



## NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING DECISION

Issued: January 2, 2009

**In the Matter of the Wisconsin Power and Light Company  
Application for a Certificate of Need  
for the Bent Tree Wind Project  
Large Wind Energy Conversion System  
PUC Docket No. ET6657/CN-07-1425**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Director of the Office of Energy Security (OES) has issued the attached Environmental Report (ER) Scoping Decision for the Bent Tree Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) and Associated 161 kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) proposed for Freeborn County, Minnesota. The ER is being prepared for the Certificate of Need proceeding, and will address potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed LWECS and associated HVTL and project alternatives. Copies of the ER Scoping Decision and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19665>

or

Additional Certificate of Need documents can be obtained via the Commission's "edockets" electronic filing website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> by searching for **year: 07** and **number: 1425**.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project as proposed is a LWECS of approximately 200 megawatts (MW). WPL has not made a final selection of a wind turbine model and size for the Project. WPL proposes to use utility grade wind turbines between 1.5 MW – 2.5 MW in nameplate generating capacity for the Project. If for example, WPL uses the General Electric 1.5 MW SLE or similar units mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers supported by cast-in-place concrete foundations, the towers would be 80 meters (262.5 feet) in height. The rotor diameter would 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. Pad mount transformers at each tower would step up the voltage from 575 V to 34.5 kV. Electricity generated from the turbines would be brought to the project substation using a series of buried electrical cables. The project substation would then step up the voltage from 34.5 kV to 161 kV in order to transmit the electricity to the proposed point of interconnection which is the Hayward Substation located approximately 4 miles east of Albert Lea.

### ***Proposed Site Location***

The proposed project site is located in Freeborn County, approximately four miles north and west of the city of Albert Lea, as shown on the accompanying map. The city of Manchester is located at the south end of the proposed site and the city of Hartland on the northwest side of the site. The total project site area including the wind plant and land easements covers approximately 40 square miles north of I-90. The turbines and access roads will permanently displace approximately 106 to 170 acres depending on the model and size of turbine selected.

### ***Associated Actions***

This portion of the Bent Tree Wind Project is the first phase of the proposed Bent Tree Wind Project. The Bent Tree Wind Project is approximately 400 MW. At this time there has not been an application for a Certificate of Need for the remainder of the project; it has not been determined that an application will be necessary.

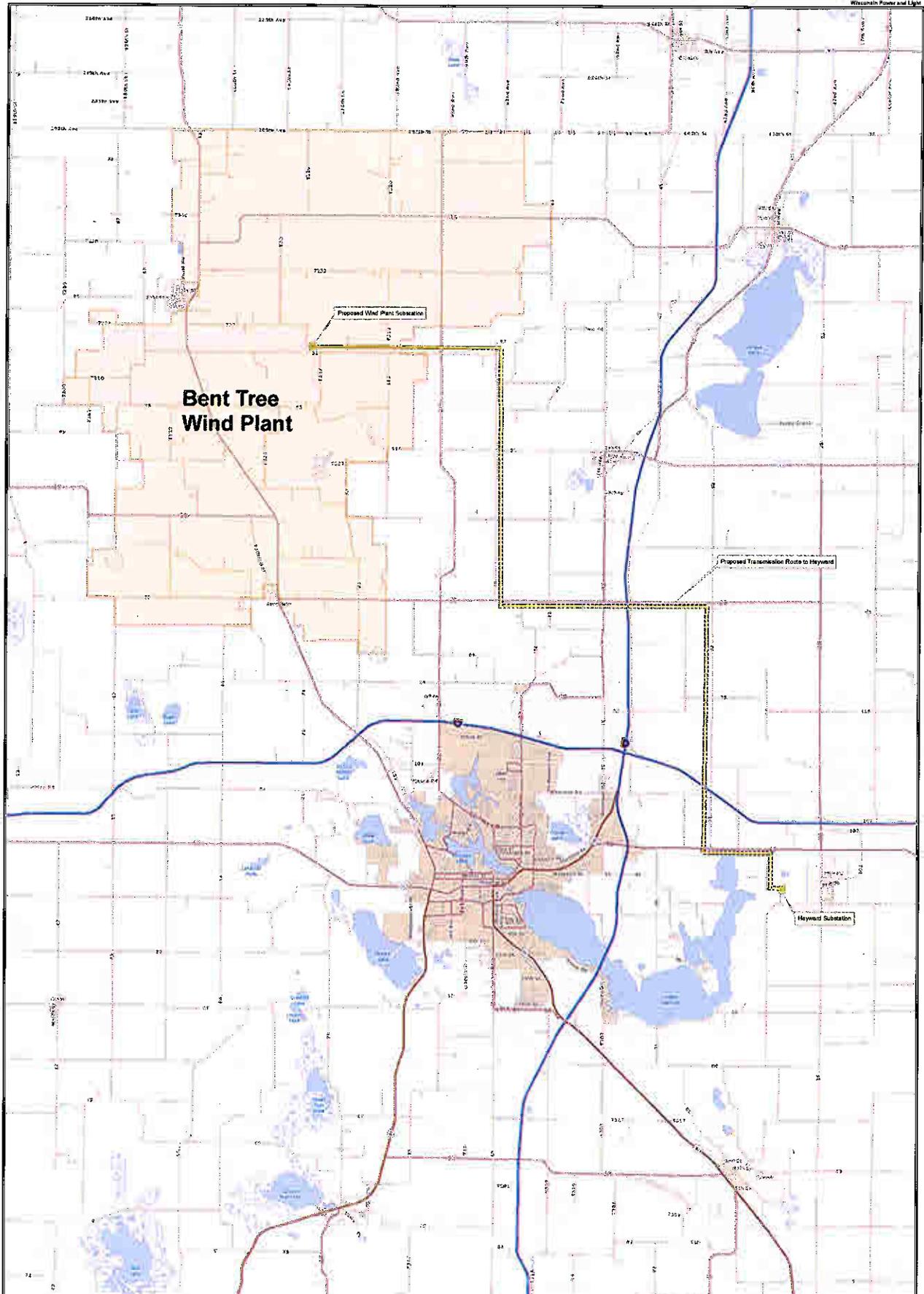
## **PUC CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW PROCESS**

The Project is a “large energy facility” as defined in Minnesota Statute 216B.2421, subp. 2 and a Certificate of Need from the Public Utilities Commission is required for such a project under Minnesota Statute 216B.243. On June 20, 2008, Wisconsin Power and Light Company filed a Certificate of Need application for the Bent Tree Wind Project. On August 27, 2008, the PUC issued an Order accepting the application as substantially complete.

A public hearing on the Certificate of Need (CON) will be held shortly after the OES completes preparation of the Environmental Report. Under state law, the PUC proceeding is the only time at which the “no-build” alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility will be considered. These items will not be addressed in the PUC LWECS Site Permit process.

### **Project Contacts and Information**

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact Larry B. Hartman (651-296-5089 or [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)) Office of Energy Security, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. 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.



- Legend**
- Bent Tree Boundary
  - Proposed Substation
  - Proposed Transmission Route
  - Proposed Transmission Route Option
  - Limited Access
  - Highway
  - Major Road
  - Local Road
  - Existing Substation



PROJECT	
BENT TREE WIND FARM	
FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA	
MAP TITLE: PROPOSED TRANSMISSION ROUTE TO HAYWARD	
DATE: MARCH 2009	
PROJECT NUMBER: 712	
CREATED: MARCH 2009	
MODIFIED: 09/02/04	
DRAWN BY: PEY	