

FOR INFORMATION

FAS 1921



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
INTERDEPARTMENT RADIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Washington, D.C. 20230

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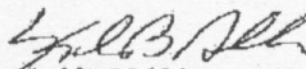
To: Chairman, FAS

Subject: Review of Proposed Wind Mill Sites

In 2005, representatives of the wind energy development community approached NTIA and briefed the IRAC concerning their interest in ensuring that installation of wind mills as alternative energy sources did not block federal radiocommunications links. These entities must get over many hurdles to develop these sites and they have voluntarily approached NTIA to avoid conflicts. At this point, they have no legal requirement to coordinate these sites for spectrum purposes, which they do have legal requirements with regard to the FAA as a flight obstacle, for example. Therefore, for approximately fifteen months these entities have been sending their proposals, approximately ten per month and usually in the form of lat/longs representing the area of potential siting, to NTIA and we have been forwarding them to the IRAC with a month to provide any comments. At the end of that month, I have sent each wind mill proponent a response indicating any agencies that believe that the proposed could present a problem. At that point, it is up to them to contact the specific agency to discuss the concerns. In every case where an IRAC representative raised a concern, direct discussion resolved those concerns.

The IRAC representatives have noted that to check for possible impact they have been seeking support from their FAS representatives. Therefore, they have requested that the information be sent directly to their FAS representatives and the review handled in the FAS. In order to keep the process as simple and informal as possible and to avoid altering the input and output processes, I intend to proceed in the following manner. Having received them from the proponents, I will forward the proposals to the FAS list serve and assign a response date. The FAS representatives should forward their response by email to Ms. Carolyn Washington (cwashington@ntia.doc.gov). She will identify any concerns raised by the agencies and prepare the output letters. Using this method, the requests will not be entered in to the FAS record. However, we will provide a quarterly table to the FAS with the record of items reviewed.

I plan to take this approach with incoming requests starting on December 1, 2006. Please provide this notice to the FAS so that they can be prepared. If you have any questions please let me know.


Karl B. Nebbia
Chairman