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To: Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

Date: August 9, 2024

Subject: Klondike III Wind Project – Annual Monitoring for Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (Condition 95)

Attachments Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (April 12, 2024)
2023 Wildlife Monitoring Results (Extracted from April 30, 2024 Annual Report)

Purpose

The Oregon Department of Energy (Department) prepared this staff report for the Energy Facility Siting Council to summarize the results of ongoing wildlife monitoring and results at Leaning Juniper IIB Wind Power Facility. The Department is required to make available the actual results and allow for public comment. This staff report supports both Council and the public's understanding of the results and of their opportunity to review and comment.

Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan Overview

Klondike III Wind Project is a wind energy generation facility consisting of 176 wind turbines, with a peak generating capacity of 300 megawatts (MW). The facility is in Sherman County, approximately 4 miles east of the town of Wasco and 5 miles south of the Columbia River. The Council issued a site certificate for the facility in 2006.

Condition 95 of the site certificate states that, "The certificate shall conduct wildlife monitoring as described in the Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (WMMP) that is incorporated in the Final Order on the Application as Attachment A and as amended from time to time."

The WMMP requires that the certificate holder implement short- and long-term wildlife monitoring during facility operation. Short-term wildlife monitoring requirements include a 2-year post construction Bird and Bat Fatality Monitoring Program and Avian Use Surveys; both wildlife monitoring activities were completed in 2010-12. On-going long-term wildlife monitoring requirements include:

- Long-Term Raptor Nesting Surveys (Every 5-years for operational life of facility; 2012, 2017, 2022, etc.)
- Wildlife Incident Response and Handling System (Ongoing)

Long-Term Raptor Nesting Surveys

Raptor nesting surveys are required to be completed for the life of the facility, on a 5-year cycle. Raptor nesting surveys were completed in 2012; the next raptor nesting survey will be completed in 2027. The objectives of raptor nesting surveys are to estimate the size of local breeding populations of tree or other above ground-nesting raptor species within a 2-mile radius of the facility, and to determine whether facility operation is contributing to a reduction in nesting activity or nesting success in local Special status species raptor populations. A summary of raptor nesting survey results to date is

presented in Table 1 below. Although no statistical analysis was completed, a similar trend for both State sensitive species (Swainson's Hawk and the federal species of concern ferruginous hawk) was observed. Both hawk species are trending downward, while the more generalist species like red-tailed hawks and great horned owls have been trending up.

Table 1: Long-Term Raptor Nesting Survey Results for Klondike III Wind Project – Active Nests (Young Fledged)

Species	2008		2012		2017		2022
	0.5 m.	0.5 to 2.0 m.	0.5 m.	0.5 to 2.0 m.	0.5 m.	0.5 to 2.0 m.	0 – 2.0 miles
Golden Eagle	0	1 (2)	0	2 (5)	0	1 (1)	1
Swainson's Hawk	3 (3)	3 (2)	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	2 (0)	1
Ferruginous Hawk	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	2	3	10	7	2	5	7
Unidentified Buteo	0	1	0	0	0	0	-
Great Horned Owl	0	0	1	2	0	3	1
Barn Owl	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Long-eared Owl	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Active Nests =	**5**	**10**	**12**	**13**	**3**	**11**	**11**

Wildlife Incident Response and Handling System

Monitoring activities during 2023 for this facility include the ongoing Wildlife Incident Response and Handling System, a program for responding to and handling avian and bat casualties found by personnel at the site during routine maintenance operations. No incidents were reported for 2023.

Public Comments on Wildlife Monitoring Results

Section 5 of the WMMP, Data Reporting, establishes an opportunity for the public to review and comment on monitoring results. Specifically, the WMMP states, "The public will have an opportunity to receive information about monitoring results and to offer comment. Within 30 days after receiving the annual report of monitoring results, the Department will make the report available to the public on its website and will specify a time in which the public may submit comments to the Department."

The Department received the annual monitoring results for the facility on April 30, 2024. In accordance with the terms of the WMMP, the Department provides a copy of the 2023 monitoring results for the Klondike III Wind Project to the Council for review (attached) and posted a copy to the Department's project website at: http://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/KWP.aspx and has established a 30-day timeframe to accept public comments.

Comments are due within 30-days of posting, or **September 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** and may be submitted to Sarah Esterson at sarah.esterson@energy.oregon.gov

Attachment 1: Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (April 12, 2024)

Klondike III Wind Project: Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

[REVISED AUGUST 24, 2012]

AMENDED MARCH 2024

This plan describes wildlife monitoring that the certificate holder shall conduct during operation of the Klondike III Wind Project (KWP).[1] The monitoring objectives are to determine whether the facility causes significant fatalities of birds and bats and to determine whether the facility results in a loss of habitat quality. The KWP facility consists of up to 208 wind turbines, three non-guyed meteorological towers and other related or supporting facilities as described in the site certificate. The certificate holder completed construction of 124 turbines authorized under the Second Amended Site Certificate in October 2007.

The certificate holder shall use experienced personnel to manage the monitoring required under this plan and properly trained personnel to conduct the monitoring, subject to approval by the Oregon Department of Energy (Department) as to professional qualifications. For all components of this plan except PPM Energy's Klondike III Wind Project Wildlife Reporting and Handling System, the certificate holder shall hire an independent third party (not employees of the certificate holder) to perform monitoring tasks.

The Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan for the Klondike III Wind Project has the following components:

1) Fatality monitoring program including:
    a) Removal trials
    b) Searcher efficiency trials
    c) Fatality search protocol
    d) Statistical analysis
2) Raptor nesting surveys
3) Avian use surveys
4) PPM Energy's Klondike III Wind Project Wildlife Reporting and Handling System

Following is a discussion of the components of the monitoring plan, statistical analysis methods for fatality data, data reporting and potential mitigation.

The selection of the mitigation actions that the certificate holder may be required to implement under this plan should allow for flexibility in creating appropriate responses to monitoring results that cannot be known in advance. If the Department determines that mitigation is needed, the certificate holder shall propose appropriate mitigation actions to the Department and shall carry out mitigation actions approved by the Department, subject to review by the Oregon Energy Facility Council (Council).

[1] This plan is incorporated by reference in the site certificate for the KWP and must be understood in that context. It is not a "stand-alone" document. This plan does not contain all mitigation required of the certificate holder.

1. Fatality Monitoring

(a) Definitions and Methods

Seasons

This plan uses the following dates for defining seasons:

Season	Dates
Spring Migration	March 16 to May 15
Summer/Breeding	May 16 to August 15
Fall Migration	August 16 to October 31
Winter	November 1 to March 15

Search Plots

The certificate holder shall conduct fatality monitoring within search plots. The certificate holder, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), shall select search plots based on a systematic sampling design that ensures that the selected search plots are representative of the habitat conditions in different parts of the site. Each search plot will contain one turbine. Search plots will be square or circular. Circular search plots will be centered on the turbine location and will have a radius equal to the maximum blade tip height of the turbine contained within the plot. "Maximum blade tip height" is the turbine hub-height plus one-half the rotor diameter. Square search plots will be of sufficient size to contain a circular search plot as described above. The certificate holder shall provide maps of the search plots to the Department before beginning fatality monitoring at the facility. The certificate holder shall use the same search plots for each search conducted during a monitoring year.

Scheduling

In each monitoring year, the certificate holder shall conduct fatality monitoring searches at the rates of frequency shown below. Over the course of one monitoring year, the certificate holder would conduct 16 searches, as follows:

Season	Frequency
Spring Migration	2 searches per month (4 searches)
Summer/Breeding	1 search per month (3 searches)
Fall Migration	2 searches per month (5 searches)
Winter	1 search per month (4 searches)

For the 124 turbines built as of October 2007, the certificate holder shall conduct fatality monitoring for two years (32 searches), beginning November 1, 2007. For turbines built after October 2007 (up to 84 turbines), the certificate holder shall conduct fatality monitoring for two years (32 searches) beginning one month after the start of commercial operation of those turbines.

Sample Size

The sample size for fatality monitoring is the number of turbines searched per monitoring year for each phase of construction. Phase 1 consists of turbines built as of October 2007; Phase 2 consists of turbines built after October 2007. During each monitoring year, the certificate

holder shall search a minimum of one-third of the total number of turbines that are built in the applicable phase.

As described in the site certificate, the certificate holder may choose to build the KWP using turbine types in two size classes:

- Small: turbines having a rotor diameter of 82 meters or less
- Large: turbines having a rotor diameter greater than 82 meters

If the final design of the KWP includes both small and large turbines, the certificate holder shall, at a minimum, sample one-third of the total number of turbines in each monitoring year for each phase of construction. Before beginning fatality monitoring, the certificate holder shall consult with an independent expert with experience in statistical analysis of avian fatality data to determine whether it would be possible to sample a sufficient number of the KWP turbines in each size class to allow a statistical comparison of fatality rates for all birds as a group. The certificate holder shall submit the expert's written conclusions to the Department. If sampling of one-third of the total number of all turbines per phase in each monitoring year would provide a sufficient number of turbines in each size class to allow the comparison, the certificate holder will sample the appropriate number of turbines from each class and conduct the analysis. The certificate holder may choose to sample more than one-third of the total number of all turbines in each monitoring year for each phase of construction to allow the comparison.

(b) Removal Trials

The objective of the removal trials is to estimate the length of time avian and bat carcasses remain in the search area. Carcass removal studies will be conducted during each season in the vicinity of the search plots. Estimates of carcass removal rates will be used to adjust carcass counts for removal bias. "Carcass removal" is the disappearance of a carcass from the search area due to predation, scavenging or other means such as farming activity. Removal rates will be estimated by habitat and season.

The certificate holder shall conduct carcass removal trials within each of the seasons defined above during the years in which fatality monitoring occurs. During the first year in which fatality monitoring occurs, the certificate holder shall conduct one removal trial per season (four removal trials per year). For each trial, at least 10 small bird carcasses and at least 10 large bird carcasses will be distributed throughout the project area (approximately 80 trial carcasses per year).

Before beginning removal trials for the second year of fatality monitoring, the certificate holder shall report the results of the first year removal trials to the Department and ODFW. In the report, the certificate holder shall analyze whether four removal trials per year, as described above, provides sufficient data to accurately estimate adjustment factors for carcass removal. The number of removal trials for the second year of fatality monitoring may be adjusted up or down, subject to the approval of the Department.

The "small bird" size class will use carcasses of house sparrows, starlings, commercially available game bird chicks or legally obtained native birds to simulate passerines. The "large bird" size class will use carcasses of raptors provided by agencies, commercially available adult game birds or cryptically colored chickens to simulate raptors, game birds and waterfowl. If fresh bat carcasses are available, they may also be used.

To avoid confusion with turbine-related fatalities, planted carcasses will not be placed in fatality monitoring search plots. Planted carcasses will be placed in the vicinity of search plots but not so near as to attract scavengers to the search plots. The planted carcasses will be located randomly within the carcass removal trial plots.

Carcasses will be placed in a variety of postures to simulate a range of conditions. For example, birds will be: 1) placed in an exposed posture (e.g., thrown over the shoulder), 2) hidden to simulate a crippled bird (e.g., placed beneath a shrub or tuft of grass) and, 3) partially hidden. Trial carcasses will be marked discreetly for recognition by searchers and other personnel. Trial carcasses will be left at the location until the end of the carcass removal trial.

It is expected that carcasses will be checked as follows, although actual intervals may vary. Carcasses will be checked for a period of 40 days to determine removal rates. They will be checked approximately every day for the first 4 days, and then on day 7, day 10, day 14, day 20, day 30 and day 40. This schedule may vary depending on weather and coordination with the other survey work. At the end of the 40-day period, the trial carcasses and scattered feathers will be removed.

(c) Searcher Efficiency Trials

The objective of searcher efficiency trials is to estimate the percentage of bird and bat fatalities that searchers are able to find. The certificate holder shall conduct searcher efficiency trials on the fatality monitoring search plots in both grassland/shrub-steppe and cultivated agriculture habitat types. Searcher efficiency will be estimated by size class, habitat type and season. A pooled estimate of searcher efficiency will be used to adjust carcass counts for detection bias.

The certificate holder shall conduct searcher efficiency trials within each of the seasons defined above during the years in which the fatality monitoring occurs. During each season of the years in which fatality monitoring occurs, the certificate holder shall use approximately 25 carcasses for searcher efficiency trials (approximately 100 carcasses per year). The certificate holder shall vary the number of trials per season and the number of carcasses per trial so that the searchers will not know the total number of trial carcasses being used in any trial. The certificate holder shall distribute trial carcasses in varied habitat in rough proportion to the habitat types within the facility site. During each season, both small bird and large bird carcasses will be used in approximately equal numbers. “Small bird” and “large bird” size classes and carcass selection are as described above for the removal trials.

Before beginning searcher efficiency trials for the second year of fatality monitoring, the certificate holder shall report the results of the first year efficiency trials to the Department and ODFW. In the report, the certificate holder shall analyze whether the efficiency trials as described above (using approximately 100 carcasses per year) provides sufficient data to accurately estimate adjustment factors for carcass removal. The number of removal trials for the second year of fatality monitoring may be adjusted up or down, subject to the approval of the Department.

Personnel conducting searches will not know in advance when trials are conducted; nor will they know the location of the trial carcasses. If suitable trial carcasses are available, trials during the fall season will include several small brown birds to simulate bat carcasses. Legally obtained bat carcasses will be used if available.

On the day of a standardized fatality monitoring search (described below) but before the beginning of the search, efficiency trial carcasses will be placed at random locations within areas to be searched. If scavengers appear attracted by placement of carcasses, the carcasses will be distributed before dawn.

Efficiency trials will be spread over the entire season to incorporate effects of varying weather and vegetation growth. Carcasses will be placed in a variety of postures to simulate a range of conditions. For example, birds will be: 1) placed in an exposed posture (thrown over the shoulder), 2) hidden to simulate a crippled bird and 3) partially hidden.

Each non-domestic carcass will be discreetly marked so that it can be identified as an efficiency trial carcass after it is found. The number and location of the efficiency trial carcasses found during the carcass search will be recorded. The number of efficiency trial carcasses available for detection during each trial will be determined immediately after the trial by the person responsible for distributing the carcasses.

If new searchers are brought into the search team, additional detection trials will be conducted to ensure that detection rates incorporate searcher differences.

(d) Coordination with the Biglow Canyon Wind Farm

The proposed Biglow Canyon Wind Farm lies to the north of the Klondike III Wind Power Project on similar terrain and habitat. If the Council approves site certificates for both facilities and requires similar wildlife monitoring, coordination of removal trials and searcher efficiency trials would be possible. Subject to the approval of both certificate holders and the Department, the number of trials at each site and the number of trial carcasses used at each site can be reduced by combining the removal data and efficiency data from both projects, if the certificate holder can demonstrate that the calculation of fatality rates would continue to have statistical validity for both facilities and that combining the data would not affect any other requirements of the monitoring plans for either facility.

(e) Fatality Monitoring Search Protocol

The objective fatality monitoring is to estimate the number of bird and bat fatalities that are attributable to facility operation. The goal of bird and bat fatality monitoring is to obtain a precise estimate of the fatality rate and associated variances. The certificate holder shall conduct fatality monitoring using standardized carcass searches.

The certificate holder shall use a worst-case analysis to resolve any uncertainty in the results and to determine whether the data indicate that additional mitigation should be considered. The Department may require additional, targeted monitoring if the data indicate the potential for significant impacts that cannot be addressed by worst-case analysis and appropriate mitigation. On an annual basis, the certificate holder shall report an estimate of fatalities in seven categories: 1) all birds, 2) small birds, 3) large birds, 4) raptors, 5) grassland birds, 6) nocturnal migrants, 7) State Sensitive Species listed under OAR 635-100-0040 and 8) bats. If there is sufficient sampling of large and small turbines, the certificate holder shall compare the fatality rates in the "all birds" category for each of the turbine size classes. The certificate holder shall calculate fatality rates using the statistical methods described in Sections (a) and (f).

The certificate holder shall estimate the number of avian and bat fatalities attributable to operation of the facility based on the number of avian and bat fatalities found at the facility site.

All carcasses located within areas surveyed, regardless of species, will be recorded and, if possible, a cause of death determined based on blind necropsy results. If a different cause of death is not apparent, the fatality will be attributed to facility operation. The total number of avian and bat carcasses will be estimated by adjusting for removal and searcher efficiency bias.

Personnel trained in proper search techniques ("the searchers") will conduct the carcass searches by walking parallel transects within the search plots.[2] Transects will be initially set at 6 meters apart in the area to be searched. A searcher will walk at a rate of approximately 45 to 60 meters per minute along each transect searching both sides out to three meters for casualties. Search area and speed may be adjusted by habitat type after evaluation of the first searcher efficiency trial. The searchers will record the condition of each carcass found, using the following condition categories:

- Intact – a carcass that is completely intact, is not badly decomposed and shows no sign of being fed upon by a predator or scavenger
- Scavenged – an entire carcass that shows signs of being fed upon by a predator or scavenger, or portions of a carcass in one location (e.g., wings, skeletal remains, legs, pieces of skin, etc.)
- Feather Spot – 10 or more feathers at one location indicating predation or scavenging or 2 or more primary feathers

All carcasses (avian and bat) found during the standardized carcass searches will be photographed, recorded and labeled with a unique number. Each carcass will be bagged and frozen for future reference and possible necropsy. A copy of the data sheet for each carcass will be kept with the carcass at all times. For each carcass found, searchers will record species, sex and age when possible, date and time collected, location, condition (e.g., intact, scavenged, feather spot) and any comments that may indicate cause of death. Searchers will photograph each carcass as found and will map the find on a detailed map of the search area showing the location of the wind turbines and associated facilities. The certificate holder shall coordinate collection of state endangered, threatened or protected species with ODFW. The certificate holder shall coordinate collection of federal endangered, threatened or protected species with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The certificate holder shall obtain appropriate collection permits from ODFW and USFWS.

The searchers might discover carcasses incidental to formal carcass searches (e.g., while driving within the project area). For each incidentally discovered carcass, the searcher shall identify, photograph, record data and collect the carcass as would be done for carcasses within the formal search sample during scheduled searches. If the incidentally discovered carcass is found within a formal search plot, the fatality data will be included in the calculation of fatality rates. If the incidentally discovered carcass is found outside a formal search plot, the data will be reported separately. The certificate holder shall coordinate collection of incidentally discovered state endangered, threatened or protected species with ODFW. The certificate holder shall coordinate collection of incidentally discovered federal endangered, threatened or protected species with the USFWS.

[2] Where search plots are adjacent, the search area may be rectangular.

Any injured native birds found on the facility site will be carefully captured by a trained project biologist or technician and transported to Jean Cypher (wildlife rehabilitator) in The Dalles, the Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Pendleton or the Audubon Bird Care Center in Portland in a timely fashion. The certificate holder shall pay costs, if any, charged for time and expenses related to care and rehabilitation of injured native birds found on the site, unless the cause of injury is clearly demonstrated to be unrelated to the facility operations.

(f) Statistical Methods for Fatality Estimates

The certificate holder shall estimate the total number of wind facility-related fatalities for each phase of construction based on:

(1) The observed number of carcasses found during standardized searches during the two monitoring years (for the applicable phase) for which the cause of death is attributed to the facility.[3]
(2) Searcher efficiency expressed as the proportion of planted carcasses found by searchers.
(3) Removal rates expressed as the estimated average probability a carcass is expected to remain in the study area and be available for detection by the searchers during the entire survey period.

Definition of Variables

The following variables are used in the equations below:

c_i	the number of carcasses detected at plot *i* for the study period of interest (e.g., one year) for which the cause of death is either unknown or is attributed to the facility
n	the number of search plots
k	the number of turbines searched (includes the turbines centered within each search plot and a proportion of the number of turbines adjacent to search plots to account for the effect of adjacent turbines on the 90-meter search plot buffer area)
$\bar{c}$	the average number of carcasses observed per turbine per year
s	the number of carcasses used in removal trials
s_c	the number of carcasses in removal trials that remain in the study area after 40 days
se	standard error (square of the sample variance of the mean)
t_i	the time (days) a carcass remains in the study area before it is removed
$\bar{t}$	the average time (days) a carcass remains in the study area before it is removed
d	the total number of carcasses placed in searcher efficiency trials
p	the estimated proportion of detectable carcasses found by searchers
I	the average interval between searches in days

[3] If a different cause of death is not apparent, the fatality will be attributed to facility operation.

$\hat{\pi}$ the estimated probability that a carcass is both available to be found during a search and is found

m_t the estimated annual average number of fatalities per turbine per year, adjusted for removal and observer detection bias

C nameplate energy output of turbine in megawatts (MW)

Observed Number of Carcasses

The estimated average number of carcasses ($\bar{c}$) observed per turbine per year is:

$$\bar{c} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i}{k}. \quad (1)$$

Estimation of Carcass Removal

Estimates of carcass removal are used to adjust carcass counts for removal bias. Mean carcass removal time ($\bar{t}$) is the average length of time a carcass remains at the site before it is removed:

$$\bar{t} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{s} t_i}{s - s_c}. \quad (2)$$

This estimator is the maximum likelihood estimator assuming the removal times follow an exponential distribution and there is right-censoring of data. Any trial carcasses still remaining at 40 days are collected, yielding censored observations at 40 days. If all trial carcasses are removed before the end of the trial, then s_c is 0, and $\bar{t}$ is just the arithmetic average of the removal times. Removal rates will be estimated by carcass size (small and large) and season.

Estimation of Observer Detection Rates

Observer detection rates (i.e., searcher efficiency rates) are expressed as *p*, the proportion of trial carcasses that are detected by searchers. Observer detection rates will be estimated by carcass size and season.

Estimation of Facility-Related Fatality Rates

The estimated per turbine annual fatality rate (m_t) is calculated by:

$$m_t = \frac{\bar{c}}{\hat{\pi}}, \quad (3)$$

where $\hat{\pi}$ includes adjustments for both carcass removal (from scavenging and other means) and observer detection bias assuming that the carcass removal times t_i follow an exponential distribution. Under these assumptions, this detection probability is estimated by:

$$\hat{\pi} = \frac{\bar{t} \cdot p}{I} \cdot \left[\frac{\exp\left(I/\bar{t}\right) - 1}{\exp\left(I/\bar{t}\right) - 1 + p} \right]. \quad (4)$$

The estimated per MW annual fatality rate (m) is calculated by:

$$m = \frac{m_t}{C}. \quad (5)$$

For each phase of construction, the certificate holder shall calculate fatality estimates for: (1) all birds, (2) small birds, (3) large birds, (4) raptors, (5) grassland birds, (6) nocturnal migrants 7) State Sensitive Species listed under OAR 635-100-0040 and 8) bats. If there is sufficient sampling of large and small turbines, the certificate holder shall compare the fatality rates in the "all birds" category for each of the turbine size classes. The final reported estimates of *m*, associated standard errors and 90% confidence intervals will be calculated using bootstrapping (Manly 1997). Bootstrapping is a computer simulation technique that is useful for calculating point estimates, variances and confidence intervals for complicated test statistics. For each iteration of the bootstrap, the plots will be sampled with replacement, trial carcasses will be sampled with replacement and $\bar{c}$, $\bar{t}$, p, $\hat{\pi}$ and m will be calculated. A total of 5,000 bootstrap iterations will be used. The reported estimates will be the means of the 5,000 bootstrap estimates. The standard deviation of the bootstrap estimates is the estimated standard error. The lower 5th and upper 95th percentiles of the 5000 bootstrap estimates are estimates of the lower limit and upper limit of 90% confidence intervals.

Nocturnal Migrant and Bat Fatalities

Differences in observed nocturnal migrant and bat fatality rates for lit turbines, unlit turbines that are adjacent to lit turbines and unlit turbines that are not adjacent to lit turbines will be compared graphically and statistically.

(g) Mitigation

Mitigation may be appropriate if fatality rates exceed a "threshold of concern." For the purpose of determining whether a threshold has been exceeded, the certificate holder shall calculate the average annual fatality rates for species groups for each phase of construction after two years of monitoring. Based on current knowledge of the species that are likely to use the habitat in the area of the facility, the following thresholds apply to the Klondike III facility:

Species Group	**Threshold of Concern** (fatalities per MW)
Raptors (All eagles, hawks, falcons and owls, including burrowing owls.)	0.09
Raptor species of special concern (Swainson's hawk, ferruginous hawk, peregrine falcon, golden eagle, bald eagle, burrowing owl and any federal threatened or endangered raptor species.)	0.06
Grassland species (All native bird species that rely on grassland habitat and are either resident species, occurring year round, or species that nest in the area, excluding horned lark, burrowing owl and northern harrier.)	0.59
State sensitive avian species listed under OAR 635-100-0040 (Excluding raptors listed above.)	0.2

If the data show that a threshold of concern for a species group has been exceeded, the certificate holder shall implement additional mitigation if the Department determines that mitigation is appropriate based on analysis of the data, consultation with ODFW and

consideration of any other significant information available at the time. In addition, mitigation may be appropriate if the Department determines that fatality rates for individual avian or bat species (especially State Sensitive Species) are higher than expected and at a level of biological concern. If mitigation is appropriate, the certificate holder, in consultation with the Department and ODFW, shall propose mitigation measures designed to benefit the affected species. The certificate holder shall implement mitigation as approved by the Council. The Department may recommend additional, targeted data collection if the need for mitigation is unclear based on the information available at the time. The certificate holder shall implement such data collection as approved by the Council.

Mitigation should be designed to benefit the affected species group. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, protection of nesting habitat for the affected group of native species through a conservation easement or similar agreement. Tracts of land that are intact and functional for wildlife are preferable to degraded habitat areas. Preference should be given to protection of land that would otherwise be subject to development or use that would diminish the wildlife value of the land. In addition, mitigation measures might include: enhancement of the protected tract by weed removal and control; increasing the diversity of native grasses and forbs; planting sagebrush or other shrubs; constructing and maintaining artificial nest structures for raptors; improving wildfire response; and local research that will aid in understanding more about the species and conservation needs. In considering whether additional mitigation is appropriate for bat fatalities, the Department will take into account the mitigation that the certificate holder has already implemented under Condition 96 of the site certificate (a contribution of $10,000 per year for three years, beginning in the first year of operation, to fund research toward better understanding wind facility impacts to bats and to develop mitigation solutions).

2. Raptor Nest Surveys

The objectives of raptor nest surveys are to estimate the size of the local breeding populations of tree or other above-ground-nesting raptor species in the vicinity of the facility and to determine whether operation of the facility results in a reduction of nesting activity in the local populations of the following raptor species: Swainson's hawk, golden eagle and ferruginous hawk.

(a) Survey Protocol

For the species listed above, aerial and ground surveys will be used to gather data on occupied nests. The certificate holder will share the data with state and federal biologists. The certificate holder will conduct two years of post-construction raptor nest surveys. One year of surveys will be done in 2008. The second year of surveys will be done in 2012.

During each monitoring year, the certificate holder will conduct a minimum of one helicopter survey in late May or early June and additional surveys as described in this section. All nests discovered during pre-construction surveys and any nests discovered during post-construction surveys, whether active or inactive, will be given identification numbers. Nest locations will be recorded on U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle maps. Global positioning system coordinates will be recorded for each nest. Locations of inactive nests will be recorded as they may become occupied during future years.

The certificate holder shall conduct the aerial surveys within the Klondike III site and a 2-mile buffer around the turbines to determine nest occupancy. Determining nest occupancy will likely require two helicopter visits to each nest. For occupied nests, the certificate holder shall determine nesting occupancy by a minimum of one ground visit to determine species and nesting status. Nests that cannot be monitored due to the landowner denying access will be checked from a distance where feasible.

(b) Mitigation

The certificate holder shall analyze the raptor nesting data collected to determine whether a reduction in nest occupancy has occurred in the vicinity of the Klondike III facility. Given the raptor densities in the area, statistical power to detect a relationship between distance from a wind turbine and nesting parameters (e.g., occupancy) will be very low. Therefore, impacts may have to be judged based on trends in the data, results from other wind energy facility monitoring studies and literature on what is known regarding the populations in the region.

If the analysis shows that mitigation is appropriate, the certificate holder shall propose mitigation for the affected species in consultation with the Department and ODFW. Mitigation should be designed to benefit the affected species or contribute to overall scientific knowledge and understanding what stimulates nest abandonment. Mitigation may be designed to proceed in phases over several years. It may include, but is not limited to, additional raptor nest monitoring, protection of natural nest sites from human disturbance or cattle activity (preferably within two miles of the facility) or participation in research projects designed to improve scientific understanding of the needs of the affected species.

(c) Long-term Raptor Nest Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

In addition to the two years of post-construction raptor nest surveys described in paragraph (a), the certificate holder shall conduct long-term raptor nest surveys at five-year intervals for the life of the facility. The certificate holder conducted long-term raptor nest surveys in 2017 and 2022. Next survey will be completed in 2025, to align with monitoring at adjacent facilities, and will continue on 5-year intervals (e.g., 2030,2035). In conducting long-term surveys, the certificate holder shall follow the same survey protocol that is described above in paragraph (a) unless the certificate holder proposes an alternative protocol that is approved by the Department. In developing an alternative protocol, the certificate holder shall consult with ODFW and may collaborate with the certificate holder for any other wind energy facility.

The certificate holder shall analyze the long-term survey data as described above in paragraph (b). If the analysis shows that mitigation is appropriate, the certificate holder shall propose mitigation for the affected species in consultation with the Department and ODFW as described in paragraph (b) and shall implement mitigation as approved by the Council. Any reduction in nesting occupancy could be due to operation of the KWP, operation of another wind facility in the vicinity or some other cause. The reduction shall be attributed to the KWP if the wind turbine closest to the affected nest site is a KWP turbine unless the certificate holder demonstrates, and the Department agrees, that the reduction was due to a different cause.

3. Avian Use Surveys

During each fatality monitoring search, observers will record birds detected in a ten-minute period at approximately one-third of the turbines within the fatality monitoring sample using standard variable circular plot point count survey methods. The purpose of observing and

recording avian use while conducting the fatality monitoring is to identify additional species that may not have been listed in the original baseline survey report. In addition, avian use surveys provide a basis to evaluate, in general terms, whether the species with the highest fatality numbers are also the most common species at the site.

4. PPM Energy's Klondike III Wind Project Wildlife Reporting and Handling System

PPM Energy's Klondike III Wind Project Wildlife Reporting and Handling System (WRHS) is a monitoring program to search for and handle avian and bat casualties found by maintenance personnel during construction and operation of the facility. A similar system is in place for Klondike I and II. Construction and maintenance personnel will be trained in the methods. This monitoring program includes the initial response, the handling and the reporting of bird and bat carcasses discovered incidental to construction and maintenance operations ("incidental finds").

All carcasses discovered by maintenance personnel will be photographed and recorded. If maintenance personnel discover incidental finds at turbines that are not within search plots for the fatality monitoring searches, the data will be reported separately from fatality monitoring data. For such incidental finds, the maintenance personnel will notify a project biologist. The project biologist must be a qualified independent professional biologist who is not an employee of the certificate holder. The project biologist (or the project biologist's experienced wildlife technician) will collect the carcass or will instruct maintenance personnel to have an on-site carcass handling permittee collect the carcass. The certificate holder's on-site carcass handling permitee must be a person who is listed on state and federal scientific or salvage collection permits and who is available to process (collect) the find on the day it is discovered. The find must be processed on the same day as it is discovered.

If maintenance personnel discover carcasses within search plots, the data will be included in the calculation of fatality rates. The maintenance personnel will notify a project biologist. The project biologist will collect the carcass or will instruct maintenance personnel to have an on-site carcass handling permittee collect the carcass. As stated above, the on-site permittee must be available to process the find on the day it is discovered. The certificate holder shall coordinate collection of state endangered, threatened or protected species with ODFW. The certificate holder shall coordinate collection of federal endangered, threatened or protected species with the USFWS.

5. Data Reporting

The certificate holder will report the monitoring data and analysis to the Department. Monitoring data include fatality data, raptor nest survey data, avian use point counts and data on incidental finds by fatality searchers and KWP personnel. The report may be included in the annual report required under OAR 345-026-0080 or may be submitted as a separate document at the same time the annual report is submitted. In addition, the certificate holder shall provide to the Department any data or record generated in carrying out this monitoring plan upon request by the Department.

The certificate holder shall notify USFWS and ODFW immediately in the event that any federal or state endangered or threatened species are killed or injured on the facility site.

The public will have an opportunity to receive information about monitoring results and to offer comment. Within 30 days after receiving the annual report of monitoring results, the

Department will make the report available to the public on its website and will specify a time in which the public may submit comments to the Department.[4]

6. Amendment of the Plan

This Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan may be amended from time to time by agreement of the certificate holder and the Council. Such amendments may be made without amendment of the site certificate. The Council authorizes the Department to agree to amendments to this plan and to mitigation actions that may be required under this plan. The Department shall notify the Council of all amendments and mitigation actions, and the Council retains the authority to approve, reject or modify any amendment of this plan or mitigation action agreed to by the Department.

[4] The certificate holder may establish a Technical Advisor Committee (TAC) but is not required to do so. If the certificate holder establishes a TAC, the TAC may offer comments to the Council about the results of the monitoring required under this plan.

Attachment 2: Annual Wildlife Monitoring Report (2023)

30 April 2024

VIA EMAIL

Amrit Kaur
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol St. NE, 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Klondike III Facility - 2023 EFSC Annual Report (Condition 22)

Dear Amrit:

Klondike Wind Power III, LLC (Klondike III), a wholly owned subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables LLC, provides the following information to comply with its general reporting requirements under OAR 345-026-0080 (Condition 22) for the Klondike III Facility (K3F).

Condition 95: WildlifeMonitoring

No Wildlife Monitoring was required by the Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan in 2023 and no monitoring was conducted. The next raptor nest monitoring will occur in 2025. No incidental downed wildlife observations were recorded for Klondike III in 2023.