

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

Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*)

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 (occupied streams).
- Dispose of excess excavation materials in approved areas to control erosion and minimize leaching of hazardous materials.
- Avoid or minimize disturbance to sensitive biological resources and habitats in areas where testing activities are being conducted. Sensitive habitats may include but are not limited to: unique vegetation communities, aquatic habitats, and roost and nest sites.
- Initiate habitat restoration activities as soon as possible after construction activities are completed. Establish criteria to gauge success of restoration activities and conduct monitoring to evaluate reclamation effectiveness. If initial restoration efforts are not successful, initiate follow-up restoration activities.
- Establish buffer zones around habitats of concern, if site evaluations show that proposed construction activities would pose a significant risk to species of concern.
- Use existing municipal water source for all foundation construction.
- Effective and comprehensive sediment and erosion controls that meet or exceed county, State, and Federal standards should be applied and monitored, with remedial efforts implemented to ensure effectiveness. Practices such as jute netting, silt fences, and check dams should be applied near disturbed areas.
- All onsite refueling should occur in a designated fueling area that includes a temporary berm to limit the spread of any spill.
- Drip pans should be placed under fuel pump and valve mechanisms of any bulk fueling vehicles and during refueling to contain accidental releases.
- Limit pesticide use to non-persistent immobile pesticides. 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.
- Spills should be immediately addressed per the appropriate spill management plan and soil cleanup and soil removal initiated, by personnel trained in spill response. Maintain appropriate cleanup material available for immediate use in areas where potential contaminants are present.
- If extraction of water from nearby surface water sources is necessary, evaluate volume to be extracted to ensure adequate flow is available for fish and apply measures to avoid entraining or impinging biota (must obtain permit from State to withdraw water). Water withdrawal cannot occur from streams within drainages occupied by the Topeka shiner.
- No refueling vehicles and equipment within 100 ft (30.5 m) of the ordinary high water mark or wetland boundary.

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 Topeka shiner 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 or adjacent to aquatic and riparian habitat where the Topeka shiner occurs.
- Do not site turbines, access roads, transmission line towers, or other project facilities in or adjacent to designated critical habitat.

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Species-Specific Minimization Measures

For projects that encompass areas within drainages occupied by the Topeka shiner:

- Avoid broadcast applications of pesticides or herbicides that may be harmful to the Topeka shiner in aquatic 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.
- Install buried utility lines by directionally boring beneath streams, adjacent wetlands, and floodplains, using comprehensive and effective BMPs to ensure excavated materials do not reach the waterway.
- Access roads that cannot avoid crossing known or potentially occupied Topeka shiner streams must completely span the stream and floodplain with a bridge, with no instream work involved.
- Avoid actions that would alter surface water flow of known occupied habitat and potentially occupied habitat.
- Avoid actions that would alter groundwater levels/connections to known or potentially occupied habitat.
- Employ comprehensive and effective BMPs (additional project-specific) during and after construction to prevent erosion and runoff to aquatic habitats.
- Avoid actions that would alter off-channel habitats (e.g., natural wetlands, dugouts, or oxbows in the floodplain).

Impact Information

Project within county with recorded Topeka shiner?	<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 aquatic habitat in or near project footprint?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Distance from suitable habitat:	_____	Miles	
Distance from designated critical 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)	
Project within drainages of occupied habitat?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Species-specific minimization measures employed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
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":