

## **Notice of Public Information Meeting**

**March 27, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**

**Adams American Legion Hall**

**Adams, MN**

**Draft Site Permit Available**

**For the**

**High Prairie Wind Farm**

**In**

**Mower County**

**PUC Docket No. PT6528/WS-06-91**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public information meeting will be held on the application by High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC, to build up to a 101.2 megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS). The public meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, March 27, 2006, at the Adams American Legion Hall, 321 West Main St, Adams, MN 55909.

Staff of the Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct the meeting and review the state's wind energy site permitting process. Please note that the authority for wind permits was transferred to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board on July 1, 2005, and responsibility for conducting the public review process was assigned to the DOC. Representatives of the applicant (High Prairie Wind) will be at the meeting to describe the proposed project and answer questions.

### **Project Description**

The High Prairie Wind Farm (Project) is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of approximately 101.2 MW and will consist of up to 44 wind turbines. The turbines will be either the Siemens 2.3-MW Mk II or similar wind turbine mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The towers will be 80 meters (262 feet) in height. The blades on the wind turbines are 45 meters (148 feet) long, resulting in a maximum overall height of 125 meters (410 feet) when one blade is in the vertical position. The rotor diameter will be 93 meters (305 feet). The electrical collector system will consist of underground 34.5 kV collection lines and facilities

providing step-up transformation. Power from the project will be delivered and sold to Xcel Energy at the Adams Substation. A new project substation, located in Section 23 of Clayton Township and a new 161 kV transmission line, approximately seven miles long, will be built to carry the power from the Project to the Adams Substation. The 161 kV transmission line project is being reviewed and permitted by Mower County and does not require a route permit from the PUC. The Project will include an underground 34.5 kV electrical collection system to deliver power from each turbine to the Project Substation as described above. Other Project associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and access roads.

### **Proposed Site Location**

As shown on the accompanying map, the proposed project site is located in Mower County; portions of the project will be located in parts of Bennington, Clayton, and Lodi townships. The total project site area including the wind plant and land easements is approximately 10,000 acres. The total development consists of approximately 60 acres.

### **PUC Site Permit Review Process**

High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC (High Prairie) filed a site permit application, with the Public Utilities Commission for the 101.2 MW LWECS project on February 10, 2006, which was accepted by the PUC on March 7, 2006. The DOC is reviewing the High Prairie site permit application under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, sections 116C.691 - 116C.697) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4401). Upon completion of the review requirements, the DOC will present the record of this matter to the PUC for a final decision.

### **Public Comments**

The site permit application, Draft Site Permit and the agency rules guiding the review process are available on the PUC website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18456>

Interested persons may comment on the site permit application and Draft Site Permit at the public meeting or may submit written or fax (651-297-1959) comments by 4:30 p.m. on **April 12, 2006**. **Please include the following docket number (PT6528/WS-06-91)**. Written or fax comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

### **DOC Project Contacts**

Questions about the project and the PUC permitting process may be directed to: Larry B. Hartman, Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; Tel: 651-296-5089; Fax 651-297-7891; **e-mail** [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us). Jeffrey Haase, with the DOC staff, has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. He can be contacted at: Tel: 651-297-5648 or e-mail: [jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us](mailto:jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us) and the mailing address above.

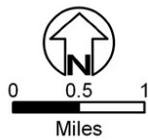
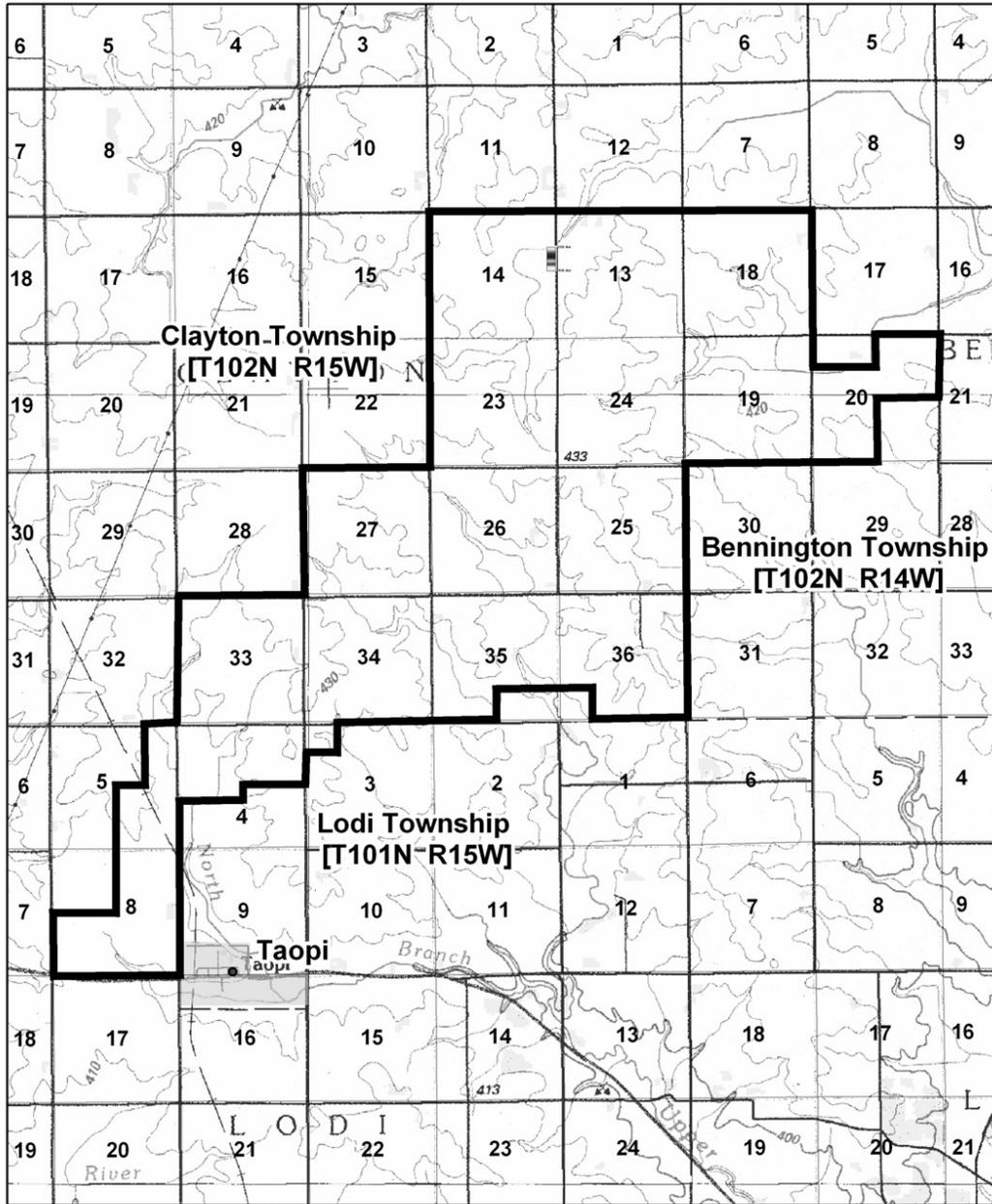
Questions about the High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC, Site Permit Application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Robert L. Crowell at 713-571-6640 or [bob.crowell@horizon.com](mailto:bob.crowell@horizon.com).

### **Hearing Request**

Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Sharon Ferguson (address above) in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 12, 2006**. The person requesting the public hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reasons why a hearing is required to resolve those issues. The PUC shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the hearing will aid the PUC in making a final decision on the site permit application.

### **Project Background Information**

Copies of the High Prairie Wind Farm site permit application have been distributed to affected landowners, and township, county and state officials. Copies of the application and Draft Site Permit are available for review at the Auditor's Offices in Mower County, and the city offices in Adams. All project documents are available on the PUC Web site at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18456>



HIGH PRAIRIE WIND PROJECT  
MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA