



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Field Office
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<http://www.fws.gov/newengland>

September 30, 2011

Mr. David D. Dorocz
Environmental Division Director
Naval Station Newport
690 Peary Street
Newport, Rhode Island 02841-1522

Dear Mr. Dorocz:

This letter is a follow-up to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) correspondence dated July 19, 2011 in regards to Newport Naval Station's proposal to build up to six commercial-scale wind turbines on twelve potential sites in Newport, Rhode Island. The Service's July 19 correspondence was in response to several reports that were submitted to support the Environmental Assessment that is being prepared for the proposed project. The reports included the *Fall 2009 Bird and Bat Biological Survey Report*; the *Bird and Bat Biological Survey Report for Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall 2010*; and the *Preliminary Final Avian Radar Survey Report for the Development of Wind Energy Facilities at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island, Fall 2010*. Results from fall 2010 and spring 2011 avian radar surveys, as well as results from a fall 2010 and spring/summer 2011 acoustic monitoring effort for bats, will be forwarded to the Service once the reports are complete.

In our July 19, 2011 letter, we requested that a list of all avian species observed for each survey along with their frequency and point locations be included in the *Bird and Bat Biological Survey Report* (Report). We have received and reviewed the full report, which does not alter our understanding of bird activity in the project area and does not raise any new issues. In addition, we requested that a risk assessment analysis based on all collected data be completed that addresses potential project impacts, and potential measures to minimize any such impacts. The Naval Station has agreed to conduct the analysis and will include it in the Draft Environmental Assessment which is acceptable.

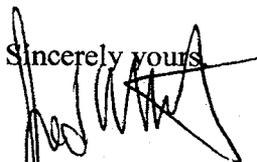
The Naval Station has also agreed to conduct a comprehensive post-construction avian and bat monitoring and protection plan (ABMP) that will be developed prior to construction of the proposed project and the Naval Station has agreed to coordinate the development of the ABMP with the Service. The Naval Station has agreed to use the results from the post-construction monitoring and adaptively manage the project. If post-constructing monitoring documents that a

particular turbine or set of turbines exhibits higher than predicted bird or bat collision fatalities, adaptive management and mitigation strategies will be identified and implemented to avoid or minimize turbine-induced fatalities.

We appreciate the efforts the Naval Station has made to address our concerns by cooperatively developing and implementing pre-project surveys, a risk assessment analysis, an ABMP, post-construction monitoring and post-construction adaptive management. Newport Naval Station's cooperation throughout the pre-construction process will help ensure that the wind turbines are placed at the locations least likely to impact wildlife resources and will be operated to minimize adverse impacts. We are also confident that the agreed to monitoring will provide the information needed to adaptively manage the project and facilitate minimization of any unanticipated impacts.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Maria Tur of my office at 603-223-2541 for further assistance.

Sincerely yours



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Thomas R. Chapman
Supervisor
New England Field Office