

Texas Senate Defense Committee Testimony

18 AUG 2010
Navy Region Southeast N38
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Subject: Potential Energy Infrastructure Impacts on Aviation Readiness

1. Executive Issues:

Wind energy projects have the potential to adversely impact aviation readiness.

- Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) from industrial scale wind turbines (WT) can adversely impact Navy mission to deliver effective and efficient readiness from shore.
- OPNAV N885 Mission Impact Statement - WT can negatively impact ATC radars.
- CNRSE position – Early notice and compatible siting coordination avoid impacts.
- Stakeholders include the public, WT industry, NOAA, FAA and DoD radar operators.
- Provided in response to request for Texas Senate Defense Committee Testimony.

2. Background:

Numerous recognized domestic and international studies detail the negative impacts to aviation and weather radars from incompatibly sited WT. FAA Acting Manager for Air Traffic and System Operations, Sheri Edgett-Baron, recommends WT developers file early notice (8-12 months prior), so the FAA can analyze impacts. “This will give us time to negotiate changes, if necessary. Impacts and proximity to radars is a huge issue.”

3. Discussion:

- Goal is industry and agency coordination on early notice and compatible WT siting.
- Substantial ARRA grant funds (<http://www.ustreas.gov/recovery/1603.shtml>).
- Site specific software analysis at NASK shows high potential for ATC interference.
- Analysis - 24% of NASK instrument training at risk from nearest 75 WT project.
- NASK and City of Kingsville estimate additional 700-900 turbines in planning stages.
- Similar impacts assumed from future development – risk is loss of training readiness.
- MIT/Raytheon studies predict future technical mitigations.
- DoE NASK study near completion – anticipate finding of similar technical solutions.
- DoD Energy Clearing House (CH) may be functional as early as Oct 2010.
- DoD CH will serve as a rapid, single-point clearing house for industry proponents.

4. Recommendation: For information only.

Review potential mechanisms to ensure notice, participation and compatible siting.

Value of Military/Defense presence to Texas

A driving force in Texas' diverse economy, Department of Defense (DoD) military expenditures, including military and DoD civilian payroll, totaled more than \$65.4 billion in 2008, making Texas the number one recipient of DoD expenditures. With historic active installations like Fort Sam Houston, Fort Bliss, Fort Hood, Randolph Air Force Base and Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas is host to the most active duty military personnel in the country and Texas ranks second in DoD civilian workforce.

Texas' Value to National Security

With decades of critical, robust, and illustrious defense history, Texas today is arguably unmatched in true value to our Nation's security. With over 233,593 total DoD employees, Texas expects to see a gain of approximately 8,155 military personnel by 2011 due to BRAC 2005. Most importantly, as a state, Texas continues to lead from the front by fostering a military presence to strategically support national defense enabling national security.

Through organizations such as the Texas Legislature, the Governor's Office, and the Texas Military Preparedness Commission the State has demonstrated strong commitment to America's national security objectives. Specifically, the TMPC champions and continues to support a large and increasing military presence in Texas, promotes Texas' reputation as the most military friendly state in the nation, tirelessly works to preserve test, training and staging areas, focuses on the expansion of defense industries, and provides unmatched quality of life assurances to both active duty and retirees. As a result, the value of Texas to America's national security may not be questioned. Today we see Texas with a superb opportunity to craft proactive, deliberate, and forward looking military compatibility legislation that secures its preeminent role in national security.

Issues of Concern

- 1. Military Compatibility Legislation** - Zoning for unincorporated areas near installations.
- 2. Notification** - Notice re major development or land-use regulations near the installation.
- 3. Participation** - Participation as ex-officio member of local planning entities.
- 4. Real Estate Disclosures** - Notice to purchasers located near a military installation.
- 5. Enforcement** - Compatibility measures require enforcement.