

## Suzanne Steinhauer

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**From:** Carol A. Overland [overland@redwing.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2009 10:15 AM  
**To:** Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** Greenvale wind project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

Suzanne -

FYI, I was just reading over the Greenvale project info, and note that there are two important omissions in the "Airport" section, 5.3.1.

The Lakeville airport is omitted, and it's just a bit south of Farmington, Hwy 50, near Cedar, and just north of the project site.

I've seen some pretty big planes in there.

Also, the Webster airport is missing, there's a subdivision there with a landing strip and each house has its own hangar!!! Really!!! That's a bit to the north and east across 35.

Carol

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Attorney at Law

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## Suzanne Steinhauer

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**From:** Dahl, Kathy [Kathy.Dahl@co.dakota.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2009 9:40 AM  
**To:** Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** project ip6819,6829/ws-09-722  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

We have eagles, sandhill cranes, wood ducks and other water fowl in the wetlands by our home on 285<sup>th</sup> St W. Was the impact on these birds studied?

**Kathy Dahl**

*Program Administrative Supervisor, Program Administrative Liaison Support (PALS) Unit*

*E & EA, Dakota County*

*651-554-5612*

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# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-40



August 14, 2009

Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer  
Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

**RE:** Greenvale Wind Farm LWECS Permit Application Review

Mrs. Lamb Steinhauer:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above-described site permit application. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is providing the following comments to assist in your development of a draft site permit.

The DNR recommends that no direct impacts occur to public recreational lands (e.g. Wildlife Management Areas, State Parks, Scientific and Natural Areas) from tower construction, transmission lines, or road networks associated with the project. The Chub Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located on the adjacent land to the north of the project boundary (as referred to in the DNR NHIS response letter dated June 26, 2009). The DNR recommends a setback be established from this boundary that is a minimum of five times the rotor blade diameter (RD).

The project area contains several areas enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that may be affected by the proposed project. Conservation Reserve Program lands contain blocks of habitat that can attract higher concentrations of birds and bats which may result in increased mortality if turbines are placed in close proximity. The DNR recommends that the CRP, WMA, and other potential areas identified to contain or possibly contain sensitive resources be surveyed for breeding birds. The surveys will be helpful in determining if recommended setbacks can be re-evaluated.

Chub Creek is a state designated Public Water. The wetlands along Chub Creek are part of a Central Region Regionally Significant Ecological Area and are part of the Chub Creek Marsh wetland complex which is also considered a state designated Public Water. The DNR recommends a setback of 1,000 feet from the edge of the wetland complex. The setback is designed to reduce potential avian avoidance of the Public Water and its associated habitat and to reduce avian and bat mortality.

A potential conflict with wildlife corridors may arise with the proposed turbine locations T1, T2, T7, T6, A1 (and potentially T3 and T8). These turbines may be located within a flyway corridor due to the close proximity to Chub Creek and the Chub Creek Marsh wetland complex. The DNR also recommends avoiding placement of turbines between the Chub Creek Marsh complex and the Chub Lake WMA (such as T1), as some bird species traveling between these two sites may have increased risk of being affected by the project. The aforementioned bird survey should include species such as waterfowl, raptors, and migratory birds that may utilize the flyway corridor.

Minnesota Statute 84.415 requires a DNR license be obtained for any utility that may pass over, under, or across any state land or public water. Information concerning the need and process of obtaining a License for Utility Crossing can be found at [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/utility\\_crossing/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/utility_crossing/index.html).

Potential wetland impacts could involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Contact the Board of Water and Soil Resources ([www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us)) if wetland impacts are anticipated. In addition, utilities or roads that may cross or impact waters, streams, or wetlands may be regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and may require a permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has developed guidelines to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife from wind development. The guidelines can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/wind.pdf>.

Wind projects disturb soils, surface water and associated ground cover. These disturbances create openings for invasive species that quickly colonize these sites putting adjoining lands and habitats at risk. In addition, ground disturbance can cause erosion and transport of sediment into adjacent waters. The DNR, Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency or the Department of Agriculture may recommend Best Management Practices (BMPs) for different areas of the project.

As the project is considered a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (projects > 5 MW), pre- or post-construction surveys may be recommended in addition to those previously addressed. Further coordination and/or a scheduled meeting with the DNR is recommended prior to finalization of turbine locations. Minnesota Administrative Rules 7836.0500, Subpart 7, requires the applicant to analyze potential environmental impacts of the project, proposed mitigative measures, and any adverse environmental impacts of the project that cannot be avoided. Groundwater resources, surface waters, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, rare and unique natural resources, etc. are all included.

Please contact me at (651) 259-5156 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Randall Doneen  
Environmental Review Planning Director