

# **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News**

January 2, 2013 - Happy New Year!!

## **Around Nebraska...**

**Verdigre Landowners Association hopes to bring in a wind farm.** The Verdigre Landowners Association is partnering with a global wind energy company to bring a wind farm to the Verdigre area. The association joined forces with Wind Labs to create Verdigre Land and Wind Partners. The goal is to bring an 80-megawatt wind farm to the Verdigre area. (<http://www.omaha.com/article/20121220/NEWS/708279996/1707>).

**Wind energy proponents looking for incentives in Nebraska.** TradeWind Energy LLC has most of the agreements it needs to move forward with a 200-megawatt wind farm in northeast Nebraska. The proposed Rattlesnake Creek Wind Project would sit on more than 20,000 acres in Dixon County and generate enough electricity to power approximately 60,000 homes. There's just one thing the Lenexa, Kan.,-based wind developer is missing -- a buyer for the electricity. ([http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/wind-energy-proponents-looking-for-incentives-in-nebraska/article\\_d0551f7d-b33b-5e34-9efc-7e38bad15e76.html](http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/wind-energy-proponents-looking-for-incentives-in-nebraska/article_d0551f7d-b33b-5e34-9efc-7e38bad15e76.html)).

## **Around the Nation & World...**

### Wind and Wildlife

**RSPB Scotland abandons plans to build wind turbine on its own reserve after criticism.** A leading wildlife charity has abandoned controversial plans to erect a wind turbine at one of Scotland's largest nature reserves. (<http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/rspb-scotland-abandons-plans-to-build-wind-turbine-on-its-own-reserve-after-criticism-1-2714341>).

**Negative long term effects on harbor porpoises from a large scale offshore wind farm in the Baltic—evidence of slow recovery.** This study investigates the long term impact on harbour porpoises, *Phocoena phocoena*, for more than 10 years (2001–12) from the first large scale offshore wind farm in the world, Nysted Offshore Wind Farm, in the Danish western Baltic Sea. The results show that the echolocation activity has significantly declined inside Nysted Offshore Wind Farm since the baseline in 2001–2 and has not fully recovered yet. ([http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/7/4/045101/pdf/1748-9326\\_7\\_4\\_045101.pdf](http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/7/4/045101/pdf/1748-9326_7_4_045101.pdf)).

### Wind

**Wind credit extension approved in 'fiscal cliff' deal.** A one-year extension to a wind power credit made it into the final "fiscal cliff" bargain Tuesday, much to the delight of green groups and the wind industry. (<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/275133-wind-credit-extension-approved-in-fiscal-cliff-deal>).

### Wildlife

**Bats' Immunity Against Deadly Viruses Linked To Their Ability To Fly.** An international team led by an infectious disease expert, Professor Lin-Fa Wang, at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School (Duke-NUS) in Singapore has found that the evolution of flight in bats may have contributed to the development of a highly effective immune system, allowing bats to harbor some of the world's deadliest viruses such as Ebola and SARS. (<http://www.asianscientist.com/in-the-lab/bats-immunity-linked-to-flight-2012/>).

#### Other

**BLM Issues Oil and Gas Best Practices for Wildlife Protection.** As part of ongoing efforts to continue to increase responsible domestic energy production while protecting wildlife near oil, gas, and geothermal facilities on BLM lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today announced it has expanded best practice standards for the fluid minerals industry. ([http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2012/december/NR\\_12\\_28\\_2012.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2012/december/NR_12_28_2012.html)).

#### Upcoming Events

**AWEA Wind Project Siting Seminar**, February 20, 2013, Portland, OR. The AWEA Wind Project Siting Seminar provides a deep examination of the development of wind energy facilities, the potential for impacts to both the natural and human environments resulting from these activities, and ways to avoid and minimize any adverse effects. (<http://www.awea.org/events/AWEA-Wind-Project-Siting-Seminar.cfm>).

Check out the **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website** at:  
<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/> and **Wind Energy and Wildlife news** at:  
<http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>.

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