

Appendix O

ODNR Natural Heritage Comment Letter



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March 7, 2013

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife
Ohio Natural Heritage Program
2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G-3
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

Re: Request for Natural Heritage Information, Confidential Wind Project
Paulding and Van Wert Counties, Ohio
File 20101123.01

Dear Sir or Madam:

Westwood Professional Services is requesting Natural Heritage Information for a potential wind project in Paulding and Van Wert Counties, Ohio. We are requesting a Natural Heritage Inventory review for rare plant and animal species and natural communities. The project area includes approximately 21,000 acres of cultivated cropland and will involve installation of wind turbines. This data will be used for planning purposes and will help avoid sensitive areas and species. The applicant will apply for various federal, state, and county permits. The general project area is shown on the enclosed topographic map.

Before processing my data request, please contact me if there are any data request fees. Please contact me at (952) 906-7482 or brie.anderson@westwoodps.com if you have questions or need additional information.

Thank you for your time and assistance; it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Brie Anderson
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure





Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

Ohio Division of Wildlife

Scott Zody, Chief
2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

March 8, 2013

Brie Anderson
Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

Dear Ms. Anderson

After reviewing the Natural Heritage Database, I find the Division of Wildlife has no records of rare or endangered species in the Confidential Wind Project area, including a one mile buffer, in Paulding and Van Wert Counties, Ohio. We are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forests, national wildlife refuges, parks or forests or other protected natural areas within a one mile radius of the project area.

Our inventory program has not completely surveyed Ohio and relies on information supplied by many individuals and organizations. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although we inventory all types of plant communities, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

This letter only represents a review of rare species and natural features data within the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. It does not fulfill coordination under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S. C. 661 et seq.) and does not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Please contact me at 614-265-6452 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark above the "n" in Schneider.

Greg Schneider, Administrator
Ohio Natural Heritage Database Program

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 13-0197-EL-BGN

Summary: Application of Northwest Ohio Wind Energy Appendix O - Part 18 electronically filed by Teresa Orahod on behalf of Sally Bloomfield