

July 18, 2007

Dear SRC:

One significant challenge that you have before you in your participation in the Scientific Review Committee is making decisions in the face of scientific uncertainty. Many of the issues and decisions before you and other scientists striving to identify and measure efforts to reduce avian fatality are neither simple nor obvious given the complexity at Altamont. Regardless, the SRC is charged with reaching outcomes on certain questions that come before it, and the SRC is committed to learning from those outcomes and improving future science and understanding.

FPLE's credit request is before the SRC again this Friday morning. As your facilitator, one of my areas of expertise is to assist you in reaching outcomes while grappling with this uncertainty. To that end, I have prepared a decision-making worksheet to assist you with your thinking process. As part of the worksheet, I have introduced a decision-making tool, called gradients of agreement. I have also included the settlement language and SRC charter excerpts related to consensus. Please consider using this worksheet in preparation for Friday's discussion. Do not hesitate to contact me via phone or email with suggestions or questions about using this tool to reach closure on this issue.

Regards,
Gina Bartlett

Decision-Making Worksheet—FPLE Credit Request

Prepared by Gina Bartlett, Center for Collaborative Policy

The SRC is contemplating a decision on whether to issue a credit for turbines removed after May 2002 in exchange for a settlement provision to removed high risk Tiers 1 & 2 turbines. This worksheet is to assist the SRC in reaching a decision outcome on this matter.

Settlement Language (S1)

5. Turbine removal or relocation.

(a) Wind Power Companies shall shut down Tiers 1 and 2 Applicable Turbines within 30 days of the effective date of this Agreement or, in the event an alternative list of Applicable Turbines is presented to the SRC, as specified in section 5(a) (ii), within 15 days of SRC approval of such list, whichever is later.

- (i) Tiers 1 and 2 Applicable Turbines means those turbines identified as Tiers 1 or 2 per Smallwood-Spiegel June 2005 report Group C ranking, confirmed by WEST...etc.
- (ii) Any time after the execution of this Agreement, each Wind Power Company may submit to Audubon and the SRC a list and description of high risk Applicable Turbines already shut down and ask for credit against this Tier 1 and 2 shutdown requirement. The SRC will grant credit for such Applicable Turbines reasonably determined on a scientific and technical basis to be high risk, provided such Applicable Turbines were shut down on or after May 2002 and the fact that the Applicable Turbines were not listed as Tier 1 or 2 will not prejudice this evaluation.

1) What new information is available?

2) What is known and agreed upon?

3) What information is in dispute?

Granting the Credit

Reasons to Grant the Credit	Reasons to Deny the Credit
e.g. Support the company's proactive action	e.g. Unable to reach 50% target with existing strategies in plan

4) Based on your thinking above and reviewing the proposal, where would you rate yourself on the scale below?

Facilitator Note on the Scale: Working toward consensus is a fundamental principle, defined in the SRC charter. Consensus means that all committee members either fully support or can live with the decision or overall direction. If the SRC is unable to reach consensus, the SRC will forward its recommendation with a full explanation of the area of disagreement to the Planning Director. The Gradients of Agreement scale, presented below, is a way to register degrees of “yes” or “support” and “no” or “disapproval.”

Someone who says “yes” may mean, “This is one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.” But, s/he may also mean, “I’ll go along with this idea, but it doesn’t thrill me.” Similarly, “no” can mean anything from “Hold on, I don’t understand this proposal yet,” to “this offends my deepest values.”¹

The purpose of using this scale is for the SRC members to individually gauge where they stand on this proposal. Essentially, 1-5 means that the member supports the proposal moving forward, i.e. degrees of “yes”. “4, 5 & 6” are degrees of “no.” However, only “6” demonstrates a block or veto of the proposal.

Proposal: The SRC will grant credit for such (FPLE) Applicable Turbines reasonably determined on a scientific and technical basis to be high risk.

Gradients of Agreement					
1	2	3	4	5	6
Endorsement	Endorsement with Minor Point of Contention	Agreement with Reservations	Stand Aside	Formal Disagreement with request to be absolved of responsibility	Block / Veto
<i>I support the proposal</i>	<i>Basically, I support the proposal.</i>	<i>I can live with it</i>	<i>I don't like this, but I don't want to hold up the group</i>	<i>I don't want to stop the proposal, but I don't want to be held responsible for it.</i>	

5) What was your opinion on issuing the credit before receiving the new information? How has your opinion changed since receiving the new information?

¹ Kaner, et al. Facilitator’s Guide to Participatory Decision-Making. Kaner: Oct 2000: p 211

6) What additional information would you like to have to reach a decision on granting the credit?

7) If this new information was available and was “favorable”, how much would it shift your approval on the scale?

8) If this new information was available and was “unfavorable,” how would it shift your approval on the scale?

9) Given this thinking, please reconsider and share where you are on the gradients of agreement

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