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**PARTIES IN FEDERAL LAWSUIT CONCERNING BEECH RIDGE
WIND ENERGY PROJECT ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT
ON BAT PROTECTION AND TURBINE OPERATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – An agreement has been reached among all parties involved in federal litigation under the Endangered Species Act concerning the Beech Ridge wind project in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, that will provide for additional protection of the endangered Indiana bat and other wildlife while allowing some elements of the project to move forward and to begin producing renewable power in 2010.

The agreement, which has been filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, resolves outstanding federal litigation by setting forth protective conditions on which additional project construction and operation may occur while Beech Ridge applies for an Incidental Take Permit relative to the Indiana bat from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The parties in the federal case have agreed to cooperate in a constructive manner during the FWS permitting process.

Details of the agreement, which has been approved by the Court, can be obtained either from the plaintiffs or defendants in the case.

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The Animal Welfare Institute is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and is dedicated to alleviating suffering inflicted on animals by humans. Mountain Communities for Responsible Energy is based in Williamsburg, West Virginia and is dedicated to educating people about responsible wind energy development in West Virginia. Plaintiffs were represented in the case by Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal, a public interest law firm in Washington, D.C.