

FILED
February 1, 2019
INDIANA UTILITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

FINAL
Site Characterization Study
Meadow Lake Wind Farm VII
Jasper and White Counties, Indiana

May 2017

Prepared for:

EDP Renewables North America, LLC
808 Travis Street, Suite 700
Houston, TX 77002



Prepared by:

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, INC.
33 West Monroe Street, Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Executive Summary

Ecology and Environment, Inc., was contracted by EDP Renewables North America to conduct a Site Characterization Study for the Meadow Lake Wind Farm VII. The Site Characterization Study was conducted in accordance with Tier 2 (site characterization) outlined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines* (USFWS 2012). Ecology and Environment, Inc., reviewed land use and biological resources within the Meadow Lake Wind Farm VII project area, and a 2-mile buffer of the project boundary (collectively, the Evaluation Area). The proposed Meadow Lake Wind Farm VII is located in Jasper and White counties, Indiana, and encompasses 66,558 acres (104 square miles) within the Evaluation Area.

Desktop review methodology included accessing publicly available geographic information system datasets and summarizing the findings for each subject within the geographic limits of the Evaluation Area. Information obtained from publicly available government websites and a site reconnaissance visit was used to supplement the geographic information system data.

No issues that would restrict project development, construction, or operation were identified during the development of the Site Characterization Study. There are federal and state threatened and endangered species that have the potential to occur within or in proximity to the Meadow Lake Wind Farm VII, and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be warranted to understand concerns regarding the potential impacts on these species. Species of potential concern include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The proximity to protected areas of high and diverse migrant and breeding bird concentrations is also a potential concern. The presence of two properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Evaluation Area may also warrant discussion with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

The information presented in this report may be used for planning purposes in project development. Prior to project development, it is advisable that the information in this report be verified through more comprehensive on-site investigations (i.e., Tier 3 [field studies and impact prediction] of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' *Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines*; USFWS 2012) to ensure compliance with all applicable local, state, or federal permit authorities.