



ENVIRONMENTAL & STATISTICAL CONSULTANTS

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June 6, 2016

Amanda Miller
Apex Clean Energy, Inc.,
244 East High Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902

RE: Dakota Range Lek Survey

Dear Ms. Miller,

Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST) completed the aerial lek survey for sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie-chickens as part of the Dakota Range Wind Project (Project) development.

Methods: Surveys were completed by two biologists plus one pilot flying in a small (e.g., Cessna 172) fixed-wing aircraft, in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department recommendations. Surveys were initiated in early April but due to weather the actual survey start was delayed until mid-April and resulted in only two of three survey rounds being completed by early May 2016. Surveys were completed between April 12 and May 5, 2016 and conducted by flying parallel north-south transects spaced 400-m apart through the entire Project and 0.5-mile buffer around the Project. Flight height was approximately 75-150 feet above ground level. Surveys were conducted when winds were below 20 mph and rain was not persistent. A potential lek was defined as a location where 3 or more birds are observed; however, leks were confirmed by repeated observations of strutting males.

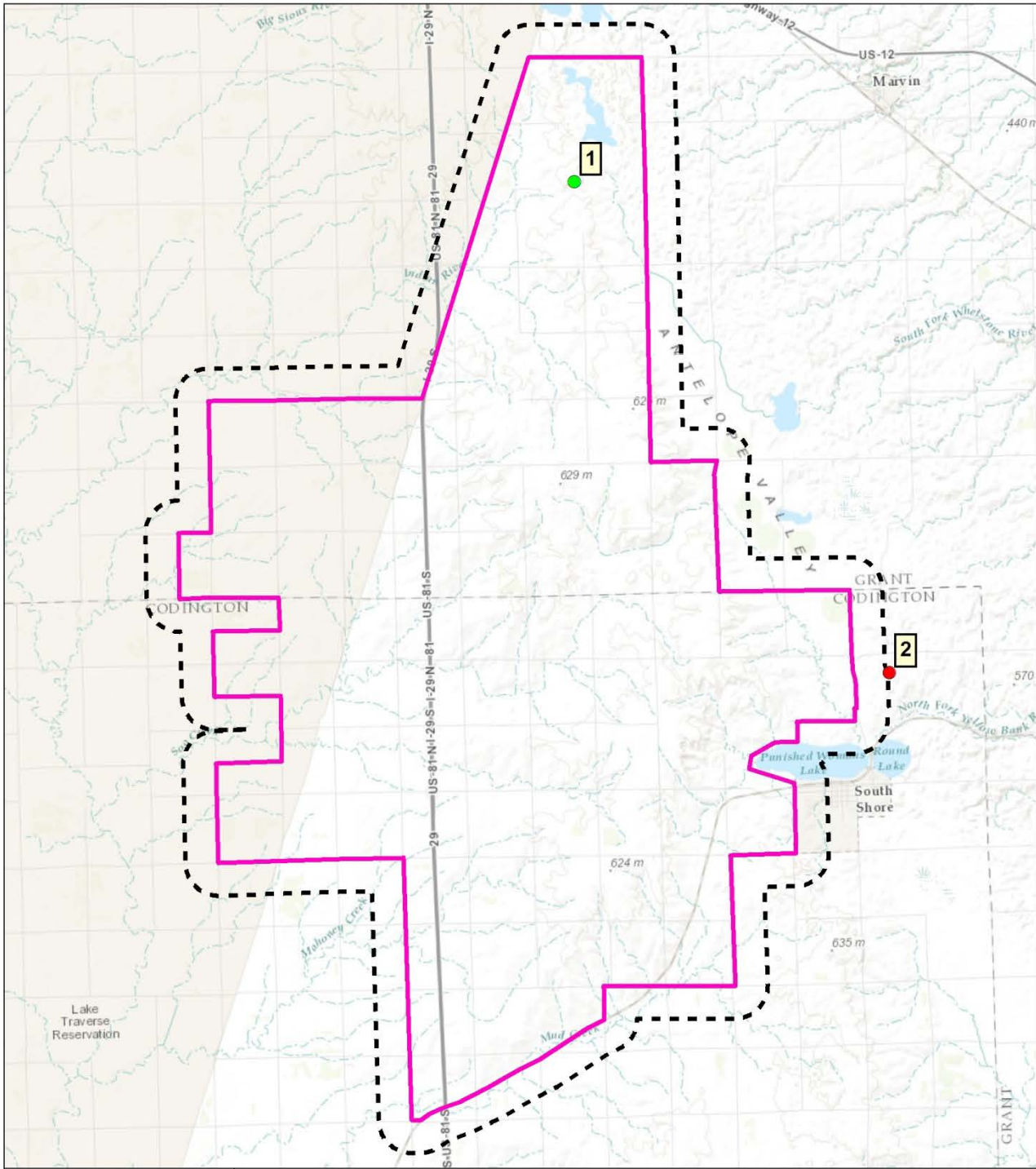
Results:

A group of approximately 24 sharp-tailed grouse (STG) was observed flushing at Location 1 during the first survey; however, no birds were observed in this area during the second survey; therefore, this location was designated as a potential lek, which may be present in the vicinity.

Six male greater prairie-chicken (GPC) were observed displaying at Location 2 during both surveys, indicating this is a GPC lek location.

Sincerely,

Clayton Derby
Senior Manager



Dakota Range
Wind Resource Area

Map Features

-  potential project boundary
-  1/2-mile buffer
-  confirmed greater prairie chicken lek
-  potential sharp-tailed grouse lek



Data Source: World Topo Map
Coordinate System: UTM, NAD83, zn 14N
Map produced on 08/03/2016
by A. L. Dahl

