



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Telecommunications and**  
**Information Administration**  
**Washington, D.C. 20230**

March 24, 2023

Mr. Frank O'Brien  
COMSEARCH  
19700 Janelia Farm Blvd.  
Ashburn, VA 20147

Re: Heritage Prairie Wind Energy Project (Kankakee city): Kankakee, IL

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

In response to your request on January 25, 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration provided to the federal agencies represented in the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) the plans for the Heritage Prairie Wind Energy Project (Kankakee city) located in Kankakee County, Illinois.

After a 45+ day period of review, *one reviewing agency*, Department of Transportation had *concerning issues* with turbine construction in the designated build areas. Their concerns are outlined here:

The Department of Transportation has completed our review of the subject wind farm proposal and found there is a mix of high-speed passenger traffic and freight movements along this corridor and the turbine locations that fall within the one-to-three-mile boundary of these rails may be problematic for train communications in this area and present an undue risk. DOT has highlighted the problematic turbines in the attached spreadsheet. The POC information is: Wanda Covington-Ragsdale, DOT Spectrum Engineering Lead, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R), 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, phone: (202)-366-8422, [w.covingtonragsdale@dot.gov](mailto:w.covingtonragsdale@dot.gov).

Commerce has completed our review of the subject wind farm proposal and found the project area is 52.0 km S of the Chicago, IL NEXRAD. Based upon distance and terrain this project appears to be radar neutral. No further contact with the developer is requested at this time.

While the IRAC agencies did not identify any concerns regarding radio frequency blockage, this does not eliminate the need for the wind energy facilities to meet any other requirements specified by law related to these agencies. For example, this review by the IRAC does not eliminate any need that may exist to coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration concerning flight obstruction.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these proposals.

Sincerely,

John R. McFall  
Deputy Chief, Spectrum Services Division  
Office of Spectrum Management