



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Mission Support Services
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20591

NOV 0 2010

Mr. Tom Vinson
Director of Federal Regulatory Affairs
American Wind Energy Association
1501 M St. NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Vinson:

It has come to our attention that the Federal Aviation Administration's position on the use of Audio Visual Warning Systems (AVWS) on wind turbines or wind farms has generated confusion.

The FAA accepts requests from the sponsors for AVWS, as an alternative to conventional lighting systems and will analyze and approve these systems on a case-by-case basis during aeronautical studies conducted under title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 77. The FAA has not extended this approval for the use of AVWS on wind turbines or wind farms.

FAA standards for lighting of wind turbines are based on a study conducted in 2005 of these structures and various lighting scenarios. This study predated the arrival of AVWS and consequently, these systems were not included in the study, nor has the FAA adopted standards for these systems. Therefore, the FAA is unable to approve requests for AVWS to light wind turbines or wind farms.

We have begun our study of these systems and currently are identifying locations for studying AVWS on wind farm applications. We also have efforts underway with the Bureau of Land Management to identify and coordinate additional applications to study. We expect to complete this study and have standards in place by the end of 2011. Advisory Circular No. 70/7460-1K, Obstruction Marking and Lighting will be updated to incorporate the new standards for AVWS.

Sincerely,

Sheri Edgett Baron