



Minnesota Department of Transportation

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April 3, 2009

Larry Hartman, OES Project Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198



**RE: PUC Docket #s IP6688/CN-08-961 & IP6688/WS-08-973
EcoHarmony West Wind Project
Public Information meeting comments or concerns of
Certificate of Need and Site Permit
Fillmore County, Minnesota**

**MN 139 CS 2316
US 52 CS 2309**

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) District 6 staff has reviewed the request for comments or concerns regarding the plan to obtain a certificate of need and site permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the EcoHarmony West Wind Project in 2009. There is potential for impact to Mn/DOT interests on Minnesota Highway 139 within the proposal area, particularly because substation sites and proposed transmission line locations may potentially impinge on future right of way needs. In addition, future trails and crossing plans may need to be considered along with other strategies which allow the EcoHarmony Wind Project to co-exist.

While Mn/DOT has no programmed projects in the vicinity of the EcoHarmony West Wind project area in the next three years, three miles of MN 139 is within the project area and may be affected by transmission line and substation location proposals in the future. More specific information and timelines will be needed and will be critical in coordination of any future Mn/DOT activity in the area.

Finally, any work and possible placement of structures adjacent to and within Mn/DOT right of way is of concern. If work is required within Mn/DOT right of way for temporary or permanent accesses, it should be coordinated with Tom Streiff, East Permits, at (507) 286-7592 or thomas.streiff@dot.state.mn.us. The placement of utilities would require a Utility Long Form Permit (TP-02525-03) issued through St. Paul and administered here in District 6. The temporary widening of field entrances (for delivery-if needed) or a new access would be issued through Mn/DOT District 6, using an Access Driveway Permit (TP-1721).

Please note that Mn/DOT's accommodation policy and procedures are listed on-line at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/files/pdf/appendix-b.pdf>.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Chris Moates
District 6 Planning Director

cc: Greg Paulson
Mark T-I
Debbie Persoon-Bement
Peter Waskiw
Robert Hutton
Tom Streiff
Stacy Kotch MS 678
File
DOCS-#689841