



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Minnesota Department of Commerce



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE AND  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

In the Matter of a Site Permit Application for the 55 MW Bear Creek Wind Project in the  
Minnesota Counties of Otter Tail and Todd.

**MPUC Docket No. IP6629/WS-07-297**

**Thursday, July 19, 2007 6:30 p.m.**  
**Hewitt Community Center**  
**Hewitt, MN**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that PlainStates Energy, on behalf of Bear Creek Wind Partners, LLC, has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit to build and operate up to a 55 Megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) west of Hewitt, Minnesota. The PUC accepted the site permit application on June 19, 2007.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff will a host a public information meeting at the date, time and location above to provide an overview of the wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit for the Bear Creek Wind Project. The public information meeting and comment period will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about and comment on the Project, the process and the draft site permit.

Representatives of DOC and Bear Creek Wind Partners, LLC, will be at the meeting to describe the proposed Project and answer questions.

**Project Description**

The Bear Creek Wind Project is proposed to be built in 2 separate phases. Phase I is proposed to be 30 MW and in-service in 2008. Phase II is proposed to be 25 MW with an uncertain in-service date. Bear Creek proposes to use 22 Nordex N90, 2.5 MW wind turbine generators mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The towers will be 80 meters (262 feet) in height measured at the hub. The rotor diameter will be 90 meters (295 feet). The maximum overall height of the wind turbines will be approximately 125 meters (410 feet) above grade when one blade is in the vertical position.

An electrical system consisting of underground and overhead 34.5 kilovolt (kV) collection and feeder lines will deliver power to a project substation in Stowe Prairie Township, Section 17. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and turbine access roads.

Market Assurance: 1.800.657.3602  
Energy Information: 1.800.657.3710  
[www.commerce.state.mn.us](http://www.commerce.state.mn.us)

Licensing: 1.800.657.3978  
Unclaimed Property: 1.800.925.5668  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

### **Proposed Site Location**

The Project site is located in Todd and Otter Tail counties in portions of Bartlett, Stowe Prairie, Oak Valley, and Woodside townships. Bear Creek Wind Partners, LLC, has obtained wind development rights from landowners for approximately 1,795 acres within the Project boundary.

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

PlainStates Energy filed a site permit application for the Bear Creek Wind Project with the PUC on May 24, 2007. On June 19, 2007, the PUC accepted the application as complete, determined that a permit may be issued in this case and issued a draft site permit. The application and draft site permit are available from the web site and project contacts listed below. Landowners and governments within the project boundary will receive a copy of the application directly from the developer.

The DOC is now initiating the public participation process under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4401). Upon completion of the public participation process, the DOC will present the record of this matter to the PUC for a final permit 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=19150>

Interested persons may comment on the application and draft site permit at the public meeting or may submit written comments until 4:30 p.m. on **August 15, 2007**. Written comments can be sent by mail, fax or by email. Please include the following docket number (IP6629/WS-07-297) on written comments. Written or fax comments should be directed to: Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Fax: 651-297-7891.

### **DOC Project Contacts**

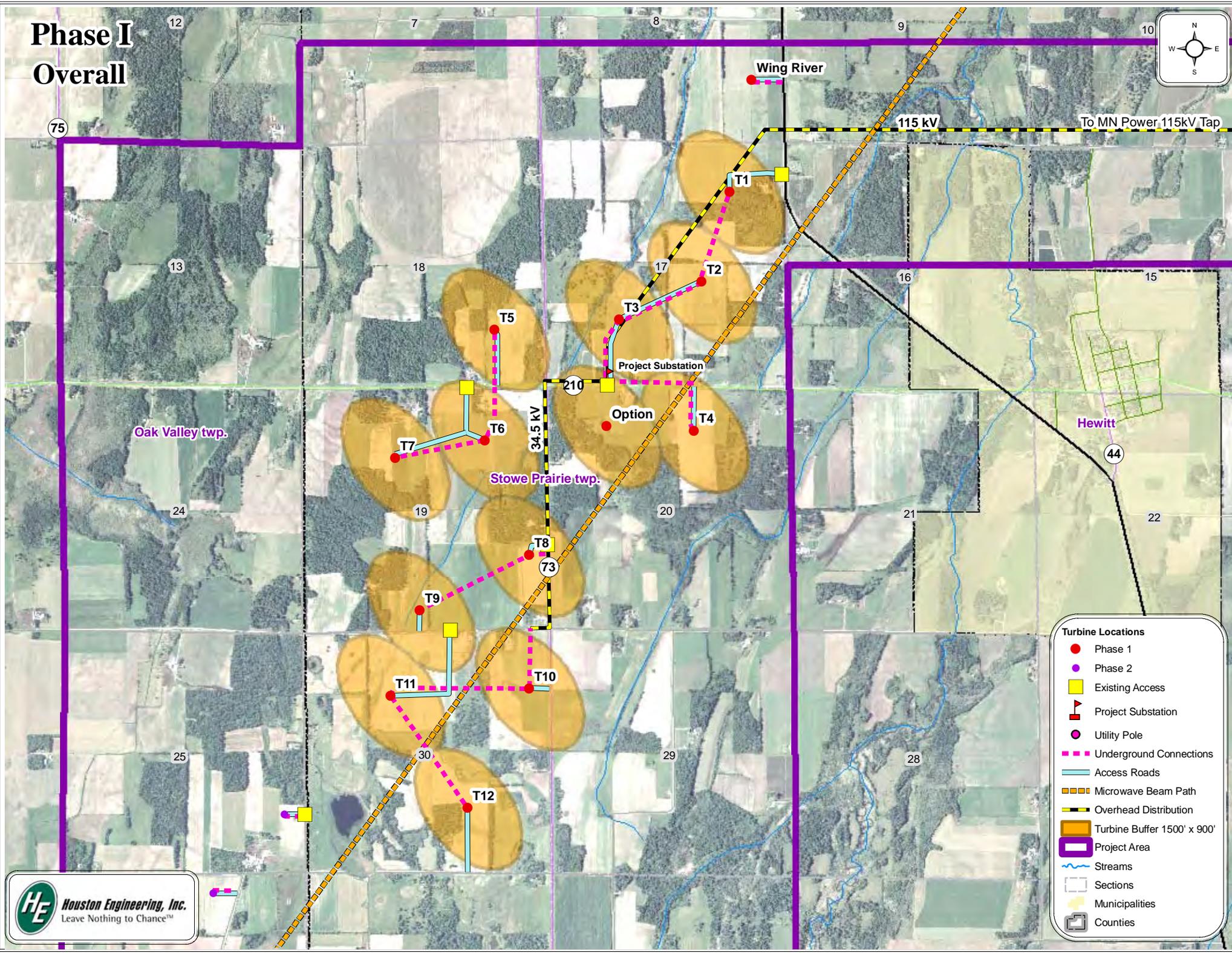
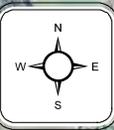
Questions, comments and requests to add your name on the mailing list for the Bear Creek Wind Project may be directed to: Adam Sokolski, Tel: 651-296-2096; e-mail: [adam.sokolski@state.mn.us](mailto:adam.sokolski@state.mn.us) and the mailing address above. Deborah Pile, with the DOC staff, has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. She can be contacted at: Tel: 651-297-2375; toll free at: 800-657-3794; or e-mail: [deborah.pile@state.mn.us](mailto:deborah.pile@state.mn.us) and the mailing address above.

Questions about the Bear Creek Wind Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Mr. John Ihle, PlainStates Energy at 701-232-4948.

### **Contested Case Hearing Request**

Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter. Minnesota Rule 4401.0550. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with the Department of Commerce in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **August 15, 2007**. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reasons why a contested case 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 and draft site permit.

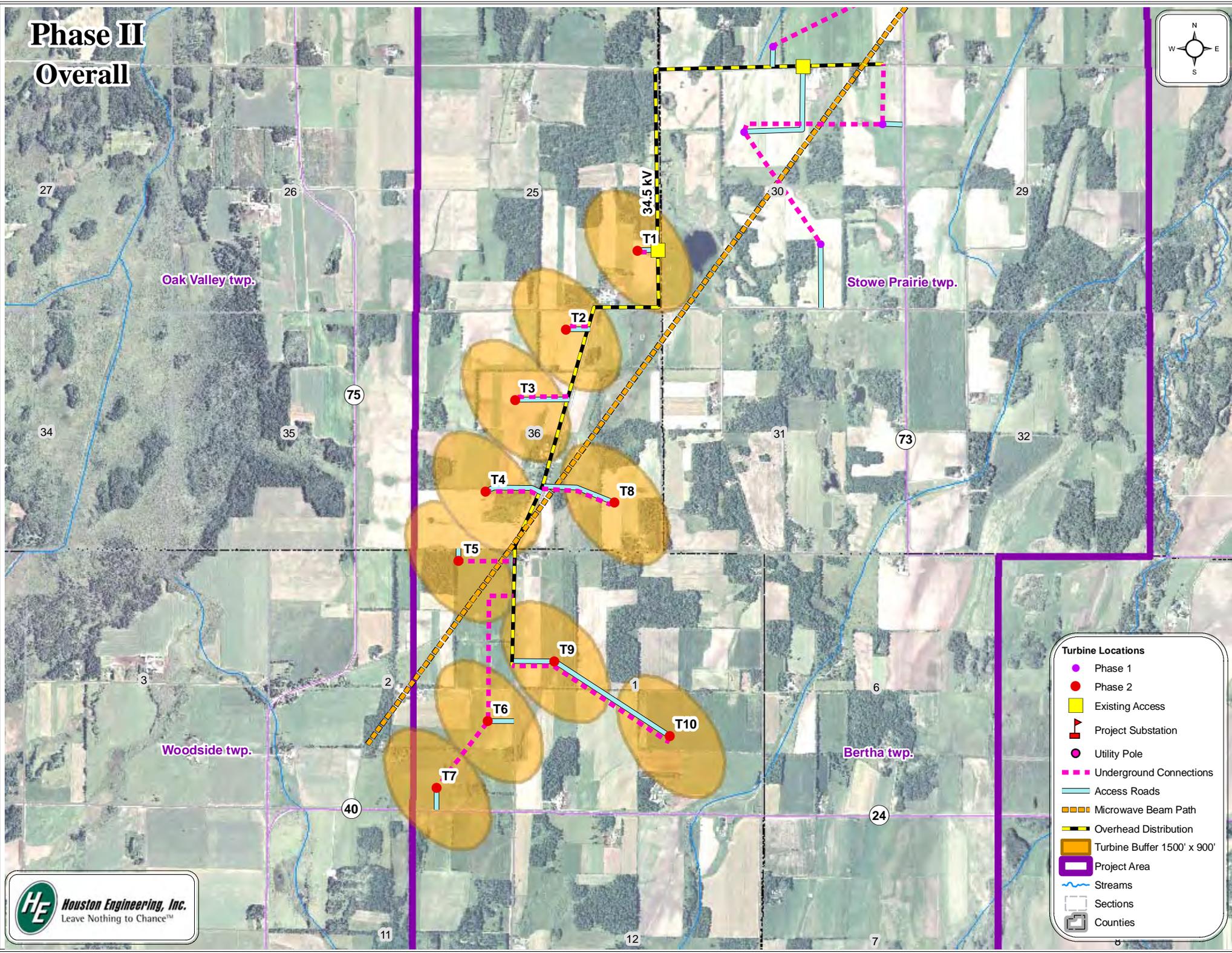
# Phase I Overall



**Turbine Locations**

- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Existing Access
- ▭ Project Substation
- Utility Pole
- Underground Connections
- Access Roads
- Microwave Beam Path
- Overhead Distribution
- Turbine Buffer 1500' x 900'
- ▭ Project Area
- ~ Streams
- ▭ Sections
- ▭ Municipalities
- ▭ Counties

# Phase II Overall



**Turbine Locations**

- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Existing Access
- ▴ Project Substation
- Utility Pole
- Underground Connections
- Access Roads
- Microwave Beam Path
- Overhead Distribution
- Turbine Buffer 1500' x 900'
- Project Area
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- Counties

