



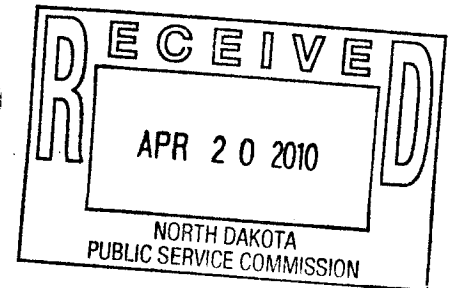
# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
3425 Miriam Avenue  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501



APR 19 2010



Mr. Matt Marsh  
Western Area Power Administration  
Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region  
P.O. Box 35800  
Billings, Montana 59107-5800


Dear Mr. Marsh:

This is in response to your March 19, 2010, request for environmental information in relation to a second public scoping for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Baldwin Wind Energy Center, LLC. The proposed project area has been expanded to include an area east of Wilton, North Dakota, immediately north of the current Wilton Wind farms. We offer the following comments under the authority of and in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250), Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands", Executive Order 13186 "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds", the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Pub. L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended).

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) previously provided scoping comments to the Western Area Power Administration (Western) for the original project area in a November 10, 2009, letter. Those comments and recommendations (letter attached) are incorporated by reference with respect to the proposed expanded project area.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We would appreciate it if you would provide our office with a copy of the Draft EA and Draft BA for review. If you require further information as project planning proceeds, please contact Terry Ellsworth of my staff, or contact me directly, at (701) 250-4481, or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

 Jeffrey K. Towner  
Field Supervisor  
North Dakota Field Office

22 PU-09-668 Filed: 4/20/2010 Pages: 2  
Letter Comments on Proposed Project

Enclosure

cc: Project Leader, Long Lake WMD  
(Attn: E. Meendering)  
ND Public Service Commission, Bismarck  
Director, ND Game & Fish Department, Bismarck  
(Attn: M. McKenna)