



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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December 8, 2006

Mr. Rick Adamski
W2407 Hofa Park Rd.
Seymour, WI 54165

Subject: Wind Turbines and Wildlife

Dear Mr. Adamski:

I am writing in response to your inquiry regarding whether the DNR is concerned about the impacts of residential scale wind turbines on wildlife. I can say that we have very little concern that individual units of the size you are planning to install (110 – foot tower height and 25-foot blade radius) will cause substantial adverse impacts on wildlife.

Studies of wildlife impacts (primarily collisions with birds and bats, and disturbance) have been focused on large utility-scale wind turbines, which are much taller, and with much larger blade diameters than what you plan to install. Even for those, the numbers of fatalities range from no more than tens of birds and bats per turbine per year, to only a few. Studies of disturbance also focus on larger turbines, in sparsely populated locations where more disturbance sensitive species may be found (grasslands in the plains states for example). In a farmstead setting, where there are already barns, silos, houses and other structures, and the associated human activities, we would not expect to find more sensitive species, and therefore the potential for disturbance of those species is very low.

Therefore, I can see no reason to object to this installation on the grounds of wildlife impacts. If you would be willing to monitor the area around the turbine for dead birds and bats, especially after storm front passages in the Spring and Fall, when birds are likely to be flying lower, you would be contributing to our knowledge about the actual effects of this size of turbine. I do not expect that you will find many dead birds or bats. In any case, please contact me if you are successful in obtaining approval and we can discuss this further.

Thank you for being involved in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, with their very well documented impacts on natural resources, and for your interest in improving our knowledge about residential-sized wind turbines.

Sincerely,

Steven Ugoretz
WDNR Office of Energy