



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**  
Issued: March 20, 2007



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2007 ♦ 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**  
**Grumpy's Restaurant & Lounge**  
**204 4th Avenue NE**  
**Grand Meadow, MN 55936**

**Certificate of Need and Site Permit Applications**  
**By High Prairie Wind II, LLC**

**For the**  
**High Prairie Wind Farm II in Mower County**

**PUC Docket Numbers : PT6556/CN-06-1428 & PT6556/WS-06-1520**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will hold a Public Hearing on applications by High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC (High Prairie II) to construct a 100.65 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) and associated facilities in Mower County. The public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, April 4, 2007**, at Grumpy's Restaurant and Lounge, 204 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Grand Meadow, MN, 55936. The hearing will convene at 3:00 p.m. and an evening session will be held commencing at 6:00 p.m.

**Administrative Law Judge**

Administrative Law Judge Steve M. Mihalchick will preside at the hearing. Judge Mihalchick's address is: Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2138, phone: 612-349-2544, fax: 612-349-2665, email: [Steve.Mihalchick@state.mn.us](mailto:Steve.Mihalchick@state.mn.us)

**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.

### **Environmental Report**

The Department of Commerce has prepared an Environmental Report (ER) on the proposed Project. The ER addresses alternatives to the Project, and the potential impacts of the proposed wind facility. The ER will be available for review at the hearing. Documents relevant to the Certificate of Need and Route Permit are available on the PUC webpage at:

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

### **Conduct of Hearing**

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 4, and the rules of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Minn. Rules part 7829.2500, subp. 9, for projects of the size and type proposed here.

The DOC staff will be present at the hearing and make a brief presentation about the Project and introduce into the record a number of documents relating to the project, including the applications, the ER, and certain procedural documents. Representatives of High Prairie II will be present to offer evidence and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of DOC staff and High Prairie II representatives, to make statements, and to offer written comments and material into the record at both the afternoon and evening sessions. Members of the public are not required to file any papers in advance of the hearing in order to participate.

Written comments regarding whether or not the Certificate of Need and the Route Permit should be granted for the Project should be submitted directly to Judge Mihalchick at the address above. Written comments should include the PUC Docket Numbers (PT6556/CN-06-1428 & PT6556/WS-06-1520) for this proceeding.

### **Purpose of Hearing**

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the application for a Certificate of Need and a Site Permit for the proposed Project. Upon closure of the public comment period, Judge Mihalchick will prepare a summary of the hearing for the PUC to consider in making a final decision on the permits requested. The PUC will make a final decision on the permits at a subsequent meeting.

### Additional Information

For more information about the siting process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact the DOC project manager, Jeffrey Haase (Tel: 651-297-5648 or [jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us](mailto:jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us)) or public advisor Larry Hartman, (Tel: 651-296-5089 or [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)) Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

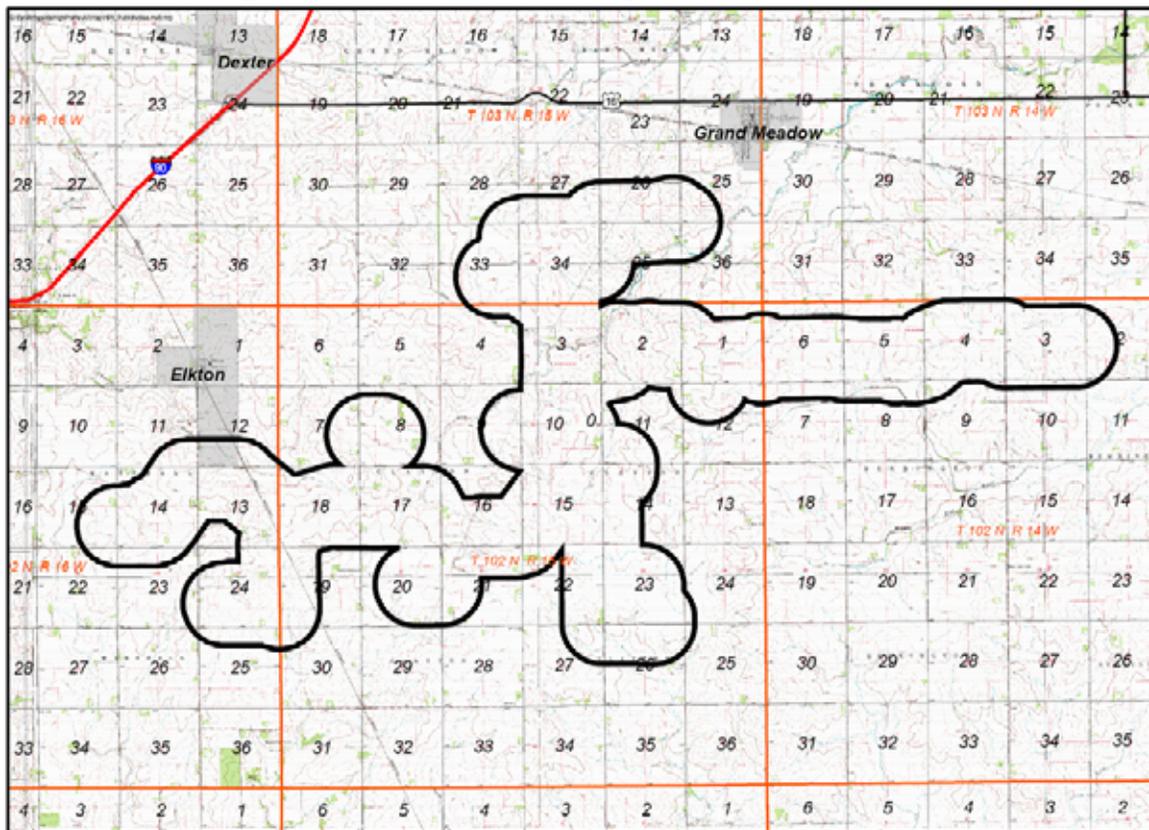
Questions specific to the Certificate of Need should be directed to Bret Eknes at the Public Utilities Commission (Tel: 651.201.2236 or [bret.eknes@state.mn.us](mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us)).

### Mailing List

Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the DOC for future mailings regarding this project. If you would like to receive notice of the PUC's final decision in this matter, you may put your name on this mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Haase or by visiting the PUC website:

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

### High Prairie Wind Farm II Proposed Site Location



High Prairie II Windfarm  
Project Area  
Mower County, Minnesota