Pledge

From Page 1

last month when the Sioux Falls School Board decided not to require high school students to recite the pledge. Criticism from around the country followed, including death threats against some board members.

The board eventually reversed course following the backlash, and high school students in Sioux Falls are now asked to take part in the daily pledge.

The Rapid City School Board also decided last month that all of its students should recite the pledge each day and, according to the American News, the Aberdeen School Board is considering the move, as well.

Following that lead, the Associated School Boards of South Dakota passed a resolution in late November in support of school districts having policies whereby all

grade levels must recite the

"Students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance instills in them the value of patriotism for our country and is also a learning tool that expresses the principles the United States was founded upon," the resolution stated.

Kindle said he had those same ideas in mind when he notified YSD administrators before the school year that all students would be expected to recite the pledge

daily. "We should be proud that we live in this country," he said "We have a lot of men and women who have given their lives so that we have an opportunity to live in this country, speak freely, attend schools, have our own religious beliefs and enjoy all the other freedoms we have.'

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Wind Project Seeks Permit To Kill Eagles **BY BENJAMIN STORROW**

Star-Tribune staff writer

The Power Company of Wyoming plans to apply next month for a federal permit that will allow the firm to kill a limited number of eagles every year at its planned Chokecherry-Sierra Madre wind farm in Carbon County.

The decision of the Denver-based developer to seek what is known as an "eagletake permit" from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reflects what may be the beginning of a trend, industry observers said. Fish and Wildlife has

never granted a take permit to a wind developer, but is currently considering several applications, said Dave Carlson, National Environmental Protection Act coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service. Chokecherry-Sierra Madre would join that list of applicants, he said.

"We should be seeing more of them in the future," Carlson said. "This would apply to existing projects that are in operation and new projects.

determine how many eagles can be killed under the permit after receiving an application for the project.

The expected increase in eagle-take applications comes months after the service clarified the rules surrounding eagle deaths at wind facilities. The new guidelines allow wind developers to kill a limited number of eagles each year, provided they make efforts to site turbines in locations that minimize fatalities and institute mitigation measures once their facilities become operational.

It also follows on the heels of a settlement announced by the U.S. Department of Justice in November, in which a North Carolina developer agreed to pay \$1 million in fines and restitution for avian deaths at its wind farm near Casper.

Garry Miller, Power Company of Wyoming vice president of environmental affairs, said the company's application for a take permit and the Justice Department settlement were coincidence. The firm has been in talks with Fish and Wildlife since 2010 over how to best minimize the number of eagle deaths at Chokecherry-Sierra Madre.

The proposed 1,000-turbine development would become one of the largest on-land wind facilities in the United States if built.

The project has been plagued by concerns about its impact on birds. The Bureau of Land Management approved the wind farm in 2012. calling its impact on migratory birds and bald eagles low. But BLM also noted that the threat it presented to golden eagles was significant, and projected the development would kill 46 to 64 eagles annually. A plan to reduce golden eagle fatalities could reduce the impact, the bureau said.

That is what the Power Company of Wyoming is trying to do, Miller said. He noted the company has proposed putting 26,000 acres along the North Platte River between Fort Steele and Sinclair in a conservation easement where wind development would be prohibited. That area is crucial golden eagle habitat, and boasts considerable wind resources, Miller said. The company has also proposed a half-mile buffer around eagle

nests Still, Miller acknowledged avian fatalities are a part of wind development.

"Unfortunately it does hap-pen," he said. "What we're doing is being proactive and try to avoid and minimize the potential risk to eagles.

PRESS & DAKOTAN ■ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2013

The number of wind developers seeking take permits will likely increase in the coming years, as companies look to pursue projects in areas boasting both high winds and key bird habitat, said Darin Schroeder, vice president of the American Bird Conservancy, a national advocacy

group. His organization does not oppose wind development, but believes more stringent sitting laws are needed to ensure projects are not built in environmentally crucial areas, Schroeder said.

Chokecherry-Sierra Madre is especially concerning, he said, arguing that internal concerns from BLM and Fish and Wildlife staff about bird fatalities have been ignored for political reasons. The project is one of 33 renewable energy developments authorized on public land by the Obama administration, as part of its initiative to produce 10,000 megawatts of green electricity.



pledge.

YOUR NEWS! THE



Sun., Dec. 15

Sun., Dec. 22

Tues., Dec. 24

Thurs., Dec. 19 6:30 p.m.

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

"Hark, the Herald Angel"

Sunday School for all ages

Children's Christmas Program

Calvary Kids Preschool Program

Worship Service

"The Littlest Angel"

Worship Service

Christmas Eve Service

5th & Walnut, Yankton, SD 665-7320 Dec. 15 10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program "The Symbols of Christmas" Dec. 15 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Christmas Candlelight Concert "Vivaldi's Gloria & More" Dec. 24 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service www.yanktonucc.org