

**Programmatic Biological Assessment Species Consistency Evaluation Form
Upper Great Plains Region Wind Energy Development Program
Impact Information and Consistency Determination**

American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*)

Project Name: _____

Company: _____

Best Management Practices

- All general BMPs, as stated in the final *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Great Plains Region Wind Energy Program* and table 4.5-1 of the final *Programmatic Biological Assessment for the Upper Great Plains Region Wind Energy Program*, will be implemented where appropriate, during each phase of the project (i.e., site characterization, construction, operations, and decommissioning). Although not all-inclusive, several of the more important BMPs for the conservation of this species follow.
- Locate stationary construction equipment (e.g., compressors or generators) as far as practical from nearby sensitive receptors (American burying beetle occupied habitat).
- Projects shall be designed to utilize existing roads and utility corridors to the maximum extent feasible, and to minimize the number and length/size of new roads, laydown areas, and borrow areas.

Species-Specific Avoidance Measures

- Conduct preconstruction evaluations and/or surveys in areas of potential occurrence to identify suitable habitat and areas of occurrence within project boundaries.
- If surveys are warranted, obtain a permit from the USFWS to survey for the beetle within the project boundaries. Contact the local USFWS Ecological Services Field Office for details.
- Do not site turbines, access roads, transmission line towers, or other project facilities in occupied habitat.

Species-Specific Minimization Measures

For projects that encompass occupied habitat or that occur near occupied habitat:

- Avoid using herbicides or pesticides within occupied habitat within the current range of the American burying beetle (refer to current range map within the State). Contact the local USFWS Ecological Services Field office to determine whether activities in the project area are within American burying beetle range or within occupied habitat. Applications should be made by appropriately licensed applicators where required and applied only in accordance with label and application permit directions and stipulations for terrestrial and aquatic applications. Limit pesticide use to non-persistent immobile pesticides.

Impact Information

Project within county with recorded American burying beetles?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Preconstruction evaluations conducted with USFWS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Dates: _____
Parties involved: _____			
Suitable habitat in or near project footprint?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Distance from suitable habitat:	_____ Miles		
Section 10(a)(1)(a) permit or sub-permit obtained from the USFWS for surveys?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Date issued: _____			
Attach copy of permit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Has habitat been surveyed to protocol?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Dates of survey: _____
Result of survey:	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied (species detected)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not occupied (species not detected)	
Map of project footprint and species habitat attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

Effects—Explanation of consistency determination with programmatic effects determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" or "no effect":