



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security
Energy Facilities Permitting

Issued: June 25, 2008

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

In the Matter of the Application of Wapsipinicon Wind Project, LLC for a Certificate of Need for a Large Energy Facility, a 105 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) in Mower County, Minnesota (PUC Docket Number: IP-6670/CN-08-334)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 1, 2008, Wapsipinicon Wind Project, LLC (Applicant) filed an application for a certificate of need (CN) for the Wapsipinicon North Wind project, a large (105 MW) energy facility as defined under Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, subd. 2(1). Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.243 a large energy facility cannot be constructed in Minnesota unless it receives a certificate from the Commission. The rules governing the review of this project are found in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849.

A site permit for the Wapsipinicon project (Docket No. IP6646/WS-07-839) has already been reviewed and approved. The permit for the North Wind project area is being held pending a resolution of the CN process.

An Environmental Report (ER) on the project and alternatives to it is being conducted by the Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) unit of the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) under Minnesota Rule 7849.7010-7110. A public information and ER scoping meeting will be held at the time and location listed below:

Thursday, July 10, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Elkton Community Center Building
117 Main Street
Elkton, MN 55926

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed Project and to take public comment and suggestions on the scope of the ER that will be prepared for the CN application. The public is invited to review the application, learn about the PUC review process, and make comments and ask questions.

Project Description

The Applicant would own, construct, and operate the Project. The Project would have a nameplate capacity of up to 105 MW and consist of up to seventy 1.5 MW wind turbine generators. The towers will be 80 meters (262.5 feet) in height. The rotor diameter will be 77 meters (252.6 feet), resulting in a maximum overall height of 118.5 meters (388.8 feet) when one blade is in the vertical position.

The electrical collector system will consist of underground 34.5 kV collection lines and facilities providing step-up transformation. The Applicant is also proposing to build a 161/34.5 kV project substation which will consist generally of 2 161/34.5 transformers, and associated switching and protection equipment as well as metering equipment and a small control house.

Power from the turbines will be collected at this substation and transmitted to the Pleasant Valley Substation located in section 19 of Pleasant Valley Township via approximately 6 miles of overhead 161 kV transmission line.

Other Project associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and access roads.

Proposed Site Location

As shown on the accompanying map, The Project will be located in central Mower County, near the town of Dexter, in portions of Grand Meadow, Pleasant Valley, Dexter and Sargeant townships, and approximately 20 miles east of Austin, Minnesota. The Applicant has designated approximately 40 square miles as the Project area. The town of Dexter is adjacent to the Project site to the Southwest. Interstate 90 is the southern border of the Project area.

PUC Review Process

An LWECS project over 50 MW must obtain a Certificate of Need from the PUC. The Applicant filed its CN Application on April 1, 2008. On May 21, 2008, the PUC accepted the CN as complete, given the Applicant's filing of supplemental materials.

The OES EFP unit is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the CN Application under Minnesota Rule 4410.7030. OES will prepare an Environmental Report prior to the public hearing for the CN and the PUC's determination of need for Wapsipinicon North Wind Project. The ER will consider issues related to the CN for the Project, such as size, type, timing, voltage and system configurations and general environmental impacts of the Project. Under state law, the CN proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type and timing of a new electrical generating facility can be considered.

The PUC will hold a public hearing on the CN application which will be presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the CN public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the OES. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the OES project manager or register on the webpage cited below.

Public Comment Period

Interested persons may comment on the certificate of need application and items and alternatives to be evaluated in the ER at the public meeting or may submit written or faxed (651-297-7891) comments by 4:30 p.m. on **July 21, 2008**. **Please include the following docket number (IP6646/WS-08-334) on any written material submitted.** Written or faxed comments should be directed to: David Birkholz, Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198.

Eminent Domain

Wapsipinicon Wind Project, LLC, an independent power producer, does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights necessary for this Project. Wind and land rights necessary for the Project will be limited to voluntary easements or lease agreements between Wapsipinicon Wind Project, LLC, and individual landowners.

Project Contacts and Information

OES Staff. David Birkholz has been appointed to prepare the ER for the CN process. He can be contacted at: Tel: 651-296-2878 or e-mail: david.birkholz@state.mn.us or the mailing address above.

Other contact information: Toll-free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service: 800-627-3529, and ask for the Office of Energy Security.

Public Utilities Commission. Questions about the Certificate of Need proceeding for the Wapsipinicon North Wind Project may be directed to Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101; Tel: 651-201-2236 or e-mail: bret.eknes@state.mn.us.

Wapsipinicon Wind Project, LLC. Questions about the Wapsipinicon North Wind Project CN Application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ian Krygowski at Tel: 612-746-0770 or e-mail: iank@enxco.com.

Project Information

Copies of the Wapsipinicon North CN Application have been distributed to affected landowners, and township, county and state officials. Copies of the application are available for review at the Auditor's Offices in Mower County, the city offices in Dexter and Elkton and the clerks in the townships of: Clayton, Marshall, Dexter, Grand Meadow, Pleasant Valley and Sargeant. Record documents in the case, including the CN application, are available on the PUC Web site identified below.

Information regarding the PUC proceedings on the CN applications are available on eDockets by entering 08-334 at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

Other relevant files, including documents concerning the site application, are available on the OES website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19234>

Exhibit N: Project Location Map Wapsipinicon Wind Project Mower County, MN

