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October 1, 2008

Stephen D. Guertin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regional Director

Timothy J. Meeks, Western Area Power Administrator

WAPA/FWS Wind Energy Programmatic EIS Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue-EVS/900
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Sirs:

Verendrye Electric Cooperative is writing in favor of continued new wind electrical generation in the central portion of North Dakota.

The cooperative has been doing wind monitoring along the Missouri Escarpment stretching from Berthold to Butte since the late 1970s and early 80s. We have an excellent proven wind resource in our service area. The joint Department of Energy program included monitors originally located at the old U.S. Air Force Radar Base and Prophet Mountain locations. With all of this effort and dream of wind generation, it just doesn't seem right that we would not be able to develop it at this time due to wildlife concerns. We are not aware of any bird problems with existing wind machines or transmission lines in our service area.

As cooperatives struggle to find new electrical generation to meet ever increasing member load growth, it's obvious to us that wind energy must be part of the solution. With all the worry about carbon dioxide and climate change, we are uncertain about the future of coal fired electrical generation. I don't know of anybody that is in favor of more nuclear generation, which leaves wind generation as a critical part of our energy future utilizing a clean renewable source.

Verendrye is in favor of a comprehensive region wide environmental program for wind energy projects that will help them move forward more quickly and efficiently. We are opposed to any restrictive regulations that can delay or end wind energy development in this region. There has to be a way for the continued development of wind generation to be allowed, working in harmony with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, while still keeping the cost of electricity affordable. Area farmers are very interested in wind energy as a "cash crop" with thousands of acres of land already leased out in our service area. Our local communities and economic development corporations are very excited about the prospect of new jobs and new prosperity. Area schools and political subdivisions are very excited about the possibility of new tax revenue. We sincerely request your cooperation moving these wind projects forward.

Very truly yours,

VERENDRYE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce R. Carlson', is written over the typed name.

Bruce R. Carlson
General Manager

Cc: VEC Board of Directors