

*Form Numbers:* HUD-27300, HUD-2880, HUD-96010, HUD-92041, HUD-2991.

*Description of the Need for the Information and Its Proposed*

Pre-established communities, called Continuums of Care (CoC), will complete the Exhibit 1 of the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance

application which collects data about the CoC's strategic planning activities, performance, homeless populations, and data collection methods. This information will be scored using the rating factors listed in the NOFA to determine CoC rank and level of new and renewal funding. State and local governments, public housing authorities

and nonprofit organizations will concurrently submit project proposals electronically. The information will be used for grantee selection and monitoring the administration of funds. Response to this request for information is required in order to receive the benefits to be derived.

	Number of respondents	Annual responses	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
Reporting Burden .....	10,510	2.178		8.070		184,812

*Total Estimated Burden Hours:*  
184,812.

*Status:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

**Authority:** Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: July 25, 2012.

**Colette Pollard,**

*Department Reports Management Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2012-18527 Filed 7-30-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-67-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R5-ES-2012-0032;  
FXES111505000000Z-123-FF05E00000]

#### **Draft Environmental Assessment, Habitat Conservation Plan, and Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Indiana Bat, Criterion Power Partners, LLC**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability, receipt of  
application.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from Criterion Power Partners, LLC (CPP) for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). We are considering issuing a 21-year permit to the applicant that would authorize take of the federally endangered Indiana bat incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a 28-turbine wind farm. Pursuant to the ESA and the National Environmental Policy Act, we announce the availability of CPP's incidental take permit application and draft habitat conservation plan, as well as the Service's draft environmental assessment (EA), for public review and

comment. We provide this notice to seek comments from the public and Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments.

**DATES:** We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before October 1, 2012. Comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see **ADDRESSES** section, below) must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted electronically via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or by hard copy to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R5-ES-2012-0032; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM; Arlington, VA 22203. The docket number for this notice is FWS-R5-ES-2012-0032.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Slacum, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, 177 Admiral Cochrane Drive, Annapolis, MD, (410) 573-4595.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We received an application from CPP for an incidental take permit to take the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) over 21 years during operations, maintenance, and decommissioning activities related to CPP's 28-turbine wind farm. A conservation program to minimize and mitigate for the impacts of the incidental take would be implemented by CPP as described in the draft Criterion Wind Indiana Bat Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.; NEPA), we prepared a draft EA that describes the proposed action and possible alternatives and analyzes the effects of alternatives on the human environment. The Service will evaluate whether the proposed action, issuance of an incidental take permit to CPP, and

analyses in this draft EA are adequate to support a Finding of No Significant Impact.

#### **Availability of Documents**

You may obtain copies of the proposed HCP and draft EA on the internet at the Chesapeake Bay Field Office's Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/> or at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket Number FWS-R5-ES-2012-0032. Copies of the proposed HCP and draft EA will also be available for public review during regular business hours at the Chesapeake Bay Field Office, 177 Admiral Cochrane Drive, Annapolis, MD. Those who do not have access to the internet or cannot visit our office can request copies by telephone at (410) 573-4599, or by letter to the Chesapeake Bay Field Office.

#### **Background**

Section 9 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and its implementing regulations prohibit the "take" of animal species listed as endangered or threatened. Take is defined under the ESA as to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed animal species, or to attempt to engage in such conduct" (16 U.S.C. 1538). However, under section 10(a) of the ESA, we may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed species. "Incidental take" is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species, respectively, are found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 50 CFR 17.22 and 50 CFR 17.32.

CPP is seeking a permit for the incidental take of Indiana bat for a term of 21 years. Incidental take of this species may occur due to operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of 28 wind turbines. The proposed conservation strategy in the applicant's proposed HCP is designed to avoid,

minimize, and mitigate the impacts of covered activities on the covered species. The biological goals and objectives are to minimize potential take of Indiana bats through onsite minimization measures and to provide habitat conservation measures for Indiana bats to offset any unavoidable impacts to the species during operations of the project.

The HCP provides onsite avoidance and minimization measures, which include turbine operational adjustments, project maintenance procedures, and decommissioning measures. The estimated level of Indiana bat take from the project is 14 Indiana bats over the 21-year project duration. In order to provide maximum conservation benefit to the Indiana bat, CPP will provide funding for an offsite Indiana bat habitat conservation project designed to mitigate the impacts of the incidental take of Indiana bat. CPP intends to provide funding for implementation of a hibernacula acquisition or gating project within the Appalachian Mountain Recovery Unit.

The proposed action consists of the issuance of an incidental take permit and implementation of the proposed HCP. CPP considered two alternatives to the proposed action in its HCP: No action (i.e., operation of the project without an incidental take permit and without onsite or offsite avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of Indiana bat impacts); and operation of the project with an incidental take permit with complete onsite operational curtailment to avoid or minimize Indiana bat impacts only, and no offsite recovery-plan-based mitigation measures. CPP has also negotiated a draft implementation agreement (IA) with the Service that ensures proper implementation of each of the terms and conditions of the HCP and describes the applicable remedies and recourse should any party fail to perform its obligations, responsibilities, and tasks, as set forth in the agreement. The draft IA is being included with the proposed HCP for public review.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

In compliance with the NEPA, we analyzed the impacts of implementing the HCP, issuance of the permit, and a reasonable range of alternatives. Based on this analysis and any new information resulting from public comment on the proposed action, we will determine if there are any significant impacts or effects caused by issuing the incidental take permit. We have prepared a draft EA on this proposed action and have made it available for public inspection online or

in person at the Chesapeake Bay Field Office (see Availability of Documents).

NEPA requires that a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action be described. The draft EA analyzes four alternatives that were derived from discussions with CPP during the development of the HCP. We evaluated a no action alternative (do not issue a permit, status quo), the proposed action (issue the permit and implement the HCP), a full minimization alternative (no need for a permit), and a reduced permit duration alternative.

#### Next Steps

We will evaluate the plan and comments we receive to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We will also evaluate whether issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit would comply with section 7 of the ESA by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, in our final analysis to determine whether to issue a permit. If the requirements are met, we will issue the permit to the applicant.

#### Public Comments

The Service invites the public to comment on the proposed HCP and draft EA during a 60-day public comment period (see **DATES**). You may submit written comments by one of the following methods:

**Electronically:** Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS-R5-ES-2012-0032, which is the docket number for this notice. Then, on the left side of the screen, under the Document Type heading, click on the Notices link to locate this document and submit a comment.

**By hard copy:** Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R5-ES-2012-0032; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.

We will post all public comments and information received electronically or via hardcopy on <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—will be

publicly available. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

#### Authority

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: July 12, 2012.

**Deborah Rocque,**

*Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region.*

[FR Doc. 2012-18633 Filed 7-30-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-ES-2012-N174;  
FXES11130100000F5-123-FF01E00000]

### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Permit Application

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following application for a recovery permit to conduct enhancement of survival activities with endangered species. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), prohibits certain activities with endangered species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The Act also requires that we invite public comment before issuing such permits.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by August 30, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Endangered Species Program Manager, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4181. Please refer to the permit number for the application when submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Colleen Henson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address or by telephone (503-231-6131) or fax (503-231-6243).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits certain activities with endangered and threatened species