



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Public Utilities Commission  
& Office of Energy Security



Issued: December 14, 2010

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**AND**  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT**

**In the matter of Prairie Rose Wind, LLC, Applications for a Certificate of Need and Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 101 MW Prairie Rose Wind Farm in Rock and Pipestone Counties**

**Certificate of Need Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6838/CN-10-80**  
**Site Permit Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6843/WS-10-425**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the application of Prairie Rose Wind, LLC (Applicant), for a Certificate of Need, in conjunction with a public meeting on the draft for a Site Permit for the proposed Prairie Rose Wind Farm (Project). The hearing and public meeting will address respectively: (1) whether the proposed Project is needed and in the public interest, and (2) issues related to the proposed siting of the Project. The hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. The hearing may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION**

|                    |                    |   |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| December, 28, 2010 | 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM | Memorial Hall<br>101 East Wall Street<br>Jasper, MN 56144 |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|

**Administrative Law Judge.** Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Richard Luis from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the need for the Project or the proposed siting can do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Luis: Richard Luis, Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620; (fax) 651-361-7936; e-mail: [Richard.Luis@state.mn.us](mailto:Richard.Luis@state.mn.us).

**Written Comments.** Written comments on the Certificate of Need or the Draft Permit should be submitted to Judge Luis at the address listed above. Comments will be accepted through January 27, 2011. Mailed comments must be postmarked by this date. Faxed and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on this date.

**Purpose and Conduct of the Hearing.** The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input about the Project. During the public hearing, members of the public may offer either oral or written testimony, offer exhibits for inclusion in the public hearing record and ask questions of the applicant and agency representatives. Any person who wishes to ask questions, but does not want to ask the questions personally, may submit them in writing to the ALJ who will then ask the question during the hearing.

Interested persons may comment on the Certificate of Need and Site Permit Applications, Environmental Report, Draft Site Permit or on the Project generally. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If needed, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ. At the close of the written comment period Judge Luis will prepare a written summary of the comments received at the hearing and file it with the Commission, which will consider them in its deliberations of the certificate of need and site permit applications.

**Request for Accommodation.** Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

**Environmental Report.** The Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting, has completed and issued an environmental report for the proposed Prairie Rose Wind Farm. The environmental report addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives. For a copy of the environmental report, please see project contacts and information below.

**Draft Site Permit.** On October 28 2010, the Commission issued an order approving a draft site permit for distribution and public comment. For a copy of the draft site permit, please see project contacts and information below.

**Project Description.** The Applicant proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 101 megawatts (MW). Depending on which turbines are selected, the wind turbine layout will consist of up to 67 turbines. If General Electric (GE) 1.5 MW wind turbines are selected, the hub height will be 80 meters (263 feet) and the rotor diameter will be 77 meters (252 feet). If Vestas 1.8 MW wind turbines are selected, the hub height will be 80 meters (263 feet) and the rotor diameter will be 90 meters (295 feet). If Siemens 2.3 MW wind turbines are selected, the hub height will be 80 meters (263 feet) and the rotor diameter will be 101 meters (331 feet). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, a meteorological tower, a Sonic Detection and Ranging unit or Light Detection and Ranging unit, an electrical collection system, project substation, a metering yard, transmission line and an operations and maintenance building. Power will ultimately be delivered to the Prairie Rose substation located in Rose Dell or Denver Township, where it will be converted to 115 kV and will then be transported via a new 115 kV line to the Split Rock substation near Brandon, South Dakota.

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 35,335 acres located in Denver, Rose Dell and Springwater Townships in Rock County and Elmer and Eden Townships in Pipestone County. The Applicant has acquired easements, or made lease agreements, for the Project on approximately 23,145 acres in the Townships.

**Eminent Domain.** The Applicant does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the applicant.

**Authority and Statement of Issues to be Decided.** In order to proceed with this Project, the Applicant must obtain a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, to issue a certificate of need for a large wind energy facility if the applicant can demonstrate that there is a need for the Project. A certificate of need is a state permit that is issued upon a determination that construction of an energy facility is in the public interest. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, subdivision 4, to hold a hearing on the application for a certificate of need.

The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 216F.04 to issue LWECS site permits for certain wind energy facilities. When the Commission designates a site, it issues a site permit for the construction of a facility specifying the design, location, preparation, and operation of the facility, along with any other appropriate conditions it deems necessary. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes section 216F.05 and Minnesota Rule 7854.0900 to hold a public meeting on an application for a site permit for an LWECS.

**Contested Case Hearing Request.** Any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the LWECS pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Judge Luis in writing by 4:30 p.m. on January 27, 2011. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason that a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the contested case hearing will aid it in making a final decision on whether or not to authorize construction of the Project.

**Project Contacts and Information.** For more information on the **Certificate of Need**, please contact:

Bret Eknes  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147  
(651) 201-2236  
[bret.eknes@state.mn.us](mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us)

For additional information regarding the **Site Permit** application, or to place your name on the project mailing list maintained for this project, please contact:

David Birkholz, State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: (651) 296-2878  
Fax: (651) 297-7891  
[david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)

Jamie MacAlister, Public Advisor  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: (651) 296-1335  
Fax: (651) 297-7891  
[jamie.macalister@state.mn.us](mailto:jamie.macalister@state.mn.us)

The certificate of need application and environmental report can be found on the eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year “10” and the number “80”). The LWECS site permit application and draft site permit can be found on the eDockets website (enter the year “10” and the number “425”).

The site permit application, draft site permit, environmental report, and other relevant documents, including Minnesota's statutes and rules governing the site permitting process, are also available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=28286>.

You can also place your name on the Project mailing list at this website.

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the: County Courthouses of Pipestone and Rock Counties; City offices in Luverne and Pipestone; and Township Clerks of Denver, Eden, Elmer, Rose Dell and Springwater.

Questions regarding the Prairie Rose Wind farm and its permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting:

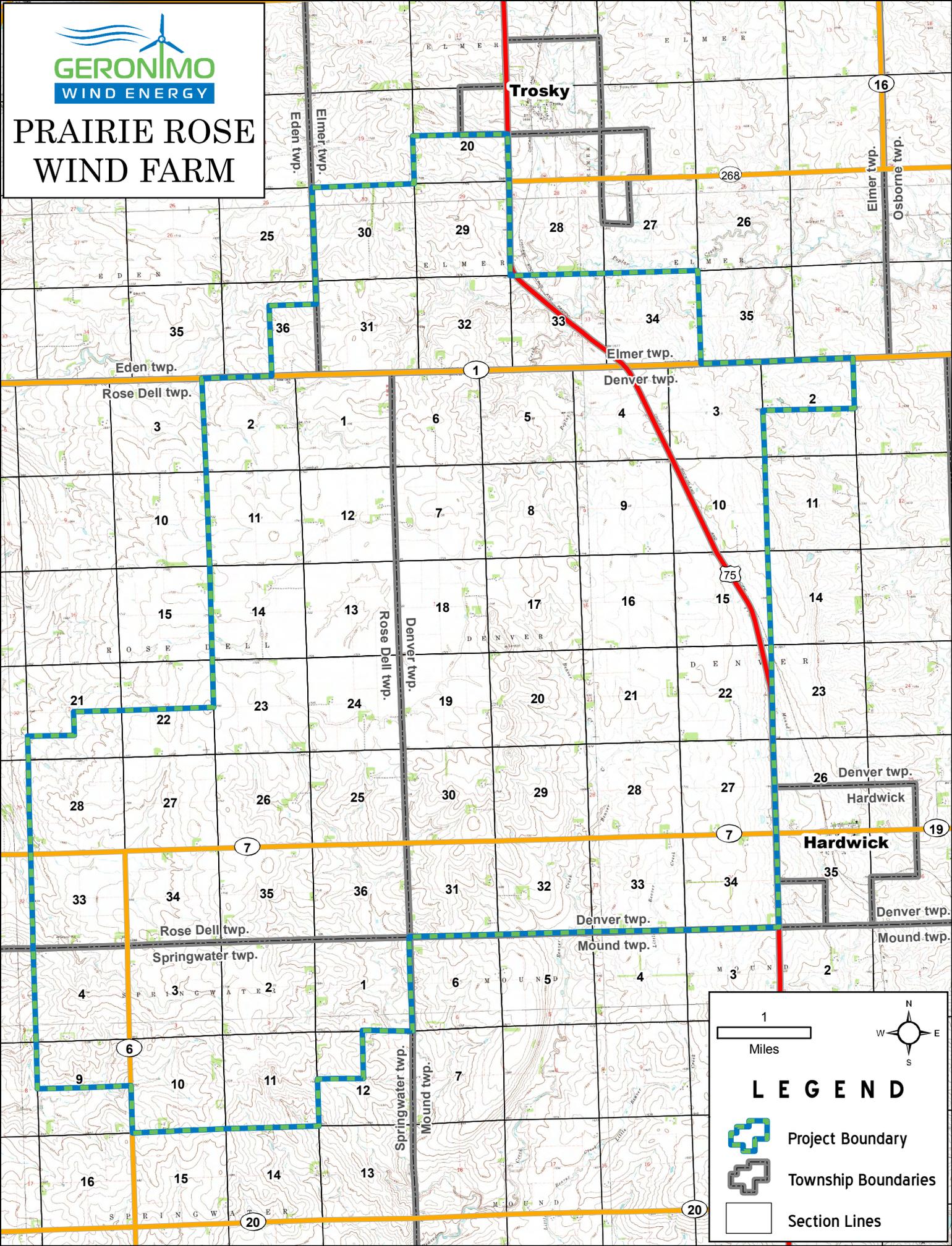
Patrick Smith  
Geronimo Wind Energy  
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This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.



# PRAIRIE ROSE WIND FARM



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Miles

**LEGEND**

- Project Boundary
- Township Boundaries
- Section Lines