

Fowler Ridge Wind Farm, Benton County, IN. The applicant proposes to monitor the nocturnal behavior of bats in and around turbines utilizing an experimental design to determine susceptibility of bats to turbine mortality at varying wind speeds and operating protocols. The study is proposed to further understand bat interactions with turbines at multiple spatial and temporal scales and to determine the best combination of methods for detecting and observing interactions. Proposed activities are for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

*Permit Application Number:*  
TE74589A.

*Applicant:* Vesper Environmental, LLC, Hurley, NY.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) Indiana bats in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Vermont, Maryland, and Massachusetts. Proposed activities are for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

*Permit Application Number:*  
TE74592A.

*Applicant:* R. Jeffrey Brown, Mason, OH.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) Indiana bats, gray bats, Virginia big-eared bats, and Ozark big-eared bats throughout the range of the species. Proposed activities are for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

#### Public Comments

We seek public review and comments on these permit applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Comments and materials we receive are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section. 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—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: May 10, 2012.

**Robert Krska,**

*Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Midwest Region.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R7-R-2012-N084; FF07R06000 FXRS1265070000Z2]

#### Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Soldotna, AK; Environmental Impact Statement for the Shadura Natural Gas Development Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application for a proposed right-of-way within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). We received the application from Nordaq Energy, Inc. for the Shadura Natural Gas Development Project (Project), which would involve construction and operation of facilities associated with the exploration and production of natural gas from the subsurface estate within the Refuge. We intend to gather information necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementation regulations for the application. We are publishing this notice in compliance with NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS.

**DATES:** *Meetings:* We will locally announce any future meeting dates, times, and locations, at least 10 days prior to each meeting.

*Comments:* Please provide any written comments, information, or suggestions on the scope of issues to address in the EIS by June 18, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Additional information concerning the Project can be found at:

- <http://kenai.fws.gov/current.htm>
- <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/nepa.htm>

Refuge information may be found at:

- <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=74525>.

Send your comments or requests for information by any of the following methods to:

- *Email:*  
[fw7\\_kenai\\_planning@fws.gov](mailto:fw7_kenai_planning@fws.gov);
- *Fax:* Attn: Peter Wikoff, (907) 786-3976;

- U.S. Mail: Peter Wikoff, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Rd., MS-231, Anchorage, AK 99503.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Wikoff, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at (907) 786-3357, or at the address above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We have received an application for, and intend to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for, a proposed right-of-way within the Refuge. The right-of-way would be in compliance with Section 1110(b) of ANILCA, regarding access to inholdings, for the construction and operation of facilities associated with the exploration and production of natural gas from the subsurface estate within the Refuge. The Service owns the surface estate, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) owns the subsurface estate of coal, oil, and gas in the project area. The Project would be in the northwestern portion of the Kenai Peninsula, approximately 4 miles southeast of the end of the road in Captain Cook State Recreation Area in T8N, R10W. The application is being made by NordAq Energy, Inc., the holder of the lease from CIRI for the area.

This notice advises the public that we have started preliminary scoping and intend to gather information necessary to develop an EIS. A third-party contractor will prepare the EIS and evaluate the various alternatives associated with the Project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.; NEPA) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500 et seq.). The EIS will describe and evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives and the anticipated impacts of each. We are publishing this notice in compliance with the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS.

#### Public Input and Meetings

Special mailings, newspaper advertisements, and other media announcements will inform the public of opportunities to provide written input throughout the planning process. Public meetings were held on March 20, 2012, in Kenai, Alaska, and on March 22, 2012, in Anchorage. In local media, we will announce additional public meetings to be held in the cities of Kenai and Anchorage. Information pertaining to the right-of-way application for the project is available for viewing and downloading at <http://kenai.fws.gov/current.htm> or <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/nepa.htm>.

#### Refuge Information

The Refuge covers approximately two million acres on the Kenai Peninsula in

south-central Alaska. It is readily accessible by road from the city of Anchorage, which is home to 41.5 percent of Alaska's population. The Refuge consists of the western slopes of the Kenai Mountains and forested lowlands bordering Cook Inlet. The Kenai Mountains, with their glaciers, rise to more than 6,500 feet. Treeless alpine and subalpine habitats are home to mountain goats, Dall sheep, caribou, wolverine, marmots, and ptarmigan. Boreal forests extend from sea level to 1,800 feet and are composed of spruce and birch forests, which on the Refuge are intermingled with hundreds of lakes. Boreal forests are home to moose, wolves, black and brown bears, lynx, snowshoe hares, and numerous species of Neotropical birds, such as olive-sided flycatchers, myrtle warblers, and ruby crowned kinglets. At sea level, the Refuge encompasses the last remaining pristine major saltwater estuary on the Kenai Peninsula, the Chickaloon River Flats. The Flats provide a major migratory staging area and nesting habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl throughout the spring, summer, and fall. The Flats are also used as a haul-out area by harbor seals. Thousands of salmon migrate up the Chickaloon River system each year to spawn.

While the Service owns the land surface within the Refuge, portions of the subsurface estate have been transferred to CIRI. CIRI was established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA; 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.). Under authority of ANCSA, Congress granted CIRI the subsurface oil, gas, and coal estate to nearly 200,000 acres within the Refuge. The State of Alaska also owns lands adjacent to the Refuge (Captain Cook State Recreation Area). ANILCA Section 1110 (b) requires that the Service provide for reasonable access to the subsurface estate. CIRI has previously leased other portions of its subsurface estate within the Refuge. Oil and gas are currently being produced from other production units within the Refuge.

The Alaska National Interests Land Conservation Act of 1980 (Section 303[4]) established the Refuge from the Kenai Moose Range and other lands and set forth the following major purposes for which the Refuge was to be managed:

(i) To conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity, including, but not limited to, moose, bear, mountain goats, Dall sheep, wolves, and other furbearers; salmonoids and other fish; waterfowl and other migratory and nonmigratory birds;

(ii) To fulfill the international treaty obligations of the United States with respect to fish and wildlife and their habitats;

(iii) To ensure, to the maximum extent practicable and in a manner consistent with the purposes set forth in paragraph (i), water quality and necessary water quantity within the Refuge;

(iv) To provide in a manner consistent with subparagraphs (i) and (ii), opportunities for scientific research, interpretation, environmental education, and land management training; and

(v) To provide, in a manner compatible with these purposes, opportunities for fish and wildlife-oriented recreation.

#### Public Availability of Comments

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—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold it from public view, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so.

Dated: May 11, 2012.

**Geoffrey L. Haskett,**

*Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R9-EA-2012-N115; FF09X60000-FVWF979209000005D-XXX]

#### Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a public meeting of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council). A Federal advisory committee, the Council was created in part to foster partnerships to enhance public awareness of the importance of aquatic resources and the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing and boating in the United States. This meeting is open to the public, and interested persons may make oral statements to the Council or may file written statements for consideration.

**DATES:** The meeting will take place Tuesday, June 5, 2012; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, June 6, 2012; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Eastern daylight time). For deadlines and directions on registering to attend the meeting, submitting written material, and/or giving an oral presentation, please see "Public Input" under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in the North Penthouse of the Department of the Interior building at 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Douglas Hobbs, Council Coordinator, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mailstop 3103-AEA, Arlington, VA 22203; telephone (703) 358-2336; fax (703) 358-2548; or email [doug\\_hobbs@fws.gov](mailto:doug_hobbs@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., we announce that the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council will hold a meeting.

#### Background

The Council was formed in January 1993 to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the Service, on nationally significant recreational fishing, boating, and aquatic resource conservation issues. The Council represents the interests of the public and private sectors of the sport fishing, boating, and conservation communities and is organized to enhance partnerships among industry, constituency groups, and government. The 18-member Council, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, includes the Service Director and the president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, who both serve in ex officio capacities. Other Council members are directors from State agencies responsible for managing recreational fish and wildlife resources and individuals who represent the interests of saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing, recreational boating, the recreational fishing and boating industries, recreational fisheries resource conservation, Native American tribes, aquatic resource outreach and education, and tourism. Background information on the Council is available at <http://www.fws.gov/sfbpc>.

#### Meeting Agenda

The Council will hold a meeting to consider:

- Issues for inclusion in the Council Strategic Work Plan for the 2012-2014 term.