



Comment# 00010

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WAPA/FWS Wind Energy Programmatic EIS Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue-EVS/900
Argonne, Il 60439

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in order to provide comments on the proposed programmatic environmental impact statement process. This letter will highlight why I support the process if it is used to help wind and energy projects move forward in a timely manner.

The Upper Great Plains is home to first to fifth generation residents who have made conscious decisions to live here. Part of the reason is the quality of life that this area offers. The spaces are wide open, the air clean and clear, hunting and fishing abound and in fact you could say that we take full advantage of four-seasons of opportunities for outdoor adventure. We take pride in the fact that we help to feed the nation and the world with the agricultural commodities that we produce.

Likewise we are proud of the responsible use of our natural resources to provide energy to the nation. Lignite has been used throughout the history of North Dakota first as a heat source and in today's world to generate electricity. Water is used also to generate hydro-electricity. Oil and natural gas have been part of the economic fabric since the 1950's. More recently, people have been referring to North Dakota and the Great Plains as the "Saudi Arabia" of wind power.

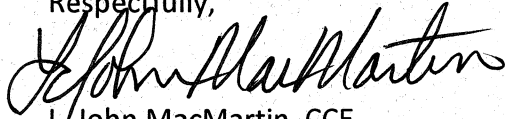
I mentioned the quality of life because those of us who make this region home look to find ways to have as little an impact on the environment as possible. We want to be able to play, hunt and fish and enjoy the migratory water fowl all in our back yard. We do have concerns of opinions and policies from afar that restrict our freedoms and/or limit our ability to use our natural resources. Lignite and oil create what some suggest is too great a carbon footprint. More recently we read that the use of wind energy may be restricted because of the migration patterns of birds. That doesn't seem to make much sense to those of us who live and work in the Great Plains. And as I have stated, it makes even less sense when we are wrapped up in discussions about carbon footprints.

The need for a programmatic environmental impact statement can and should make sense if the process is being used to help wind and energy projects move forward. The process would make less sense if, on the other hand, it was used solely to slow down, delay and ultimately

derail projects that are either under way or in the planning process. Wind is one of our natural resources and the programmatic environmental impact statement process needs to assist land owners and developers alike in providing clarity to the National Environmental Policy Act and finding ways to streamline the process of harnessing the wind to generate electricity for the end users.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this issue of critical importance to the Great Plains.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. John MacMartin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

L/John MacMartin, CCE
President