

Minnesota Power 2021 Wildlife Impact Report **For the Bison 1, 2, 3 & 4 Wind Facilities**

Bison 1 (PU-09-151), Bison 2 (PU-11-57), Bison 3 (PU-11-162), Bison 4 (PU-13-127)



A WIND ENERGY INITIATIVE OF MINNESOTA POWER IN NORTH DAKOTA

184 PU-13-127 Filed 01/31/2022 Pages: 29
2021 Wildlife Impact Report
Allete, Inc.

159 PU-11-57 Filed 01/31/2022 Pages: 29
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Allete, Inc.



Minnesota Power 2021 Wildlife Impact Report

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Introduction

Throughout 2021 Minnesota Power (an operating division of ALLETE, Inc.) has been operating wind energy conversion facilities (Facilities) in west central North Dakota. As part of Minnesota Power's commitment to environmental stewardship and continual evaluation of facility impacts, regular wildlife inspections are performed at its Facilities throughout the year. The following is Minnesota Power's 2021 Annual Wildlife Impact Report which reviews the wildlife inspection results for the Bison 1, 2, 3 and 4 Facilities in North Dakota.

In 2021 Minnesota Power's Bison 1 (81.8 MW), Bison 2 (105 MW), Bison 3 (105 MW) and Bison 4 (204.8 MW) Facilities were all operational. The four Facilities combine for a total of 165 turbines. A Bison 1, 2, 3 & 4 Facility (Bison) map is included as Figure 1. This annual Wildlife Impact Report covers all Bison Facility turbines and associated infrastructure.

This report has been developed for Minnesota Power's use and is distributed to personnel or agencies outlined in this report. The Minnesota Power 2021 Wildlife Impact Report is reviewed by Minnesota Power environmental staff, Bison Facility personnel and management. It is used to analyze potential avian or bat impacts to determine if adaptive management measures are required for either the entire Facility or individual Facility structures.

Minnesota Power provides copies of this report to the North Dakota Public Service Commission under each project Docket Number to be incorporated into their records. A Wildlife Impact Report is generated by January 31st of each year for the operational life of Minnesota Power's Bison Facilities.

Inspections/Data Collection

This 2021 Wildlife Impact Report includes data collected from all 165 operational turbines at the Bison Facility, as well as data collected from the Bison Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facility, the Bison and Tri-County Substations (substations) and four permanent meteorological (met) towers. Each turbine, O&M facility and substation are inspected for avian and bat mortality by ALLETE personnel or contractors, at a frequency of at least once per month. Some structures, such as the substations and O&M facility, were inspected at a higher frequency. When a carcass is found it is left at its location, photographed and a Bison Wildlife Impact Form is completed.

Each carcass's completed Bison Wildlife Impact Report Form and associated photos were entered into Minnesota Power's 2021 Wildlife Incident Database. Those results are summarized in this report. Individual fatality information can be found in the Bison Wildlife Impact Report Forms located in Appendix A. In addition, monthly inspection cycle results for 2021 are included in the Wildlife Inspection Table (Appendix B).

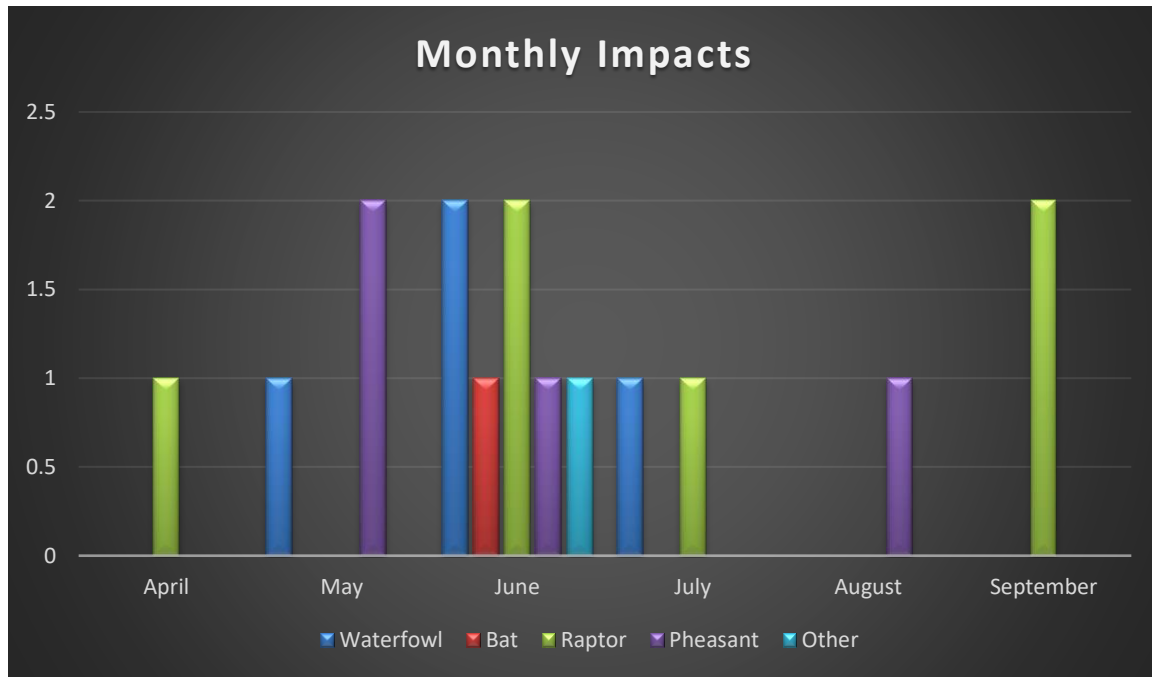
Minnesota Power 2021 Wildlife Impact Report

The total wildlife fatalities for 2021, totaled 16. One bat fatality recorded and 15 avian fatalities recorded. Specific data for each incident and species can be found in the Bison Wildlife Impact Reports (Appendix A).

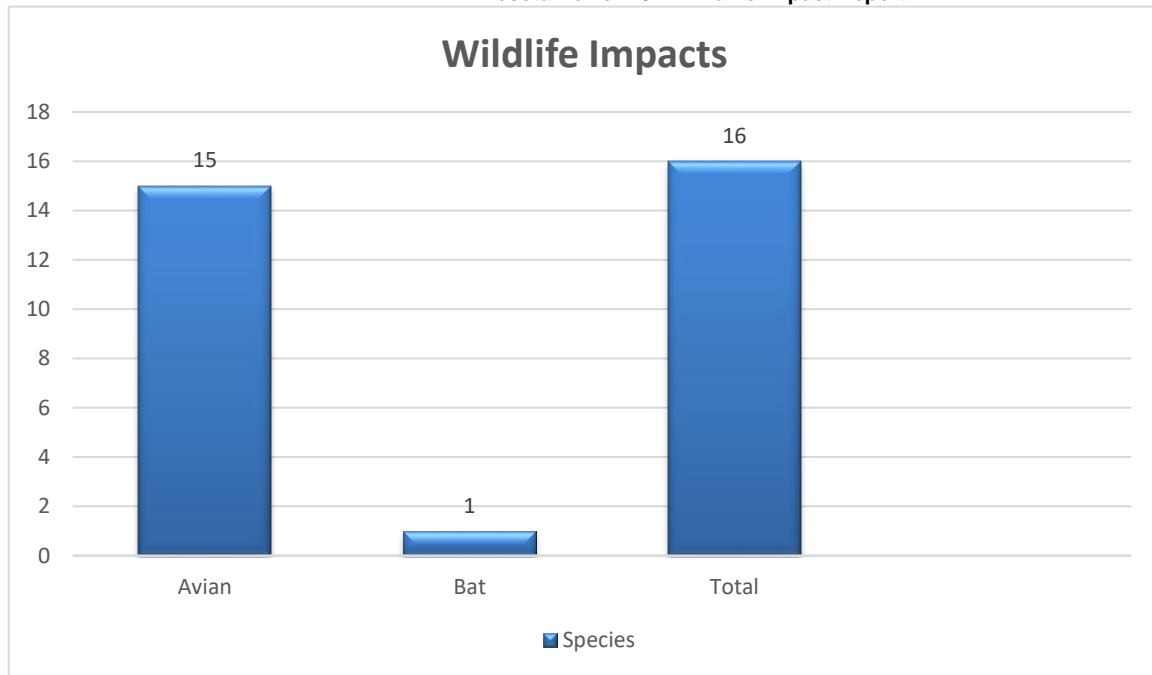
Results

After reviewing the inspection/fatalities records, no turbine, structure or location showed an elevated risk for avian or bat mortality when compared to surrounding Bison Facility structures. Mortality appears to be dispersed throughout the Bison Facility. One bat carcass was found in June which coincides with spring and fall migratory activity. Duck carcasses were more prevalent during spring migration, however an increase was not observed during fall migration when avian species are typically most vulnerable to collision. The 2021 results are as shown in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1:
2021 Avian and bat Carcasses Found at Minnesota Power’s Bison Facility



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Based on the data available for Minnesota Power’s Bison Facilities, there is no conclusive evidence that would indicate additional adaptive management activities should occur. It appears, from the data provided, that the Bison Facility poses a low risk to surrounding and migrating avian and bat populations.

Figure 1

-Bison 1, 2, 3 & 4 Project Area

Minnesota Power Bison 1, 2, 3 & 4 Project Area

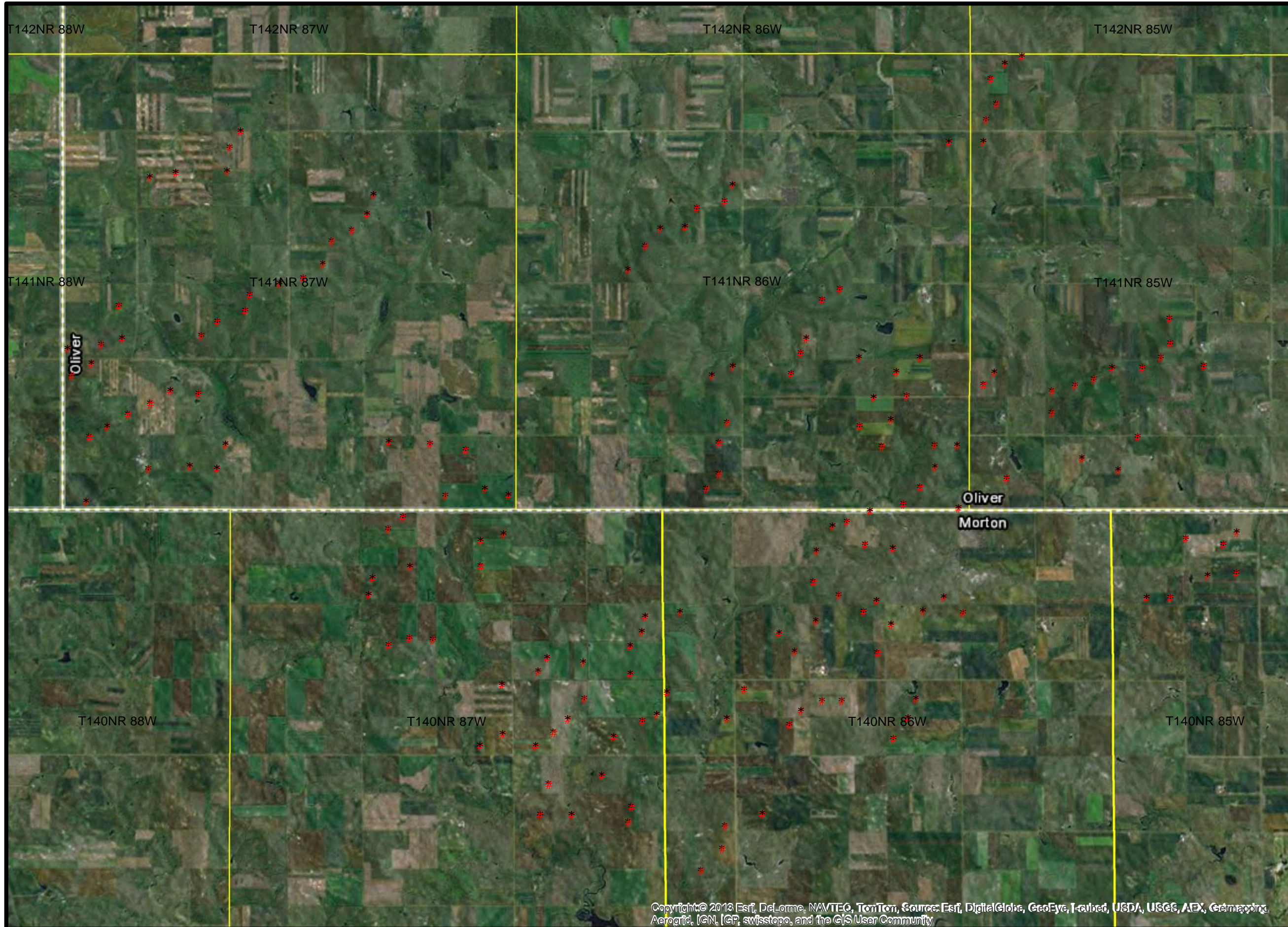


Figure 1

Legend

- * MP Bison Wind Turbines
- Townships

4

3

□ Miles



Appendix A

-Wildlife Impact Reports



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>		ACE: Glen Ullin Energy Center	
<u>Entry Number</u> 4-2021(1)	<u>Date:</u> 4/1/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 1400	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 4/1/2021	<u>Structure #</u> T10 Glen Ullin	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.97981311 -101.808205
<u>Location Remarks:</u> 100ft south of T10			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Deceased/Decapitated	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> Within a few days	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 3/30/2021	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Devan Schell
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 4/1/2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 4/5/2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Swainson's Hawk	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None. Leave carcass as it lies.	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> None. Leave carcass as it lies.	<u>Other Notes:</u>



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>		Bison Wind Energy Center	
<u>Entry Number</u> 5-2021(2)	<u>Date:</u> 5/6/21	<u>Time of Day</u> 1400	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 5/6/21	<u>Structure #</u> T321	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.9554600098 -101.673106983
<u>Location Remarks:</u> Between tower and transformer, laying next to transformer on west side of tower.			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Deceased/Decapitated	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> Within a few days	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 5/1/21	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle
<u>Other Notes:</u> One hen and one rooster ring neck pheasant found near transformer.			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 5/6/21	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 5/10/21	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Ringneck Pheasant Female	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None. Leave carcass as it lies.	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> None. Leave carcass as it lies.	<u>Other Notes:</u>



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>		Bison Wind Energy Center	
<u>Entry Number</u> 5-2021(3)	<u>Date:</u> 5/6/21	<u>Time of Day</u> 1400	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 5/6/21	<u>Structure #</u> T321	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.9554600098 -101.673106983
<u>Location Remarks:</u> Located 10ft west of transformer			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Deceased/Decapitated	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> Within a few days	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 5/1/21	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle
<u>Other Notes:</u> One hen and one rooster ring neck pheasant found near transformer.			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 5/6/21	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 5/10/21	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Ringneck Pheasant Male	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None. Leave carcass as it lies.	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> None. Leave carcass as it lies.	<u>Other Notes:</u>



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>		Bison Wind Energy Center	
<u>Entry Number</u> 5-2021(3)	<u>Date:</u> 5/6/21	<u>Time of Day</u> 1430	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 5/6/21	<u>Structure #</u> T326	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.9776929739 -101.673214022
<u>Location Remarks:</u> Within 5ft of transformer to North.			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Deceased/Decapitated	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> Within a few days	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 5/1/21	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 5/6/21	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 5/10/21	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Mallard Duck, Male	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None. Leave carcass as it lies.	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> None. Leave carcass as it lies.	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 6-2021(2)	<u>Date:</u> 6/4/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 0900	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 6/4/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 303	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.9686489863 / -101.444011954
<u>Location Remarks:</u>			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Decaying	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 1 week	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 1 week	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle
<u>Other Notes:</u> Located 50ft west of tower			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 6-5-2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 6-5-2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Zach Golkowski
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Mallard Duck	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> no	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> Leave where found	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments

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ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 6-2021(4)	<u>Date:</u> 6/4/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 1400	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 6/4/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 32	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.9733843076 / -101.553364059
<u>Location Remarks:</u> 20ft west of tower			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Decaying	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 1 week	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 1 week	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 6-5-2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 6-5-2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Zach Golkowski
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Song Bird	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> no	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> none	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> Leave where found	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments

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ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 6-2021(5)	<u>Date:</u> 6/4/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 1430	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 6/4/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 16	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.9648543705 / -101.547239499
<u>Location Remarks:</u> Female duck, head only. Located 20ft South of tower.			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Decaying	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 1 week	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 1 week	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 6-5-2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 6-5-2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Zach Golkowski
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Hen Mallard	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions: Leave carcass where found</u>	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments

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ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 6-2021(7)	<u>Date:</u> 6/10/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 0930	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 6/10/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 230	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.9421519733 /-101.598069989
<u>Location Remarks:</u> 20ft west of tower			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Deceased	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 1 week	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 1 week	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle (ARR)
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 6-16-2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 6-16-2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Ring-necked pheasant (hen)	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> Leave carcass as it lay.	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>		Bison Wind Project	
<u>Entry Number</u> 6-2021(8)	<u>Date:</u> 6/16/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 1300	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 6/16/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 307	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.975902/-101.450164
<u>Location Remarks:</u> 20ft SE of tower			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Deceased	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 1 week	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 1 week	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Devan Schell (ARR)
<u>Other Notes:</u> Bat			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 6-16-2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 6-16-2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Little Brown Bat	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> Leave carcass as it lay.	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 7-2021(1)	<u>Date:</u> 6/28/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 900	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 6/28/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 205	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 47.005239 -101.481052
<u>Location Remarks:</u> About 35 feet to the South West of the tower base.			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Deceased	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 2-3 days	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 6/25/2021	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Michael Thompson
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 6/28/2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 6/30/2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Swainson's Hawk	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> None	<u>Other Notes:</u>



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 07-2021(4)	<u>Date:</u> 7/12/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 1000	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 7/12/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 6	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 47.0041097968 101.528162714
<u>Location Remarks:</u> South west of tower 40 feet.			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> deceased	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 1-2 weeks	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 7/7/2021	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Michael Thompson
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 8/4/2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 8/10/2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Unidentifiable Hawk (decomposed)	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> Presumed No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> None	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 7-2021(3)	<u>Date:</u> 7/2/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 1500	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 7/7/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 308	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.936198965 / -101.647599017
<u>Location Remarks:</u> Located 200ft south of tower			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Decaying	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 1 week	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 1 week	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle
<u>Other Notes:</u> Located 50ft west of tower			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 07-07-2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 07-07-2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Common Grackle	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> No
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> None	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments

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ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 8-2021(1)	<u>Date:</u> 8/2/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 1400	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 8/2/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 335	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.9703590028/-101.647281037
<u>Location Remarks:</u> 30 Ft south of tower			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Decaying	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 1 week	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 1 week	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle(ARR)
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 8-10-2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 8-10-2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Ringneck pheasant	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> None	<u>Other Notes:</u>



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 9-2021(1)	<u>Date:</u> 9/1/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 0845	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 9/1/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 302	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 46.964622027 / -101.45441906
<u>Location Remarks:</u> Approx. 20ft NW of tower.			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Decaying	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 2 week	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 2 week	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle(ARR)
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 9-2-2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 9-2-2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Zach Golkowski
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Hawk	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> Leave Carcass where found	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>		Bison Wind	
<u>Entry Number</u> 9-2021(2)	<u>Date:</u> 9/16/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 1300	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> Fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 9/16/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 449	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 47.0183946028/ -101.713189104
<u>Location Remarks:</u> Approx. 10ft South of tower			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Decaying	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 2 days	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 2 days	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Brian Houle(ARR)
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 9-17-21	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 9-17-21	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Zach Golkowski
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Red Tail hawk	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> NO	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> NONE
<u>Action Items:</u> NONE	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> NONE	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Pictures and attachments



ALLETE Wildlife Impact Report Form

<u>ALLETE Wind Facility Name</u>			
<u>Entry Number</u> 7-2021(1)	<u>Date:</u> 6/28/2021	<u>Time of Day</u> 900	<u>Injury/Fatality</u> fatality
<u>Notification Given to</u> 3200	<u>Date Notification Was Given</u> 6/28/2021	<u>Structure #</u> 205	<u>Latitude/Longitude</u> 47.005239 -101.481052
<u>Location Remarks:</u> About 35 feet to the South West of the tower base.			
<u>Physical Condition:</u> Deceased	<u>Estimated Time Since Death:</u> 2-3 days	<u>Estimated Date of Injury:</u> 6/25/2021	<u>Name of Respondent:</u> Michael Thompson
<u>Other Notes:</u>			

ELM Follow up/Confirmation

<u>Date:</u> 6/28/2021	<u>Perillon Entry Date:</u> 6/30/2021	<u>Responding ELM staff:</u> Drew Janke
<u>Species Confirmation:</u> Swainson's Hawk	<u>Threatened or Endangered:</u> No	<u>Agencies contacted:</u> None
<u>Action Items:</u> None	<u>Carcass Preservation actions:</u> None	<u>Other Notes:</u>

Appendix B

-Wildlife Inspection Table

