

Promoting Our Energy Independence and Our National Security

November 2018



Key Committee Chairmen Confirm Strengthening of DOD Evaluation Process:

[House Armed Services Committee](#)

[Chairman Thornberry \(R-TX\)](#): “[The FY18 NDAA] includes language to tighten evaluation process of energy projects close to military installations to help ensure that bases and training ranges are not adversely impacted.”

[Senate Armed Services Readiness](#)

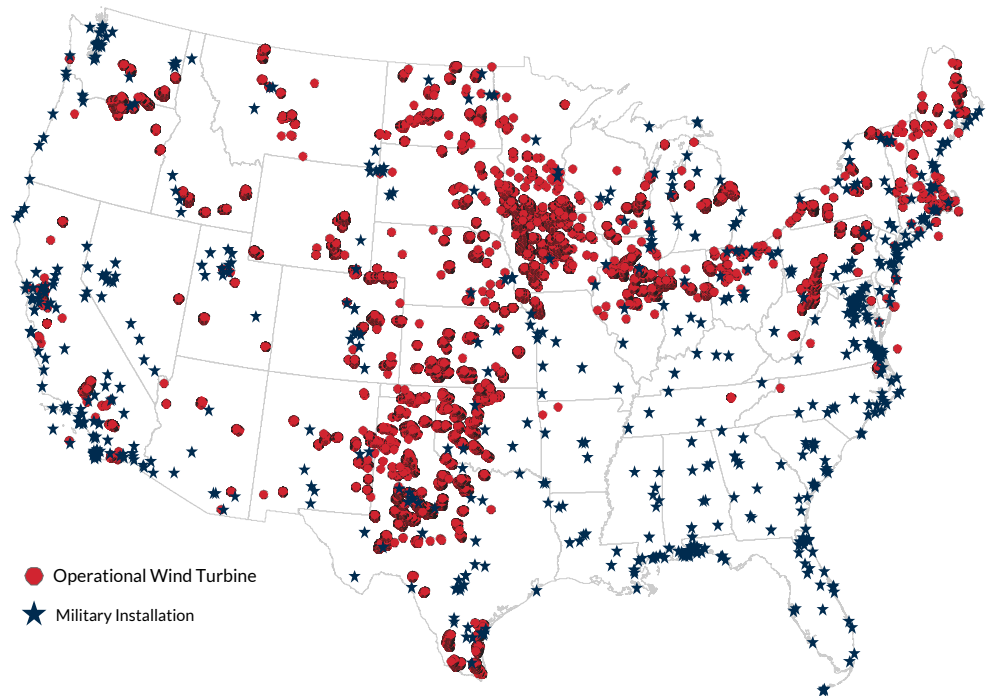
[Subcommittee Chairman Inhofe \(R-OK\)](#): “Inhofe helped author language that improves DOD procedures for reviewing potential national security implications of future energy projects, specifically reviewing encroachment on military installations, aerial military training routes, airports, drop zones, and ranges. This bill makes great strides to ensure our military maintains its combat readiness and protecting the quality of military training that has made Oklahoma an indispensable asset to our military and our overall national security.”

Projects objected to by DOD and local bases have not been built, and no base missions have changed as a result of existing wind farms.

National security is paramount. Fortunately, the growth in wind energy has been and will continue to be compatible with protecting our national security, military operations and military readiness.

Wind Farms Can and Do Co-exist with Military Facilities

35% of the current wind fleet operates within 50 miles of a military facility. Yet, these projects are not harming national security or changing base missions.



- [The Department of Defense \(DOD\) has a robust review process](#) to ensure proposed wind farms won't harm military readiness or operations, including radars, flight operations, research, development, testing, evaluation and training activities.
- This process was further strengthened from a DOD, base and state perspective in the [fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) signed into law by President Trump.
- During the review, local base commanders (including the National Guard), individual military services, and DOD evaluate proposed energy projects. If concerns exist, private developers and the military discuss whether they can be mitigated.
- Wind developers have paid to upgrade radar systems, moved proposed turbine locations, reduced the sizes of projects, or cancelled projects altogether to avoid potentially interfering with base operations and mission readiness when necessary.

DoD Clearinghouse in its March 2015 report to Congress: “Generic standoff distances are not useful...Due to the wide variety of missions and the variability of impacts on different types of obstructions, it is not possible to apply a ‘one-size-fits-all’ standoff distance between DOD military readiness activities and development projects.”

- If no mutually satisfactory solution is found to address military concerns, developers will cancel the project even before DOD issues a formal objection. Developers do not want to continue spending millions of dollars on sites they know DOD will formally object to later in the process.
- Some policymakers have proposed exclusion zones around military facilities. According to DOD, such one-size-fits-all exclusion zones are not effective in protecting DOD or base interests. They also infringe on the private property rights of landowners who wish to host wind turbines. The existing evaluation process, using the detailed technical information related to each specific base (its assets and missions) and the details of a proposed wind farm (turbine layout, number, height, location, etc.) to understand potential impacts is more effective at guaranteeing protection of a facility's missions and capabilities than arbitrary exclusion zones.

Strengthening of the Military Review Process in the Fiscal Year 2018 NDAA

- [Section 311 of Public Law 115-91, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018](#), made a number of reforms to the DoD evaluation process in federal law to further strengthen the position of DoD, individual bases and states, such as:
- Eliminating a provision that set an objective for DOD to support robust deployment of renewable energy;
- Requiring project developers to vet proposals with the military at least one year prior to expected construction;
- Extending the deadline for preliminary DOD review to 60 days;
- Explicitly requiring that local military installations are involved in the evaluation process;
- Having DOD issue a “notice of presumed risk” to the project proponent, which triggers discussion on possible mitigation options, if a preliminary review identifies concerns;
- Providing the notice to the states at the same time. DOD must formally solicit comments from states, evaluate and consider those comments when making a final decision, and forward them on to the Federal Aviation Administration

- Reinforcing that “any adverse impact” on military operations and readiness is the threshold for requiring mitigation discussions with project proponents;
- Authorizing DOD to establish maps of geographic areas in which energy projects could pose a concern, including potential impacts to military training routes;
- Authorizing DOD to evaluate projects proposed in such areas for six months during which the FAA may not issue its own determination until DOD does so;
- Requiring consideration of potential cumulative impacts of multiple wind farms when considering a proposal;
- Reinforcing DOD’s ability to object to proposed energy projects in cases where they pose an “unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States,” while pulling in the expansive definition from DOD regulations to include significant adverse impacts to training, research, development, testing, and evaluation, military operations or to maintaining military readiness;
- Requiring notification of the “appropriate state agency” of a determination of unacceptable risk; and
- Clarifying that DoD can request and accept funds from project proponents for mitigation.

Senate Armed Services Committee Member Senator Cruz (R-TX): “...Sen. Cruz led a bipartisan effort to develop an equitable process for energy projects by improving the notification process, establishing the means for governors to express concerns, and ensuring that the cumulative impacts of potential energy projects are considered in a fair and non-partisan manner. This amendment is critical for Texas installations located in close proximity to wind turbine farms.”