Wildlife Response & Reporting System (WRRS) Summary for Wind Operations

The purpose of the Wildlife Response & Reporting System (WRRS) is to standardize the actions taken by NextEra Energy Resources in response to any wildlife fatalities and/or injuries found within the wind plant boundaries.

Wildlife inspections occur as part of the scheduled maintenance of the wind turbine called the Inspection of Watch (IOW). During the IOW, wind personnel will make 3 radial transits at 30', 90' and 150' from the base of the turbine. If no discoveries are made, the wind technicians will continue with the IOW. If discoveries are made, the Wildlife Incident Report form is completed, and submitted along with photographs, to the PGD Environmental team.

All wildlife injuries or fatalities found within wind-plant boundaries, regardless of cause of death, are reported immediately to the on duty Wind Site Manager, or designee who completes the incident report and submits to the PGD Environmental Wind Fleet Wildlife Program Manager. If further actions are required, based on the species and the circumstances surrounding the incident, PGD Environmental will work with site personnel to make the appropriate notifications.

To keep current with the WRRS process, wind site personnel receive annual training.

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Make safety a reality and don't be a fatality.

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Annual Training

Revised: March 2016

Annual Training

- Wildlife Fatalities & Injuries
- Inspections of Watch (IOW)
- Incident Reporting
- Notifications
 - Internal / External
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Species Identification tools
- Non-avian Carcasses



Wildlife Fatalities & Injuries

- Any wildlife injury or fatality found within wind-plant boundaries, regardless of cause of death, should be reported immediately.
- In addition to any complete or partial carcasses, any portion of a bird, bat or other animal, including individual feathers and/or bones, are all considered reportable wildlife fatalities.
- All wildlife species shall be reported.



Wildlife Fatalities & Injuries

- The majority of injured birds will have a broken wing. A broken wing will usually hang down oddly or blow in the wind. An injured bird will most likely be on the ground and unwilling or unable to fly. Raptors (any bird of prey or bird with a hooked beak and sharp talons) will sometimes perch on the ground and raptors will sometimes walk on the ground, but not often. If a bird is seen walking or perched on the ground, approach it slowly to see if it will fly away, if it runs away, refusing to fly, it is most likely injured.
- Injured animals are dangerous. PGD prohibits personnel from getting too close or touching any wildlife without prior regulatory or PGD approval. This practice is enforced to avoid potential injury to self and to wildlife. Prior to completing any inspection related tasks or the collection of information needed for a report, conduct a risk assessment to define potential.



Inspections

- The Wildlife Response and Reporting Program relies solely on site personnel to find and report birds, bats and other animals.
- Inspections must be conducted in accordance with safety in mind and in accordance with individual landowner lease/easement agreements.
- Inspections consist of three "Inspection Circles":
 - Begin at the base of the turbine, walk away from the turbine 30 feet and complete one full Inspection Circle keeping 30 feet from the turbine.
 - To complete the second circle walk out another 60 feet, and complete another Inspection Circle; keeping 90 feet away from the turbine.
 - To complete the third and final circle, walk out another 60 feet and complete another Inspection Circle keeping 150 feet from the turbine.

Inspections are completed as part of the Inspection of Watch (IOW).



Incident Reporting

- PGD Environmental has developed a new SharePoint reporting tool for entering wildlife incident reports. This online method replaces the "hardcopy" incident reporting form previously in use.
- Wildlife Incident Report can be accessed via PGD Application page, under Common Applications:
 - Wildlife Response & Reporting System
- Once the entry is saved, PGD Environmental receives a notification of the new report. A review will be made to ensure accuracy, and if necessary, begin the notification process.









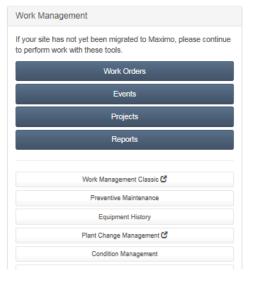


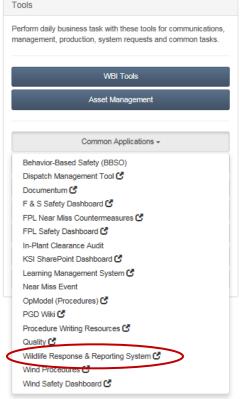
Our Values

We Are Committed to Excellence
We Do the Right Thing
We Treat People with Respect



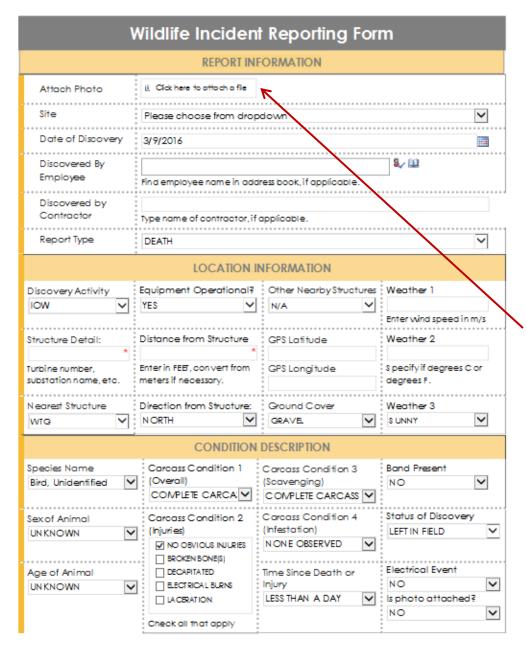
My Work
Display any work from applications that you work on.
My Work
My Plant
Commonly-Used Links





Common Applications is where you will find the link to the WRRS Incident Reporting Form.



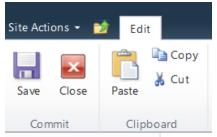


Answer all the fields to complete the form. Fields with a red asterisk * are required. You will not be able to save otherwise.

In addition, photos are required to complete the report. You can add multiple photos, but they must be uploaded individually.



When finished, select "save" in the upper left corner of the page.





Notifications

- All wildlife discoveries at NextEra Energy wind sites must be reported internally via the Wildlife Incident Report on SharePoint.
- In some cases, notification to Federal or State agencies may be required, if a discovery of an injured or dead Eagle, or Threatened or Endangered Species is made.
- If it is determined that notification is necessary, contact PGD Environmental to discuss the discovery in detail. This discussion will also cover who will make notifications for external and internal groups.

If you are unsure of the species, but have concerns, contact PGD Environmental immediately.



Threatened & Endangered Species

- The United State Fish & Wildlife Service has compiled a list of species that are considered to be threatened or endangered.
 - The "endangered" classification provided to an animal or plant in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
 - The term "threatened" means any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, as defined in the Endangered Species Act.
 - "Species of concern" is an informal term that refers to those species which might be in need of concentrated conservation actions. Species of concern receive no legal protection and the use of the term does not necessarily mean that the species will eventually be proposed for listing as a threatened or endangered species.



Threatened & Endangered Species

- In addition to the United State Fish & Wildlife Service, each state's wildlife agency has developed a threatened & endangered list that is specific to the individual state.
- Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, even if they are not listed on the federal or State T/E list.
- Federal & State Threatened & Endangered Species lists, as well as species profile sheets have been archived on the Wind Operations/Environmental Tactical Team SharePoint page.

Wind site personnel should have general knowledge of the T/E species that may be found within their wind site geography.



Species Profiles

Black-capped Vireo (Vireo atricapilla)



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Small vireo, olive-green upperparts, black hood, white spectacles interrupted with black above the eye, white underparts with olive-yellow flanks. Wings are dark with two pale bars. Iris is red-brown to red. It has been listed as an endangered species since 1987.

HABITAT & RANGE

This species has a limited range, breeding from central Oklahoma through central Texas and south into northern Mexico. It spends winters in southwestern Mexico along the Pacific coast. Its preferred habitats include rangelands with scattered clumps of shrubs separated by open grasslands.



There are also a number of online resources for identifying avian species.



Non-Avian Carcasses

- Non-avian carcasses (large or small mammals) present at a wind site may attract avian scavengers to the site to feed. Avian scavenger species may include crows, ravens, vultures, or eagles.
- A large mammal is defined as a partial or entire livestock or game animal carcass. These include, but are not limited to, sheep, cows, horses, elk, and deer.
- A small mammal is defined as a small to medium sized animal, including, but not limited to, rabbits, dogs, foxes, coyotes, and prairie dogs.
- In some cases, an unusual gathering of avian scavengers may be discovered instead of a carcass. Some examples of unusual bird activity that might represent a gathering of scavengers on a carcass could be:
 - 1. Groups of eagles or vultures circling in a focused area
 - 2. Groups of crows or ravens congregating in a specific area
 - 3. Eagles, crows, ravens, or vultures seen perching in high numbers



Non-Avian Carcasses

- Animal carcasses need to be addressed immediately, so that steps can be taken to remove them before avian scavengers are attracted to the site.
- Immediately report carcasses to the Site Manager. PGD Environmental should be notified to discuss removal strategy. PGD Environmental may suggest notification to the State Wildlife agency to communicate the risk to the site.
- In addition, the landowner should be contacted to remove the carcass.
- In some cases, local law enforcement should be contacted to file an illegal dumping report.

it is imperative that carcasses are reported immediately, so that steps can be taken to remove them before avian scavengers are attracted.

