



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090

Ser PRNP4/76

JAN 29 2010

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

Dear Mr. Chapman,

Federal Agencies, including the Department of Defense, have been directed to dramatically increase their energy efficiency, utilize renewable sources, and reduce dependency on foreign petroleum fuels. Naval Station Newport is one of the largest electrical users in Rhode Island. In order to reduce our energy consumption, we are proposing to install wind turbines at Naval Station Newport under the Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP). The project includes erection of the towers and turbines, construction of foundations, and required on-site utility improvements.

To aid in meeting our obligations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, Naval Station Newport has prepared a draft study plan for evaluating avian and bat resources within the proposed Naval Station Newport Wind Energy Project Area. This plan has been developed in accordance with recommendations found in the Service Interim Guidance on Avoiding and Minimizing Impacts from Wind Turbines. A copy of the draft study draft plan is included as Enclosure (1) for your review and comment.

The Navy looks forward to working closely with your agency to ensure that all of your concerns are adequately addressed as we move forward with this important project. If you have questions pertaining to this matter or need additional information, the point of contact is Ms. Shannon Kam at (401) 841-6377.

Sincerely,

D. D. DOROCZ
Environmental Division Director
By Direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosure: (1) Avian and Bat Study Plan.

Copy to: NAVSTANPT (Code N00) (Code PRNP)