Fredrikson & BYRON, P.A.

May 20, 2009

Mr. Larry Hartman
MN Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 5000
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: EcoHarmony West Wind Project
PUC Docket Nos. CON-08-961 and WS-08-973

Dear Mr. Hartman:

On March 23, 2009, the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, disseminated a Notice of Application Acceptance, Public Information and Scoping Meeting with regard to the EcoHarmony West Wind Project, a 200 megawatt wind project to be located in Fillmore County, Minnesota. The Notice announced that the Office of Energy Security would hold a public meeting in the City of Harmony on April 15, 2009, to solicit public input regarding the proposed wind project and that the public was invited to submit comments about the project generally, about the draft permit that the Public Utilities Commission had prepared, and about the scope of an Environmental Report that the OES staff would prepare. The Notice established a deadline of May 20, 2009, for submitting written comments.

Several matters have come to the attention of EcoEnergy Wind, LLC, the proposer of the wind project, that we would like to address. These matters relate to two issues identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in the comments the Department submitted by letter dated May 15, 2009, and a minor item related to language in the draft permit regarding meteorological towers. In addition, we wanted to provide some maps that were available at the public meeting in Harmony on April 15.

1. Viewshed Analysis. The Department of Natural Resources recommended that the company conduct a viewshed analysis to assess the potential impact of the project on Forestville State Park, Cherry Grove Wildlife Management Area, and Cherry Grove Blind Valley Scientific and Natural Area. Staff at EcoEnergy Wind recently contacted Mr. Mark White, DNR Park Manager at Forestville State Park, regarding DNR's concerns over viewshed impacts to these resources. Mr. White is providing GIS coordinates for certain overlooks within the park. EcoEnergy will use these coordinates to conduct a GIS analysis of the viewshed impact of the project on these

overlook locations. Current micro-siting has the closest turbine approximately one mile from the closest overlook and 2.5 miles from the Park's main overlook, as well as approximately two miles from the State's Cherry Grove properties. EcoEnergy is committed to analyzing the project's viewshed impacts and discussing these findings with the DNR.

2. Bat Fatalities. The DNR also requested that EcoEnergy conduct a bat survey to gather data regarding bat movement and fatalities. EcoEnergy has retained a consultant, Natural Resources Consulting, Inc. of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, to conduct environmental work on the project, including a bat study. Final planning for the bat study is underway and field work will commence in the next few weeks and continue into the fall of 2009. We will keep the DNR advised of our progress with that study.

3. Maps. At the open house in Harmony on April 15, EcoEnergy had several maps available for public review. You requested that EcoEnergy submit a copy of those maps into the record of this matter. The following four maps are the ones EcoEnergy presented at the open house:

1. Draft Turbine Layout Map
2. Draft Turbine Sound Analysis Map
3. Aerial Photo of the project boundary
4. Bird Survey Point Layout Map

Copies of the first three maps are included with this letter. The fourth map is in the Site Permit Application as Figure 2 in Exhibit 5: NRC Avian Study Plan.

4. Meteorological Towers. Condition III.E.2 of the draft permit indicates that two meteorological towers are authorized to be installed by the permit. EcoEnergy is presently deliberating whether more than two met towers should be installed, and we would respectfully request that the final permit that is issued authorize the company to install up to four met towers. The company will comply with all limiting factors regarding the met towers specified in the permit, such as setback limitations and marking requirements, regardless of the number of met towers ultimately installed.

We look forward to receiving the Scoping Order for the Environmental Report. If there is anything further you require from EcoEnergy, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Mitchell

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ARM:kas

cc: Randall Doneen, DNR
Mark White, DNR
Chris Graves, Fillmore County Zoning Administrator

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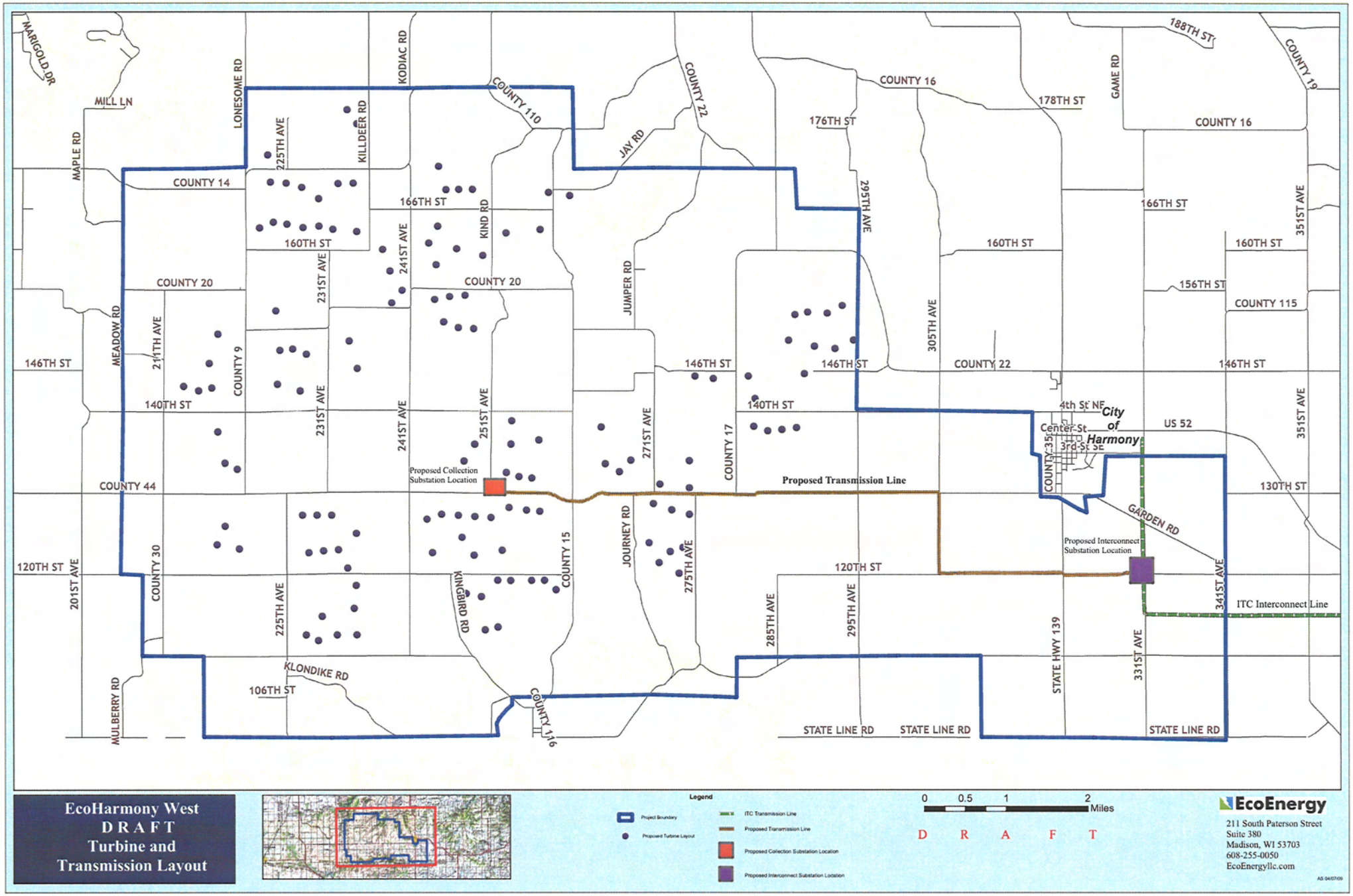

EcoHarmony West
D R A F T
Turbine and Transmission Layout

Legend
- Project Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Layout
- ITC Transmission Line
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Proposed Collection Substation Location
- Proposed Interconnect Substation Location

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

D R A F T

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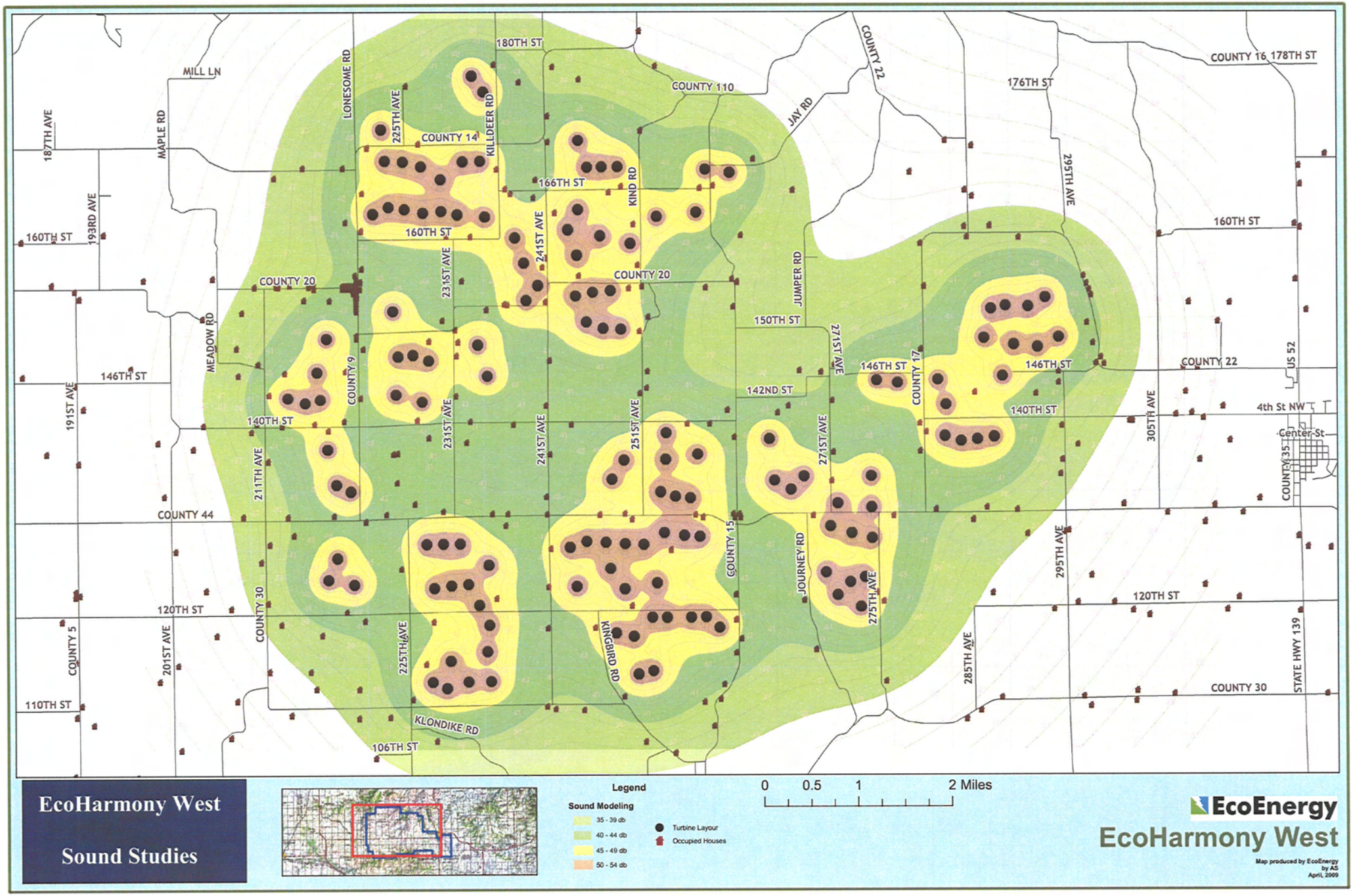
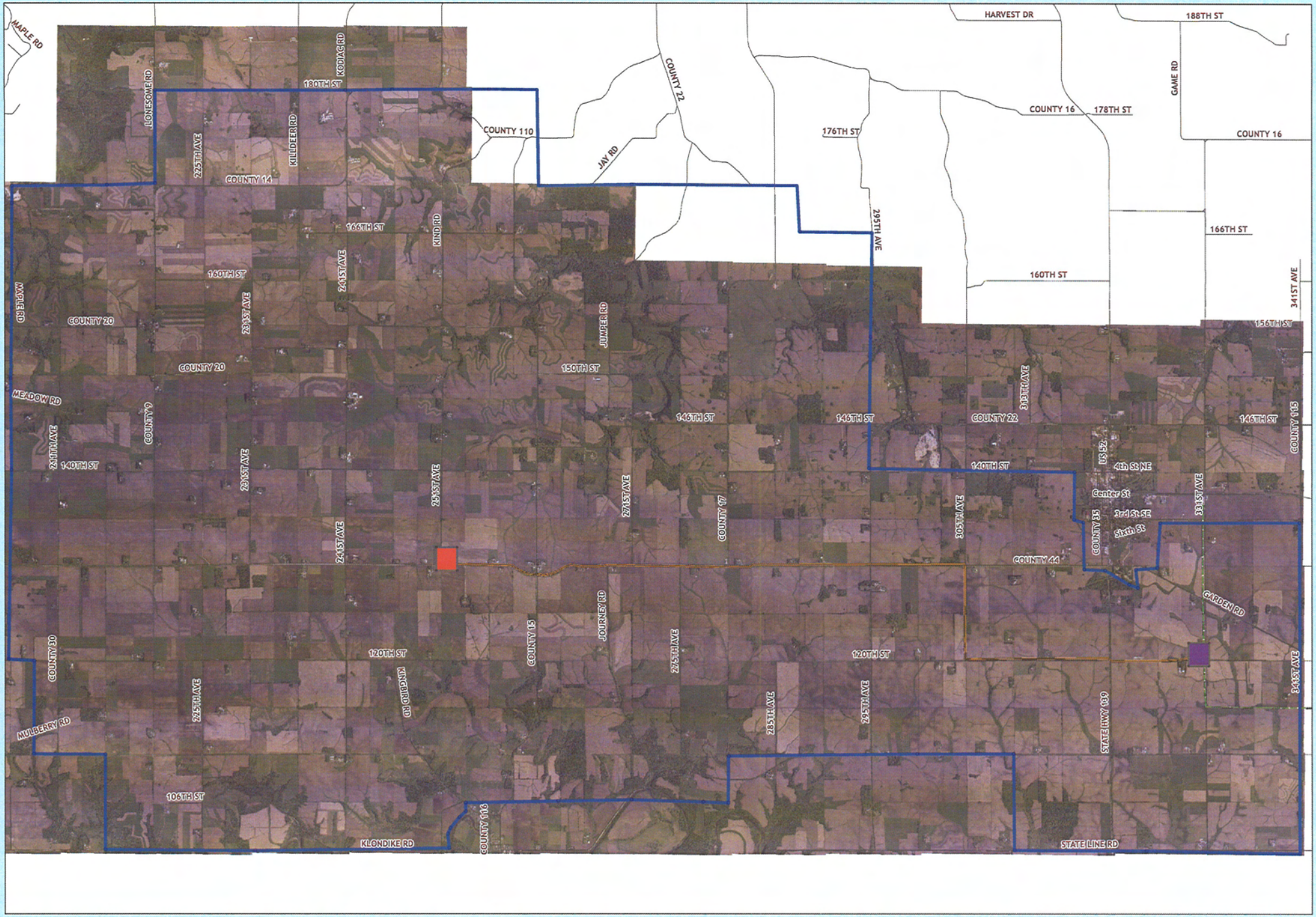
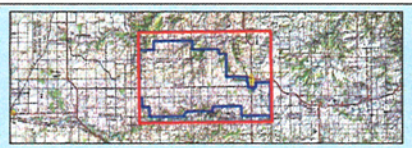
AS 04/07/09


EcoHarmony West
Sound Studies
Legend
Sound Modeling
35 - 39 db
40 - 44 db
45 - 49 db
50 - 54 db
Turbine Layout
Occupied Houses
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
EcoEnergy
EcoHarmony West
Map produced by EcoEnergy by AS April, 2009
180TH ST
MILL LN
LONESOME RD
COUNTY 110
COUNTY 22
176TH ST
COUNTY 16, 178TH ST
187TH AVE
MAPLE RD
225TH AVE
COUNTY 14
KILLDEER RD
JAY RD
295TH AVE
166TH ST
KIND RD
160TH ST
193RD AVE
160TH ST
241ST AVE
231ST AVE
COUNTY 20
COUNTY 20
JUMPER RD
150TH ST
MEADOW RD
271ST AVE
146TH ST
146TH ST
COUNTY 22
US 52
COUNTY 9
COUNTY 17
142ND ST
191ST AVE
146TH ST
140TH ST
231ST AVE
241ST AVE
251ST AVE
271ST AVE
140TH ST
4th St NW
305TH AVE
Center St
211TH AVE
COUNTY 35
COUNTY 44
COUNTY 15
JOURNEY RD
295TH AVE
COUNTY 30
120TH ST
275TH AVE
120TH ST
COUNTY 5
201ST AVE
225TH AVE
KINGBIRD RD
285TH AVE
STATE HWY 139
110TH ST
COUNTY 30
KLONDIKE RD
106TH ST



EcoHarmony West

Project Area



Legend

- Project Boundary
- 115C Transmission Line
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Proposed Collection System Location
- Proposed Interconnect Substation Location

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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