Responses of Nebraska Public Power District, Omaha Public Power District, and Lincoln Electric System Customers to the 2013 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey Wind Energy and Wildlife Questions

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project



December 2013

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Introduction

Five questions related to wind energy development and wildlife resources were submitted to the Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS) to learn more about Nebraskan's knowledge and perceptions of wind energy development and its potential impacts on wildlife resources. The NASIS is an omnibus survey of quality of life in the state of Nebraska that has been conducted since 1977. The NASIS is a joint effort of the Bureau of Sociological Research, Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, several state and private non- profit agencies, and other university departments. Each year, NASIS contains a core group of demographic, quality-of-life, and sociological indicators questions. The additional questions included in the survey vary annually and depend upon the data needs of interested researchers who contribute funds towards the cost of the survey in proportion to their data needs. Researcher's questions are reviewed for clarity and bias and formatted for a mail survey. A pre-test of the survey is conducted and changes are made based on the results. A random sample of 6,000 Nebraska addresses was selected to participate in 2012 NASIS.

Methods

Survey participants were categorized as a customer of the Public Power Districts (PPD) based on the county of their residence (Appendix A). All participants from Lancaster County were classified as Lincoln Electric System (LES) customers. All participants from the thirteen counties listed on the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) website (http://www.oppd.com/ResidentialCustomers/22_001280) were classified as OPPD customers. Participants from all other counties were classified as Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) customers.

Data Analysis

Each of the survey questions contained a Likert-type scale the participants used to express their opinion. For each question the frequency of each response in each category was tallied and a percentage was determined; the percent of responses for each category are graphically displayed. For statistical analysis, responses in the 'Do not know' were not included. The median response for each category for each question was compared among and between PPDs to determine if responses from one PPD were significantly different from those of other PPDs. Mann-Whitney Rank Sum tests were used to compare median value between two groups and Anova on Ranks to compare the median value of three groups.

NASIS 2013 Wind Energy – Wildlife Survey Questions

1. How much do you agree or disagree that current wind energy regulations in Nebraska adequately protect wildlife?

Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Don't know

2. How much would you support or oppose regulations in Nebraska that would require wind energy development and operation to minimize impacts to wildlife?

Strongly support, Support, Neither support nor oppose, Oppose, Strongly oppose

3. How much do you support or oppose wind energy development in remote, unfragmented landscapes in Nebraska?

Strongly support, Support, Neither support nor oppose, Oppose, Strongly oppose

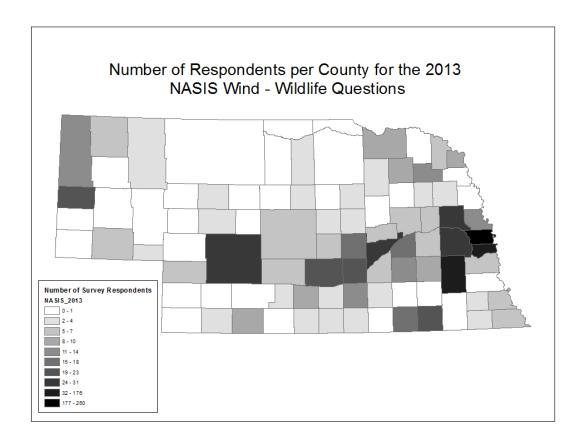
4. How much do you agree or disagree that developers should pay for impacts of wind energy developments to native Nebraska habitats?

Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Don't know

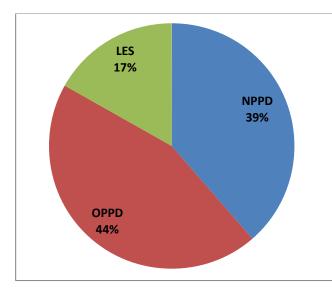
5. How concerned are you that each of the following types of wildlife listed below can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?
a. Eagles
b. Hawks
c. Songbirds
d. Cranes
e. Grouse
f. Ducks
g. Geese
h. Bats
i. Deer
j. Elk
k. Pronghorn Antelope
l. Furbearers (animals trapped for their fur)
m. Endangered Species
Very concerned, Somewhat concerned, Slightly concerned, Not at all concerned, Don't know

Results

A total of 1,067 Nebraskans completed the NASIS; 1,059 Nebraskans responded to the wind energy and wildlife questions. Distribution of survey respondents for each county are listed in Appendix A



Distribution of Results from the Public Power Districts



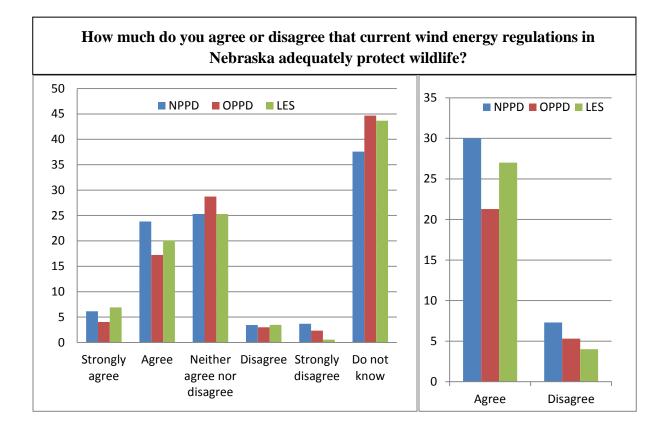
Variables	Frequency	%
NPPD	410	38.72
OPPD	473	44.66
LES	176	16.62
TOTAL	1059	

Comparison of Responses from NPPD, OPPD, and LES Customers

	Percent %		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Strongly agree	6.14	4.04	6.90
Agree	23.83	17.23	20.11
Neither agree nor disagree	25.31	28.72	25.29
Disagree	3.44	2.98	3.45
Strongly disagree	3.69	2.34	0.57
Do not know	37.59	44.68	43.68
Categories Combined			
Agree	29.98	21.28	27.01
Neither agree nor disagree	25.31	28.72	25.29
Disagree	7.31	5.32	4.02
Do not know	37.59	44.68	43.68

1. How much do you agree or disagree that current wind energy regulations in Nebraska adequately protect wildlife?

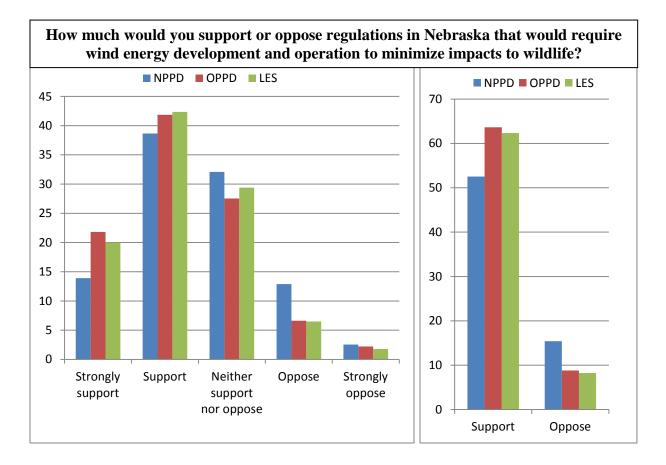
There are no significant differences in responses between NPPD, OPPD, and LES customer's opinions about wind energy regulations ability to protect Nebraska wildlife (P = 0.113).



	Percent %		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Strongly support	13.89	21.81	20.00
Support	38.64	41.85	42.35
Neither support nor oppose	32.07	27.53	29.41
Oppose	12.88	6.61	6.47
Strongly oppose	2.53	2.20	1.76
Categories Combined			
Support	52.53	63.66	62.35
Neither support nor oppose	32.07	27.53	29.41
Oppose	15.40	8.81	8.24

2. How much would you support or oppose regulations in Nebraska that would require wind energy development and operation to minimize impacts to wildlife?

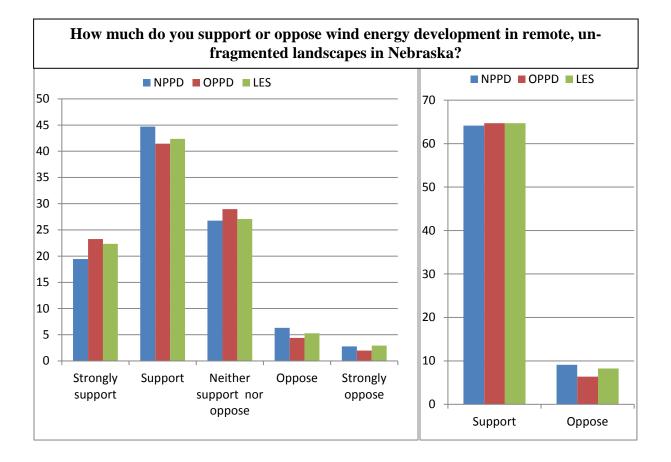
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD customer's support for regulations (P = 0.711). OPPD and LES customers are more likely to support regulations than NPPD customers ($p \le 0.001$, P = 0.007, respectively).



	Percent %		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Strongly support	19.44	23.25	22.35
Support	44.70	41.45	42.35
Neither support nor oppose	26.77	28.95	27.06
Oppose	6.31	4.39	5.29
Strongly oppose	2.78	1.97	2.94
Categories Combined			
Support	64.14	64.69	64.71
Neither support nor oppose	26.77	28.95	27.06
Oppose	9.09	6.36	8.24

3. How much do you support or oppose wind energy development in remote, unfragmented landscapes in Nebraska?

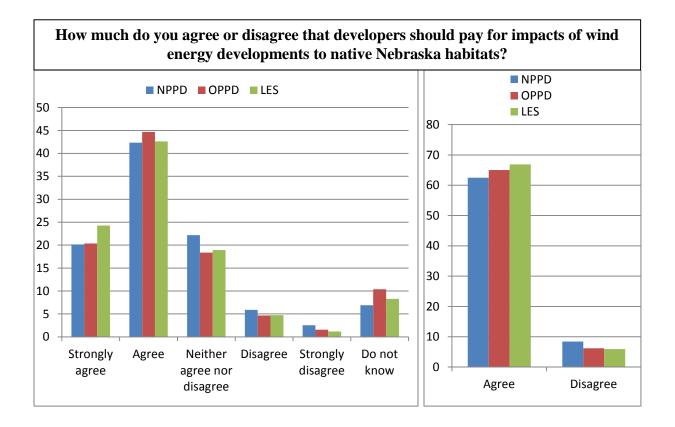
There are no significant differences in responses between NPPD, OPPD, and LES customer's support for wind energy development in remote landscapes in Nebraska (P = 0.593).



	Percent %		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Strongly agree	20.15	20.35	24.26
Agree	42.35	44.69	42.60
Neither agree nor disagree	22.19	18.36	18.93
Disagree	5.87	4.65	4.73
Strongly disagree	2.55	1.55	1.18
Do not know	6.89	10.40	8.28
Categories Combined			
Agree	62.50	65.04	66.86
Neither agree nor disagree	22.19	18.36	18.93
Disagree	8.42	6.19	5.92
Do not know	6.89	10.40	8.28

4. How much do you agree or disagree that developers should pay for impacts of wind energy developments to native Nebraska habitats?

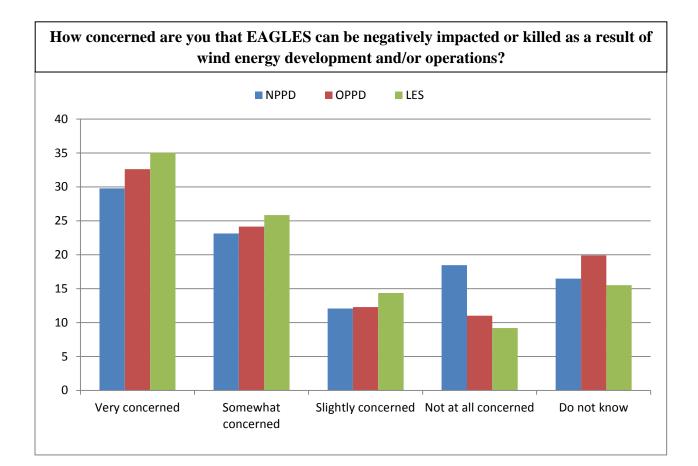
There are no significant differences in responses between NPPD, OPPD, and LES customer's opinions about wind energy developers paying for impacts to Nebraska habitats (P = 0.209)



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	29.80	32.63	35.06
Somewhat concerned	23.15	24.15	25.86
Slightly concerned	12.07	12.29	14.37
Not at all concerned	18.47	11.02	9.20
Do not know	16.50	19.92	15.52

5a. How concerned are you that EAGLES can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

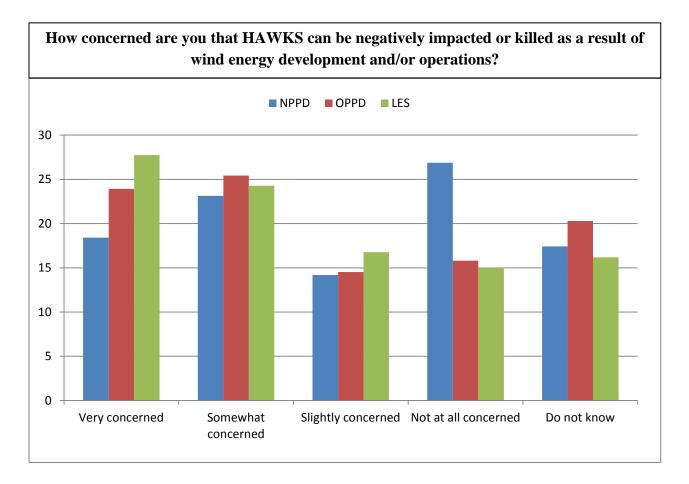
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD customer's concern level about impacts to eagles (P = 0.718). OPPD and LES customers are more concerned than NPPD customers about impacts to eagles (P = 0.022, P = 0.036, respectively).



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	18.41	23.93	27.75
Somewhat concerned	23.13	25.43	24.28
Slightly concerned	14.18	14.53	16.76
Not at all concerned	26.87	15.81	15.03
Do not know	17.41	20.30	16.18

5b. How concerned are you that HAWKS can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

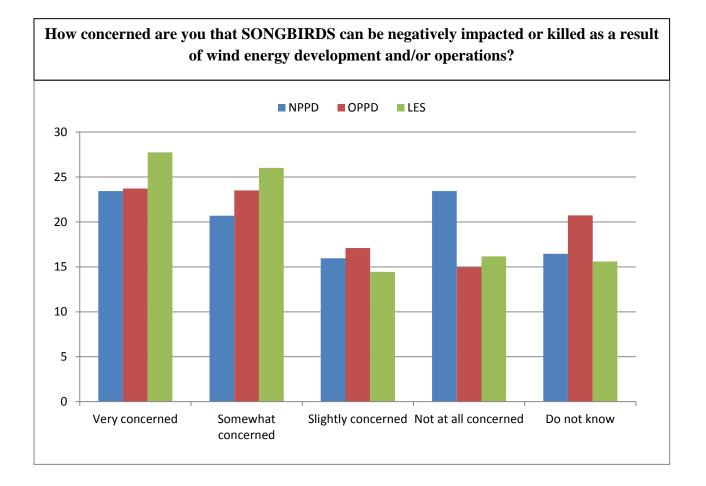
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD customer's concern level about impacts to hawks (P = 0.620). OPPD and LES customers are more concerned than NPPD customers about impacts to hawks (P \leq 0.001, P = 0.001, respectively).



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	23.44	23.72	27.75
Somewhat concerned	20.70	23.50	26.01
Slightly concerned	15.96	17.09	14.45
Not at all concerned	23.44	14.96	16.18
Do not know	16.46	20.73	15.61

5c. How concerned are you that SONGBIRDS can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

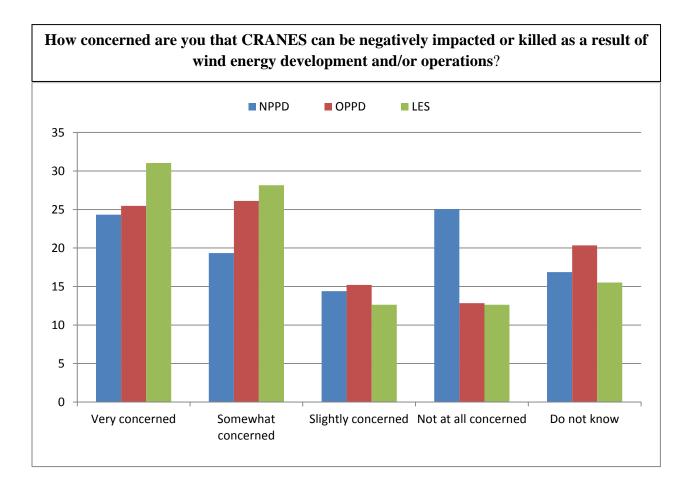
There are no significant differences in responses between NPPD, OPPD, and LES customer's concern level about impacts to songbirds (p = 0.052).



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	24.32	25.48	31.03
Somewhat concerned	19.35	26.12	28.16
Slightly concerned	14.39	15.20	12.64
Not at all concerned	25.06	12.85	12.64
Do not know	16.87	20.34	15.52

5d. How concerned are you that CRANES can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

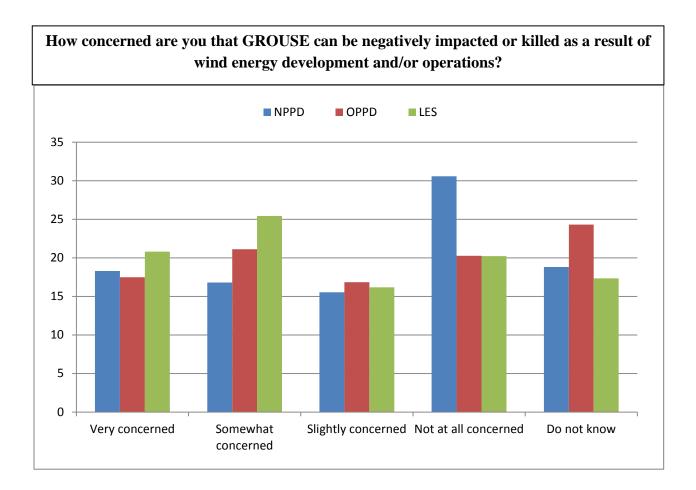
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD customer's concern level about impacts to cranes (P = 0.249). OPPD and LES customers are more concerned than NPPD customers about impacts to cranes (P = 0.002, P \leq 0.001, respectively).



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	18.30	17.48	20.81
Somewhat concerned	16.79	21.11	25.43
Slightly concerned	15.54	16.84	16.18
Not at all concerned	30.58	20.26	20.23
Do not know	18.80	24.31	17.34

5e. How concerned are you that GROUSE can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

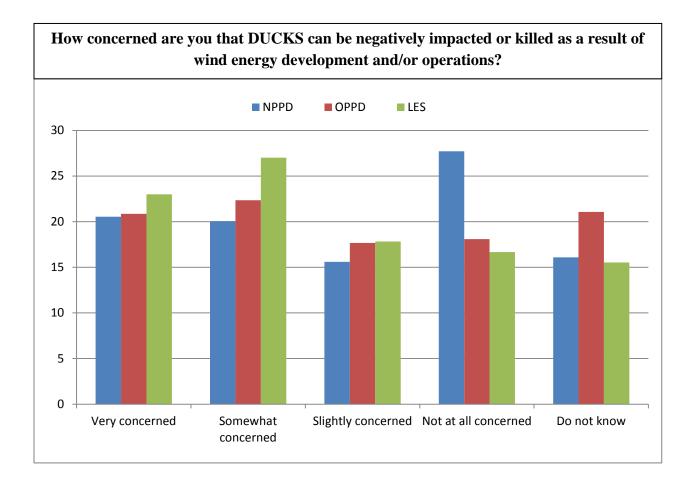
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD customer's concern level about impacts to grouse (P = 0.400). OPPD and LES customers are more concerned than NPPD customers about impacts to grouse (P = 0.026, P = 0.014, respectively).



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	20.54	20.85	22.99
Somewhat concerned	20.05	22.34	27.01
Slightly concerned	15.59	17.66	17.82
Not at all concerned	27.72	18.09	16.67
Do not know	16.09	21.06	15.52

5f. How concerned are you that DUCKS can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

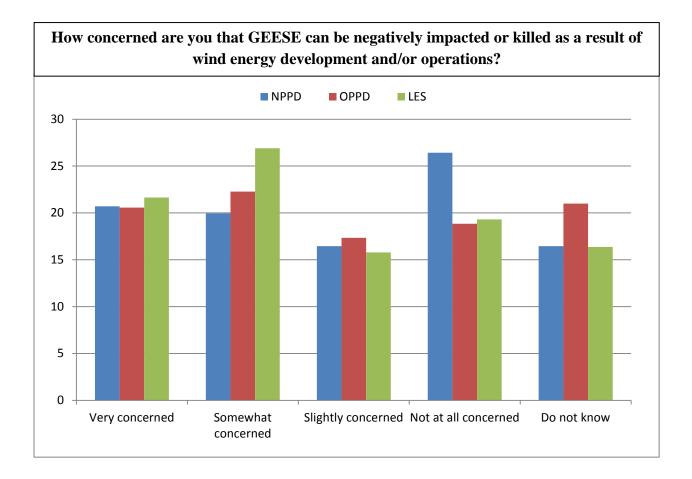
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD customer's concern level about impacts to ducks (P = 0.447). OPPD and LES customers are more concerned than NPPD customers about impacts to ducks (P = 0.035, P = 0.021, respectively).



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	20.70	20.56	21.64
Somewhat concerned	19.95	22.27	26.90
Slightly concerned	16.46	17.34	15.79
Not at all concerned	26.43	18.84	19.30
Do not know	16.46	20.99	16.37

5g. How concerned are you that GEESE can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

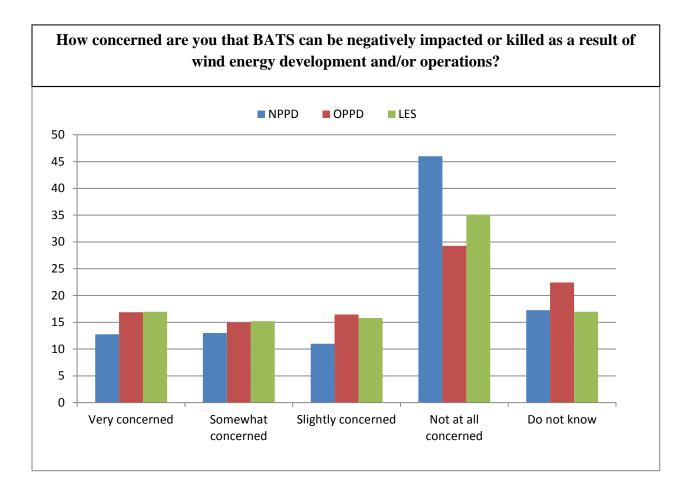
There are no significant differences in responses between NPPD, OPPD, and LES customer's concern level about impacts to geese (p = 0.144).



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	12.75	16.88	16.96
Somewhat concerned	13.00	14.96	15.20
Slightly concerned	11.00	16.45	15.79
Not at all concerned	46.00	29.27	35.09
Do not know	17.25	22.44	16.96

5h. How concerned are you that BATS can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

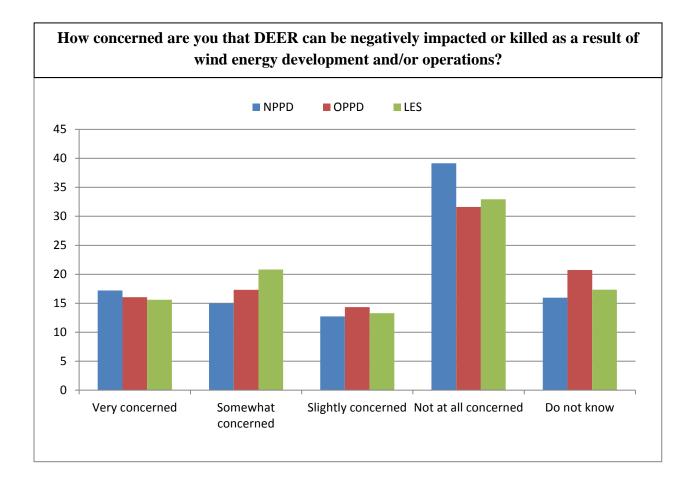
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD customer's concern level about impacts to bats (P = 0.449). OPPD and LES customers are more concerned than NPPD customers about impacts to bats (P \leq 0.001, P = 0.015, respectively).



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	17.21	16.03	15.61
Somewhat concerned	14.96	17.31	20.81
Slightly concerned	12.72	14.32	13.29
Not at all concerned	39.15	31.62	32.95
Do not know	15.96	20.73	17.34

5i. How concerned are you that DEER can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

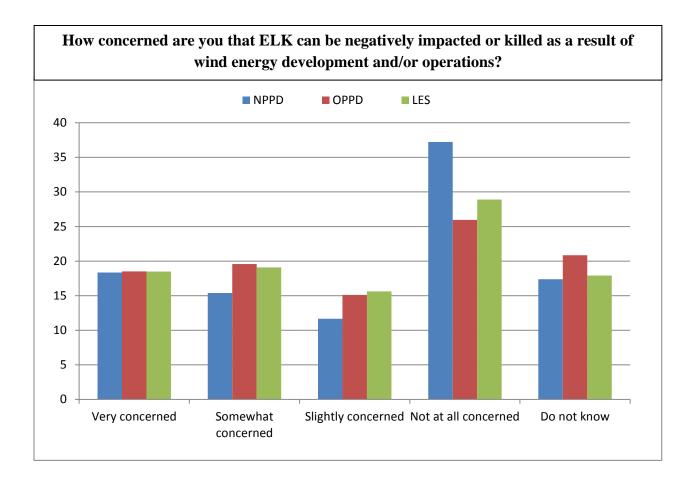
There are no significant differences in responses between NPPD, OPPD, and LES customer's concern level about impacts to deer (p = 0.383).



	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	18.36	18.51	18.50
Somewhat concerned	15.38	19.57	19.08
Slightly concerned	11.66	15.11	15.61
Not at all concerned	37.22	25.96	28.90
Do not know	17.37	20.85	17.92

5j. How concerned are you that ELK can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

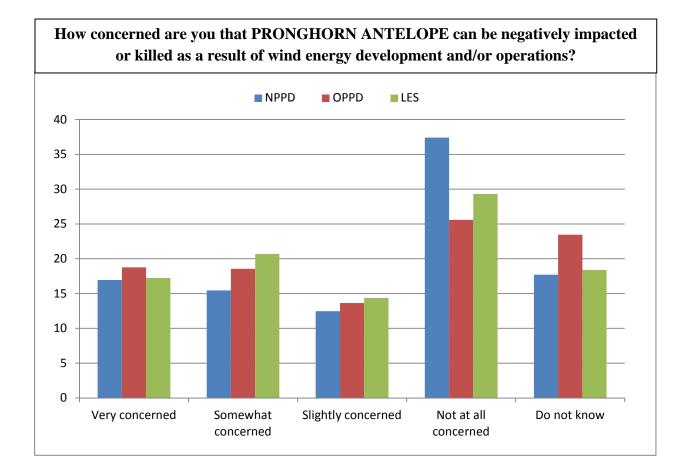
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD or LES and NPPD customer's concern level about impacts to elk (P = 0.625, P = 0.170, respectively). OPPD customers are more concerned than NPPD customers about impacts to elk (P = 0.015).



5k. How concerned are you that PRONGHORN ANTELOPE can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	16.96	18.76	17.24
Somewhat concerned	15.46	18.55	20.69
Slightly concerned	12.47	13.65	14.37
Not at all concerned	37.41	25.59	29.31
Do not know	17.71	23.45	18.39

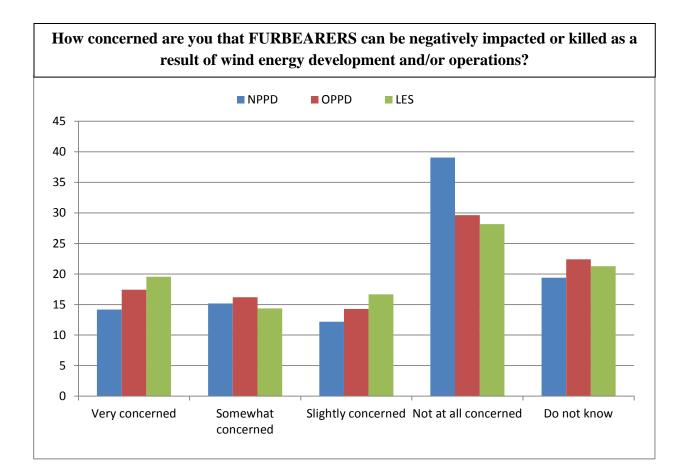
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD or LES and NPPD customer's concern level about impacts to pronghorn antelope (P = 0.482, P = 0.128, respectively). OPPD customers are more concerned than NPPD customers about impacts to pronghorn antelope (P = 0.004).



51. How concerned are you that FURBEARERS can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	14.18	17.43	19.54
Somewhat concerned	15.17	16.20	14.37
Slightly concerned	12.19	14.29	16.67
Not at all concerned	39.05	29.64	28.16
Do not know	19.40	22.39	21.26

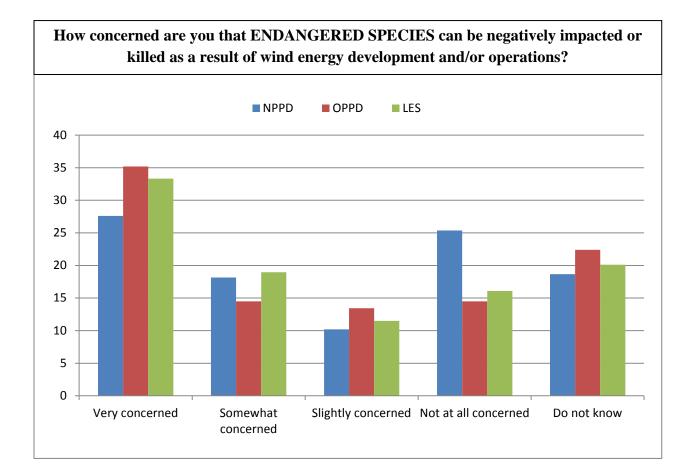
There are no significant differences in responses between LES and OPPD customer's concern level about impacts to furbearers (P = 0.688). OPPD and LES customers are more concerned than NPPD customers about impacts to furbearers (P = 0.011, P = 0.020, respectively).



5m. How concerned are you that ENDANGERED SPECIES can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?

	Percent (%)		
	NPPD	OPPD	LES
Very concerned	27.61	35.18	33.33
Somewhat concerned	18.16	14.50	18.97
Slightly concerned	10.20	13.43	11.49
Not at all concerned	25.37	14.50	16.09
Do not know	18.66	22.39	20.11

There are no significant differences in responses between LES and NPPD customer's concern level about impacts to endangered species (P = 0.688). OPPD customers are more concerned than NPPD and LES customers about impacts to endangered species (P \leq 0.001, P \leq 0.001, respectively).



Appendix A

Public Power District (PPD), number of survey responses (frequency), and percentage of
responses from each county in Nebraska for this analysis.

PPD	County	Frequency	Percentage
NPPD	Adams	14	1.31
NPPD	Antelope	2	0.19
NPPD	Arthur	0	0.00
NPPD	Banner	0	0.00
NPPD	Blaine	0	0.00
NPPD	Boone	1	0.09
NPPD	Box Butte	0	0.00
NPPD	Boyd	0	0.00
NPPD	Brown	0	0.00
NPPD	Buffalo	23	2.16
NPPD	Butler	5	0.47
NPPD	Cedar	0	0.00
NPPD	Chase	0	0.00
NPPD	Cherry	0	0.00
NPPD	Cheyenne	7	0.66
NPPD	Clay	3	0.28
NPPD	Cuming	2	0.19
NPPD	Custer	6	0.56
NPPD	Dakota	9	0.84
NPPD	Dawes	7	0.66
NPPD	Dawson	7	0.66
NPPD	Deuel	2	0.19
NPPD	Dixon	5	0.47
NPPD	Dundy	1	0.09
NPPD	Fillmore	0	0.00
NPPD	Franklin	2	0.19
NPPD	Frontier	0	0.00
NPPD	Furnas	0	0.00
NPPD	Gage	1	0.09
NPPD	Garden	1	0.09
NPPD	Garfield	0	0.00
NPPD	Gosper	4	0.37
NPPD	Grant	0	0.00
NPPD	Greeley	2	0.19
NPPD	Hall	22	2.06
NPPD	Hamilton	6	0.56
NPPD	Harlan	2	0.19
NPPD	Hayes	1	0.09
NPPD	Hitchcock	3	0.28

NPPD	Holt	1	0.09	
NPPD	Hooker	2	0.19	
NPPD	Howard	17	1.59	
NPPD	Jefferson	21	1.97	
NPPD	Kearney	3	0.28	
NPPD	Keith	0	0.00	
NPPD	Keya Paha	0	0.00	
NPPD	Kimball	0	0.00	
NPPD	Knox	9	0.84	
NPPD	Lincoln	25	2.34	
NPPD	Logan	0	0.00	
NPPD	Loup	2	0.19	
NPPD	Madison	0	0.00	
NPPD	McPherson	2	0.19	
NPPD	Merrick	30	2.81	
NPPD	Morrill	1	0.09	
NPPD	Nance	6	0.56	
NPPD	Nuckolls	1	0.09	
NPPD	Perkins	7	0.66	
NPPD	Phelps	10	0.94	
NPPD	Pierce	9	0.84	
NPPD	Platte	6	0.56	
NPPD	Polk	18	1.69	
NPPD	Red Willow	9	0.84	
NPPD	Rock	2	0.19	
NPPD	Saline	1	0.09	
NPPD	Scotts Bluff	22	2.06	
NPPD	Seward	9	0.84	
NPPD	Sheridan	2	0.19	
NPPD	Sherman	5	0.47	
NPPD	Sioux	13	1.22	
NPPD	Stanton	4	0.37	
NPPD	Thayer	16	1.50	
NPPD	Thomas	0	0.00	
NPPD	Thurston	1	0.09	
NPPD	Valley	3	0.28	
NPPD	Wayne	12	1.12	
NPPD	Webster	4	0.37	
NPPD	Wheeler	2	0.19	
NPPD	York	12	1.12	
OPPD	Burt	0	0.00	
OPPD	Cass	7	0.66	
OPPD	Colfax	6	0.56	
OPPD	Dodge	26	2.44	
OPPD	Douglas	260	24.37	

OPPD	Johnson	2	0.19
OPPD	Nemaha	6	0.56
OPPD	Otoe	0	0.00
OPPD	Pawnee	3	0.28
OPPD	Richardson	6	0.56
OPPD	Sarpy	107	10.03
OPPD	Saunders	31	2.91
OPPD	Washington	12	1.12
LES	Lancaster	176	16.49

Appendices B-D

A two-page handout with results for each Public Power District can be found on the following pages. For a pdf for a specific PPD go to: http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/research.asp#surveys



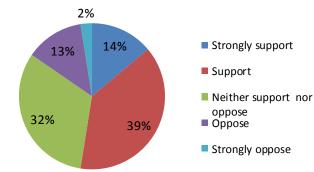
Nebraska Public Power District

13 Wind Energy & Wildlife Survey Result

The Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project submitted five questions to the 2013 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS).

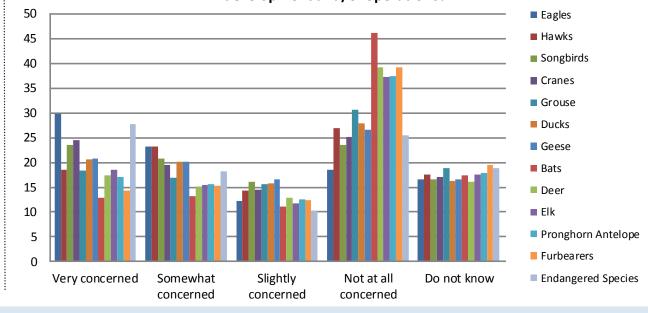
- 1059 Nebraskans responded to the survey
- 39% were residents in the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) service area
- All results listed in this handout are from NPPD residents

How much would you support or oppose regulations in Nebraska that would require wind energy development and operation to minimize impacts to wildlife?



- 53% of NPPD respondents would support or strongly support regulations in Nebraska that would require wind energy facility development and operation to minimize impacts to wildlife
- 15% would oppose or strongly oppose such regulations

How concerned are you that each of the following types of wildlife listed below can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?



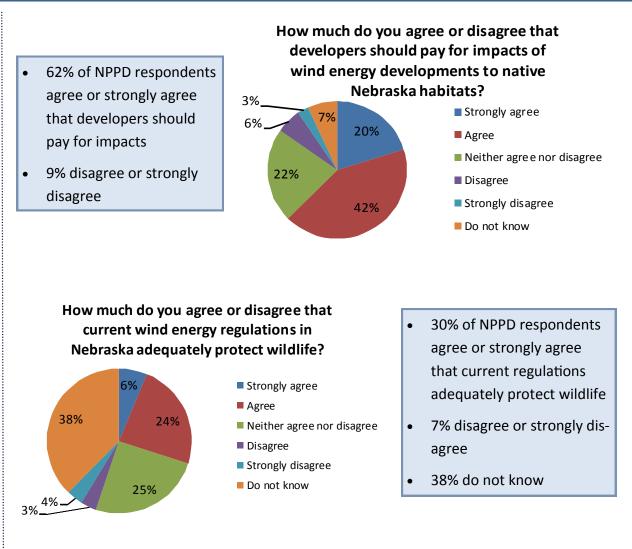








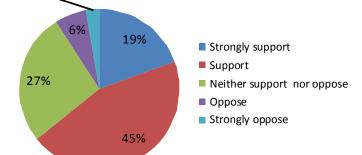
Nebraska Public Power District



 64% of NPPD respondents support or strongly support the development of wind energy in remote landscapes

9% oppose or strongly oppose













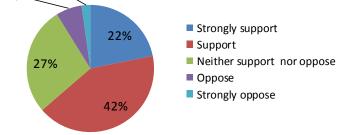
Omaha Public Power District

7%

The Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project submitted five questions to the 2013 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS).

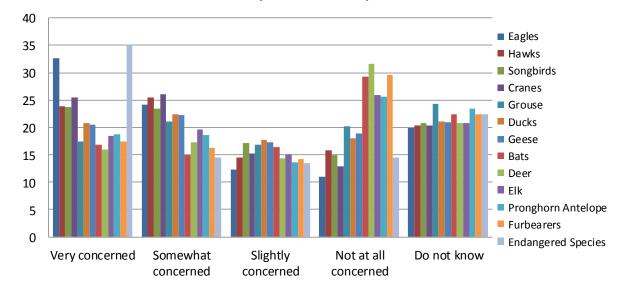
- 1059 Nebraskans responded to the survey
- 45% were residents in the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) service area
- All results listed in this handout are from OPPD residents

How much would you support or oppose regulations in Nebraska that would require wind energy development and operation to 2% minimize impacts to wildlife?



- 64% of OPPD respondents would support or strongly support regulations in Nebraska that would require wind energy facility development and operation to minimize impacts to wildlife
- 9% would oppose or strongly oppose such regulations

How concerned are you that each of the following types of wildlife listed below can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?



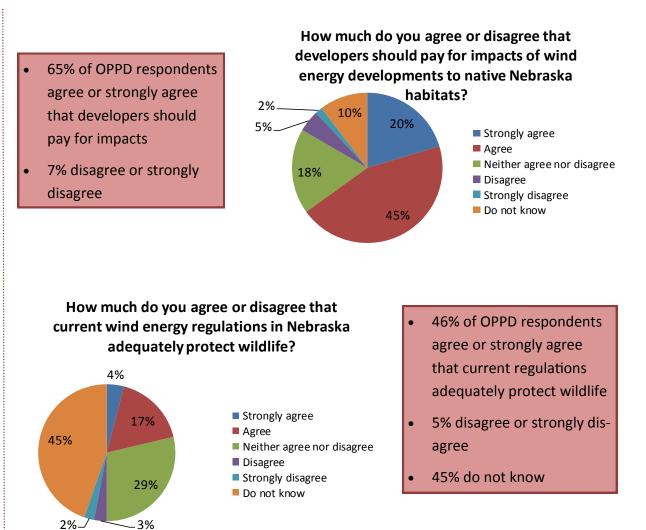






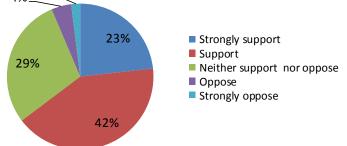


Omaha Public Power District



- 65% of OPPD respondents support or strongly support the
 development of wind energy in
 remote landscapes
- 6% oppose or strongly oppose

How much do you support or oppose wind energy development in remote, unfragmented landscapes in Nebraska?









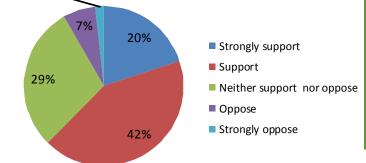


Lincoln Electric System

The Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project submitted five questions to the 2013 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS).

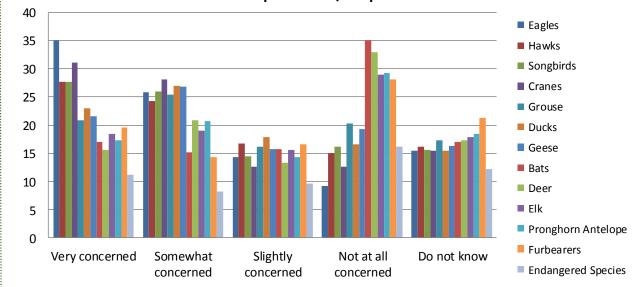
- 1059 Nebraskans responded to the survey
- 17% were residents in the Lincoln Electric System (LES) service area
- All results listed in this handout are from LES residents

How much would you support or oppose regulations in Nebraska that would require wind energy development and 2% _operation to minimize impacts to wildlife?



- 62% of LES respondents would support or strongly support regulations in Nebraska that would require wind energy facility development and operation to minimize impacts to wildlife
- 9% would oppose or strongly oppose such regulations

How concerned are you that each of the following types of wildlife listed below can be negatively impacted or killed as a result of wind energy development and/or operations?



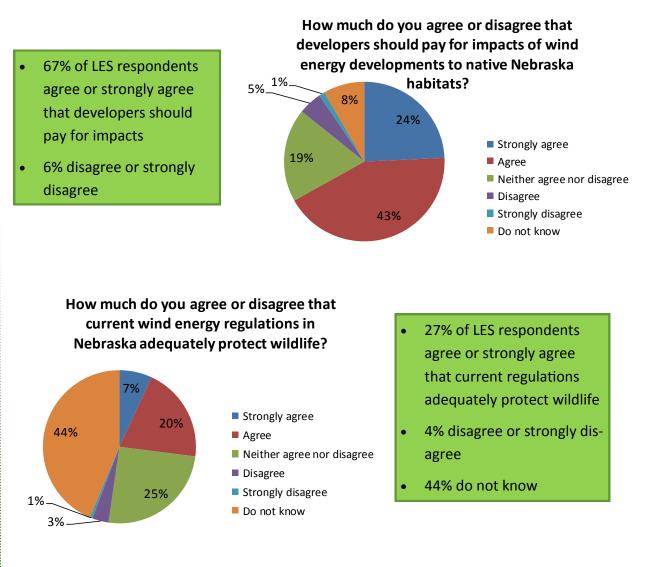








Lincoln Electric System



- 65% of LES respondents support or strongly support the development of wind energy in remote landscapes
- 8% oppose or strongly oppose

