

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

January 20, 2012

The news outlets throughout the nation have been abuzz with wind energy and wildlife news in the past couple weeks.

Current Wind Energy and Wildlife news can be found at <http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>. Highlights: raptor studies at wind turbine sites, new interactive tool to help predict bat presence at wind energy facilities, and an Oregon wind developer applies for a take permit for Golden Eagles.

On January 17, 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service posted a news release, *North American Bat Death Toll Exceeds 5.5 Million From White-nose Syndrome* (http://us.vocuspr.com/Newsroom/Query.aspx?SiteName=fws&Entity=PRAsset&SF_PRAsset_PRAssetID_EQ=129322&XSL=PressRelease&Cache=True). White-nose syndrome (WNS) has been confirmed in several eastern states and is suspected as far west as Oklahoma and Missouri. Bats are one of the groups of species potentially impacted by wind energy developments and at least one species of bat found in Nebraska is susceptible to WNS.

Around Nebraska:

January 19, 2012 was the final day for bill introductions in the Nebraska Legislature. The hearings for three of the four bills related to renewable energy was yesterday afternoon. The number, primary introducer, a description of the bills, and the statement of intent are listed below.

LB 741 - Introduced by Schilz - Change application provisions relating to electric generation facilities. - LB741 would require the Nebraska Power Review Board to consider information produced as a result of the planning process used by an applicable regional transmission organization when considering whether to approve an application for authority to construct a transmission line. The requirement would apply in situations where the regional transmission organization had issued a notice requiring a utility to construct a transmission line. The bill would also provide the Power Review Board with specific statutory authority to consider the benefits that a proposed transmission line could confer to the region, which will include Nebraska. The Board currently lacks such statutory authority, and caselaw indicates that the Power Review Board's authority is therefore limited to considering the public convenience and necessity of the citizens of Nebraska. The bill attempts to recognize the increasingly regional nature of the transmission grid. (http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=15709)

LB 742 - Introduced by Schilz - Change application provisions relating to development of renewable energy resources. - LB742 expands the current generation exception for qualifying C-BEDs under 70-1014.01 to all private developers. (http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=15708)

LB 828 - Introduced by Dubas - Change provisions relating to wind and solar energy agreements. - LB828 clarifies existing statutes on landowner agreements related to the development of wind and solar facilities. Harmonizes language of "decommissioning security" and "wind easement" between Chapters. Clarifies the items in an abstract needed to publish. Allows for renewals of agreements beyond forty years. (http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=15624)

LB 1033 - Introduced by Cornett - "Provide tax incentives under the Nebraska Advantage Act for renewable energy projects." - This bill was just introduced on January 17 and a hearing date has not yet been set. (http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=16023)

To unsubscribe to this listserv:

Send an e-mail message to: LISTSERV@UNL.EDU

In the Message Field (NOT Subject): UNSUBSCRIBE wind_wildlife