



**STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security**



Issued: June 27, 2008

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

In the Matter of a Site Permit Application for the 20 MW
Sibley County Wind Project in Sibley County, Minnesota
PUC Docket IP6666/WS-08-208

**Tuesday, July 15, 2008
5:30 p.m. Open House
6:30 p.m. Public Information Meeting**

**Winthrop Vets Club
206 North Main St.
Winthrop, MN**

**DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABLE
For the Proposed Sibley County Wind Project
MPUC Docket No. IP6666/WS-08-208**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Sibley Wind Substation, LLC, has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit to build and operate up to a 20 Megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) west of Winthrop, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security (OES) will hold a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at the Winthrop Vets Club. The meeting will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the proposed draft site permit for the Sibley County Wind Project. The public information meeting and a comment period will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about and make comments on the Project, the process and the draft site permit. Representatives of the OES and Sibley Wind Substation, LLC, will be at the meeting to describe the proposed Project and answer questions.

Prior to the public information meeting, the applicant will host an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m. The applicant's representatives will be available at the open house to discuss the project and answer questions.

Project Description

The Applicant is considering three possible wind turbine generators for the Project. Depending upon the turbine model selected, the Applicant proposes to install 10-13 wind turbine generators and anticipates an in-service date of no later than December 2010. The proposed turbines would use 80 meter (262 feet) tubular towers measured at the hub height. Depending upon the model selected, the rotor diameter of the turbines would be 225 – 288 feet, with a maximum overall height of approximately 375 - 406 feet above grade when one blade is in the vertical position.

Energy from the Project will be delivered to the Applicant's Sibley Wind substation in Section 12 of Cornish Township. Electricity will be stepped up to 69 kilovolts (kV) at the Sibley Wind Substation and delivered to the high voltage transmission system via an existing 69 kV line. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and turbine access roads.

Proposed Site Location

The proposed Sibley County Wind Project is located in Sibley County, approximately 1- 3 miles west and southwest of Winthrop, Minnesota. The site comprises approximately 2,100 acres in portions of eight sections in Cornish Township. The Applicants anticipate that approximately 10 – 12 acres of land would be permanently removed from agricultural production for turbine sites, access roads and the Project substation.

MPUC Site Permit Review Process

Sibley Wind Substation, LLC, a Minnesota based corporation, submitted a site permit application for the 20 MW Sibley County Wind Project on April 24, 2008. On May 22, 2008, the PUC accepted the applications as complete, made a preliminary determination that a permit may be issued and issued a draft site permit. The application and draft site permit are available from the web site and contacts listed below. Landowners and governments within the Project boundary will receive a copy of the application directly Sibley Wind Substation, LLC.

The OES is now initiating the public participation process under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 7836). Upon completion of the public participation process, the OES 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=19541>

You may register on this same web site to be added to the mailing list associated with this Project and to receive future notices by U.S. Mail.

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 **July 30, 2008**. Written comments can be sent by mail, fax or by email. Please include the project docket number (**IP6650/WS-08-208**) on written comments. Written or fax comments should be directed to:

**Suzanne Steinhauer
Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500,
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.
Fax: 651-296-2888**

OES Project Contacts

Suzanne Steinhauer, with the OES staff is the Project Manager for the permitting of the facility. Larry Hartman, also with the OES Staff, has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. Questions, comments and requests to add your name on the mailing list for the Sibley County Wind Project may be directed to:

Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2888
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Larry Hartman, Public Advisor
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St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-5089
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Questions about the Sibley County Wind Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Mr. David Norgaard, Sibley Wind Substation, LLC, at 507-247-5672, or commish5@frontiernet.net.

Contested Case Hearing Request

Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter (Minnesota Rule 7836.0900). All contested case hearing requests must be filed with the Department of Commerce in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **July 30, 2008**. 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.

