



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501



NOV 23 2011

RECEIVED

NOV 25 2011

Ms. Irina Gumennik
Tetra Tech, EC Inc.
160 Federal Street, 3rd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Re: Application to North Dakota Public Service
Commission for Certificate of Site Compatibility for
Wilton IV Wind Energy Center in Morton County,
North Dakota

Dear Ms. Gumennik:

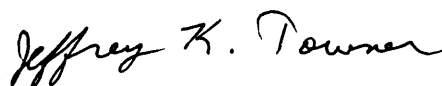
This is in response to your October 17, 2011, letter, regarding the proposed NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra), Wilton IV Wind Energy Center (Wilton IV) in Burleigh County, North Dakota. Tetra Tech, EC Inc. (Tetra Tech) is requesting assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Dakota Ecological Services Office (Service), with regard to identifying any concerns or issues that would influence a decision, by your client NextEra, regarding the use of the land in the proposed project area, as well as applicable permits that may be required from the Service. 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.) (MBTA), Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250) (BGEPA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Pub. L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended), and Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA).

This office is aware that the subject project will require an interconnection agreement with the Western Area Power Administration (Western). Western will be the lead Federal agency for NEPA review, as well as ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed project. The Service provided comments and recommendations by letter dated August 25, 2011, in response to Western's Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Wilton IV project. Until such time that Western designates Tetra Tech as their non-Federal agent for informal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA, and for coordination under our other authorities, we will continue to provide technical assistance to Western, as the project's environmental analysis moves forward.

19 PU-11-646 Filed: 11/25/2011 Pages: 2
Letter comments on proposed project

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Ellsworth of my staff or myself at (701) 250-4481, or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey K. Towner
Field Supervisor
North Dakota Field Office

cc: Western Area Power Administration, Billings
North Dakota Public Service Commission, Bismarck
Director, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Bismarck
(Attn: G. Link)