



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**  
Issued: August 30, 2007



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE, DRAFT SITE PERMIT  
AVAILABILITY, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING**

**For the  
Wapsipinicon/Grand Meadow Wind Project in Mower County  
Proposed by enXco Development Corporation and Xcel Energy**

**Site Permit and Certificate of Need Applications  
PUC Docket Numbers:  
IP6646/WS-07-839 & E0022/CN-07-873**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that enXco Development Corporation (enXco) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit for a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) of approximately 205.5 megawatts (MW) in Mower County.

Xcel Energy entered into an agreement to purchase from enXco 100.5 MW of the proposed Wapsipinicon 205.5 MW Wind Project. However, Xcel Energy must first obtain a Certificate of Need. Xcel Energy has filed a Certificate of Need with the PUC for the portion of the project they will purchase which is referred to as the Grand Meadow Wind Farm.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff 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.

**Wednesday, September 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Elkton Community Center Building  
117 Main Street  
Elkton, MN 55926**

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

The public is invited to review the Applications and proposed Wapsipinicon/Grand Meadow Wind Farm Project, learn about the PUC review process, make comments and ask questions.

## **Project Description**

enXco's proposed 205.5 MW Wapsipinicon Wind Project, which includes Xcel Energy's proposed purchase of 100.5 MW and is referred to as the Grand Meadow Wind Farm, is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) comprising up to 137 General Electric 1.5 MW turbines and associated facilities.

The towers will be 80 meters (262.5 feet) in height. The rotor diameter will be 77 meters (252.6 feet), resulting in a maximum overall height of 118.5 meters (388.8 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. enXco is also proposing to build a 161/34.5 kV project substation which will consist generally of 2 161/34.5 transformers, and associated switching and protection equipment as well as metering equipment and a small control house.

Power from the turbines will be collected at this substation and transmitted to the Pleasant Valley Substation located in section 19 of Pleasant Valley Township via approximately 6 miles of overhead 161 kV transmission line. This transmission line project will be reviewed and permitted by Mower County and does require a route permit from the PUC.

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 central Mower County; portions of the project will be located in parts of Clayton, Marshall, Dexter, Grand Meadow, Pleasant Valley and Sargeant Townships. The total project site area including the wind plant and land easements is approximately 65 square miles (41,600 acres) as proposed to provide turbine siting flexibility and to allow sufficient room for buffers from microwave beam paths, setbacks from existing wind projects and other features within or close to the site.

## **PUC Review Process**

Two separate PUC approvals are required, in this instance, to build a large wind energy conversion facility. First, a project over 50 MW 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.

enXco filed its LWECS Site Permit Application on June 25, 2007, with the PUC for the 205.5 MW Wapsipinicon Wind Project. enXco entered into an agreement with Xcel Energy to sell 100.5 MW's of the 205.5 MW project to Xcel.

Xcel Energy filed its CON Application on June 25, 2007, for its 100.5 MW Grand Meadow Wind Farm, which Xcel will purchase from enXco, the developer of the Wapsipinicon Wind Project.

On August 7, 2007, the PUC accepted enXco's Site Permit Application and Xcel's CON application for the Wapsipinicon/Grand Meadow Wind Project.

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 and Environmental Report (ER) prior to the public hearing for the CON and the PUC's determination of need for Xcel's 100.5 MW Grand Meadow Wind Farm. 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 identified 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 CON public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the DOC. 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 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=19234>

Interested persons may comment on the site permit application, Draft Site Permit, items and alternatives to be evaluated in the ER at the public meeting or may submit written or fax (651-297-1959) comments by 4:30 p.m. on **October 10, 2007**. **Please include the following docket number (IP6646/WS-07-839 or E0022/CN-07-873 ) on any written material submitted.** 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.

## Hearing Request

Any person may request a contested case hearing for the site permit Application (Minnesota Rule 7836.0900 Subp.5.A. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Sharon Ferguson (address above) in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 10, 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.

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

## Eminent Domain

enXco Development Corporation, 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 easements or lease agreements between enXco Development Corporation and individual landowners.

## Project Contacts and Information

**Site Permit Contact Department of Commerce.** Questions about the project and the PUC permitting process may be directed to: Larry B. Hartman, Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; Tel: 651-296-5089; e-mail [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us).

David Birkholz, 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: 651-296-2878 or e-mail: [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us) and the mailing address above.

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

**CON Contact Public Utilities Commission.** Questions about the Certificate of Need proceeding for the Grand Meadow Wind Farm may be directed to Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101; Tel: 651-201-2236 or e-mail: [bret.eknes@state.mn.us](mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us).

**enXco.** Questions about the Wapsipinicon Wind Project Site Permit Application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ian Krygowski at 612-746-0770 or [iank@enxco.com](mailto:iank@enxco.com).

**Xcel Energy.** Questions about Xcel's CON application may be directed to Brian Zelenak at 612-330-5641 or [brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com](mailto:brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com).

### **Project Background Information**

Copies of the Wapsipinicon 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, the city offices in Dexter and Elkton and the clerks in the townships of: Clayton, Marshall, Dexter, Grand Meadow, Pleasant Valley and Sargeant. All site permit project documents are available on the PUC Web site identified above.

Information regarding the PUC proceedings on the site permit and CON applications will be available on the website identified above or on eDockets at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

For information on the site permit type in 07-839 and for information on the CON proceeding type in 07-873.

**Wapsipinicon  
Wind Power Project**

**Dexter**

**Elkton**

