



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security  
Issued : October 2, 2008



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

**For the  
Bent Tree Wind Project in Freeborn County  
Proposed by Wisconsin Power and Light**

**Site Permit and Certificate of Need Applications  
PUC Docket Numbers:  
ET6657/WS-08-573 & ET6657/CN-07-1425**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a Certificate of Need (CON) for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of up to 400 megawatts (MW), a CON for a 161 kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL), and a Site Permit for the LWECS. The LWECS and the HVTL will be located in Freeborn County and together are called the Bent Tree Wind Project (Project).

***Public Information Meeting/Open House Dates***

The Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES), Energy Facilities Permitting Staff (EFP) will hold information meetings on WPL's applications for the LWECS Site Permit [and Certificates of Need for the LWECS and HVTL]. A public information and Environmental Report (ER) scoping meeting will be held at the locations specified below. EFP staff will prepare an ER on the Project. EFP staff will also review the state's permitting process for LWECS and HVTLs and how the public may be involved. In conjunction with the EFP staff information meetings, WPL will hold an open house prior to each public information meeting to answer questions and provide the public with information about the project.

**October 21, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.  
Freeborn County Government Center  
411 South Broadway  
Albert Lea, Minnesota**

**October 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.  
Hartland Community Center  
407 S. Broadway  
Hartland, Minnesota**

**APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES AFTER THE START OF EACH OPEN HOUSE AN EFP STAFF PRESENTATION WILL BEGIN.**

***Project Description***

The Project includes a LWECS of up to 400 MW, expected to come on line in two phases of 200 MW each. WPL currently proposes to construct the first 200 MW, comprising of 80-133 utility-scale wind turbine generators with a capacity between 1.5 and 2.5 MW each and associated facilities including access roads, meteorological towers, communications lines, and power lines. The Project is located in northwest Freeborn County, in south central Minnesota, approximately 4 miles northwest of Albert Lea, Minnesota (see attached map). Electricity from the Project will be transported to the existing Hayward Substation located east of Albert Lea, Minnesota via a 161 kilovolt (kV) HVTL, approximately 18-miles long.

## BENT TREE WIND PROJECT

### MEETING NOTICE

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#### ***PUC Review Process***

Four approvals are required to build a LWECS larger than 50 MW and a HVTL. A project developer must obtain a CON under Minnesota Statute 216B.243 for the LWECS and the HVTL and a Site Permit under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F for the LWECS and a Route Permit under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E for the HVTL.

WPL filed its CON application for the LWECS and the HVTL on June 27, 2008, and its Site Permit application for the LWECS on June 20, 2008. The PUC accepted the CON applications on August 27, 2008; The PUC accepted the LWECS site permit application and issued a draft Site Permit on September 16, 2008. The applications and draft Site Permit are available from the web site and persons listed below. Landowners and governments inside the LWECS boundary will receive a copy of the Site Permit application directly from WPL. The HVTL Route Permit Application will be filed by WPL at a later date.

The EFP staff is responsible for conducting public meetings on the site permit application and environmental review of the CON application under Minnesota Rule 7849.7050. The EFP staff will prepare an ER prior to CON public hearing and the PUC's determination of Project need. The ER will consider issues related to the CON, such as size, type, timing, voltage, and system configurations, and the general environmental impacts of the Project. The EFP staff 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. Human, social, and environmental impacts raised in public comments may be addressed by adding or modifying specific conditions in the Draft Site Permit.

After completion of the ER, the PUC will hold a public hearing on the CON application, presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under Minnesota 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 Site Permit process. The proposed HVTL cannot be constructed unless the PUC certifies that it is needed. Certification of a HVTL is governed by Minnesota law, including specifically chapter 7849, parts 7849.0010 to 7849.0400 and 7849.7010 to 7849.7110, and Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.243. 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 OES EFP staff. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the OES project manager or register at the webpage address provided below.

#### ***Public Comment Period***

The OES will accept written comments on the Site Permit application, and suggested alternatives to be evaluated in the ER, until December 3, 2008. Any person may request a contested case hearing on the Site Permit application during the comment period pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7836.0900. Written comments and requests should be sent to Larry B. Hartman, at 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198, or at [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@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 for the Bent Tree Site Permit***

WPL does not currently have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the LWECS. WPL will work with landowners to purchase wind and land rights in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements. Eminent domain is governed by Minnesota Statute Chapter 117 and 216E.12.

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#### ***Eminent Domain for the HVTL***

WPL cannot construct the transmission line without a route permit issued by the PUC. Typically, 161 kV transmission lines use wood or steel poles that are 80 to 100 feet tall and spaced about 300 to 600 feet apart within a right-of-way that is about 80 feet wide. If the Commission approves the need for the HVTL and WPL subsequently obtains the permit necessary to construct the transmission line, WPL will work with landowners to purchase property rights, known as an easement, in order to construct the transmission lines. WPL does not currently have the power of eminent domain; eminent domain is governed by Minnesota Statute Chapter 117 and 216E.12.

#### ***Project Contacts and Information***

For more information about the Project and process, or to place your name on the OES Project mailing list, please 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 OES EFP Staff.

Site Permit Contact, Office of Energy Security. Questions about the project and the PUC permitting process may be directed to: Larry B. Hartman, Department of Commerce, 85 7th 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).

Scott Ek with the OES EFP 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: 651-296-8813 or e-mail: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) and the mailing address above.

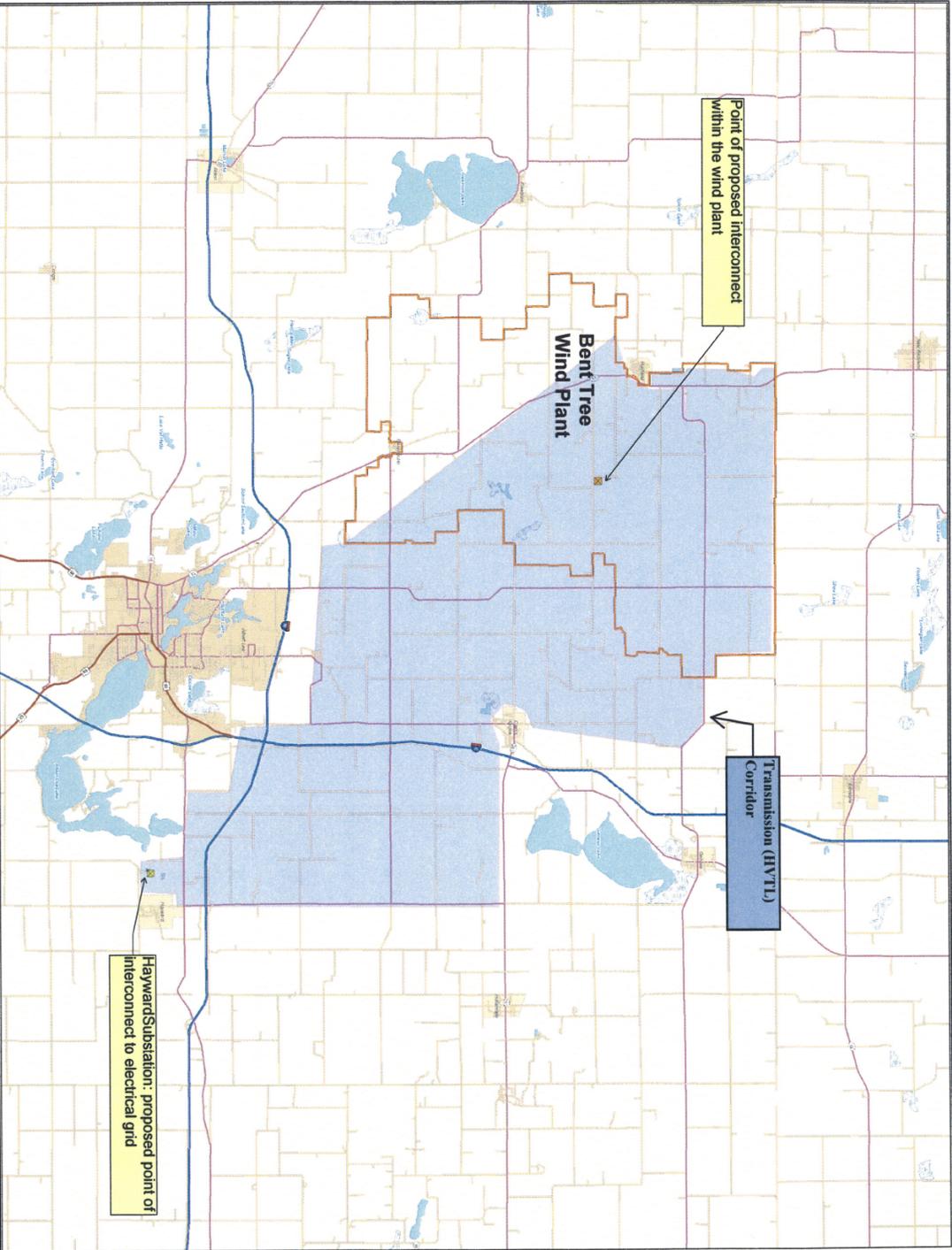
CON Contact, Public Utilities Commission. Questions about the Certificate of Need proceeding or to have your name added to the CON mailing list for the Bent Tree Wind Project please contact Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101; Tel: 651-201-2236 or e-mail: [bret.eknes@state.mn.us](mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us).

Copies of the CON and Site Permit applications are accessible at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19665>, and at the Albert Lea Library (211 E. Clark; Albert Lea, MN) and Freeborn County Government Center (411 S. Broadway, Albert Lea, MN).

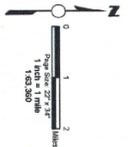
Other relevant documents, including Minnesota Rules and Statutes governing the process, are accessible at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/wind.html>.

Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the OES, and receive future mailings regarding the Project. Names can be added to the mailing list by contacting Mr. Hartman, or electronically by visiting the website described above.

Finally, questions about the Project can be directed to WPL by contacting Mr. Arshia Javaherian at 319-786-4219 or [ArshiaJavaherian@alliantenergy.com](mailto:ArshiaJavaherian@alliantenergy.com).



- Legend**
- Bent Tree Boundary
  - Potential Substation
  - Existing Substation
  - Limited Access
  - Highway
  - Major Road
  - Local Road



PROJECT: **BENT TREE WIND FARM**  
 FRESEAN COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
 MAP TITLE: **INTERCONNECTION OVERVIEW**

DATE: 08/11/2010  
 PROJECT NUMBER: 712  
 DRAWN BY: RSP