



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission



NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE, PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: November 20, 2013

In the Matter of the Site Permit Application for a 200 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System for the Odell Wind Farm in Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin and Watonwan Counties

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: IP-6914/WS-13-843

Date: December 9, 2013

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Windom Community Center
1750 Cottonwood Lake Drive
Windom MN 56101

Meeting Information:

- Comments received at the meeting and during the comment period will be used by the Department of Commerce to develop recommendations for the Commission on the draft site permit.
- Staff from the Department of Commerce and Odell Wind Farm, LLC (Odell) will be available to answer questions about the project and the process.
- Citizens will have the opportunity to make oral or written comments into the record.
- The meeting will last until everyone at the meeting has the opportunity to speak.

Topics for Public Comment:

- What issues should be considered in developing a draft site permit for this project?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
- Are there any items missing or mischaracterized in the site permit application?

Comment Period: The comment period continues after the meeting, through
December 27, 2013 at 4:30pm.

Submit Public Comments: Richard Davis, Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101
Email: richard.davis@state.mn.us
Fax: 651-297-7891
Online: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

- Please include the PUC Docket Number (above) in all communications.

Project Description

Odell proposes to build a 200 megawatt (MW) Large Wind Energy Conversation System (LWECS).

- The proposed Odell Wind Farm will consist of 100 to 133 turbines, depending on the turbine model selected.
- Currently, 1.5 MW, 1.6 MW, and 2.0 MW turbine models are under consideration.
- Odell's goal is to complete construction and begin operation prior to December 31, 2014.
- The proposed project is located in Lakeside and Mountain Lake townships in Cottonwood County, Christiania and Kimball townships in Jackson County, Cedar township in Martin County, and Odin Township in Watonwan County, near Mountain Lake, Minnesota
- The proposed Odell Wind Farm will require an associated 115 kV transmission line and a 345/115kV substation. Odell will file a separate route plan permit application for the transmission facilities.

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a site permit. The Commission accepted Odell Wind Farm LLC's site permit application on November 7, 2013. The Commission's decision-making process takes about nine months.

Based on comments received, Department of Commerce EERA staff will prepare and submit a draft site permit to the Commission for consideration. EERA expects to complete its review and file its recommendations with the Commission by January 24, 2014. In February 2014, the Commission will decide whether to issue a draft permit. If the draft site permit is approved, there will be a public hearing. Citizens will have the opportunity to speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit comments.

An Administrative Law Judge will use information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period to write a report for the Commission. The report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations about this project. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will make a final decision on this project at a separate meeting, expected by May 2014.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33584>

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (13) and the docket number (843), select "Search."

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about this project. Contact the Public Advisor (see below) to sign up for the project mailing list.

Community Locations: The site permit application is available at the following locations:

- County Auditors' Offices: Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin and Watonwan counties
- Public Libraries: Jackson, Martin County-Fairmont, Mountain Lake, Trimont, Windom
- Regional Development Commissions: Region Nine Development Commission, Southwest Regional Development Commission
- Township Clerks: Cedar, Christiania, Kimball, Lakeside, Mountain Lake, and Odin townships

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854, available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/>.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana at consumer.puc@state.mn.us, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst

Michael Kaluzniak at mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Richard Davis at richard.davis@state.mn.us or 651-539-1846

Odell Wind Farm, LLC Project Contact

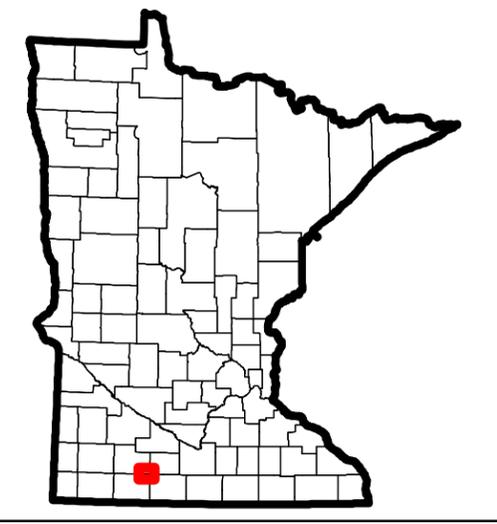
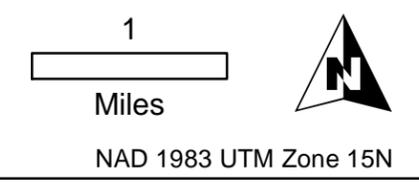
Patrick Smith at patrick@geronimoenergy.com or 952-988-9000

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

**FIGURE 5.1-1
G97 Turbine Layout
and Constraint
PROPOSED**

LEGEND

- Project Area
- Permanent Met Towers
- Turbines (G97)
- G97 3x5 Setback
- Road Setback (250')
- Structure Setback (250')
- Home Setback (1000')
- Jackson County Road Setback (418')
- Jackson County Wetland Setback (418')



SOURCES:
Geronimo Energy,
Ventyx, USGS,
FWS, MNDNR,
NAIP

