

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES  
FOR  
LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS**

**A. Purpose:**

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittee concerning Permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation, and resolution of such complaints.

**B. Scope:**

This document describes Complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

**C. Applicability:**

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittee and all complaints received by the Commission under Minn. Rule 7829.1500 or 7829.1700 relevant to this Permit.

**D. Definitions:**

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the Permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other LWECS and associated facilities site permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions, or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written Complaint alleging a violation of a specific Site Permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in Permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A Complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person(s), remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

**E. Complaint Documentation and Processing:**

~~1. The Permittee shall document all Complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the Complaint, including the following:~~

- ~~a. Name of complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address.~~
    - ~~b. Precise property description or parcel number.~~
    - ~~c. Name of Permittee representative receiving Complaint and date of receipt.~~
    - ~~d. Nature of Complaint and the applicable Site Permit condition(s).~~
    - ~~e. Activities undertaken to resolve the Complaint.~~
    - ~~f. Final disposition of the Complaint.~~
  - ~~2. The Permittee shall designate an individual to summarize Complaints to the Commission. This person's name, phone number and e-mail address shall accompany all complaint submittals.~~
  - ~~3. A Person presenting the Complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:~~
    - ~~a. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.~~
    - ~~b. Date~~
    - ~~c. Tract or parcel~~
    - ~~d. Whether the complaint relates to (1) a Site Permit matter, (2) a LWECS and associated facility issue, or (3) a compliance issue.~~
1. The Permittee shall designate an individual to summarize complaints for the Commission. This person's name, phone number and e-mail address shall accompany all complaint submittals.
  2. A person presenting the Complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
    - a. Name of Complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address;
    - b. Date of Complaint;
    - c. Tract or parcel number; and
    - d. Whether the complaint relates to (1) a Site Permit Matter, (2) an LWECS or associated facility issues, or (3) a compliance issue.
  3. The Permittee shall document all Complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the Complaint, including the following:
    - a. Docket Number and Project Name;
    - b. Name of complainant, address, phone number and e-mail address;
    - c. Precise description or parcel number;
    - d. Name of Permittee representative receiving Complaint and date of receipt;
    - e. Nature of Complaint and the applicable Site Permit condition(s);
    - f. Activities undertaken to resolve the Complaint; and
    - g. Final disposition of the Complaint.

**F. Reporting Requirements:**

The Permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

**Immediate Reports:** All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to ~~Wind Permit Compliance, 1-800-657-3794, or by e-mail to: DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us, or: the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at 1-800-657-3782 or consumer.puc@state.mn.us.~~ Voice messages are acceptable.

**Monthly Reports:** By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be Filed to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the Minnesota Department of Commerce eDocket system (see eFiling instructions attached to this permit).

If no Complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall submit (eFile) a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

Permittee shall commence complaint reporting at the beginning of project construction and continue through the term of the permit

**G. Complaints Received by the Commission or OES EFP:**

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the Permittee site manager and or the Permittee's representative.

**H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints:**

**Initial Screening:** Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved Complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial LWECS Site Permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify Permittee and appropriate person(s) if it determines that the Complaint is a Substantial Complaint. With respect to such Complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten (10) days after receipt of the Staff notification. Staff shall present Briefing Papers to the Commission, which shall resolve the Complaint within twenty days of submission of the Briefing Papers.

**I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints:**

~~**Mailing Address:**~~ Complaints filed by mail shall be sent to the address below:

~~Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC c/o  
Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc.  
11101 W. 120<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 400  
Broomfield, CO 80021~~

~~**Tel:** 303-439-4281~~

~~**Email:** joe.grennan@res-americas.com~~

Permittee will eFile the Project's Complaint Contact information within 14 days of the Order granting a site permit and will include the Project's Complaint Contact information in the mailing to landowners and local governments.

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE  
FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

**1. Purpose**

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission energy facility permits.

**2. Scope and Applicability**

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

**3. Definitions**

Compliance Filing – A sending (filing) of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

**4. Responsibilities**

A) The permittee shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the Department of Commerce (DOC) eDocket system. The system is located on the DOC website:  
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the website. Permittees must register on the website to eFile documents.

A) All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:

- 1) Date
- 2) Name of submitter / permittee
- 3) Type of Permit (Site or Route)
- 4) Project Location
- 5) Project Docket Number
- 6) Permit Section Under Which the Filing is Made
- 7) Short Description of the Filing

B) Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198. Additionally, the Commission may request a paper copy of any eFiled document.

**PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS<sup>1</sup>**

**PERMITTEE:** Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC  
**PERMIT TYPE:** LWECS Site Permit  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** Dodge and Mower County  
**COMMISSION DOCKET NUMBER:** IP-6828/WS-09-1197

**PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING**

<b>Filing Number</b>	<b>Permit Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1</b>	4.7	Native Prairie Protection Plan	<del>Ten-working</del> <u>30 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting, if required	Develop in consultation with Commission and DNR
<b>2</b>	5.1	Site Plan	<del>Ten-working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>3</b>	5.4	Field Representative	<del>Ten-working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>4</b>	5.8	Complaint Reporting Procedures	<del>Ten-working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting and complaint submittals on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of each month or within 24 hours	
<b>5</b>	6.1	Biological & Natural Resource Inventories	<del>Ten-working</del> <u>30 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting	Results may trigger need for a Native Prairie Protection Plan
<b>6</b>	6.2	Shadow Flicker Analysis	<del>Ten-working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>7</b>	6.3	Archaeological Resources	<del>Ten-working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting and as recommended by the State Historic Preservation Office	

<sup>1</sup> This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

**PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS**  
**PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING**

<b>Filing Number</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>8</b>	6.4	Interference	<del>Ten working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>9</b>	6.5	Wake Loss	<del>Ten working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting and may be included with site plan or operation studies if performed	
<b>10</b>	6.7	Avian and Bat Protection Plan	<del>Ten</del> <u>30</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting	Develop in consultation with Commission and DNR
<b>11</b>	7.8	Roads	<del>Ten working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>12</b>	7.11	Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	<del>Ten working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction	
<b>13</b>	7.16	Emergency Response	<del>Ten working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting. Must register in 911 Program	
<b>14</b>	10.1	Wind Rights	<del>Ten working</del> <u>14 calendar</u> days prior to pre-construction meeting	

**PRE-OPERATION COMPLIANCE MEETING**

<b>Filing Number</b>	<b>Permit Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
15	5.7	Pre-operation compliance meeting	<del>Ten working</del> 14 <u>calendar</u> days prior to commercial pre-operation.	
16	6.6	Noise Study Protocol	<del>Ten working</del> 14 <u>calendar</u> days prior to pre-operation meeting.	
17	9.1 & 9.3	Decommissioning Plan	<del>Ten working</del> 14 <u>calendar</u> days prior to <del>commercial</del> pre-operation <u>meeting</u> .	

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Filing Number</b>	<b>Permit Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
18	5.2	Notice to Landowners and Governmental Units	Within <del>10 working</del> 14 <u>calendar</u> days of permit approval <u>to local units of government and within 30 days to landowners.</u>	
19	5.5	Site Manager	<del>Ten working</del> 14 <u>calendar</u> days prior to commercial operation.	<u>Update contact information as necessary.</u>
20	6.6	Noise Study Results	Within 18 months of Commercial Operation, if required.	
21	<del>6.7</del>	<del>Avian and Bat Reporting Requirements</del>	<del>Quarterly Requirements</del>	
	<u>6.7.1</u>	<u>Annual Audit Report of ABPP</u>	<u>By March 15<sup>th</sup> following each complete or partial year of operation</u>	
	<u>6.7.2</u>	<u>Quarterly Incident Reports</u>	<u>By 15<sup>th</sup> January, April, July, and October</u>	
	<u>6.7.3</u>	<u>Immediate Incident Repirt</u>	<u>Within 24 hours of discovery</u>	
22	6.8	Project Energy Production	Due 2/1 each year. <del>or</del> <u>quarterly</u>	

23	6.9	Wind Resource Use	<u>Upon request of the Commission February 1<sup>st</sup> following each partial or complete year of operation</u>	
24	6.10	Extraordinary Events	Within 24 hours and report on occurrence of event within 30 days	
25	8.1	As Built	Within 60 days of completion of construction	
	<u>8.4</u>	<u>Notification of Commercial Operation</u>	<u>At least 3 days prior to commencement of commercial operation</u>	
	<u>10.2</u>	<u>PPA or Enforceable Mechanism</u>	<u>Within two years of permit issuance.</u>	<u>If no PPA or other enforceable mechanism at time of permit issuance</u>
26	10.3	Failure to Start Construction	Within 2 years of permit issuance	

**ATTACHMENT 5**  
**FOLLOWS THIS PAGE**

**Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species of Minnesota**

**Blanding's Turtle**  
*(Emydoidea blandingii)*

Minnesota Status: Threatened  
Federal Status: none

State Rank<sup>1</sup>: S2  
Global Rank<sup>1</sup>: G4

**HABITAT USE**

Blanding's turtles need both wetland and upland habitats to complete their life cycle. The types of wetlands used include ponds, marshes, shrub swamps, bogs, and ditches and streams with slow-moving water. In Minnesota, Blanding's turtles are primarily marsh and pond inhabitants. Calm, shallow water bodies (Type 1-3 wetlands) with mud bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation (e.g., cattails, water lilies) are preferred, and extensive marshes bordering rivers provide excellent habitat. Small temporary wetlands (those that dry up in the late summer or fall) are frequently used in spring and summer -- these fishless pools are amphibian and invertebrate breeding habitat, which provides an important food source for Blanding's turtles. Also, the warmer water of these shallower areas probably aids in the development of eggs within the female turtle. Nesting occurs in open (grassy or brushy) sandy uplands, often some distance from water bodies. Frequently, nesting occurs in traditional nesting grounds on undeveloped land. Blanding's turtles have also been known to nest successfully on residential property (especially in low density housing situations), and to utilize disturbed areas such as farm fields, gardens, under power lines, and road shoulders (especially of dirt roads). Although Blanding's turtles may travel through woodlots during their seasonal movements, shady areas (including forests and lawns with shade trees) are not used for nesting. Wetlands with deeper water are needed in times of drought, and during the winter. Blanding's turtles overwinter in the muddy bottoms of deeper marshes and ponds, or other water bodies where they are protected from freezing.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Individuals emerge from overwintering and begin basking in late March or early April on warm, sunny days. The increase in body temperature which occurs during basking is necessary for egg development within the female turtle. Nesting in Minnesota typically occurs during June, and females are most active in late afternoon and at dusk. Nesting can occur as much as a mile from wetlands. The nest is dug by the female in an open sandy area and 6-15 eggs are laid. The female turtle returns to the marsh within 24 hours of laying eggs. After a development period of approximately two months, hatchlings leave the nest from mid-August through early-October. Nesting females and hatchlings are often at risk of being killed while crossing roads between wetlands and nesting areas. In addition to movements associated with nesting, all ages and both sexes move between wetlands from April through November. These movements peak in June and July and again in September and October as turtles move to and from overwintering sites. In late autumn (typically November), Blanding's turtles bury themselves in the substrate (the mud at the bottom) of deeper wetlands to overwinter.

**IMPACTS / THREATS / CAUSES OF DECLINE**

- loss of wetland habitat through drainage or flooding (converting wetlands into ponds or lakes)
- loss of upland habitat through development or conversion to agriculture
- human disturbance, including collection for the pet trade\* and road kills during seasonal movements
- increase in predator populations (skunks, raccoons, etc.) which prey on nests and young

\*It is illegal to possess this threatened species.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AVOIDING AND MINIMIZING IMPACTS

These recommendations apply to typical construction projects and general land use within Blanding's turtle habitat, and are provided to help local governments, developers, contractors, and homeowners minimize or avoid detrimental impacts to Blanding's turtle populations. **List 1** describes minimum measures which we recommend to prevent harm to Blanding's turtles during construction or other work within Blanding's turtle habitat. **List 2** contains recommendations which offer even greater protection for Blanding's turtles populations; this list should be used *in addition to the first list* in areas which are known to be of state-wide importance to Blanding's turtles (contact the DNR's Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program if you wish to determine if your project or home is in one of these areas), or in any other area where greater protection for Blanding's turtles is desired.

List 1. Recommendations for all areas inhabited by Blanding's turtles.	List 2. Additional recommendations for areas known to be of state-wide importance to Blanding's turtles.
GENERAL	
A flyer with an illustration of a Blanding's turtle should be given to all contractors working in the area. Homeowners should also be informed of the presence of Blanding's turtles in the area.	Turtle crossing signs can be installed adjacent to road-crossing areas used by Blanding's turtles to increase public awareness and reduce road kills.
Turtles which are in imminent danger should be moved, by hand, out of harms way. Turtles which are not in imminent danger should be left undisturbed.	Workers in the area should be aware that Blanding's turtles nest in June, generally after 4pm, and should be advised to minimize disturbance if turtles are seen.
If a Blanding's turtle nests in your yard, do not disturb the nest.	If you would like to provide more protection for a Blanding's turtle nest on your property, see "Protecting Blanding's Turtle Nests" on page 3 of this fact sheet.
Silt fencing should be set up to keep turtles out of construction areas. It is <u>critical</u> that silt fencing be removed after the area has been revegetated.	Construction in potential nesting areas should be limited to the period between September 15 and June 1 (this is the time when activity of adults and hatchlings in upland areas is at a minimum).
WETLANDS	
Small, vegetated temporary wetlands (Types 2 & 3) should not be dredged, deepened, filled, or converted to storm water retention basins (these wetlands provide important habitat during spring and summer).	Shallow portions of wetlands should not be disturbed during prime basking time (mid morning to mid- afternoon in May and June). A wide buffer should be left along the shore to minimize human activity near wetlands (basking Blanding's turtles are more easily disturbed than other turtle species).
Wetlands should be protected from pollution; use of fertilizers and pesticides should be avoided, and run-off from lawns and streets should be controlled. Erosion should be prevented to keep sediment from reaching wetlands and lakes.	Wetlands should be protected from road, lawn, and other chemical run-off by a vegetated buffer strip at least 50' wide. This area should be left unmowed and in a natural condition.
ROADS	
Roads should be kept to minimum standards on widths and lanes (this reduces road kills by slowing traffic and reducing the distance turtles need to cross).	Tunnels should be considered in areas with concentrations of turtle crossings (more than 10 turtles per year per 100 meters of road), and in areas of lower density if the level of road use would make a safe crossing impossible for turtles. Contact your DNR Regional Nongame Specialist for further information on wildlife tunnels.
Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade. If curbs must be used, 4 inch high curbs at a 3:1 slope are preferred (Blanding's turtles have great difficulty climbing traditional curbs; curbs and below grade roads trap turtles on the road and can cause road kills).	Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade.

ROADS cont.	
Culverts between wetland areas, or between wetland areas and nesting areas, should be 36 inches or greater in diameter, and elliptical or flat-bottomed.	Road placement should avoid separating wetlands from adjacent upland nesting sites, or these roads should be fenced to prevent turtles from attempting to cross them (contact your DNR Nongame Specialist for details).
Wetland crossings should be bridged, or include raised roadways with culverts which are 36 in or greater in diameter and flat-bottomed or elliptical (raised roadways discourage turtles from leaving the wetland to bask on roads).	Road placement should avoid bisecting wetlands, or these roads should be fenced to prevent turtles from attempting to cross them (contact your DNR Nongame Specialist for details). This is especially important for roads with more than 2 lanes.
Culverts under roads crossing streams should be oversized (at least twice as wide as the normal width of open water) and flat-bottomed or elliptical.	Roads crossing streams should be bridged.
UTILITIES	
Utility access and maintenance roads should be kept to a minimum (this reduces road-kill potential).	
Because trenches can trap turtles, trenches should be checked for turtles prior to being backfilled and the sites should be returned to original grade.	
LANDSCAPING AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	
Terrain should be left with as much natural contour as possible.	As much natural landscape as possible should be preserved (installation of sod or wood chips, paving, and planting of trees within nesting habitat can make that habitat unusable to nesting Blanding's turtles).
Graded areas should be revegetated with native grasses and forbs (some non-natives form dense patches through which it is difficult for turtles to travel).	Open space should include some areas at higher elevations for nesting. These areas should be retained in native vegetation, and should be connected to wetlands by a wide corridor of native vegetation.
Vegetation management in infrequently mowed areas -- such as in ditches, along utility access roads, and under power lines -- should be done mechanically (chemicals should not be used). Work should occur fall through spring (after October 1 <sup>st</sup> and before June 1 <sup>st</sup> ).	Ditches and utility access roads should not be mowed or managed through use of chemicals. If vegetation management is required, it should be done mechanically, as infrequently as possible, and fall through spring (mowing can kill turtles present during mowing, and makes it easier for predators to locate turtles crossing roads).

**Protecting Blanding's Turtle Nests:** Most predation on turtle nests occurs within 48 hours after the eggs are laid. After this time, the scent is gone from the nest and it is more difficult for predators to locate the nest. Nests more than a week old probably do not need additional protection, unless they are in a particularly vulnerable spot, such as a yard where pets may disturb the nest. Turtle nests can be protected from predators and other disturbance by covering them with a piece of wire fencing (such as chicken wire), secured to the ground with stakes or rocks. The piece of fencing should measure at least 2 ft. x 2 ft., and should be of medium sized mesh (openings should be about 2 in. x 2 in.). It is *very important* that the fencing be **removed before August 1<sup>st</sup>** so the young turtles can escape from the nest when they hatch!

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup>Association for Biodiversity Information. "Heritage Status: Global, National, and Subnational Conservation Status Ranks." NatureServe. Version 1.3 (9 April 2001). <http://www.natureserve.org/ranking.htm> (15 April 2001).
- Coffin, B., and L. Pfannmuller. 1988. Minnesota's Endangered Flora and Fauna. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 473 pp.

**REFERENCES (cont.)**

- Moriarty, J. J., and M. Linck. 1994. Suggested guidelines for projects occurring in Blanding's turtle habitat. Unpublished report to the Minnesota DNR. 8 pp.
- Oldfield, B., and J. J. Moriarty. 1994. Amphibians and Reptiles Native to Minnesota. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 237 pp.
- Sajwaj, T. D., and J. W. Lang. 2000. Thermal ecology of Blanding's turtle in central Minnesota. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 3(4):626-636.

# CAUTION



## BLANDING'S TURTLES MAY BE ENCOUNTERED IN THIS AREA

The unique and rare Blanding's turtle has been found in this area. Blanding's turtles are state-listed as Threatened and are protected under Minnesota Statute 84.095, Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species. Please be careful of turtles on roads and in construction sites. For additional information on turtles, or to report a Blanding's turtle sighting, contact the DNR Nongame Specialist nearest you: Bemidji (218-308-2641); Grand Rapids (218-327-4518); New Ulm (507-359-6033); Rochester (507-280-5070); or St. Paul (651-259-5764).

**DESCRIPTION:** The Blanding's turtle is a medium to large turtle (5 to 10 inches) with a black or dark blue, dome-shaped shell with muted yellow spots and bars. The bottom of the shell is hinged across the front third, enabling the turtle to pull the front edge of the lower shell firmly against the top shell to provide additional protection when threatened. The head, legs, and tail are dark brown or blue-gray with small dots of light brown or yellow. A distinctive field mark is the bright yellow chin and neck.

**BLANDING'S TURTLES DO NOT MAKE GOOD PETS  
IT IS ILLEGAL TO KEEP THIS THREATENED SPECIES IN CAPTIVITY**

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AVOIDING AND MINIMIZING IMPACTS TO BLANDING'S TURTLE POPULATIONS**

*(see Blanding's Turtle Fact Sheet for full recommendations)*

- This flyer should be given to all contractors working in the area. Homeowners should also be informed of the presence of Blanding's turtles in the area.
- Turtles that are in imminent danger should be moved, by hand, out of harms way. Turtles that are not in imminent danger should be left undisturbed to continue their travel among wetlands and/or nest sites.
- If a Blanding's turtle nests in your yard, do not disturb the nest and do not allow pets near the nest.
- Silt fencing should be set up to keep turtles out of construction areas. It is critical that silt fencing be removed after the area has been revegetated.
- Small, vegetated temporary wetlands should not be dredged, deepened, or filled.
- All wetlands should be protected from pollution; use of fertilizers and pesticides should be avoided, and run-off from lawns and streets should be controlled. Erosion should be prevented to keep sediment from reaching wetlands and lakes.
- Roads should be kept to minimum standards on widths and lanes.
- Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade. If curbs must be used, 4" high curbs at a 3:1 slope are preferred.
- Culverts under roads crossing wetland areas, between wetland areas, or between wetland and nesting areas should be at least 36 in. diameter and flat-bottomed or elliptical.
- Culverts under roads crossing streams should be oversized (at least twice as wide as the normal width of open water) and flat-bottomed or elliptical.
- Utility access and maintenance roads should be kept to a minimum.
- Because trenches can trap turtles, trenches should be checked for turtles prior to being backfilled and the sites should be returned to original grade.
- Terrain should be left with as much natural contour as possible.
- Graded areas should be revegetated with native grasses and forbs.
- Vegetation management in infrequently mowed areas -- such as in ditches, along utility access roads, and under power lines -- should be done mechanically (chemicals should not be used). Work should occur fall through spring (after October 1<sup>st</sup> and before June 1<sup>st</sup>).