

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Environmental Services, Inc.

9 April 2014

Alfred C. "A.C." Dumauual, Ph.D.
U.S. EPA Region 6
Air Permits Section (6PD-R)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202

Re: **Biological Assessment Addendum**
Golden Spread Electrical Cooperative, Inc.
Antelope Station Expansion, Hale County, Texas
HJN 120128 04 BA

Dear Mr. Dumauual,

At your request this letter serves as an addendum to provide additional information regarding the previously submitted Biological Assessment for the above referenced project. On 27 March 2014, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) released the final listing of the lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The LPC is a medium-sized, grayish brown grouse. Total length 38-41 cm. Sexes appear similar, and exhibit similar plumages throughout year. In adults, most of body is barred with alternating dark (brown) and light (buffy white) bands. Dark bands on upperparts are complex, including black and cinnamon tones; light bands on upperparts range from buff to white. Upperparts are therefore darker and more richly colored than underparts. The chin and throat is largely unmarked while the tail is short, rounded, and brownish black. Male displays bright yellow eye-comb above eye and dull red esophageal "air sacs" on side of neck during courtship. Male also has a tuft of elongated feathers (pinnae) on each side of neck; these are held erect during courtship display. Females have shorter pinnae. Immature individuals are similar to adults, but more richly colored, especially on throat.

Lesser prairie-chickens inhabit mixed grass-dwarf shrub communities that occur on sandy soils; principally the sand sagebrush (*Artemisia filifolia*)-bluestem (*Andropogon* spp.) association in Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma, and to a lesser extent, Texas and New Mexico; and the shinnery oak (*Quercus havardii*)-bluestem association in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. Leks typically occur on knolls or ridges with relatively short and/or sparse. Lesser prairie-chicken leks may be on human-created open areas (e.g., oil well pads, roads, reverted cropland, cultivated fields, and areas treated with herbicides; and recently burned areas (NatureServe. 2014).

120128 Antelope Station BA addendum for LPC

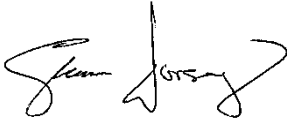
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

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Due to a lack of shinnery oak-bluestem vegetation association within the proposed action area, the LPC is not expected to occur on the site and there will be "no effect" to the LPC by the proposed action. Additionally, the LPC is not known to occur in Hale County, Texas (FWS, 2014).

Should you require any additional information regarding the proposed project to install a gas turbine at Antelope Station, please contact me at (512) 328-2430.

Sincerely
For Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.



Shannon Dorsey
Principal

References

FWS, 2014. US Fish and Wildlife Service Species Profile
<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/countiesByState.action?entityId=2691&state=Texas>. Accessed: 9 April 2014

NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://explorer.natureserve.org>. Accessed: 9 April 2014.