize a smaller market share thus there is a natural market feedback mechanism that encourages turbines to be as quiet as possible. Some small turbines control their electric power in high wind conditions by changing their orientation to the oncoming wind (turning away from the wind) and thus can be louder than normal when regulating their power. The small wind standard allows for this. Generally speaking small wind turbines are very quiet when heard at ground level and when compared to other objects, such as an idling car.