



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Issued: November 22, 2006



PUBLIC NOTICE

High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC
Large Wind Energy Conversion System
Mower County
Certificate of Need Application

PUBLIC MEETING

December 14, 2006, 7:00 PM
Grumpy's Restaurant and Lounge
Grand Meadow, Minnesota

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC (High Prairie II), has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a certificate of need for a large wind energy conversion system of approximately 100 megawatts. The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facilities Permitting Unit will prepare an Environmental Report on the project. A public meeting will be held at Grumpy's Restaurant and Lounge at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2006 to inform the public of the High Prairie II wind project and to gather public input on the scope of the Environment Report that will be prepared for this project.

a.) Project Description

The High Prairie II Wind Farm Project is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of approximately 100 MW comprised of up to 61 turbines with a nameplate capacity of 1.65 MW and associated facilities including access roads and power lines. The proposed project would be located in Mower County, 15 miles southeast of the city of Austin, on approximately 17,000 acres in Clayton, Bennington, Grand Meadow, and Marshall townships. The project would connect to the electrical grid at Interstate Power and Light Company's Adams Substation. Power from the project would be transmitted to the Adams Substation via a seven-mile, 161 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line designed to carry the full output of the High Prairie I and High Prairie II wind farms.

The turbines are manufactured by Vestas Wind Systems and are 80 meters high at the hub with a rotor diameter of 82 meters. A "step-up" transformer would be located at the base of each turbine. A network of access roads and underground power and communication cables would also be installed as part of the project.

A new 161 kV substation and a new three-mile, 161 kV high voltage transmission line have been proposed to transmit the power from the High Prairie II wind farm to the

Mower County substation located in Section 23 of Clayton Township. Power would be transmitted from the Mower County substation to the Adams Substation via the existing seven-mile 161 kV transmission line. The company has elected to seek local approval for the construction of the 161 kV substation and transmission line. Questions regarding this project should be directed to Daryl Franklin, Director, Mower County Environmental Services, (507) 437-9560 or darylf@co.mower.mn.us, or Bob Crowell, High Prairie Wind Farm II, (713) 265-0249 or bob.crowell@horizonwind.com.

b.) Certificate of Need Application

The High Prairie II wind project is a “large energy facility” as defined in Minnesota Statutes § 216B.2421, subp. 2 and a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required for such a project under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243. High Prairie II filed a certificate of need application with the PUC on October 6, 2006. PUC Docket No. PT-6556/CN-06-1428. The matter will come before the PUC for a decision on whether or not to accept the application as complete on December 7, 2007.

At the PUC Meeting on December 7, the PUC will also determine the review process to be used for this application, and include a determination of whether the hearing on the application should be a contested case hearing. The actual hearing will be held shortly after the DOC completes preparation of the Environmental Report and will be conducted by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under state law, the PUC proceeding is the only time at which the “no-build” alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility will be considered. These items will not be addressed in the PUC Site Permit process.

c.) DOC Environmental Report

Under Minnesota Rules 4410.7010 to 4410.7070, the DOC is responsible for preparing an Environmental Report on any proposed large energy facility for which a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required under Minnesota Statute 216B.243. The Environmental Report is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed facility, any alternatives to the project, and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The Environmental Report must be prepared before the PUC can make a ruling on the certificate of need application.

The DOC will provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the determination of the scope of the Environmental Report. Once the scope is determined, the DOC will prepare the Environmental Report by no later than February 6, 2006. The Environmental Report will be introduced into the record at the hearing and the DOC staff will be available to answer questions about information in the Report.

d.) Public Meeting

The DOC will hold a public meeting on the project at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2006, at Grumpy's Restaurant and Lounge, 204 4th Avenue NE, Grand Meadow, Minnesota. The purpose of the public meeting is to inform the public of the High Prairie II wind project and to gather public input into the scope of the Environment Report. The meeting provides the public an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to suggest alternatives and impacts to address in the Environmental Report.

e.) Available Information

All pertinent information regarding this matter, including the certificate of need application and the Environmental Report when it is completed, can be accessed at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18884> or by contacting Jeffrey Haase at (651) 297-5648 or at Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101.

f.) Eminent Domain

High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC, does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for this project.

g.) Mailing List

Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the DOC EFP for future mailings regarding the High Prairie II project. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Haase or electronically by visiting the Energy Facilities Permitting website.

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18884>

h.) PUC Wind Site Permit

High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC has also applied to the Public Utilities Commission for a Wind Site Permit for the project. The DOC will administer the permit application process for the PUC under the wind rules at the same time it is preparing the Environmental Report, Minnesota Rules Chapter 4401. A draft site permit will be made available shortly after the PUC makes a decision on whether or not to accept the site permit application. The DOC will use the same mailing list created for the certificate of need application to notify interested persons of matters regarding the permit.