

From: Dennis iPad dwinfarm@maxwire.net
Subject: Closing Recommendations - Amy Winterland
Date: Jan 29, 2018 at 2:53:11 PM
To: Amy Cell dwinfarm@maxwire.net

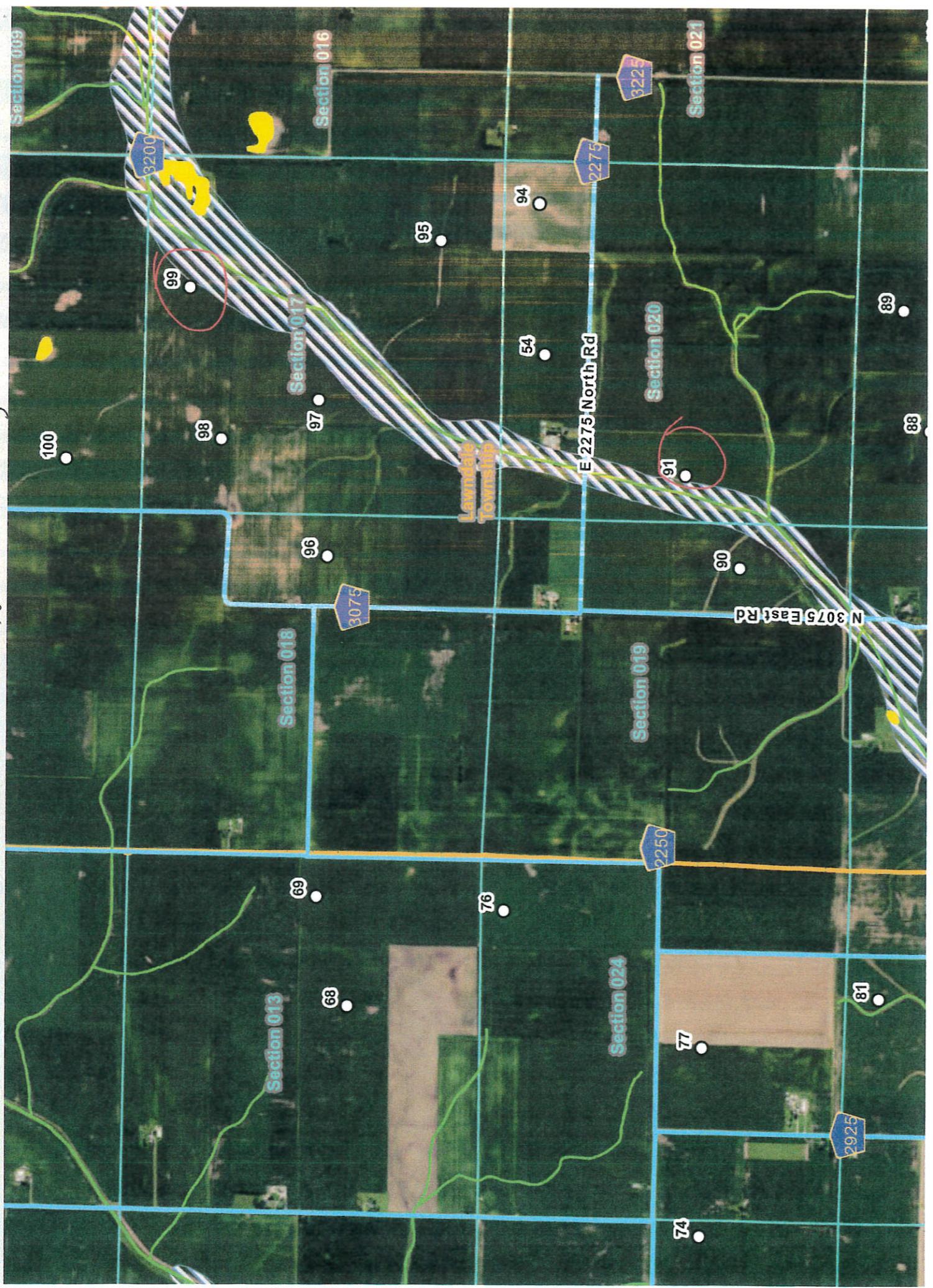
- 1) Require implementation of IDNR/USFWS recommendations, unless credible evidence is presented against the recommendation. Specifically, require a 1/2 mile setback to the entire Henline Creek, and not just to the confluence where the Mackinaw River meets the Henline Creek.

- 2) Delay approval because compliance with the McLean County Ordinance is insufficient to ensure the 1st Standard will be met. According to Dr. Schomer, the Illinois Pollution Control Board standards and 1500 foot setbacks will not protect the health, safety, comfort and welfare of the impacted residents.

- 3) Require use of Low Noise Trailing Edge (LNTE) blades on all turbines, including the 29 currently sited to use Standard blades. Specifically around the Winterland residence, #76, #54, #94, #95, #97, and #98.

Case SU-11-17

Neutral Ex. 8



From: Amy Winterland dwinfarm@maxwire.net
Subject: McLean County Wind Energy Center - Endangered Species
Date: Jan 25, 2018 at 4:03:02 PM
To: Denny Cell dwinfarm@maxwire.net

From: Anthony, Ryan [mailto:ryan_anthony@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Dennis iPad
Cc: Deanne Endrizzi
Subject: Re: McLean County Wind Energy Center - Endangered Species

Hi Ms. Winterland,

Thank you for reaching out to us for your questions regarding wind turbine conflicts with eagles. The Service removed bald eagles from protection under the Endangered Species Act on August 8, 2007. However, they remain protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (Eagle Act). The Eagle Act prohibits take which is defined as, “pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, destroy, molest, or disturb” (50 CFR 22.3). **Disturb** is defined in regulations as, “to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) **nest abandonment**, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.”

The National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines^[1] (Guidelines) offer guidance on how to minimize disturbance to bald eagles and increase the likelihood that actions near bald eagle nests are consistent with the Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We encourage adherence to these Guidelines. The guidelines state that eagles are not likely to be disturbed by routine use of roads, homes, and other facilities where such use predates the eagles successful nesting activity in a given area. The guidelines are basic recommendations designed to minimize disturbance to eagles. There may be certain circumstances where an activity may “disturb” eagles even after following the guidelines. In such instances the Service should be contacted, and a permit may be required.

It is unlawful to take or disturb eagles without first obtaining a permit for non-purposeful take of eagles. However, no permit would be available unless an applicant has first taken all practicable steps to avoid take of eagles.

The Service regulates the take of eagles through a rigorous permitting process. In 2016, the Service published a final Eagle Rule Revision Programmatic EIS which

establishes revised methods of permit issuance for eagle take.

→ In the 2016 Eagle Rule PEIS, the language requires a wind company to conduct a 10-mile eagle nest survey around the project site before applying for a permit. The Illinois-Iowa Field Office, encourages that wind energy companies follow all guidance for the permitting process defined within the 2016 Eagle Rule.

I hope this answers some of your questions. More information on the 2016 Eagle Rule can be found in the Federal Register Volume 81, Number 242 (Friday, December 16, 2016)

[1] For the complete Guidelines, visit <http://www.fws.gov/mississippiES/pdf/Eagle%20Guidelines.pdf>

Thank you,

Ryan Anthony

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Migratory Birds and Eagle Biologist

Illinois Iowa Field Office

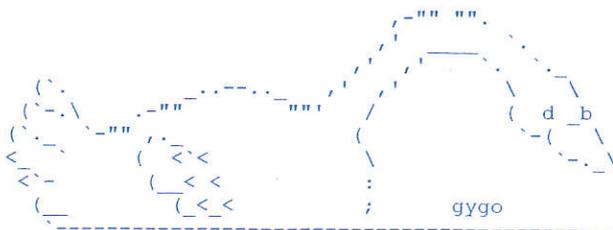
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<https://www.fws.gov/getyourgooseon/>

*Pre-Construction Wind Turbine Noise Analysis for the
proposed McLean County Wind Energy Center*

height was set to 1.5 meters (5 feet) above the ground. The Project participation status of each receptor was confirmed using Applicant-provided parcel participation data (mclean_parcel_status_20171129_rev2.shp) and the turbine locations for Layout 016 (L016_McLean_turbine_locations.kmz).

Noise Sources

Noise levels at all non-participating residences were predicted assuming the full operation of all 117 possible turbines and the two step-up transformers that make up the Project. As shown in Figures 2a through 2d (above), 29 turbines are GE 2.5-127 units with standard blades, 79 turbines are GE 2.5-127 units with LNTE blades, and 9 turbines are GE 2.3-116 units with LNTE blades. The number and placement of the LNTE units were specified in order to reduce noise levels at non-participating residences where initial predictions indicated noise levels above the IPCB standards. In addition to the figures, the geographic coordinates and type of each turbine are also listed in Appendix A. In the model, each turbine was represented as an acoustical point source located at its hub height, which is 89 meters above the ground for all GE 2.5-127 units and 80 meters for GE 2.3-116 LNTE units. No directivity was applied to any noise source, thus assuming maximum acoustic output in all directions.

The Project will install the two new transformers at the proposed substation shown in Figure 2b. The substation will be located between turbines 51, 52, and 53. Transformer noise was included in the acoustical model assuming a sound power level of 98 dBA for each unit and a typical transformer spectral shape. Each transformer was modeled at a height of 3 meters above the ground.

Table 2 shows the sound power spectra for the GE 2.5-127 turbine with both regular and LNTE blades, the GE 2.3-116 turbine with LNTE blades, and a standard-capacity transformer used in utility-scale wind power installations. GE 2.5-127 standard and GE 2.3-116 LNTE noise emission specifications were obtained directly from General Electric data sheets (Noise_Emissions-NO_2.5-DFIG-127-60Hz_1-2MW_EN_r01.pdf and 2.3_Noise_Emission_NO_2.3-DFIG-116-xxHz_1-2MW_LNTE_EN_r01.pdf). Project-specific noise emission specifications for the GE 2.5-127 LNTE turbine were not available from General Electric at the time of this analysis, so they were estimated by applying the LNTE reduction achieved for the GE 2.5-116 to the levels of the standard GE 2.5-127. The 2.5-116 standard and LNTE specifications were obtained directly from General Electric data sheets (Noise_Emission-NO_2.5-DFIG-116-xxHz_1-2MW_EN_r01 (1).pdf and Noise_Emission-NO_2.5-DFIG-116-xxHz_1-2MW_LNTE_EN_r01.pdf). The manufacturer's noise emission data was determined according to International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Standard 61400-11.

The IEC 61400-11 standard requires sound power levels to be reported for several wind speed bins across the operating range of the turbine. In general, sound levels increase with increasing wind speeds, up to approximately 10 m/s at hub height. Noise levels do not further increase above this wind speed because the turbines reach a maximum rotational speed. This relationship between wind speed and noise level holds true for each of the nine octave bands, although the maximum can occur at a different wind speed for each band. This analysis used octave band