Stateline 3
Wildlife Monitoring Report
For the 2010 Study Year

Prepared for:

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1.0 BACKGROUND

FPL Energy, Vansycle LLC owns and operates the Stateline Wind Project 1 and 2 and FPL Energy Stateline II ("Stateline 3") owns and operates Stateline 3. Stateline Wind Project (SWP) is located on the border of Oregon and Washington in Umatilla County, Oregon, and Walla Walla County, Washington. The most recent phase, Stateline 3 (all in Oregon) was permitted by the State of Oregon (amendment #4 of the Stateline Site Certificate) and was constructed from mid to late 2009. It consists of 43 wind turbines installed on privately-owned land east of Stateline 1 and 2 and Vansycle I. The operating Combine Hills Phase I and II are near Stateline 3 and Vansycle I. Numerous maps and project permitting documents can be found on the Oregon Department of Energy's web site and at the Umatilla County Planning Department in Pendleton, Oregon.

As part of the permit requirements for the project, FPLE has been implementing several permit conditions. Monitoring requirements for wildlife fatalities and raptor nest use and other wildlife are described in the Permit Condition 93 and detailed in the "Stateline Wind Project Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan", dated November 20, 2009 (WMMP). The monitoring objectives are to determine whether the facility causes significant fatalities of birds and bats and to determine whether the facility results in a loss of habitat quality. Considerable monitoring has occurred for Stateline 1 and 2; Stateline 3 monitoring will occur over a two-year period, 2010–2011. In 2010, burrowing owl and other raptor nest surveys occurred and is the subject of this summary report. In the WMMP they are referred to as "Raptor nesting surveys" (item 3, page A-1) and "Burrowing owl surveys" (item 4, page A-2). No wildlife impact analysis is included at this stage of the monitoring study. Avian and bat fatality monitoring is scheduled to occur in 2011.

Northwest Wildlife Consultants, Inc (NWC), based in Pendleton Oregon was selected to conduct the study. NWC has been involved in wind power wildlife studies in the area since 1994. The same wildlife biologist that conducted many of the studies since the mid-a990's also managed the 2010 raptor nest survey and conducted all the burrowing owl surveys.

2.0 OBJECTIVES and METHODS

2.1 Raptor Nesting Surveys

As described in the WMMP "The objectives of raptor nest surveys are to estimate the size of the local breeding populations of tree-nesting raptor species in the vicinity of the facility and to determine whether operation of the facility results in a reduction of nesting activity or nesting success in the local populations of "target raptor species": Swainson's hawk and ferruginous hawk." And specifically for Stateline 3: "For Stateline 3, FPL Stateline shall conduct raptor nest surveys in 2010 during the nesting period (between April and June). FPL Stateline shall conduct an aerial survey within a 1-mile buffer of Stateline 3 turbines to determine nest occupancy by Swainson's hawks and ferruginous hawks. In addition, one known ferruginous hawk nest located more than one mile from Stateline 3 turbines will be surveyed. The certificate holder shall conduct a minimum of one ground survey of Swainson's and ferruginous hawk nests to determine number of young and nesting success.

For 2010, surveys were conducted within one mile of the turbines and one 2008-active ferruginous hawk nest was surveyed (Figure 1). Surveys were conducted on May 11 and 12 during the peak of nesting. The historic ferruginous hawk nest was

checked again on June 5. There were no Swainson's or ferruginous hawk nests found during the aerial survey so no ground-based monitoring occurred in 2010.

All active and inactive but likely "raptor" type nests were recorded. Trees, cliffs and other suitable structure was surveyed. Large sagebrush in Vansycle Canyon was checked for nesting ferruginous hawks because they are known to nest in large-stature sagebrush.

2.2 Burrowing Owl Surveys

As described in the WMMP "The objectives of owl surveys are to estimate the size of the local breeding population of burrowing owls in the vicinity of the facility and to determine whether operation of the facility results in a reduction of nesting activity or nesting success in the local burrowing owl population." And specifically for Stateline 3 "For Stateline 3 facilities, FPL Stateline shall conduct a burrowing owl survey in 2010 for known active or historic burrowing owl nests and any newly discovered nests within 1,000 feet of the Stateline 3 wind turbines. In addition to checking all known historic burrowing owl sites, the certificate holder will search a buffer of 1,000 feet around each site to look for auxiliary burrows, new burrows or other signs of activity. Two burrowing owl nests were found within the project boundary during pre-construction in 2008 and will be checked for activity during the construction monitoring in 2009."

The two 2008 nests were the only known nests to monitor in 2010. Both were checked and an additional 1,000-foot buffer was checked for active dens. Surveys were conducted on two separate days from April through early June, the time period in which nest site use would have been most visible to the surveyor.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Raptor Nesting Surveys

Figure 1 displays the nest survey area, the 2008 ferruginous hawk nest outside of the one-mile survey area, all the recorded nests and Stateline 3. There was one great-horned owl and 6 red-tailed hawk nests found.

3.2 Burrowing Owl Surveys

Figure 1 displays the two burrowing owl nest sites monitored in 2010 and the results (no activity). No sign of prior-season use (pellets, white-wash) was noted either.

4.0 FIGURE 1 *CONFIDENTIAL DATA, not for public distribution*