

e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Maile Arthur,

Acting Records Management Branch Chief,
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer,
Mission Support, Federal Emergency
Management Agency, Department of
Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. 2020-27678 Filed 12-15-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-45-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R3-ES-2020-0045;
FXES1114030000-212]

**Draft Environmental Assessment and
Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan;
Receipt of an Application for an
Incidental Take Permit, Bluff Point
Wind Energy Center, Jay and
Randolph Counties, Indiana**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of
documents; request for comment and
information.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service (Service), have received
an application from NextEra Energy
Bluff Point LLC (applicant), for an
incidental take permit (ITP) under the
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as
amended (ESA), for its Bluff Point Wind
Energy Center (project). If approved, the
ITP would be for a 30-year period and
would authorize the incidental take of
an endangered species, the Indiana bat,
and a threatened species, the northern
long-eared bat. The applicant has
prepared a habitat conservation plan
(HCP) that describes the actions and
measures that the applicant would
implement to avoid, minimize, and
mitigate incidental take of the Indiana
bat and northern long-eared bat. We also
announce the availability of a draft
Environmental Assessment (DEA),
which has been prepared in response to
the permit application in accordance
with the requirements of the National
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We
request public comment on the
application, the DEA, and associated
documents.

DATES: We will accept comments
received or postmarked on or before
January 15, 2021.

ADDRESSES: *Document availability:*

Internet: Electronic copies of the
documents this notice announces will
be available online in Docket No. FWS-
R3-ES-2020-0045 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Public comments

will also be available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Comment submission: In your
comment, please specify whether your
comment addresses the proposed HCP,
draft EA, or any combination of the
aforementioned documents, or other
supporting documents. You may submit
written comments by one of the
following methods:

- *Online:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.
Search for and submit comments on
Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2020-0045.

- *By hard copy:* Submit comments by
U.S. mail to Public Comments
Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R3-
ES-2020-0045; U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service; 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB/
3W; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Pruitt, Field Supervisor,
Bloomington, Indiana, Ecological
Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service, 620 South Walker
Street, Bloomington, IN 47403;
telephone: 812-334-4261, extension
214; or Andrew Horton, Regional HCP
Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service—Interior Region 3, 5600
American Blvd., West, Suite 990,
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458;
telephone: 612-713-5337.

Individuals who are hearing or speech
impaired may call the Federal Relay
Service at 1-800-877-8339 for TTY
assistance.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 9 of the Endangered Species
Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16
U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and its
implementing regulations prohibit the
“take” of animal species listed as
endangered or threatened. Take is
defined under the ESA as to “harass,
harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill,
trap, capture, or collect “listed animal
species,” or to attempt to engage in such
conduct” (16 U.S.C. 1532). However,
under section 10(a) of the ESA, we may
issue permits to authorize incidental
take of listed species. “Incidental take”
is defined by the ESA as take that is
incidental to, and not the purpose of,
carrying out an otherwise lawful activity
(16 U.S.C. 1539). Regulations governing
incidental take permits for endangered
and threatened species, respectively, are
found in the Code of Federal
Regulations at 50 CFR 17.22 and 50 CFR
17.32.

Applicant’s Proposed Project

The applicant requests a 30-year ITP
to take the federally endangered Indiana
bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened
northern long-eared bat (*Myotis*

septentrionalis) at the Bluff Point Wind
Resource Area (BPWRA) in Jay and
Randolph Counties, consisting of
approximately 23,613 acres of private
land. The applicant determined that
unavoidable take is reasonably certain
to occur incidental to operation of 57
previously constructed wind turbines.
The proposed conservation strategy in
the applicant’s proposed HCP is
designed to avoid, minimize, and
mitigate the impacts of the covered
activity on the covered species. The
biological goals and objectives are to
minimize potential take of Indiana bats
and northern long-eared bats through
on-site minimization measures and to
provide habitat conservation measures
for Indiana bats and northern long-eared
bats to offset any unavoidable impacts
from operations of the project. The
BPWRA includes confirmed Indiana bat
summer roost habitat and northern long-
eared bat summer maternity habitat. The
HCP provides on-site avoidance and
minimization measures, which include
seasonal turbine operational curtailment
and adaptive management measures that
allow for modifications to the
minimization and mitigation measures
based on monitoring results and other
triggers, and a 1,000 foot minimization
buffer during the summer season to
protect potential summer habitat for
both covered species. Based on the
available data, the predicted level of
take is anticipated to be 63 Indiana bats
and 32 northern long-eared bats over the
30-year permit term. However, the
applicant requests a permit to take 165
Indiana bats and 84 northern long-eared
bats over the 30-year permit term due to
the uncertainty associated with
estimating take and the exact (or
specific) reduction in fatalities from the
minimization without facility specific
data. To fully offset the impacts of the
taking of 122 Indiana bats and 42
northern long-eared bats, the applicant
proposes to protect in perpetuity 77.2
acres of known maternity colony habitat
and staging/swarming habitat through a
conservation easement held by a 501(c)3
non-profit at a Land of Indiana site in
Greene County, Indiana through a third-
party mitigation provider, First Indiana
Resources, LLC. The HCP includes
adaptive management measures if
mitigation is insufficient to fully offset
the impact of the actual take determined
through mortality monitoring.

National Environmental Policy Act

The issuance of an ITP is a Federal
action that triggers the need for
compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321
et seq.). We prepared a draft EA that
analyzes the environmental impacts on
the human environment resulting from

three alternatives: A no-action alternative, the applicant's proposed action, and a more restrictive alternative consisting of feathering turbines at a rate of wind speed that results in less impacts to bats.

Next Steps

The Service will evaluate the application and the comments received to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We will also conduct an intra-Service consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA to evaluate the effects of the proposed take. After considering the above findings, we will determine whether the permit issuance criteria of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA have been met. If met, the Service will issue the requested ITP to the applicant.

Public Comments

The Service invites the public to comment and suggestions from all interested parties on the proposed HCP and draft EA and supporting documents during a 30-day public comment period (see **DATES**). In particular, information and comments regarding the following topics are requested:

1. Whether adaptive management, monitoring and mitigation provisions in the Proposed Action alternative are sufficient;
2. Any threats to the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat that may influence their populations over the life of the ITP that are not addressed in the proposed HCP or draft EA;
3. Any new information on white-nose syndrome effects on the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat;
4. Whether or not the significance of the impact on various aspects of the human environment has been adequately analyzed;
5. Any other information pertinent to evaluating the effects of the proposed action on the Indiana bat, the northern long-eared bat and the human environment; and
6. The direct, indirect, or cumulative effects that implementation of any alternative could have on the human environment.

You may submit comments by one of the methods shown under **ADDRESSES**. We will post on <http://regulations.gov> all public comments and information received electronically or via hardcopy. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you

should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22) and the NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6; 43 CFR part 46).

Lori Nordstrom,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services.

[FR Doc. 2020-27667 Filed 12-15-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[212A2100DD/AAKC001030/
AOA501010.999900253G]

Land Acquisitions; Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs made a final agency determination to acquire in trust 11.33 acres, more or less, of land in the City of Hobart, Kiowa County, Oklahoma, (Site) for the Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma (Tribe) for gaming and other purposes.

DATES: This final determination was made on December 11, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Paula L. Hart, Director, Office of Indian Gaming, Bureau of Indian Affairs, MS-3543 MIB, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240, telephone (202) 219-4066, paula.hart@bia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published in the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 Departmental Manual 8.1, and is published to comply with the requirements of 25 CFR 151.12(c)(2)(ii) that notice of the

decision to acquire land in trust be promptly provided in the **Federal Register**.

On the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice, the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs issued a decision to acquire the Site, consisting of 11.33 acres, more or less, of land in trust for the Tribe under the authority of the Indian Reorganization Act, 25 U.S.C. 5108. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs determined that Tribe's request also meets the requirements of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act's "Oklahoma exception," 25 U.S.C. 2719(a)(2)(A)(i), to the general prohibition contained in 25 U.S.C. 2719(a) for gaming on lands acquired in trust after October 17, 1988.

The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, will immediately acquire title to the Site in the name of the United States of America in trust for the Tribe upon fulfillment of Departmental requirements.

The 11.33 acres, more or less, are located in the City of Hobart, Kiowa County, Oklahoma, and are described as follows:

The surface and surface rights only in a tract of land located in the SE/4 of Section 02, Township 06 North, Range 18 West of the Indian Base and Meridian, Kiowa County, Oklahoma and more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the SE Corner of the said SE/4; thence N 00°06'58" E along the East Line of the said SE/4 a distance of 1414.12 feet; thence N 89°53'02" W perpendicular to the said East Line a distance of 66.30 feet to the East Right-of-Way Line of U.S. Highway No. 183, and the point of beginning; thence N 89°52'41" W a distance of 1304.40 feet; thence N 00°06'58" E a distance of 373.30 feet; thence S 89°52'41" E a distance of 1320.00 feet to the said East Right-of-Way Line; thence S 01°06'35" E along the said East Right-of-Way Line a distance of 307.98 feet; thence S 18°51'28" W a distance of 69.05 feet to the point of beginning, consisting of 11.33 acres, more or less; surface and surface rights only. Basis of bearings: True Meridian.

Tara Sweeney,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2020-27699 Filed 12-15-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[21X.LLAKR00000.L13100000.DB0000]

Notice of Availability of the Coastal Plain Marsh Creek East Seismic Exploration Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.