

Existing Guidelines Subcommittee of the
Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee
Telephone Conference – March 13, 2008

Draft Summary

Participants:

George Allen	Ed Arnett	Mike Azeka
Kathy Boydston	Aimee Delach	Greg Hueckel
Andy Linehan	Rachel London	Mark Sinclair
Cheryl Amrani, Facilitator		

- The group was reminded that they were providing suggestions, options, or alternatives for full Advisory Committee (FAC) consideration; any document provided to the FAC would become part of the FACA Federal Record.
- The group reviewed and agreed to their purpose statement. It was noted that when looking at International examples of guidelines, many European guidelines may not have a common regulatory base with the U.S. in the same way the U.S. and Canada are both bound to the MBTA.
- Aimee provided the group with a draft summary matrix of wind energy guidance, organized by defined “elements” of guidance and including FWS, FS, Washington State, and California’s guidelines. Mark provided the group with a model State guidance document that CESA recommended be used by State and Federal agencies.
- It was agreed by those on the call that the following elements from the summary matrix merit further consideration by the Subcommittee (Jeri Lawrence will be given an opportunity to provide input on these decisions):
 - ✓ Preliminary Assessment & Site Evaluation
 - ✓ Pre-Construction Wildlife Assessment
 - ✓ Site Development (Micrositing)
 - ✓ Retrofitting, Repowering & Decommission
 - ✓ Research
 - ✓ Mitigation
- ✓ It was agreed that the elements dealing with consultation should be included under “Preliminary Assessment & Site Evaluation”
- ✓ Also, it was agreed that “Viewshed & Noise Issues” was an element that may not fall within the scope of the Committee’s charge, and stated that noise might be considered as a component of wildlife assessments.
- In the course of reviewing the summary elements, detailed discussions of some of the elements took place that are summarized here:

- ✓ The executive summary of the CA guidelines is an excellent place to start off as they are very comprehensive; however, they may include more detail than is needed, and some of the content is a result of court decisions specific to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Preliminary Assessment & Site Evaluation/Research/Post-Construction Assessment & Monitoring

- ✓ Methodology may vary from site to site; guidelines may need to include some amount of prescription but should also be flexible.

Preliminary Assessment & Site Evaluation

- ✓ From experience, the PII Index can be difficult to implement due to the unavailability of reference sites and restricted access to those sites. The index is expensive and does not add value.
 - ✓ A “sensitivity table” or a web-based mapping tool indicating red/yellow/green areas of sensitivity may have value
- Next steps were identified
 - ✓ Greg will circulate the summary to be completed by his staff during the week of March 17.
 - ✓ Mark will extract the BMPs from the BLM guidelines.
 - ✓ Rachel will send an e-mail request to schedule the next call during the week of March 24.