



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
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DOE/EA-1777

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMACT

The State of Ohio Lincoln Electric's Wind Energy Project in Euclid, OH

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: DOE prepared an environmental assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-1777) analyzing the potential environmental impacts of allowing Ohio to use \$1 million of its State Energy Program (SEP) funds for a grant to assist in the financing of the construction and operation of the Lincoln Electric Company (LEC) wind energy project in Euclid, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Based on the information and analyses in the EA, DOE has determined that its Proposed Action (allowing Ohio to use a portion of its SEP funds to finance the wind energy project) does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of National Environmental Policy Act NEPA. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required, and DOE is issuing this FONSI.

PROPOSED ACTION: DOE's Proposed Action is to allow Ohio to use a portion of the State's SEP funds for a grant to assist in the financing of a wind energy project in order to facilitate Ohio's achievement of the objectives of the SEP. Ohio proposes to provide \$1 million in SEP funds to LEC to construct and operate a one-turbine wind energy project at the LEC Headquarters that would provide up to 2.5 megawatts of generating capacity. Electricity generated by the project would be used by LEC in its existing headquarters manufacturing operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: Areas of potential environmental impacts analyzed in the EA include land use, biological resources, noise, visual quality, transportation, groundwater and surface water, soils, air quality and climate change, socioeconomics and environmental justice, energy impacts, cultural resources, human health and safety, floodplains and wetlands, waste management, wild and scenic rivers, and intentional destructive acts. DOE identified no potentially significant environmental impacts on these resource areas.

Primary areas of environmental concern for operation of wind turbine are the potential to injure or kill birds and bats and visual impacts associated with installation of the wind turbine. Analysis in the EA indicates that the proposed project will have no adverse affects on federally-listed Indiana bats or other federally listed species. There is the potential for impacts to migratory birds. Recommendations as described in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *Interim Guidelines to Avoid and Minimize Wildlife Impacts from Wind Turbines* (2003) were included in the siting, design and installation plans for the LEC wind project. Based on the analysis in the EA, and in consideration of USFWS recommendations, DOE determined that impacts to migratory birds were not significant.



The EA analyzed potential visual impacts related to shadow flicker for nearby residents. Fourteen residents were determined to have some potential for flicker affects. However, LEC has agreed to provide blinds and/or shade trees to residents that may be affected by shadow flicker.

The project proponents have made a number of commitments to the Ohio Department of Wildlife (ODOW), the USFWS the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) and nearby residents that would eliminate or reduce potential adverse impacts to migratory birds and other resources.

Nothing in the EA or this FONSI affects the project proponents' obligations to comply with the laws of the United States, including the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Nothing in the EA or this FONSI limits the USFWS's regulatory and permitting authorities under these or any other statutes.

ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED: In addition to its Proposed Action, DOE analyzed a No-Action Alternative in which DOE would not allow Ohio to use its SEP funds to finance some of the costs of this project DOE assumed for purposes of the EA that the project would not proceed without SEP funding.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY: DOE sent notices announcing the availability of the Draft EA for public comment to the USFWS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), ODOW, and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), OHPO, along with adjacent property owners, and the City of Euclid Planning and Zoning. The DOE sent hard copies of the EA to the OHPO and the Consulting Party List determined as part of the Section 106 Consultation which included: the City of Euclid, City of Euclid Historic Landmarks Commission, Euclid Historic Museum and Euclid Historical Society, Cleveland Restoration Society, Urban Design Center of Northeast Ohio, Cuyahoga County Government, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, First Suburbs Development Council, Western Reserve Historical Society and the Western Reserve Heritage Association. On July 8, 2010 the Notice of Availability was published in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* indicating that the Draft EA had been posted on the *Golden Reading Room* website on July 8, 2010. A link to the *Golden Reading Room* website and the Draft EA was also posted on the City of Euclid's website on July 8, 2010.

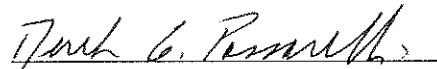
A total of seven comments were received. Six were in support of the project and one comment from the USFWS requested clarification regarding migratory birds and that DOE coordinate with the USFWS Region 3 programmatic consultation that is underway. To address the USFWS comments revisions were made to Section 3.2.2.2 of the EA, Biological Resources and a statement related to migratory birds was corrected. The USFWS also requested that post-construction monitoring protocols be coordinated with USFWS Region 3 offices. A comment response matrix, containing all comments received has been added to the Final EA as Appendix E.

DETERMINATION: Based on the project proponent's commitments to ODOW, the USFWS and residents that may be affected by flicker effects, and the analyses in the EA, DOE has concluded that that its Proposed Action (allowing Ohio to use a portion of its SEP funds to finance the wind energy project) does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required, and DOE is issuing this FONSI.

Copies of the Final EA are available at the DOE Golden Field Office Public Reading Room website at http://www.go.doe.gov/Reading_Room.aspx; or from:

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