

ISSUED: MARCH 23, 2009

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

In the Matter of the EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC, Applications for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit and a Certificate of Need for the EcoHarmony West Wind Project in Fillmore County

**Certificate of Need and Site Permit Applications
PUC Docket Numbers: IP6688/CN-08-961 and IP6688/WS-08-973**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Office of Energy Security Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff will hold a public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the applications by EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of EcoEnergy Wind, LLC, to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Certificate of Need (CON) and a Site Permit for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of approximately 200 megawatts (MW) to be located in Fillmore County, Minnesota.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Wednesday, April 15, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
at the
Harmony Fire Department**

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information about the proposed Project and to take public comment and input on the EcoHarmony site permit application, draft site permit issued by the Commission and on the scope of an Environmental Report to be prepared by EFP staff for the certificate of need proceeding. EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit. Representatives of EcoHarmony will be present to answer questions about the Project.

Prior to the public information meeting, the Applicant will host an open house beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the **Harmony Fire Department, 910 Main Avenue South, Harmony, MN 55939**.

Project Description

The Project may consist of up to 134 individual turbines, about 80 meters high (262 feet), each generating approximately 1.5 megawatts (MW) of electricity, although the turbine size and manufacturer have not yet been selected. A map showing the project boundary is attached. The Project also requires a number of associated facilities including access roads, an underground electrical collection system, two substations, an Operations and Maintenance building, and a new 161 kV overhead transmission line eight miles long. The Applicant anticipates that the Project will ultimately require between 50 and 77 acres for all the facilities. The Applicant expects to begin construction on the Project in late 2009 or early 2010 and to place it in operation in late 2010.

Project Review Process

Two separate Commission approvals are required to build the EcoHarmony West Wind Project. First, a Certificate of Need under Minnesota Statutes 216B.243 for a large generating facility of this size is required. Second, a Site Permit for a LWECs under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F is required.

The Applicant filed an application for a Certificate of Need with the Commission on October 22, 2008. The Commission accepted the application on January 15, 2009. On January 26, 2009, the Applicant filed its LWECs Site Permit Application with the Commission. The Commission accepted this application on February 26, 2009, and approved the issuance of a draft Site Permit.

The EFP staff is responsible for conducting public meeting and environmental review for the CN Application and the public participation process for the Site Permit Application. The Environmental Report considers size, type, timing and general environmental impacts of a project.

A Route Permit for the proposed high voltage transmission line is required under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E. The Applicant intends to apply to Fillmore County for this authorization but has not done so as of this date.

Public Comments

Interested persons may comment orally at the public meeting on the applications and the draft site permit and on the Project generally. In addition, written comments may also be submitted to the Office of Energy Security by the close of business **(4:30 p.m.) on May 20, 2009**. Written comments can be sent by mail, fax or by email. Please include the project docket numbers **(IP6688/CN-08-961 or IP6688/WS-08-973)** on all written comments. All comments should be directed to Larry Hartman at the address below.

Public Hearing

After close of the comment period and preparation of the Environmental Report, the Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing on the certificate of need in Fillmore County. Separate notice of that hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who place their names on the OES project mailing list.

In addition, any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the LWECs pursuant to Minnesota Rules part 7836.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Mr. Hartman in writing by 4:30 p.m. on May 20, 2009. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the contested case hearing will aid it in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the Project. Upon completion of the public participation and hearing process, the record created will be presented to the Commission for final decisions on the Applications.

Eminent Domain for EcoHarmony West Wind

EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC, does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the Project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicant.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process or the Project or to place your name on the Project mailing list, 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 DOC.

<p>OES Project Manager Larry Hartman 651-296-5089 larry.hartman@state.mn.us</p> <p>OES Public Advisor Suzanne Steinhauer 651-296-2888 suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us</p> <p>Minnesota Office of Energy Security 85 7th Place E., Suite 500 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198</p>	<p>Commission Public Advisor (Certificate of Need) Bret Eknes 651-201-2236 bret.eknes@state.mn.us</p> <p>Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7th Place E., Suite 350 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147</p>
---	--

The site permit application, draft site permit, certificate of need application and links to other OES guidance documents and agency rules guiding the review process are available on the PUC Energy Facilities Permitting Project webpage at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19910>

You may register on this same website to be added to the Office of Energy Security mailing list associated with this Project and to receive future notices by U.S. Mail or e-mail notifications when additional project documents are available.

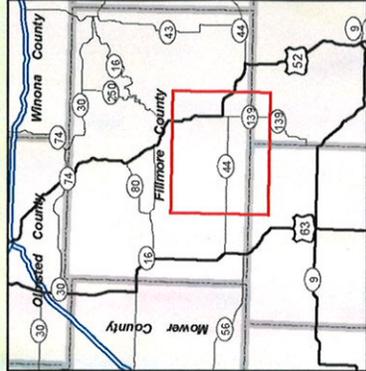
All filed documents are also available on the PUC website at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

In addition, these documents are available for review at the public libraries in Preston and Harmony, Minnesota, and at EcoHarmony's office at 725 Main Avenue North in Harmony. Landowners and governments inside the LWECs Project boundary have been mailed a CD containing the Certificate of Need Application and the Site Permit Application directly from the Applicant.

Questions about the Project and site permit application can also be directed to EcoHarmony by contacting Don Miller at Tel (507) 886-6570 or DMiller@Ecoenergyllc.com.

Project Location Map



	EcoHarmony West Project Boundary
	Dairyland 161kv
	ITC 161kv (MISO line)
	Existing Substation (Parcel 14.0091.010)
	Potential T-line Route
	Proposed Line-Tap Substation
	Proposed Collection Substation
	EcoHarmony East Project Boundary
	County Boundary

EcoEnergy
 211 South Paterson Street
 Suite 380
 Madison, WI 53703
 608-255-0050
 EcoEnergy, Inc.

AS 01/07/09

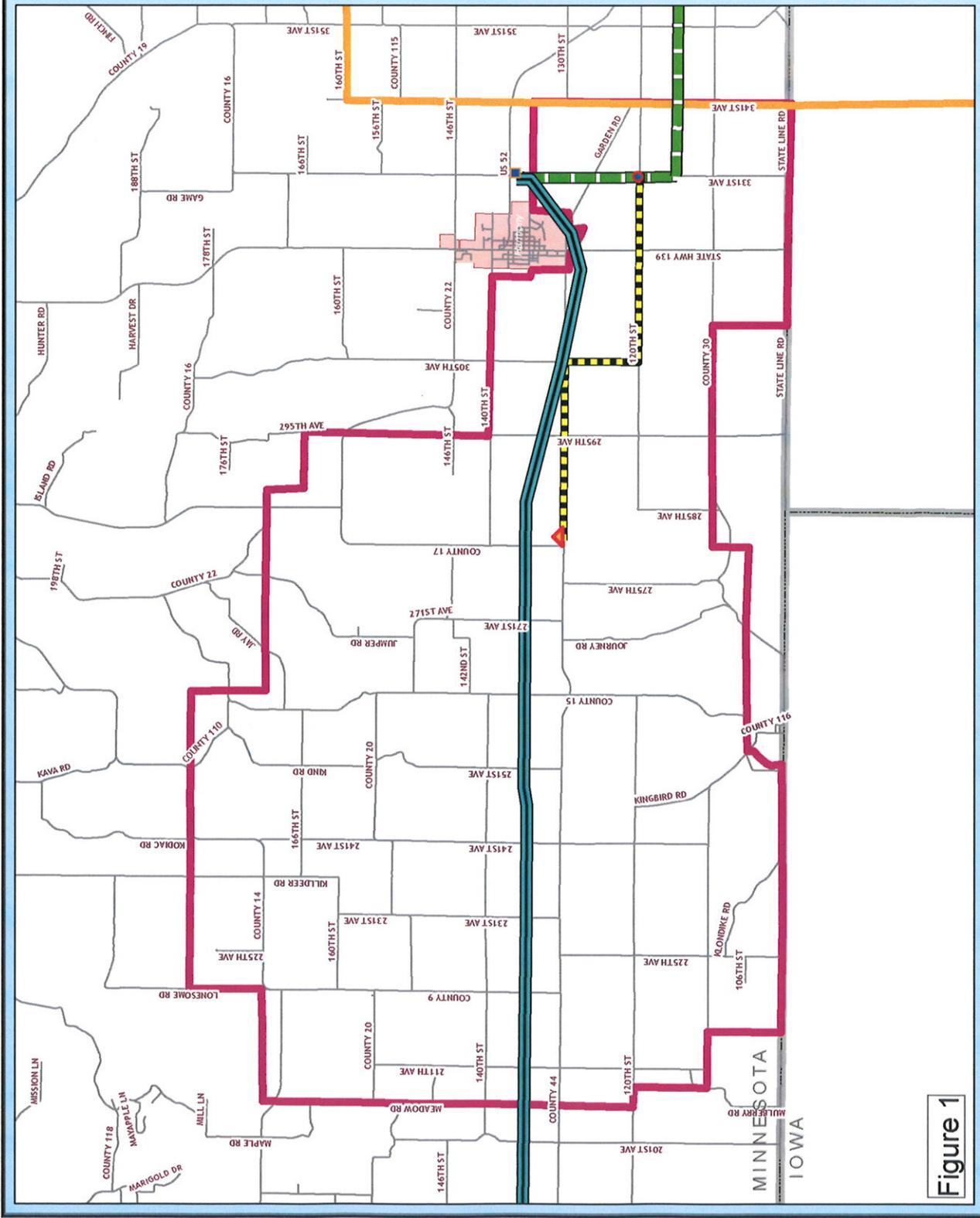


Figure 1