From:	Riddle, Heidi L
To:	Brown, Dina
Cc:	Toso, Luke B
Subject:	RE: [EXTERNAL] WCS for Oliver Wind IV - email 2/2
Date:	Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:18:00 PM
Attachments:	2010 R6 Memo_Line marking.pdf

Hi Dina,

Please see my comments below.

Specific Comments:
Page 12, Table 3; Whooping crane: The table indicates "low to moderate" in the "Likelihood of Occurrence" column. I believe there is a portion of the transmission line that lies within a Med-High Probability of Occurrence according to the Niemuth model. If so, I would recommend using the Region 6 Guidelines re: power line marking in the whooping crane corridor (attached).

Page 19, Paragraph 1: Dakota skipper: the document states that "13.1 acres of larval habitat was documented during Tier 3 field studies along with proposed areas planned for temporary and permanent disturbance during construction of the project". This habitat is presumable native grassland. Will there be occupancy surveys? Will this grassland be accounted for in a voluntary offsets package?

Page 24, Bullet 2: "To the extent possible, Oliver Wind IV sited…"; Recommend using quantitative values to describe avoidance and minimization measures. Are there any acres of unbroken grasslands that will be disturbed? Any acres of other native habitats?

Page 24, Bullets 12, 14 and 15: Same comment as previous. For statements "to the extent practicable" and "minimized disturbance to.." please quantify any impacts in numbers of acres.

Page 25, Bullet 3: "as much as feasible". Same comment as previous.

Page 25, Bullet 6: "where possible". Same comment as previous.

Page 26, Bullet 1: Avian flight diverters; Recommend marking lines using R6 Guidance (attached) as a minimum guideline. Any line marking above and beyond would also be beneficial for other species.

Page 26, Bullet 5: "restoration plan"; We respectfully request to receive a draft restoration plan so that we might coordinate when specifics are known.

Page 27, Bullet 8: "Curtailment"; Recommend conducting operations in accordance with the most current NLEB guidance. The active dates for ND are April 15-Oct. 31.
https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis
Check this site regularly for any updates.

Page 27, Bullet 9: Whooping crane monitoring; note that the recommended monitoring dates for whooping cranes has changed. Current dates are March 15-May 15; Sept. 10 – Nov. 15; We respectfully request biannual monitoring reports following each migration period.

Page 27, Bullet 11: We respectfully request all post-construction monitoring reports. We recommend consideration of additional PCM beyond one year to better inform adaptive management of turbines.

General Comments:

- Post-construction monitoring methods should incorporate the most current recommendations in accordance with the NLEB guidance.
- It is our understanding that Oliver Wind has worked with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to provide voluntary offsets pursuant to the new state law N.D.C.C. §4.1-01-21.1, which we commend. Previous wind projects in North Dakota have included the details of any voluntary offsets in the WCS/BBCS, and we would encourage Oliver Wind to do the same. We also suggest that Oliver Wind refer to ND Game and Fish Department's 12/29/23, letter, in which the Department discusses the impact analysis and recommended approach to fulfill the commitment.

Thanks, Dina!

Heidi Riddle, CWB®
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
USFWS North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office
3425 Miriam Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 319-6708
heidi_riddle@fws.gov

From: Brown, Dina <Dina.Brown@nexteraenergy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:49 AM
To: Riddle, Heidi L <heidi_riddle@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WCS for Oliver Wind IV - email 2/2

Hi Heidi,

I like your plan. Please send over your comments/questions on the Oliver Wind IV WCS and we can work to answer/resolve.

Thanks,
Dina

Dina E. Brown
C: 281-570-7108

From: Riddle, Heidi L <heidi_riddle@fws.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Brown, Dina <Dina.Brown@nexteraenergy.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WCS for Oliver Wind IV - email 2/2

Hello Dina,

I have reviewed the WCS submitted on Dec. 18 and I have some comments/questions. It's my understanding that the PSC hearing is 1/29. If feasible, we can address these via email and then FWS will plan to submit a letter prior to the hearing?

Thank you,
Heidi

Heidi Riddle, CWB®
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
USFWS North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office
3425 Miriam Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 319-6708
heidi_riddle@fws.gov

From: Brown, Dina <Dina.Brown@nexteraenergy.com>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:58 AM
To: Riddle, Heidi L <heidi_riddle@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WCS for Oliver Wind IV - email 2/2

Fantastic! Thanks for letting me know.

And I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season as well!

Very warm regards,
Dina

From: Riddle, Heidi L <heidi_riddle@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Brown, Dina <Dina.Brown@nexteraenergy.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WCS for Oliver Wind IV - email 2/2

Hello Dina,

I received both documents. Thank you for sending, and for the info re: the PSC hearing.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season!

Heidi Riddle, CWB®
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
USFWS North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office
3425 Miriam Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 319-6708
heidi_riddle@fws.gov

From: Brown, Dina <Dina.Brown@nexteraenergy.com>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:23 AM
To: Riddle, Heidi L <heidi_riddle@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCS for Oliver Wind IV - email 2/2

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Heidi,

Attaching the appendices for the WCS, as discussed in my previous email. Please confirm receipt.

Thanks,
Dina

Dina E. Brown | Project Manager
Environmental Services | Central Region | NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
C: 281-570-7108 | Dina.Brown@nexteraenergy.com
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