



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Department of Commerce



Issued: February 21, 2012

**NOTICE OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT ISSUANCE AND  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**In the Matter of the Application of CWS Wind Farm, LLC for  
a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 30.75 MW  
Community Wind South Project in Nobles County**

**PUC Docket Number: IP-6871/WS-11-863**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will hold a public information meeting on the application of CWS Wind Farm, LLC to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a site permit to build and operate the Community Wind South Project, a 30.75 megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Nobles County (see accompanying map).

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**  
**Monday, March 5, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.\***  
at  
**Reading Community Center**  
**McCall Ave and 200<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Reading, MN**

**\*Preceded by an open house from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. hosted by the Applicant**

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The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and solicit public comments regarding the site permit application submitted by CWS Wind Farm, LLC and the draft site permit issued by the Commission. EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit. Representatives of CWS will also be present to answer questions about the proposed project.

**EFP staff will accept written comments on the site permit application and draft site permit until 4:30 p.m. on March 23, 2012.** Please include PUC Docket No. IP-6871/WS-11-863 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Larry B. Hartman  
State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's energy facility permitting website, <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>.

**Project Description.** The proposed Community Wind South Project site encompasses 3,080 acres and is located in Nobles County in the townships of Summit Lake (Sections 17-20, 30) and Larkin (Sections 13, 23-24), approximately two miles south of Wilmont. CWS proposes to install 15 REpower 2.05MW turbines (model MM92) for a rated nameplate capacity of 30.75 MWs. The wind turbines will be placed on top of free-standing tubular steel towers up to 100 meters (328 feet) tall. The three bladed rotor assemblies will be 92.5 meters (303.5 feet) in diameter.

Underground electrical cables and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) fiber optic lines for communication purposes will connect the turbines. Other associated facilities include gravel access roads to the turbines, pad mounted transformers, a fenced-in project collection yard, two sets of underground electrical cable (34.5 kV) extending approximately 3.8 miles from the CWS project collector yard to the Nobles substation owned by NSP, and a permanent free standing meteorological tower. The applicant's goal is to achieve commercial operation by October 1, 2012.

**Review Process.** EFP staff, on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the permit review process for this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules 7854).

CWS Wind Farm, LLC filed a site permit application with the Commission on October 17, 2011. The Commission accepted the site permit application as complete on November 4, 2011.

EFP staff solicited comments on issues to be considered in developing a draft site permit for this project, and prepared a draft site permit for consideration by the Commission. On February 6, 2012, the Commission approved the draft site permit for distribution and public comment (Minn. Rules 7854.0900). Upon completion of the comment period, EFP staff will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision. Under the LWECs siting process, environmental review is incorporated into the development of the site permit application and the site permit itself; there is no separate environmental review document prepared on the project.

**Contested Case Hearing Request.** Any person may request a contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the CWS Project pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed in writing with the EFP state permit manager by **March 23, 2012**.

A person requesting a contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why 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 the Commission in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

**Eminent Domain.** CWS Wind Farm, LLC 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 project must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and CWS Wind Farm, LLC.

**Project Documents.** Electronic versions of the draft site permit, draft avian and bat protection plan documents, site permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed Project are available on the Commission’s energy facility permitting website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32306> and on the Commission’s eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year “11” and the number “863”).

The draft site permit, draft avian and bat protection plan documents and the site permit application are available for review at the locations noted below:

<p><b>Nobles County Library</b> 407 12th St Worthington, MN 56187</p>	<p><b>City Office in Wilmont</b> 316 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Wilmont, MN 56185</p>
<p><b>Nobles County Auditor’s Office</b> 315 Tenth Street Worthington, MN 56187</p>	<p>Clerks in Summit Lake and Larkin Townships</p>

**Mailing List.** Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP mailing list for this project should contact the state permit manager or the public advisor, or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>.

**Project Contacts and Information.** If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project, please contact:

Larry Hartman, State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 296-5089  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)

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

Questions about the project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Aaron Peterson, at 206-491-0493 or [peterson@juwi.com](mailto:peterson@juwi.com)

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.

