

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

March 2, 2012

Project Updates...

I have updated the Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project **website** 'More Information' tab to include links to several organizations associated with wind energy and wildlife in Nebraska and around the U.S. Please check it out at <http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/moreinformation.asp>. If you have suggestions for additional organizations to include, please contact me.

The Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project has a newly developed Facebook page. Please check it out at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nebraska-Wind-Energy-and-Wildlife-Project/276112995787751>.

Around Nebraska...

On February 21, 2012, an article by Pat Pope, President, CEO, of the Nebraska Public Power District, 'NPPD's Energy House' was posted. *"The Nebraska Public Power District plans and constructs its "energy house" to deliver round-the-clock electricity for its customers. It does this with a diverse mixture of energy resources."* To read more: <http://www.ncnewspress.com/opinions/x565041378/NPPDs-Energy-House>.

Petersburg, Nebraska, was featured in a number of news articles the week of February 21, 2012. To read about the positive economic impacts of wind energy development near Petersburg and potential benefits for other rural communities: <http://governorswindenergycoalition.org/?p=1328>.

No additional updates for LB 741, LB 742, LB 828, or LB 1033 (bills related to wind energy or transmission) since last email.

Around the nation...

Check out the **wind energy and wildlife news** at: <http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>. The media is abuzz with wind energy news everyday. On the average day, I scan over 100 articles to see if any of them are related to wind energy and wildlife. Usually, less than one per day addresses wind energy and wildlife or environment. In the past couple weeks, there seems to be an increase in the number of articles.

In the February 25, 2012 Weekly Address: An All-Of-The-Above Approach to American Energy, President Obama talks about current energy concerns, such as gas prices, and how renewable energy could play into energy production in the future. *"If we're going to take control of our energy future and avoid these gas price spikes down the line, then we need a sustained, all-of-the-above strategy that develops every available source of American energy – oil, gas, wind, solar, nuclear, biofuels, and more."* To learn more: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2012/02/25/weekly-address-all-above-approach-american-energy#transcript>.

Texas Parks and Wildlife produced two videos on wind energy development and impacts on wildlife. Part 1 is a great overview and talks about potential impacts on **lesser prairie chickens** (http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=N6sx-dmQInU). Part 2 focuses on coastal concerns and shows how **radar** is being used to monitor birds in the area and shut down the turbines if birds fly into the wind farm (http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ceCwBTXFu8#!).

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. Researchers recently discovered a **flu virus in bats**; the risk to humans is unknown. To read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2012/02/28/bird-flu-pig-flu-now-bat-flu-human-risk-unclear/>.

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