



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**  
Issued: December 18, 2006



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SITE PERMIT**  
**&**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**January 17, 2006, 7:00 PM**  
**Grumpy's Restaurant and Lounge**  
**Grand Meadow, Minnesota**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**

**DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABLE**

**For the proposed**  
**High Prairie Wind Farm II**

**MPUC Docket No. PT65556/WS-06-1520**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC (High Prairie II), has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a site permit for a large wind energy conversion system of approximately 100.65 megawatts. The application was submitted on November 22, 2006 and was accepted by the Public Utilities Commission on December 7, 2006. A public information meeting will be held on the application by High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC, to build up to a 100.65 megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS). The public meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, January 17, 2006, at Grumpy's Restaurant and Lounge, 204 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Grand Meadow, MN 55936

Staff of the Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct the meeting and describe the state's wind energy site permitting process. Representatives of the applicant (High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC) will be at the meeting to describe the proposed project and answer questions.

**Project Description**

The High Prairie Wind Farm II (Project) is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of approximately 100.65 MW and will consist of up to 61 wind turbines. The turbines will be either the Vestas V82, 1.65-MW MK II or similar wind turbine mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The towers will be 80 meters (262 feet) in height. The rotor diameter will be 82 meters (269 feet), resulting in a maximum overall height of 121 meters (397 feet) when one blade is in the vertical position. 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 Great River Energy at the Adams Substation. A new project substation, located in Section 10 of Clayton Township and a new 161 kV transmission line, approximately

three 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, Marshall and Grand Meadow Townships. The total project site area including the wind plant and land easements is approximately 13,000 acres. The total development consists of approximately 81 acres.

### **MPUC Site Permit Review Process**

High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC (High Prairie) filed a site permit application, with the Public Utilities Commission for the 100.65 MW LWECS project on November 21, 2006, which was accepted by the Public Utilities Commission on December 7, 2006. The DOC is now reviewing the High Prairie Wind Farm II 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 MPUC website at:

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

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 **January 31, 2007. Please include the following docket number (PT6556/WS-06-1520).** 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: Jeffrey Haase, Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; Tel: 651-297-5648; Fax 651-297-7891; e-mail [jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us](mailto:jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us). Larry Hartman, 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: 651-296-5089 or e-mail: [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us) and the mailing address above.

Questions about the High Prairie Wind Farm II, 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, January 31, 2007**. 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 Grand Meadow, Elkton, Taopi, Adams, and LeRoy. All project documents are available on the PUC Web site at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18884>