

American Wind Wildlife Information Center

Reducing Risk Through Data

The American Wind Wildlife Information Center (AWWIC) is a first-of-its kind initiative to expand the analysis of wind-wildlife data to provide actionable insights that benefit not only future wind energy operations, but also the future of wildlife conservation.

THE CHALLENGE: IMPROVE RISK ANALYSIS, REDUCE COSTS

Improved understanding of wind energy's impacts on wildlife is a priority if we are to advance wind energy development while protecting wildlife and habitat.

For more than 20 years, wind energy companies have undertaken numerous studies to assess risk and impacts to wildlife from wind energy projects. Some of the data are publicly available, but other data remain confidential and are privately owned.



Credit:Pattern Energy

THE APPROACH: LEVERAGE DATA THROUGH COLLABORATION

AWWIC expands the availability of wind-wildlife data and information for scientific analysis by working with industry collaborators to develop a private post-construction fatality database. The AWWIC database contains data from over 150 projects and over 230 post-construction studies.

AWWIC:

- Collects and organizes existing data
- Improves risk assessment
- Increases cost-effectiveness of project siting studies
- Creates a model for data sharing & analysis conclusions.

THE RESULTS: REDUCED UNCERTAINTY, MORE EFFICIENT PERMITTING AND OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES, AND IMPROVED CONSERVATION

Credibility: Empirical data can lead to policy changes

Reduce Costs: Targeted data collection; Reduced monitoring where risks are low; Focused minimization and mitigation efforts

New Insights: Tools to learn from data in new ways

Analysis of AWWIC data is underway to identify regional variation in collision risk to birds and bats to inform project risk assessments. Upcoming reports can be used to:

- Guide recommendations on what species should be focus the of project siting studies
- Determine which habitat characteristics should be assessed to best predict impact for different regions of the U.S.
- Inform how much post-construction monitoring is needed to confirm impact predictions