



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL STATION NEWPORT
690 PEARY STREET
NEWPORT, RI 02841-1522

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
Ser PRR41/177
MAR 14 2012

Mr. Thomas R. Chapman
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5087

Dear Mr. Chapman:

I am writing you regarding a proposed project to install wind turbines on Naval Station Newport property. This letter is in response to your letter of September 30, 2011, to Mr. David Dorocz. My predecessor, Captain J. P. Voboril, first informed you of this project in a letter dated January 29, 2010. As you may recall, the exact number of turbines to be installed, and at what specific locations, is currently under study as part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Based on your previous comments, the Navy has been working to compile data on the usage of the proposed project area by birds and bats. The Navy previously provided you with a *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*. In your September 30, 2011, letter, you also requested results from the fall 2010/spring 2011 avian radar surveys and the fall 2010 and spring/summer 2011 acoustic monitoring for bats. In addition, you requested completion of a risk assessment analysis based on all collected data to address potential project impacts, and potential measures to minimize those impacts.

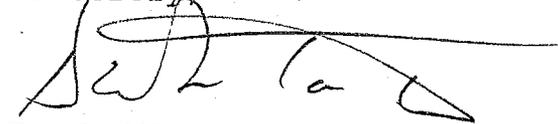
This letter provides you with the requested information. As you can see, we have made our best efforts to address your concerns by cooperatively developing and implementing these pre-project surveys and risk assessment analyses. Please find the *Bird and Bat Biological Survey Report for Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall 2010*, the *Avian Radar Survey Report for the Development of Wind Energy Facilities at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011*, the *Bat Biological*

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Survey Report Addendum for Spring and Summer 2011, and the Avian Risk Assessment for a Proposed Wind Project at Naval Station Newport enclosed. We are still committed to developing an Avian and Bat Monitoring Plan (ABMP). That plan will be developed and submitted to you subsequent to the conclusion of the EA, and will address post construction monitoring and adaptive management, if necessary.

The Navy has made, and will continue to make, every effort to ensure the proposed wind turbines are placed at locations that are least likely to impact wildlife resources, and operated to minimize any potential adverse impacts. Our EA should be concluded in a matter of months. In order to enable us to successfully conclude our other required consultations for this project, we would appreciate a written response from you indicating we have addressed your recommendations in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines to avoid, minimize, and compensate for effects to wildlife and their habitats. If you could provide your input within 30 days, we can adhere to our schedule for completion of the EA. Should you have questions pertaining to this matter, my point of contact is Ms. Shannon Kam at (401) 841-6377.

Sincerely,



D. W. MIKATARIAN
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

- Enclosures:
- (1) *Bird and Bat Biological Survey Report for Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall 2010.*
 - (2) *Avian Radar Survey Report for the Development of Wind Energy Facilities at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011.*
 - (3) *Bat Biological Survey Report Addendum for Spring and Summer 2011.*
 - (4) *Avian Risk Assessment for a Proposed Wind Project at Naval Station Newport*