



**STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security**

Issued: February 26, 2009

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

In the Matter of a Site Permit Application for the 30 MW
Community Wind North Wind Project in Lincoln County, Minnesota
PUC Docket IP6712/WS-08-1494

March 16, 2009

**5:30 p.m. Open House
6:30 p.m. Public Information Meeting**

**Lake Benton Community Center
105 West Benton
Lake Benton, MN**

DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABLE
For the Proposed Community Wind North Wind Project
MPUC Docket No. IP6712/WS-08-1494

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Community Wind North LLC, has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit to build and operate up to a 30 Megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Verdi Township located south and west of Lake Benton, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security (OES) will hold a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m., following the open house on **March 16, 2009**, at the Lake Benton Community Center. The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project and to take public comment and input on the draft site permit issued by the PUC. OES staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the proposed draft site permit for the Community Wind North 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 Community Wind North, 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 15 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 directly to the Xcel Energy Yankee Substation in Section 5 of Verdi Township. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and turbine access roads.

The site comprises approximately 2,660 acres in portions of 9 sections on Verdi Township. See accompanying map for site boundaries. The Applicants anticipate that 11.18 acres of land would be permanently removed from agricultural production for turbine sites and access roads.

PUC Site Permit Review Process

Community Wind North, LLC, a Minnesota based company, submitted a site permit application for the Project on January 20, 2009. On February 12, 2009, the PUC accepted the application 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 website and contacts listed below. Landowners and governments within the Project boundary will receive a copy of the application directly from Community Wind North, 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=19891>

You may register on this same website 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 April 8, 2009. Written comments can be sent by mail, fax or by email. Please include the project docket number (**IP6712-08-1494**) on written comments. All comments should be directed to Larry Hartman (see below).

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 Mr. Hartman in writing by 4:30 p.m. on April 8, 2009. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reason 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.

Project Contacts

Larry Hartman, with the OES staff is the Project Manager for the permitting of the facility. Questions, comments and requests to add your name on the mailing list for the Project may be directed to:

OES Project Manager
Larry Hartman, Tel: (651) 296-5089
larry.hartman@state.mn.us

OES Public Advisor
Deborah Pile, Tel: (651) 297-2375
deborah.pile@state.mn.us

Toll Free (800) 657-3794
Fax: (651) 297-7891
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Questions about the Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Mr. Wayne Hesse, Tel (507) 247-5672; Wgh3@frontiernet.net

Eminent Domain for Community Wind North

The Applicant does not have the power eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the large wind energy conversion system. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between landowner and the Applicant.

