



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Issued: August 3, 2007



Elm Creek Wind, LLC
Certificate of Need and Site Permit Applications
PUC Docket Numbers: IP6631/CN-07-789 and IP6631/WS-07-388

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Elm Creek Wind, LLC, has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a Certificate of Need (CON) and a Site Permit for a large wind energy conversion system up to 100 megawatts (MW) in Jackson and Martin counties. The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Energy Facilities Permitting Unit (EFP) will prepare an Environmental Report (ER) on the Project. A public information and environmental report scoping meeting will be held at the location listed below.

August 21, 2007, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Jackson County Library
311 3rd Street
Jackson, Minnesota

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed Project, to take public comment and input on the draft Site Permit issued by the PUC and on the scope of the ER that will be prepared for the CON Application.

The public information meeting will follow an open-house format until 7:00 p.m. when the DOC will make a formal presentation. The public is invited to review the Applications and proposed Elm Creek Wind Project, learn more about the PUC review process, make comments and ask questions.

Project Description

Elm Creek Wind, LLC, an affiliate of PPM Energy, proposes a 100 MW wind energy conversion system using between 33 - 66 utility scale wind turbine generators each 1.5 – 3.0 MW in capacity and associated facilities including access roads, junction boxes, meteorological towers, communications lines and power lines. The Project is located approximately 10 miles north of Jackson and 10 miles west of Trimont on up to 10,000 acres under the Applicant's control in Enterprise, Belmont, Cedar, Kimball and Christiana townships (see attached map). Electricity from the Project would be transmitted to the existing Trimont Substation via 34.5 kilovolt electric lines. The Project is proposed to connect to the electrical grid at the Xcel Energy Martin County Substation.

PUC Review Process

Two separate PUC approvals are required to build a large wind energy conversion facility greater than 50 MW in size. First, a project developer must obtain a Certificate of Need under Minnesota Statute 216B.243 from the PUC. Second, a Site Permit for a large wind energy conversion system under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F is required from the PUC.

Elm Creek Wind, LLC, filed its CON Application on June 12, 2007, and its Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit Application on June 15, 2007. The PUC accepted the Applications and issued a draft Site Permit on July 26, 2007. The Applications and draft Site Permit are available from the web site and persons listed below. Landowners and governments inside the Project boundary will receive a copy of the Site Permit Application directly from the Elm Creek Wind, LLC.

The DOC EFP unit is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the CON Application under Minnesota Rule 4410.7030. The DOC will prepare an ER prior to public hearing and the PUC's determination of the need for the Project. The ER will consider issues related to the CON for the Project, such as size, type, timing, voltage and system configurations and general environmental impacts of the Project.

The DOC EFP unit is also responsible for conducting the public participation process for the Site Permit Application. Environmental review for the Site Permit is addressed in the Site Permit Application and the draft Site Permit. Human, social and environmental impacts raised in public comments may be addressed by adding or modifying specific conditions of the draft Site Permit.

After completion of the ER, the PUC will hold a public hearing on the CON application which will be presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under state law, the CON proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type and timing of a new electrical generating facility can be considered. These items will not be addressed in the PUC Site Permit process. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the Department. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager or register on the webpage cited below.

Public Comment Period

The DOC will accept written comments on the Elm Creek Wind Project Site Permit Application and the draft Site Permit, and suggested alternatives to be evaluated in the ER until September 12, 2007. Any person may request a contested case hearing on the Site Permit Application during the comment period pursuant to Minnesota Rule 4401.0550. Written comments and requests should be mailed or e-mailed to Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager, at 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198 or sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us.

Upon completion of the public participation and hearing process, the records compiled in each proceeding will be presented to the PUC for final decisions on the Applications.

Eminent Domain

Elm Creek Wind, LLC, an independent power producer, does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights necessary for this Project. Wind and land rights necessary for the Project will be limited to voluntary easement or lease agreements between Elm Creek Wind, LLC, and individual landowners.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process, the Project or to place your name on the Project mailing list, contact the persons listed below: 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.

Project Manager, Site Permit Adam Sokolski Minnesota Department of Commerce 651-296-2096 adam.sokolski@state.mn.us	Public Advisor, Certificate of Need Bret Eknes Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 651-201-2236 bret.eknes@state.mn.us
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Copies of both Applications and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Rules and Statutes governing the process, are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19191>

Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the DOC EFP for future mailings regarding the Elm Creek Wind Project. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Sokolski or electronically by visiting the PUC Energy Facilities Permitting website above.

Finally, questions about the Elm Creek Wind Project can also be directed to the Applicant by contacting Mr. Tim Seck, PPM Energy, at 651-917-9285 or Timothy.Seck@PPMEnergy.com.

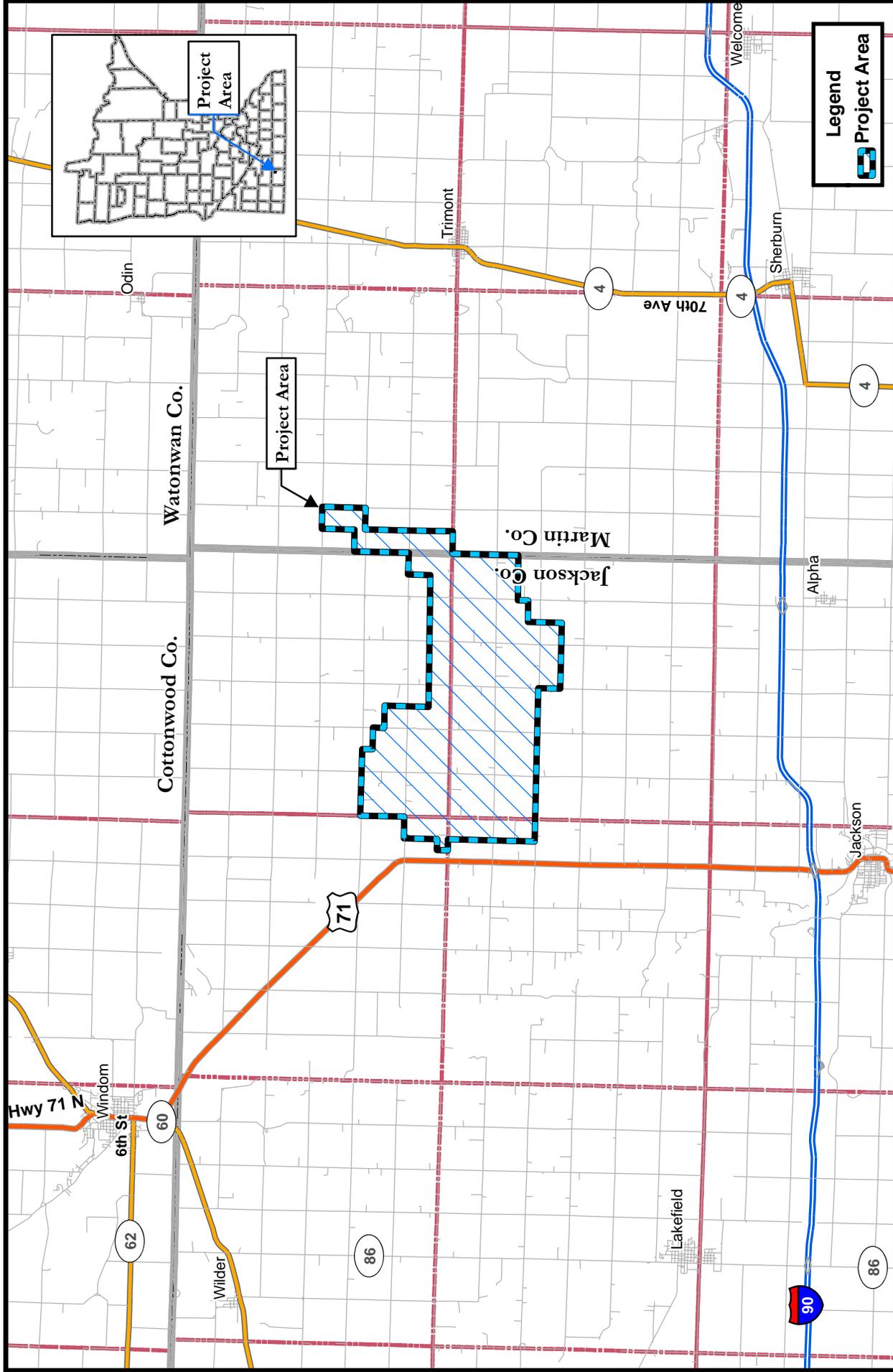


Figure 1-1
 Project Vicinity Map
 Elm Creek Wind Project
 PPM Energy
 Jackson & Martin Counties, MN

