

Thank you for your comment, Hunter Roberts.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is UGPW\_S50023.

Comment Date: November 10, 2008 21:36:41PM

Upper Great Plains Wind PEIS

Comment ID: UGPW\_S50023

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Attachment: SD-WAPA Wind PEIS.doc

Comment Submitted:

[See Attachment.](#)

November 10, 2008

Upper Great Plains Wind Energy Programmatic EIS Scoping  
Argonne National Laboratory  
9700 S. Cass Ave. – EVS/900  
Argonne IL 60439

RE: Upper Great Plains Wind Energy Programmatic EIS Scoping

To Whom It May Concern:

The State of South Dakota both supports and encourages Western Area Power Authority and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's intent to clearly define and hopefully streamline processes that allow us to develop new and cleaner sources of energy produced right here in the Upper Great Plains.

The timely siting, construction, and interconnection of new wind generation facilities is often dependent on public-interest reviews conducted by a number of federal and state agencies. If we find the operation of these new facilities to be in the public interest, which the State of South Dakota does, it stands to reason that more efficient processing of these reviews without sacrificing any quality of the review is also in the public interest.

The State of South Dakota is hopeful that your Programmatic EIS approach will result in a successful process. It appears that this process will be a rational answer to the increasing demands of the energy-using public, protecting our natural and human environmental resources for all, and facilitate the needs of the booming wind energy industry. Wind development in South Dakota, like any other investment, requires clarity and certainty to attract long-term investment. The wind energy industry cannot tolerate uncertain federal policies, whether they be tax-related or wildlife-related. Timely and concise science-based decisions regarding potential wildlife impacts are needed to develop "safe harbors" so development can progress. We do not support overly strict regulations that will impede the development of current wind energy projects or regulations that will limit the development of a large area of some of our regions best wind energy resource. We approve of your proactive effort on this matter and support a balanced approach that will facilitate a strong future for wind energy development in our region.

The Upper Great Plains, as we know here in South Dakota, has an enormous wind energy resource that we support further development of. Wind energy is a clean, sustainable, and renewable energy that can play a major role in providing sustainable energy for our country. Wind energy can be produced right here in

America, so we don't have to rely imported resource for energy from other countries. Additionally, it strengthens our rural communities by providing: new jobs, landowner payments, and new revenues for local governments. We believe for these reasons that wind energy should be developed in the Upper Great Plains.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process and State of South Dakota looks forward to continued interaction on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Hunter Roberts  
Energy Policy Director, State of South Dakota