2011 Current Fiscal Year Report: WIND TURBINE GUIDELINES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of the Interior	2011

3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
WIND TURBINE GUIDELINES ADVISORY COMMITTEE	34726

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	10/26/2009		10/26/2011

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
Yes		10/26/2011

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Terminate	No	

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Commitee Type	14c. Presidential?
P.L. 16 U.S.C. 703-712; 16 USC 668-668d; 16 U.S.C 1531-1544; 42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.; 5 U.S.C. App.	10/26/2007	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear

17a. Open	4	17b. Closed	0	17c. Partially Closed	0	Other Activities	0	17d. Total	4

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End

Presentation and discussion of the Service's Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines that were released for public comment in February 2011.	04/27/2011 - 04/27/2011
Presentation and discussion of the next iteration of the Service's Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines, released to the public July 12.	07/20/2011 - 07/21/2011
To hear reports and discuss recommendations on: Adaptive Management and Mitigation; Definition of "significant;" Phase-In of Guidelines; Habitat Fragmentation; Table 1: Tier 4 Monitoring; Avian and Bat Protection Plans; and Role of the Service.	08/23/2011 - 08/23/2011
To present and discuss the September 13, 2011, revision of the Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines, and to hear the advice and recommendations of the Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee and public comment on this draft.	09/20/2011 - 09/21/2011

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 4

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	$225,485.00	$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	$46,409.00	$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	$8,071.00	$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	$5,327.00	$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	$12,500.00	$0.00
18d. Total	$297,792.00	$0.00

19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	2.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee (Committee) advises the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the Service (Director) on developing effective measures to assist the wind industry in avoiding or minimizing impacts to wildlife and their habitats related to land-based wind energy facilities. Members were selected who can effectively represent the varied interests associated with wind energy development and wind/wildlife interactions and have a policy-level perspective.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

There are 22 members on the Committee, including both representatives and special Government employees. Members are senior-level representatives for wind industry companies, nongovernmental conservation organizations, State agencies, tribes, and Federal agencies. The Committee also includes an independent expert on wind energy/wildlife interactions. Members were selected who have demonstrated expertise and experience in wind energy facility location, design, operation, and transmission requirements; wildlife species potentially affected and potential impacts; applicable laws and regulations; and current research on wind/wildlife interactions. This membership provides the needed fair balance of points of view and the functions to be performed.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

There was a lapse in meetings in early FY 2011 while the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed its Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines that were based on the Committee's recommendations from FY 2010. The Committee then met four times beginning in April 2011, approximately once every other month.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?
There are no other groups currently in existence that perform these duties. Establishment of the Committee is necessary and in the public interest. The development of wind energy, along with other renewable energy sources, in an environmentally sensitive manner is part of the Department's Promoting Responsible Energy Policy Initiative. This Committee is necessary to develop national guidance in an open and transparent process for the environmentally sensitive development of wind energy.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?
All Committee meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks
The Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee provided its recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on developing effective measures to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitats related to land-based wind energy facilities on March 4, 2010. The Committee continued to provide advice and recommendations on final guidelines following the February 2011 release of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. The Service anticipates publishing final Guidelines by the end of the calendar year, and the Department of the

Interior has determined that the Committee's advice and recommendations will no longer be needed.

Designated Federal Officer

David Cottingham DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Allison, Taber	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Representative Member
Anderson, Dick	02/26/2010	10/26/2011	California Energy Commission	Representative Member
Arnett, Ed	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Bat Conservation International	Representative Member
Azeka, Michael	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	AES Wind Generation	Representative Member
Bancroft, Thomas	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	National Audubon Society	Representative Member
Boydston, Kathy	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Representative Member
Braud, Rene	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Horizon Wind Energy	Representative Member
Darling, Scott	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department	Representative Member
Delach, Aimee	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Defenders of Wildlife	Representative Member
Enfield, Sam	02/26/2010	10/26/2011	MAP Royalty	Representative Member
Hueckel, Greg	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Consultant	Representative Member
Lawrence, Jeri	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Blackfeet Tribal Renewable Energy	Representative Member
Lindenberg, Steve	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	U.S. Department of Energy	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Manes, Robert	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	The Nature Conservancy, Kansas	Representative Member
Perkins, Winifred	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Florida Power and Light Company	Representative Member
Quarles, Steven	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Crowell & Moring LLP	Representative Member
Rayhill, Richard	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Ridgeline Energy, LLC	Representative Member

Robel, Robert	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Kansas State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sexson, Keith	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks	Representative Member
Sinclair, Mark	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Clean Energy States Alliance	Representative Member
Stout, David	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Traylor, Patrick	11/16/2009	11/16/2011	Hogan & Hartson, LLP	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 22

Narrative Description

The Committee assists the Department of the Interior by providing advice and recommendations on developing effective measures to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitats.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	☐
Trust in government	☐
Major policy changes	☐
Advance in scientific research	☑
Effective grant making	☐
Improved service delivery	☐
Increased customer satisfaction	☐
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	☐
Other	☑

Outcome Comments

The most significant program outcomes associated with this Committee are recommendations to the Secretary on guidelines that will be used by Federal, State, and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the wind industry.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	☑
Unable to Determine	☐
Under $100,000	☐
$100,000 - $500,000	☐
$500,001 - $1,000,000	☐
$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	☐
$5,000,001 - $10,000,000	☐
Over $10,000,000	☐
Cost Savings Other	☐

Cost Savings Comments

The Committee did not make any recommendations for measures to reduce costs. However, the Committee did recommend that the Service share expertise and resources with State agencies, as appropriate.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

55

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Committee submitted its final report to the Secretary of the Interior in March 2010. The report included a section of Policy Recommendations and also included recommendations in its chapter on implementation (Chapter 5).

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The Service is currently reviewing the Committee's recommendations. Actions have been taken to partially implement some recommendations. The majority of the recommendations are still under consideration and no decision has yet been made as to their use.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

13%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The Service is currently undertaking efforts such as the development of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), which in part will address some of the Committee's recommendations. The Service has also published several revised versions of Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines that are based on the Committee's recommended guidelines.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☑ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Service held a teleconference with Committee members to inform them that the Service Working Group composed of Regional employees would be convened to develop final guidelines using the Committee's recommendations. The Service met with the Committee four times in FY 2011, and provided updates at each meeting on the status of the Service's consideration of their advice.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	☐
Reallocated resources	☐
Issued new regulation	☐
Proposed legislation	☐
Approved grants or other payments	☐
Other	☑

Action Comments

The Service will finalize voluntary guidelines for use by the wind energy industry. These guidelines, being voluntary in nature, do not require new regulations or legislation.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	✓
Online Agency Web Site	✓
Online Committee Web Site	✓
Online GSA FACA Web Site	✓
Publications	
Other	✓

Access Comments

The Committee website includes the ability to sign up for email updates. We maintain a list of interested parties and send out information and updates to this list via e-mail.