



Memorandum M56

Date:	July 23, 2010
To:	Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area Scientific Review Committee
Cc:	Concerned Parties & Public
From:	Jesse Schwartz Senior Analyst
Subject:	M56 - APWRA database revisions

The Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area Monitoring Team manages the publicly available database of wind turbine information including a record of turbine searches and turbine-related fatalities associated with monitoring in Alameda County. During November of 2009 the Monitoring Team received revisions and edits to the database from Shawn Smallwood, including revisions to turbine descriptions associated with wind walls. In 2010 the Monitoring Team received another set of revisions from Loan Tran of Nextera Energy, and we received updated hazardous turbine rankings from recent visits and rankings by SRC members.

During June & July of 2010 ICFI worked with Brian Karas from Bio Resource to incorporate these changes. We updated a variety of records from the current study and baseline data set. Corrections to the data included:

- 1) Updating string and turbine numbers for baseline records based on Loan Tran and Shawn Smallwood's review of the coordinates of the fatality and turbines
- 2) Validating and correcting the "incidental" status of fatalities by reviewing data sheets
- 3) Correcting discrepancies between search dates and fatality discovery dates
- 4) Creating a new field called "Search ID" in the fatalities data set, and assigning each fatality to a specific search event

These corrections to the database were necessary in order to produce our recent memo estimating baseline fatalities, and to produce an update of the monitoring report. The revised data has been posted to the public website and is available for dissemination via the data link on altamontsrc.org. The records have been reviewed and are current through September 31, 2009.

There are four links on the data portal that are currently active. The Species list provides a comprehensive list of species codes that are used for fatalities that are discovered or birds that are observed in the Altamont. No changes have been made to this table.

The Fatalities link points to the "AllFatalities" view in the database, which provides a list of each fatality on record along with all of the metadata we utilize when evaluating the monitoring program or estimating fatality rates. A number of new fields have been added for sorting and filtering the data, most of which will be familiar in concept to the SRC and interested parties.

The Searches link points to the Searches table, and the structure of this information has not changed. The string numbers in the searches table have been updated to match the turbines and fatality records. The searches do not include recent search information.

The turbines table includes a current representation of turbine information, with a variety of fields and references that have been added for quality control and efficiency in future analyses. We have updated the hazardous turbine rankings (see fields "HRT2007", "HRT2010", and "HRT20072010Combined") and have corrected all of the string designations that we have been made aware of.

In the near future we will begin to quality control the 2009-2010 fatalities and search data, and begin posting these to the internet. The process of reviewing and correcting the hand-written data forms is time consuming, and has lagged at the expense of the various analyses we have been focused on. In the future we have proposed to move the data management system into a digitized data collection and management. We anticipate this will allow for quarterly or perhaps even monthly review and posting of search and fatality information, and we recognize the utility of these improvements.