

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

February 13, 2012

Around Nebraska...

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project **website** is up! Check it out at <http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/>.

Tune into KZUM (89.3 FM) at **6:30 Tuesday, February 14, 2012** to hear my interview with Chris the Bird Lady on the Earth to Lincoln **radio show**. During the 30 minute interview, we talk about wind energy development and wildlife in Nebraska.

On Thursday, February 9, 2012, a core group of the Nebraska Wind and Wildlife **Working Group** met for the first time in over a year. Representatives from state and federal natural resource management agencies, the public power districts, the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, conservation organizations, the energy office, and more, attended the meeting. During the meeting we discussed several topics including updating the bat guidelines, upcoming transmission projects, and outreach and education. The next meeting will be held in early April.

Updates for Nebraska Legislature Bills related to renewable energy and transmission:

No additional updates for LB 741, LB 742, or LB 828 since last email.

LB 1033: Introduced by Cornett.

Statement of Intent: LB 1033 would amend the Nebraska Advantage Act by adding a new tier (Tier 7) for the purpose of providing refunds of state and local sales and use taxes for qualified renewable energy projects, including wind energy projects. The bill would provide for two classes of Tier 7 projects: (1) projects with a required level of investment in qualified property of less than \$75 million; and (2) projects with a required level of investment of \$75 million or more.

Fiscal Note: LB 1033 amends the Nebraska Advantage Act to create a new Tier 7 in the Act for renewable energy projects. For a Tier 7 project a "qualified business" is defined as a business engaged in the production of electricity for sale by using one or more renewable energy sources. Qualified renewable energy sources include wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, and biomass. The application fee for a Tier 7 project is \$2,500 and applications may be filed up to January 1, 2019.

For complete information: http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=16023.

Around the nation...

Check out the **wind energy and wildlife news** at: <http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>.

Bats are one of the groups of species potentially impacted by wind power. Occasionally, I will feature stories about bats to advance our basic knowledge of bats and to highlight ways to reduce wind energy development-related mortalities. The short YouTube video entitled **Bats Interacting with Wind Turbines** (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxSdU-fozGY>) is footage from a thermal imaging study of bats and turbines in West Virginia. The study was conducted by Jaclyn Aliperti and Morgan Nabhan (Boston University Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology).

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