



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

May 10, 2024

Carolyn Edwards
Engie North America
105 Commerce Valley Drive West
Suite #410
Markham, Ontario
L3T 7W3
Canada

RE: Post-Construction Breeding Grassland Bird Research at North Bend Wind Farm
Postponement of Post-Construction Monitoring

Dear Carolyn,

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has been in discussions with North Bend Wind Project, LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of Engie North America) and Western Ecosystems Technology (WEST) Inc. regarding a previously agreed to before-after-control-impact (BACI) study on breeding grassland birds in the North Bend project area, in-lieu of mortality monitoring. Engie, GFP and WEST have been in discussions regarding a one-year delay in beginning the post-construction monitoring portion of the study.

As outlined in the email memo sent from WEST to GFP on 5/10/2024, the reclamation activities for the project have been delayed due to winter snowpack levels and spring rains. The reclamation is anticipated to be completed in June as weather allows. Reclamation activities could potentially impact breeding grassland bird densities and would present confounding variables in the study design. GFP concurs with the decision to postpone the first year of post-construction breeding grassland bird surveys to allow for a stronger study design.

Thank you for your time and effort in working with GFP on enhancing our understanding of wind and wildlife in South Dakota. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Hilary Morey
Environmental Review Senior Biologist
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501