



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



January 20, 2012

Mr. Nathan Frey
Department of the Interior Desk Officer
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Frey:

The Fish and Wildlife Service requests emergency approval for the reporting and recordkeeping requirements associated with the Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines (Guidelines). We also request a waiver of the requirement to publish 60- and 30-day notices for this emergency approval.

The development of renewable energy is important for the future of the Nation and the health of the environment. The Department of the Interior is committed to facilitating the development of wind energy and other renewable resources while protecting our Nation's treasured landscapes and wildlife. Advances in wind energy technologies and increased interest in renewable energy sources have resulted in rapid expansion of the wind energy industry in the United States. If wind energy facilities are designed and constructed in the wrong locations, they can have significant negative impacts to wildlife and their habitats.

The Guidelines describe a process for wind project developers to use to gather information to identify sites with low risk to wildlife, and to assess, mitigate, and monitor the potential adverse effects of wind energy projects on wildlife and their habitats. They have undergone significant public review and comment. We published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on February 18, 2011, seeking comments on the Draft Guidelines until May 19, 2011. As we revised the Guidelines, we made them available to the public for comment through meetings of the Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee in July and September 2011.

We believe it is important to make the final Guidelines available immediately to avoid and minimize negative effects on wildlife and their habitats. We request approval by February 6, 2012. If you approve this emergency request, we will immediately publish a 60-day notice in the *Federal Register* and seek regular OMB approval for this information collection.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at 202-208-4331, or David_Cottingham@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

David Cottingham
Senior Advisor to the Director