Overview of Bats and Industrial Wind Turbines

Some interesting facts about bats:
- a) bats are prodigious insect eaters as each bat can consume its entire body weight of insects every day,
- b) bats are not only critical to agriculture due to their powerful insect control, but also as pollinators and seed distributors,
- c) bats make up about one fifth of the world’s mammal population,
- d) there are 1200± species of bats worldwide, and 45± species in North America,
- e) the White Nose Syndrome (WNS) only affects about three (3) species of bats,
- f) WNS originated in upstate New York, so its worst effects are in the Northeast,
- g) the fact that WNS has killed high numbers of certain bats, makes the remaining bats much more valuable — not only to agriculture, but to the entire ecosystem,
- h) the wind industry has not been able to come up with any meaningful way to prevent high quantities of bats deaths (other than shutting down the turbines).
- i) Some sample additional sources of bat info: here, here, here and here.

There are numerous studies and reports that have verified: a) the importance of bats, and b) their wholesale killing by wind turbines. These are some examples, recently published in the monthly Energy & Environmental Newsletter:
- The Economic Importance of Bats and the US agricultural loss calculations
- Bats are farmers’ new best friends
- Wind Turbines vs Bats — and the Human Health Consequences
- Bats Worth More Than $1 Billion to Corn Industry
- The Ecological, Economic and Scientific Value of Bats
- Wind farms killing more bats than expected
- Turbine Bat Killings Continue
- Wind Turbines Kill 600,000-900,000 Bats a Year in US (3-5 million a year worldwide)
- Birds, bats, and wind turbines often compete for airspace
- Wind Developers Want Permission To Kill More Bats — A Lot More
- Report: Turbines Could Decimate North America’s Most Widespread Bat Species
- Report: Wind Turbine Ontario Bat Mortality Reports (85 bats killed/turbine/year)
- Report: France: 1.2 to 3.3 million bats destroyed by wind turbines
- Report: Critique of Maple Ridge (NY) Wind Project Bird & Bat Study
- Study: Turbine Effects on Bats Likely Worse Than Thought
- Study: Wind turbines impact bat activity, leading to high losses of habitat use in a biodiversity hotspot
- Study: Factors associated with bat mortality at US wind facilities
- Study: Bird and bat species’ vulnerability to collision mortality from wind turbines
- Study: Strong geographic and temporal patterns in conservation status of N.A. bats
- Study: Wind turbines along mountain ridges might lead to bat conflicts
- Study: Increasing Evidence that Bats Forage near Wind Turbine

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