



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

## NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNOR, Doug Burgum

DIRECTOR, Terry Steinwand

DEPUTY, Scott A. Peterson

November, 2 2018

Dear Mr. Jones:

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department) received your email on November 2<sup>nd</sup> discussing differing recommendations from the Department and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). We would like to formally clear up any misunderstandings on the subject.

The Department's guidance letter on the Emmons-Logan project, dated May 22, 2018, was sent out while the draft guidelines were still being developed. As such, the suggested voluntary offset package stemmed from those guidelines. On July 25<sup>th</sup>, however, the collaborative process of further developing these guidelines was halted.

Since that time, the Department has stressed the importance of following the best available science to determine if a voluntary offset package is needed and, if so, what that would look like. We concur with the Service that the best available science addressing North Dakota resources are Loesch et al. 2013 and Shaffer and Buhl 2016 and that these papers should be used to help guide you in developing a voluntary offset package. Specifically, the Department is in full agreement with the Service's statement: *"If this project proceeds, we recommend quantification of wetlands within ½ mile of turbines, of grasslands within 300 m of turbines, and then application of the displacement rates from the Loesch et al. 2013 and Shaffer and Buhl 2016 studies to determine and disclose anticipated indirect impacts. This information is needed to adequately develop an appropriate mitigation plan to offset this form of habitat loss and we encourage project developers to provide that plan as part of the project"*.

If you should have any questions on the matter, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Link".

Greg Link  
Chief, Conservation and Communications Division

Cc: Scott Larson, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
ND Public Service Commission

23 PU-18-281 Filed 11/02/2018 Pages: 1  
Copy of letter sent to USFW regarding Emmons-Logan project  
27 PU-18-280 Filed 11/02/2018 Pages: 1  
Copy of letter sent to USFW regarding Emmons-Logan project