



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor
Colleen Callahan, Director

February 22, 2021

Phillip Dick
McLean County Department of Building and Zoning
115 E. Washington Street
Room M102
Bloomington, IL 61702

**RE: Sapphire Sky Wind Farm
EcoCAT Review #2103417
McLean County**

Dear Mr. Phillip Dick,

At the request of the Sapphire Sky wind farm developer, Invenergy, the Department is notifying you that there has been a series of communications between the two parties and the developer has confirmed that they have or will adopt the following recommendations:

- Completing a full suite of avian and bat use surveys
- Sharing results of surveys with the Department
- Completing a minimum of 3 years post-construction mortality surveys at turbine sites
- A minimum of one-half mile setback from the Sangamon river INAI and Salt Creek-Farmer City Reach INAI
- A minimum 500-foot setback from perennial streams with non-forested corridors
- A minimum 1,000-foot setback from all forested areas and forested riparian corridors.

Invenergy has also tentatively agreed to the recommended curtailment specifications [*Sapphire Sky Wind Farm, Consultation #2103417, Bats and Birds, paragraph 3*], pending a change of operator ownership. The Department recommends that the McLean County Department of Building and Zoning mandate curtailment requirements to all owners and operators of the Sapphire Sky wind farm.

The Department acknowledges that Invenergy has provided a Tier 2 Site Characterization Report consistent with USFWS, Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. This satisfies the Department's request in the previous letter dated September 3, 2020. The Department has no outstanding concerns; however, a copy of any post-construction mortality monitoring reports is requested on an annual basis. Additionally, any state-listed species found should be reported to the Department immediately as outlined in the scientific permits issued by the Department.

This letter does not serve as endorsement nor condonement of the aforementioned project. This letter does not serve as an exemption from future consultation. This letter does not negate the need for necessary permits needed to handle wildlife, including state or federally listed species.

Please contact Kyle Burkwald of this office at 217-785-4984 or Kyle.Burkwald@illinois.gov for additional information on this review, or if providing a response to this correspondence.

Thank you,



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