

**Docket Optical System - Comments to Committee Draft Report - CA Guidelines for reducing impacts to birds and bats from wind energy development - July 2007**

**From:** "LeMay, Brenda"  
**To:** "Paul Verduyssen" , "Linehan, Andrew" , "McMahon, Sara" , "Susan Sanders" , "Misa Ward" , "Rick York"  
**Date:** 8/8/2007 5:38 PM  
**Subject:** Comments to Committee Draft Report - CA Guidelines for reducing impacts to birds and bats from wind energy development - July 2007

Horizon Wind Energy ("Horizon") respectfully submits the following comments to the Committee Draft Report - California Guidelines for reducing impacts to birds and bats from wind energy development - July 2007 ("Guidelines"):

Horizon has been involved in the Guidelines process from the beginning and has been very supportive of the process, the guidelines and the overall effort. I congratulate you all for your perseverance. It is clear to me, after much discussion that the avian aspect of the guidelines are going to be on the more rigorous side of current practice, but not unreasonable. On the other hand, the stakeholders have made great effort to address the bat protocol given the volume of unanswered questions on bat-related research and have even agreed in principal to a different approach , but the agencies have not accepted these comments to move towards a more regional study approach. Until we can agree to this very complicated issue, Horizon suggests removing bats from the title and body of the guidelines and continuing to work on a national/state level to contribute to knowledge and research on this issue.

In the meantime, Horizon intends to, at a minimum, place acoustic detection systems on met towers (much less than one per square mile) of wind farms under study so as not to create yet another permitting process on federal land and have more of an impact than the pre-construction phase of the wind farm would otherwise have . I'm not sure how the BLM will treat a structure to hold the acoustic detection systems from a permitting perspective, but I'm confident it will not be a straightforward answer.

Please consider postponing bat protocol for these guidelines at this time. I apologize for not making the hearing in person as I will be on vacation.

Respectfully,

Brenda

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