

Navigating the Wildlife Consultation Process: Wind Energy in Nebraska

Coordinating with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agency personnel on wind turbine siting and operation can help minimize potential negative impacts to wildlife and habitats.

This handout was developed to provide a quick overview of the wildlife consultation process for wind energy projects in Nebraska.

Agency Contacts

Michelle Koch

Fish and Wildlife Specialist

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
2200 N. 33rd St.
Lincoln, NE 68503

Office: (402) 471-5438

Fax: (402) 471-4992

Email: michelle.koch@nebraska.gov

Eliza Hines

Nebraska Field Supervisor

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9325 South Alda Road
Wood River, NE 68883

Office: (308) 382-6468, ext. 204

Fax: (308) 384-8835

Email: eliza_hines@fws.gov

Guidance Documents*

- ◆ *Guidelines for Avoiding, Minimizing, and Mitigating Impacts of Wind Energy on Biodiversity in Nebraska*
- ◆ *Nebraska's Biodiversity and Wind Energy Siting and Mitigation Map*
- ◆ *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines*
- ◆ *USFWS Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance*
- ◆ *Nebraska's Avian Assessment Guidance for Wind Energy Facilities*
- ◆ *Bat Assessment Guidance for Wind Energy Facilities in Nebraska*
- ◆ *Whooping Crane Operational Contingency Plan*



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*Documents can be found on the Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website (<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/tools.asp>).



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Suggested Timeline

Pre-siting review with agency staff of alternative development sites is encouraged.

<p>After wind development site has been determined...</p> <p>And...</p> <p>At least 2 years prior to the spring before project construction.</p>	<p>Review Guidance Documents listed on other side.</p> <p>Contact agency personnel and submit project information (e.g. location, footprint, approximate number and types of turbines, estimated construction time, etc.).</p> <p>Request information about survey and monitoring needs for proposed project. A meeting and/or site visit may be needed.</p> <p>Develop survey methods and send them to agency staff for review before 1 March and incorporate agency comments into survey protocols by 1 April.</p> <p>Complete Whooping Crane Desktop Risk Assessment (if needed).</p>
<p>Spring, Summer, and Fall—2 years prior to project construction.</p>	<p>Conduct first year of recommended surveys (e.g. nesting raptor, breeding bird, bat acoustical monitoring, endangered and threatened species, etc.).</p>
<p>After 1st season of data collection and before beginning 2nd season.</p>	<p>Contact agency personnel to determine if a meeting is recommended to discuss 1st season surveys and monitoring.</p>
<p>Spring, Summer, and Fall—1 year prior to project construction.</p>	<p>Conduct second year of recommended surveys (e.g. nesting raptor, breeding bird, bat acoustical monitoring, endangered and threatened species, etc.).</p>
<p>Upon completion of assessments or no less than 6 months prior to project construction.</p>	<p>Submit pre-construction survey report and assessment.</p>

Wind Energy Facility Project Construction

<p>Spring, Summer, and Fall—1 and 2 years following project construction.</p>	<p>Conduct recommended post-construction surveys (e.g. nesting raptor, breeding bird, bat acoustical monitoring, endangered and threatened species, etc.).</p>
<p>Within 6 months of completing all pre- and post-construction surveys.</p>	<p>Submit final reports to agency personnel.</p>



This handout was developed by the Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project (<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/>).

