

The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act require local governments to evaluate, by consulting with the IDNR, whether actions they authorize, fund or perform will jeopardize threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their habitat, or adversely modify a natural area on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. If an impact is likely, IDNR recommends steps to minimize or avoid the impact.

Specific Concerns for This Project

- T&E species – Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, loggerhead shrike, upland sandpiper, barn owl
- Bald eagles (nests reported in area) and hawks
- Non-listed bats – all species, and especially hoary, silver-haired, eastern red, little brown

Specific Concerns for This Project

- Steep downward bat population trends in Illinois:
 - “In 2016–2018, scientists netted 18 Indiana bats, zero northern long-eared bats, and only 3 captures of little brown bats. In 2019, (as of September 9) scientists have caught only 1 northern long-eared bat, the first capture in several years... All three species are highly susceptible to white-nose syndrome... Wind turbines are another threat to bats... as bats migrate they may become attracted to the turbines... and the number of bat deaths are high.” (Illinois Prairie Research Institute blog, <https://blogs.illinois.edu/view/74471802636>) describing recent monitoring results of the Illinois Bat Conservation Program)

Figure 1. Nightly activity levels (number of call files identified by Kaleidoscope auto-identification software number of survey nights) for the Indiana bat as recorded by the Illinois Bat Conservation Program in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

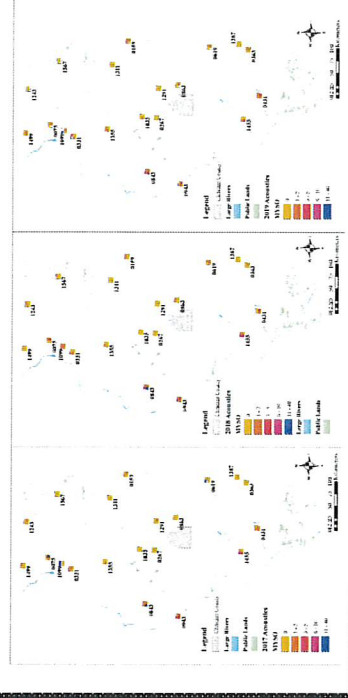
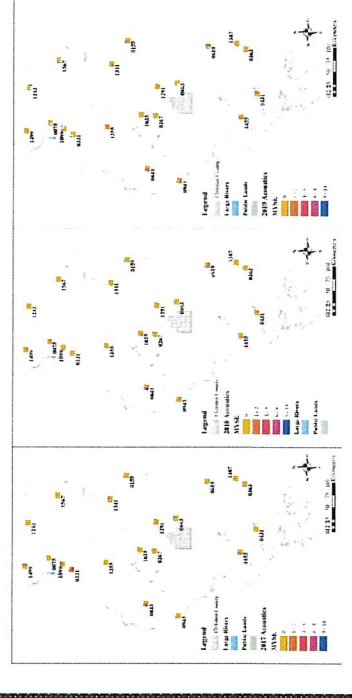


Figure 2. Nightly activity levels (number of call files identified by Kaleidoscope auto-identification software number of survey nights) for the northern long-eared bat as recorded by the Illinois Bat Conservation Program in 2017, 2018 and 2019.



Mitigation Measures

- 1) Avoid high risk sites/construction during planning
- 2) Employ minimization measures during operations
- 3) Compensate for unforeseen or unavoidable impacts through biological offsets
- Examples:
 - Lower wind turbine height
 - Curtailing operations - Evidence of lower bat mortality when blades are feathered, automatic detection and shut off systems.

Ordinance No. 02008 ZN 004 Section IX is inadequate as currently written to properly address widely recognized wildlife issues associated with utility-scale wind energy facilities.

Amend Ordinance No. 02008 ZN 004 Section IX to include birds, bats and other wildlife, mandate pre- and post construction studies and an environmental assessment to determine potential impacts to wildlife focusing on individual wind turbines and individual species-at-risk, include provision for measures to mitigate wildlife mortality.

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Thank You

