



**MEETING** Crocker Wind Farm Coordination Meeting  
**DATE/TIME** May 19, 2016, 1:30-3PM CST  
**LOCATION** SDGFP Office, Pierre SD  
**PARTICIPANTS** Patrick Smith, Melissa Schmit (Geronimo Energy, LLC)  
Joyce Pickle (WEST)  
Silka Kempema (SDGFP)  
Natalie Gates, Connie Mueller (USFWS)

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- Introduction :
- Overview of Geronimo
- Project Status/Overview
  - 200 MW Project in Clark County, SD.
  - Map of Project distributed prior to meeting depicting land cover, water resources, elevation, critical habitat, conservation areas, and field survey results.
  - Routing underway for associated transmission line that will be less than 20 miles.
  - Facility Permit Application submittal planned for the fourth quarter 2016.
  - Environmental surveys are underway-more information follows.
- Field Survey
  - Avia : One year of point count data (16 locations) has been collected from minimum maintenance public roads.
    - Aerial Stick Nest: No eagle nests identified within the Project boundary. One nest located within 10 miles in Day County. Due to distance from the Project (more than 5 miles), further monitoring of the nest is not occurring.
  - Bat: Acoustic monitoring underway. Installation of a second MET tower for the Project has been delayed due to wet conditions. A second acoustic monitoring unit will be placed at the second tower once installed.
    - Minimal NLEB potential habitat identified. A study plan for presence/absence will be developed and submitted to the USFWS for review/approval.
  - Grassland Bird: Two rounds of aerial lek surveys conducted with no leks documented within the Project boundary. The closest historical leks are located 2-3 miles south of the Project.
- Land Cover/ Use
  - Summary of land cover distributed prior to meeting. Based on NLCD data the Project is approximately 17% cultivated, 34% herbaceous grass, 34% hay/pasture, and 11% open water. WEST's surveys have indicated high quality prairie is not prevalent.
  - WPA located 10 miles from the Project and game preserve located to the north.
  - Agencies stated the presence of water and prairie potholes in the Project could present spring/fall migration concerns (snow geese and shorebirds). WEST has not documented colonial waterbird sites.



- Powishiek skipperling are listed in Clark County. USFWS will provide Geronimo with more detailed information on observations
  - If surveys are required, the individuals conducting skipper surveys must be permitted to perform work.
- USFWS grassland and wetland easements located throughout the Project.
  - Process for facility placement on easements: USFWS indicated process can take up to four years to reach construction. Proposed location of facilities will be submitted to the USFWS along with field surveys. A compatibility analysis will be conducted followed by a NEPA analysis.
  - Geronimo plans to avoid easements by design assuming adequate land acquisition. Two junction boxes may need to be placed on easement land. Geronimo will provide those locations to Connie as soon as possible to commence a compatibility study.
- General Discussion on Grassland and Wetland Habitat
  - Project located in the Coteau - SDGFP/USFWS not concerned only with highest quality grasslands – all intact grassland regardless of current quality is a conservation concern. Agencies recommend avoiding grasslands wherever possible.