Noble Flat Hill Wind Park I
Large Wind Energy Conversion System
230 kV High Voltage Transmission Line

Public Information and Scoping Meeting
City of Glyndon, Clay County, Minnesota.

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Summary of Public Comments

1) Dr. Anderson: Dr. Anderson is concerned as to whether we are dealing with all the issues related to wind energy. Seems that private money is being used to develop wind energy projects as opposed to government money/projects. Who is or should be responsible for governing wind energy projects? Is the County going to be involved in the planning and zoning of wind projects?
    a. How many wind towers should be built in Clay County? (visual impacts)
    b. Suggests that the State look at data from adverse health affects from people living in close proximity to wind towers.
        i. World Health Organization is currently studying impacts of living near wind towers.
        ii. Should there be greater set backs?
    c. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) should empower the Minnesota Department of Health to look at the health affects of wind towers.

2) Mr. Stradley: Need to consider the opportunity cost of wind power in Clay County in terms of agricultural production lost; fuel production lost. Will the project tie into MinnKota projects? Maps presented in project applications were not clear and difficult to interpret. How will the EIS deal with negative issues associated with the project?
    a. Health
    b. Visual
    c. Habitat
    d. Threatened and Endangered Species

    Questions include:
    - Where will the power generated be used?
    - Can new transmission lines be avoided?
    - Will market values of homes be impacted?
    - What are the alternative transmission routes?
    - What are the health affects of power lines and wind towers?

3) Wes Nickelson: Spring Prairie Township –
    a. What are the impacts associated with the access roads to the towers?
    b. How will project deal with road damage to County or Township Roads as a result of transporting the turbines to the project site?

   c. What happens to the site in the event that Noble sells the project? Is there protection for the land owners?
   d. Suggests that bonding or escrow protection should be required for items such as roads, flooding or land owners.
   e. Is a conditional use permit required?

4) Keith Harriger (lives along Hwy 9; he has small children):
   a. Concerned with transmission lines going directly over his house.
   b. How often do lines get serviced?
   c. How loud are the power lines?
   d. What are the health impacts?
   e. Concerned about visual impacts.

5) Is the project going to go through no matter what or could it be stopped? Is it a done deal?

6) Brad Kalsbeck: Concerned with what happens when wind farm are not in favor as alternative energy?
   a. What would happen if there were no government subsidies to aid wind farms?
   b. What happens if wind turbines break down (where would energy come from)?
   c. What alternatives are being considered to the project (such as coal fired power plants)?

7) Homeowner in the project area is concerned about project. Does not own farm land and has not been approached about the project. Do people leasing land to the project get monetary benefits?

8) Ron Hennanh: Do noise statues determine the set backs if you are a leased property owner in the project? Are there additional required setbacks?
   a. Suggested that Wisconsin has stricter setbacks (35 DB within 100 ft of house) and that Minnesota should examine increased set backs.

9) What experience does project proposer/project manager have building wind farms across the county? Is there information available for other projects constructed by Noble in other States?

10) Dr. Anderson: Setbacks in Minnesota are based on protecting wind rights but are not based on health impacts. Are the current set-back distances adequate to protect health? The FWS requires five mile set backs from prairie chicken habitat.

11) Turbines used in projects appear to be getting larger. Proposed turbines are 1.5 MW compared to the ones in Moorhead that are 0.75 MW. What are the differences with larger turbines? Stated that 45% of homes near turbines from another project complained of noise.

12) Does wind power need to be backed up with other power sources, such as coal fired power plants? Are wind turbines reliable? What happens if turbines stop?

13) Lauren Roach:
    a. Is there data on average wind speeds in the area?
    b. What is the net capacity for the project?
    c. Who does Noble sell the energy to?

14) Dave Kaley: Has Noble submitted transmission rates to MISO? Is project in the MISO queue?

15) Keri Myhre:
    a. How many towers will there be in Clay County?
    b. How far apart will they be?
    c. How tall are they?
    d. Are they fenced?
    e. Can they tip over?
    f. Will property owners be paid?

16) What is the decommissioning process for the project? Does all of the concrete get removed?

17) Can the land adjacent to the turbines be farmed or used for livestock? What are the maintenance requirements to avoid impacts to farming activities? Can the collection lines go under ground?

18) Stated that there will be an operations center in the project area. Does Noble bring in outside contractors/crews to conduct local work or do they hire local contractors/workers? Are local workers hired to run operations center?

19) Tim Magneson (Clay County Planning and Zoning): What is the tax on the project? Is it a production tax (based on the production of electricity)? Where does the tax money go?

20) Why did Noble choose Clay County/Glyndon area for the proposed project? Why are there 134 turbines? Could the number of turbines get reduced?

21) What are the impacts of concrete foundations on soils? The loads need to balanced within the soils. Are there going to be impacts to soils or homes in the surrounding area from loads produced by foundations that would move the soils?

22) Tim Magneson (Clay County Planning and Zoning): What determines the height of the turbines? The permit says the hub height will be between 80 and 100 meters.

23) Gentleman stated that if Northern States Power had not come through Glyndon then would there be power here in Glyndon? Would we all still be using candles? Stated that he thought wind projects are a good alternative energy.

24) City Clerk in Glyndon: Where will follow up meetings be held? Will they be local?

25) For the transmission line, what are the poles made of (wood, steel, etc)? How do they look?