

**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us);  
**Subject:** FINCO Thu Oct 1 12:21:24 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2009 12:21:09 PM

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This public comment has been sent via the form at: [www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html)

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Greenvale Wind Farm

Docket number: IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

User Name: AARON FINCO

County:

City: INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

Email:

Phone:

Impact: THERE IS NO REASON FOR A WIND FARM IN THE 7 COUNTY AREA, I LIKE TO FLICK THE LIGHT SWITCH AT MY COMMAND! TOO CLOSE TO RESIDENTS, THERE IS PLENTY MORE LAND IN MINNESOTA IF IT HAS TO BE DONE HERE.

Mitigation: SHOULD BE LOCATED IN VAST FARMLANDS, NOT TO AFFECT PREEXISTING CITIZENS.

Submission date: Thu Oct 1 12:21:24 2009

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick  
[andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us](mailto:andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us)

**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinbauer@state.mn.us);  
**Subject:** Flanders Wed Sep 30 13:20:08 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009 1:19:54 PM

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You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Greenvale Wind Farm

Docket number: IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

User Name: Nina Flanders

County: Hennepin County

City: Edina

Email:

Phone: 952-830-1289

Impact: Martin Luther Kings words, "nothing is more dangerous than sincere ignorance or consciencious stupidity seem to apply in this case. To allow a wind farm to be built anywhere in this 7 county metro area is unconscionable. There have been numerous studies done on these giant, towering windmills - from Eurpope to Wisconsin and beyond. It doesn't take much study to understand the negative consequences in an urban area -and the dangers they pose.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed Sep 30 13:20:08 2009

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick  
[andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us](mailto:andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us)



## Public Comment Sheet



Greenvale Wind Farm  
Large Wind Energy Conversion System  
Submitted by Sparks Energy, LLC, & Medin Renewable Energy, LLC

MPUC Docket Number IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

Name:

*Bill Flom*

Please share your comments on the Site Permit Application and Draft Site Permit for the proposed Greenvale Wind Farm. Copies of the Application and Draft Site Permit are available for review at the office of the Dakota County Auditor and at the PUC website, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24613>.

*We've picked berries at Laurences Farm for years. It would destroy their business if there are a lot of wind turbines that close. People go for the peace and quiet and to enjoy the farm. It would be a shame to destroy all of this for someones profit when it could be put in a less populated area.*

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24613>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by  
October 7, 2009

This public comment has been sent via the form at:  
[www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html)

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Greenvale Wind Farm

Docket number: IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

User Name: DONALD FRAME

County: Dakota County

City: ROSEMOUNT

Email:

Phone: 651-432-1370

Impact: I THINK THIS PROJECT TO BUILD THESE BIRD KILLERS! IS TO CLOSE TO A WETLAND. I HAVE SEEN EAGLES IN THE AREA. ALSO DUCKS, TURKEYS, PHEASANTS AND NESTING EGRETS-HERONS , AN OTHER WILDLIFE DEER, COYOTES AND TO MANY OTHERS LIST.

IT ALSO DESTROYS THE CUMMCNITY AND PROPERTY VALUES OF THE POEPLA WHO HAVE WORKED HARD TO MAKE A HOME. PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY THIS CUMMUNITY WITH SOMETHING THAT ADDS NO VALUE TO THE CUMMUNITY, THE HUBITAT OR THE ECONMITY.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Tue Oct 6 13:13:31 2009

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick  
[andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us](mailto:andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us)

October 5, 2009

Suzanne Steinhauer  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

We are writing to voice our opposition to the proposed wind farm in Greenvale Township that is being proposed by Sparks Energy LLC and Medin Renewable Energy LLC (MPUC Docket #IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722). We have many concerns regarding the nature of this project and the impact on residents.

First of all, this project has been sprung upon Greenvale Township with very little time for the supervisors to research the impact of what is being proposed. Furthermore, the proposal has changed from the initial inquiry for one turbine to a much larger project of 11. The principals themselves should come under scrutiny for their approach, as their personal financial difficulties cast doubt on the true rationale behind this project, as well as their intent to remain committed to it. One must ask why two LLC corporations were formed (to protect their private assets) when most similar projects are done as non-profits. As residents, our questions have not been answered by the Medins and they have not been forthcoming about the size and exact locations of the proposed turbines.

A project of this magnitude is appropriate only in non-residential rural areas, and while it is rural, the proposed site of this project is much too densely populated for the turbines to not have many negative effects. Among these effects, we are concerned about noise, destruction of view, signal interference, accidents caused by failure, flicker and a decrease in property values.

We live in the country for a reason, namely because we value our peace and quiet, our personal space and the way of life it affords us. Listening to the constant noise of a turbine generator, having

to look at eleven of them looming over our barn, and putting up with the increased traffic of construction and curiosity-seekers are not high on our list. It is often said that “you’ll get used to it,” but the truth is, as stated in the Bethany Wind Turbine Study report (January 2007, see enclosed), “these are industrial machines and will have significant impact wherever they are sited for decades...Many members of our committee were struck by an ‘alien’ or ‘industrial’ feeling.” This is not an industrial or unpopulated rural area. Allowing construction of these turbines would forever change our way of life.

On a practical, day to day level, we would be forced to deal with interruption of television, cell phone and wireless internet service because of interference caused by the turbines. This is no small matter when families are being denied access to their means of communication.

The potential for fire is another concern. Fires can be caused by lightning, overheating, oil leaks or structural failure, and in one documented case in Wales, burning debris was thrown almost 500 feet, setting the hillside and a public right of way on fire. Our nearest fire department is the volunteer department in Northfield, 7 miles away and known locally as the “basement savers,” as their response time to fires that have occurred in the rural area has been dismal. I can only imagine the extent of destruction if there were a fire of some magnitude caused by a turbine disaster.

Damage to people and property is also a possibility from high wind failure, caused when the braking system fails (see p 20 of report). When the brakes fail, the turbine spins out of control. In Germany, multiple failures of this kind occurred when high winds caused the rotor to hit the tower at high speed, resulting in parts of the blade and nacelle flying off the tower and landing up to 1,650 feet away. The report states “there are numerous counts of residents being evacuated and motorways closed for anywhere from several hours to overnight under these same conditions. Ice throw from the blades poses similar concerns. Clearly this area is too populated to provide proper spacing to ensure the safety of residents. Further consideration should be given to the fact that a major gas pipeline runs through this area and could potentially be damaged by ice throw or accidents. The Bethany report states “In Europe, occupied building setbacks in the range of 1,650 feet have come after hard lessons of property damage and near loss of life.” We encourage setbacks of 1.25 miles from property lines to ensure surrounding residents’ safety.

A great concern to me is the flicker effect and its associated health concerns. As someone who suffers from frequent migraines, I was dismayed to learn of the well-established cause-and-effect relationship turbines have on health. The report states "residents impacted by flicker complained of headaches, migraines, nausea, flicker vertigo and disorientation after only 10 minutes of exposure...As with car or sea sickness, this is because the three organs of position perception (the inner ear, eyes and stretch receptors in muscles and joints) are not agreeing with each other...People with a personal or family history of migraines or migraine-associated disorders are most affected."

We have not given any easement to our property or wind right, and we will refuse to do so. If, despite the overwhelming objections of area residents, permits should be issued for this project, we request to be provided with a final siting map with all setbacks clearly shown thirty days prior to the beginning of any construction.

In summary, we believe it is an infringement of our rights to have these wind turbines constructed against our will and the will of our neighbors and be forced to suffer effects ranging from personal medical issues to inconveniences of disruption to very real safety concerns. A populated area is simply not the place for such a project and we hope very strongly that the Public Utilities Commission recognizes this fact and acts accordingly by denying this misguided application for permits.

Sincerely,

  
Duane and Anne Fredrickson  
Greenvale Township Residents  
6905 290<sup>th</sup> St. W.  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507-645-2348

  
Emilia Fredrickson  
ERIC Fredrickson  
E I I P E F  
Kathryn Fredrickson



Greenvale Wind Farm  
Large Wind Energy Conversion System  
Submitted by Sparks Energy, LLC, & Medin Renewable Energy, LLC

MPUC Docket Number IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please share your comments on the Site Permit Application and Draft Site Permit for the proposed Morgan Wind Project. Copies of the Application and Draft Site Permit are available for review at the office of the Dakota County Auditor and at the PUC website,  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24613>.

Regarding the Morgan Wind Project in Greenvale Township, Dakota County, I would like to add my comments. I did not feel comfortable doing so at the public meeting, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, since everyone there seemed to be adamantly opposed to the project. I do believe global warming and climate change are proven facts and I also believe that for our national security, we, as a nation, need to get away from our oil addiction as soon as possible. For these reasons I am adamantly for the Morgan Wind Project.

To rebut some of the points made at the public meeting in the Greenvale Town Hall on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 :

1. I believe the windmills are beautiful to watch. We have often driven to Ames, Iowa and witnessed the huge farms on the planes of Iowa and there is nothing ugly about them. They almost look like "art in motion"
2. The windmills are almost silent as they deliver their power. I would not mind living near them. The people making these noise comments should listen to the noise some of their children make as they drive their 4 wheelers and dirt bikes up and down our township roads all summer long (illegally, I might add). This noise is much louder!!
3. I do believe the windmills to be safe for humans and animals to live near. As for dairy farms, very few farms in Greenvale Township have cows anymore.
4. As more and more windmills are built, I believe the need for them will become apparent and home values will not go down. I believe many home owners are jealous that they can not have the windmills on their property which is why they are so opposed to them.
5. The pollution that many of these farmers and home owners have on their own farms in the form of junk is far uglier than a clean, silent windmill.

No one seemed to complain about the savings in taxes and electric rates we might receive as residents of Greenvale Township. That would be a big plus. As for my husband and I, we have a 128 acre farm and would love to have the project take a look at it to see if parts could be used for windmills. We both support the project.

Diane Gehler

28749 Holyoke Ave.  
Northfield, MN 55057



## Public Comment Sheet



Greenvale Wind Farm  
Large Wind Energy Conversion System  
Submitted by Sparks Energy, LLC, & Medin Renewable Energy, LLC

MPUC Docket Number IP 6819, 6820/WVS-09-722

Name:

*Suzanne Odette*

Please share your comments on the Site Permit Application and Draft Site Permit for the proposed Morgan Wind Project. Copies of the Application and Draft Site Permit are available for review at the office of the Dakota County Auditor and at the PUC website.

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=24613>.

My opposition to this proposed wind farm is the following concerns. This is the First and ONLY such installation in the 7 County Metro area. The location in the township appears to have been selected without respect of the local residents and did not consider their interests. This location is NOT an open space area with sparse population. This will have a negative impact on our property values as all studies have shown. Quality of life in Greenvale township will be severely impacted if this projected is permitted to go forward.

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinbauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinbauer@state.mn.us)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=24613>
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Comments must be received by

October 7, 2009



## Public Comment Sheet



Greenvale Wind Farm  
Large Wind Energy Conversion System  
Submitted by Sparks Energy, LLC, & Medin Renewable Energy, LLC

MPUC Docket Number IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

Name: JERRY COEHLER

Please share your comments on the Site Permit Application and Draft Site Permit for the proposed Morgan Wind Project. Copies of the Application and Draft Site Permit are available for review at the office of the Dakota County Auditor and at the PUC website,  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24613>.

IN REGARDS TO THE PROPOSED WIND MILL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
IN GREENVALE TOWNSHIP IN DAKOTA COUNTY -

1. LOCAL ELECTRIC GENERATION IS NEEDED NOT ONLY AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, BUT ALSO AS REQUIRED BY CAPX 2020.
2. VISUAL POLLUTION COMPLAINTS AROSE IN COMPARISON TO SOME OF OUR PRESENT LOCAL BUSINESS, FARM, AND PERSONAL RESIDENCES. WIND MILLS HAVE A STERILE VISUAL APPEARANCE BY NECESSITY TO CATCH THE WIND.
3. NOISE CONCERNS ARE MIS-DIRECTED. WHAT SOUND DOES A WIND MILL MAKE?
4. BELOW GROUND CURRENT AND VOLTAGE CONCERNS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN ABOVE GROUND CAPX 2020 LINES PROPOSED ROUTING THROUGH OUR TOWNSHIP.

I SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

JERRY COEHLER  
28749 HOLY OKE AVE  
NORTHFIELD MN 55057

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at,  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24613>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by  
October 7, 2009

**From:** [George Flavell](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
[George Flavell](#);  
**Subject:** Greenvale Wind Farm Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 06, 2009 1:01:38 PM

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Please reply confirming receipt of this e-mail.

Suzanne and Committee members,

Concerning: Greenvale Wind Farm  
Sparks Energy, LLC; Medin Renewable Energy, LLC  
Docket No: IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

My name is George Flavell and I am a life long advocate of wind power attending national and international symposiums. I felt I was generally aware of the issues concerning the development of wind farms until I was faced directly with them as I am. Being aware is a relative term which takes on a whole new meaning when faced with certain imposed realities.

I speak to you with mixed feelings. I clearly see the important role wind power has with other renewable energy sources in lessening our dependence on fossil fuels. This is good for our country, our state, and our local economies as well as our environment. On the other hand I also see the issues that impact individuals in close proximity to wind projects. Our government is based on a system of checks and balances which is what is needed here to balance global initiatives with individual rights.

As I see it there are a number of issues that can be resolved by addressing two central issues which are (1) Turbine setback from individual residences and (2) The density of turbines placed in any given area. I will address each of the central issues and there corresponding sub issues.

#### 1. TURBINE SETBACK FROM INDIVIDUAL RESIDENCES

1a. WIND RIGHTS. One of the reasons for purchasing my property was to use the wind resources. I am a designer of wind energy collecting systems. I would like to go on record in saying I do not give up my wind rights for this proposed wind project.

#### 1b. SAFETY ISSUES

CATASTROPHIC STRUCTURAL TURBINE FAILURE. I realize this doesn't happen often (approximately one in 100 turbines) but when it does it can be deadly. The set back requirements in this proposal are no where near large enough to protect my family from being injured from a structural failure do to high winds and combined braking system failure. In Germany in multiple years including 1999, 2000 and 2003, the brakes on wind turbines failed in high wind, causing the rotor to hit the tower at high speed. This resulted in anything from parts of the blade to the entire nacelle (rotors attached) flying off the tower structure. Blades and other substantial parts have landed as far as 1,650ft away in typical cases. Note that some researchers have calculated theoretical distances for high wind throw based on ice throw calculations. These calculations do not match recorded damage assessments from actual incidents as they fail to recognize the aerodynamic nature of the blade segments and the force of the wind necessarily present in a high wind failure. In layman's terms, a blade segment doesn't fall like a rock; it falls like a loose kite. Beginning in 2001, there are numerous accounts of residents being evacuated and motorways closed anywhere from several hours to overnight under these same conditions. These turbines were model V80s, which have an 80m (264ft) hub height. The Proposed turbines for this project have the potential to throw debris farther. See video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=segmMvgE4mw&feature=related> Note that in this next video officials required residents to stay back 1/4 mile to be safe. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLInrjUtFGI&feature>

ICE THROW: German scientists Henry Seifert, Annette Westerhellweg and Jurgen Kroning have put together a simplified equation for calculating the area of most likely risk in their study Risk Analysis of Ice Throw from Wind Turbines [A:E.12]. They plotted the throw distance of ice pieces observed to radius, and also included the weight of the ice pieces. Their calculation for ice risk area is  $d = (D + H) * 1.5$ , meaning add the diameter of the rotors to the hub height, then multiply that number by one and a half. With Medin's proposed 1.5mW turbines, that means  $(240' + 330') * 1.5$  or 855ft. Because the German scientists designate this as a rough calculation and recommend further local studies to determine the exact conditions in a given area, some communities are adding a 10% margin of error (which would make our calculation 941ft.). This allows for local topographical features.

1c. HEALTH ISSUES:

NOISE Please refer to a study by G.P. Van Den Berg which deals with

noise associated with wind farms

<http://www.nowap.co.uk/docs/windnoise.pdf>

LIGHT FLICKER please refer to a study by Bernhard Voll

<http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/files/1883/Appendix%20C%20Shadow%20flicker%20study.pdf>

Also a video addressing Flicker and Noise:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyOImGHyJtQ>

STROBE LIGHTS

1d. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: I feel that environmental issues have been sufficiently addressed through the permit process.

1e. PROPERTY VALUES: There was a study commissioned by a Calumet County affiliate of the state Coalition for Wisconsin Environmental Stewardship done in Fond du Lac County WI. which has stated that property values near the wind farms have plummeted 30% to 40%. See news release in The Milwaukee Journal:

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/59088607.html>

If you look closely at some studies which portray property value increases. There are no dwellings on the properties and the property owners are being paid lease payments from the wind farms, which increase the value. Properties near wind farms with dwellings on them, that do not receive lease payments are lower in value.

There are cases of people trying to secure refinancing for homes within 2 1/2 mi. of a wind project that were refused based on a lower appraised value as well as inability of home owners to sell properties due to banks unwillingness to finance properties for same reason.

See Study of impacted property values;

<http://www.wind-watch.org/docviewer.php?doc=AGO-WIND-TURBINE-IMPACT-STUDY.pdf>

Various problems associated with wind farms in close proximity to residences: [http://www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=92A0DAA01FCC737C&search\\_query=Wind+Turbine+ice](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=92A0DAA01FCC737C&search_query=Wind+Turbine+ice)

[http://www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=92A0DAA01FCC737C&search\\_query=Wind+Turbine+ice](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=92A0DAA01FCC737C&search_query=Wind+Turbine+ice)

## 2. DENSITY OF TURBINES SITED IN ANY ONE GIVEN AREA

### a. ASCETICS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

One of the controversies over wind turbines is the massive size and placement of these structures, where such an industrial view/operation may change residents' lifestyles. These are industrial machines (30+ stories high) and will

have significant impact wherever they are sited for decades. Few people would object to siting them on vacant farmland whereas in a bedroom community such as we are in, the situation is different. Commercial turbines such as proposed cannot always be placed so that they are not visible from doors and windows of nearby residences. This would be part of the lifestyle change our residents would be expected to make. The placement of these turbines is proposed to be as close as 300ft. from property lines and other occupied buildings. When you look over the rolling hills of Greenvale Township you may see a farm silo or two, which in most cases are less than 100ft tall and are part of the agricultural district we live in – part of the expected view. Ten commercial turbines would definitely take away from the aesthetics of the countryside. I was struck by an 'alien' or 'industrial' feeling when viewing the McNeilus Wind Farm to the south of us. Turbines dominated the landscape and I certainly couldn't imagine living in such an industrial environment. It may be the case that residents get used to the view, however, many residents moved here to get away from the city hustle and bustle; from towering structures and constant movement. Indeed, our peace and quality of life may be our greatest asset.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**SETBACKS** It has been brought to my attention that the PUC is considering stricter set back requirements. This one thing could alleviate most of the issues mentioned above. In European and other counties setback standards of 2 kilometers (1 1/4 mi.) from dwellings have been adopted.

To see various European set backs;

[http://windconcernsontario.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/changes\\_in\\_wind\\_turbine\\_setbacks11.pdf](http://windconcernsontario.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/changes_in_wind_turbine_setbacks11.pdf)

**DENSITY OF TURBINES** I recommend that turbines be placed no closer than 1/2 mi. apart to avoid the quality of life issues as described above, mainly the industrialization of our rural environment.

**PROPERTY VALUE ASSURANCE PLAN;** I recommend that the developers provide a Property Value Assurance Plan to assure that anyone within 2 mi. of said project be protected against losses due to property values plummeting. The burden should be on the entitee that is making the changes to our community. See sample

<http://www.windaction.org/documents/4898>

Thank you for your sincere evaluation of these documents,

George & Merryn Flavell

--

George Flavell

6715 290th st w

Northfield, Mn. 55057

Phone: 507-645-9575

E-mail: [georgeflavell@gmail.com](mailto:georgeflavell@gmail.com)

TIME 3:15 DATE 10-6-09 PAGES 3

TO Minn Public Utilities

FROM Greenville Township

ATTENTION Alyzanne

FAX# 651-297-7891 GREENVALE TOWNSHIP FAX # 952-652-2683

GREENVALE TOWNSHIP  
29292 ISLE AVE W  
NORTHFIELD, MN. 55057

EDITH NELSON, CLERK      PHONE 952-652-2664

Some thoughts for submittal to public utilities commission:

### **Natural Resources**

The proposed Greenvale Wind Farm is within the 7-County Twin Cities metro area and involves too many residents within the study area. The study area involves approximately 1,300 acres. Noise, aesthetics, changes in local ecosystems all will have an adverse impact on the quality of life to residents within, and in close proximity, to the proposed Wind Farm. Based on public comment, the proposed project is clearly not support by the residents of Greenvale Township and neighboring communities.

Dakota County is the only county in the State of Minnesota that has adopted a Farmland and Natural Area Protection Plan (Plan) - County Board action January 29, 2002. The Plan has resulted in a significant public investment to protect farmland as a natural resource and preserve quality of life and rural character. Greenvale Township and neighboring Eureka Township landowners have not only actively participated in the program demonstrating their desire to remain a rural community, but large contiguous blocks have been created to permanently protect the rural character of the area. The proposed Wind Farm is inconsistent with the Dakota County Plan and unbalanced with the significant public investment, including federal funding, to protect farmland and the rural character of Dakota County.

The study area includes portions of Chub Lake and Chub Creek. These surface water resources are designated as Protected Waters by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Locally, the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization has identified these surface water as high priority resources. The Chub Lake and stream corridor has been identified by Dakota County as a potential greenway corridor. The proposed wind farm will significantly reduce the recreational and environmental benefits of these natural communities currently provide, or have the potential to provide. Secondary and cumulative impacts to the natural environment from noise, blade movements, pole height, flashing lights, etc. cannot be adequately mitigated under a wind farm land use scenario.

In close proximity to the study area are DNR Wildlife Management areas and perpetual State conservation easement to accommodate migrating birds and waterfowl.

*Edith Nelson, Clerk*



# Public Comment Sheet



**Greenvale Wind Farm  
Large Wind Energy Conversion System  
Submitted by Sparks Energy, LLC, & Medin Renewable Energy, LLC**

**MPUC Docket Number IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please share your comments on the Site Permit Application and Draft Site Permit for the proposed Greenvale Wind Farm. Copies of the Application and Draft Site Permit are available for review at the office of the Dakota County Auditor and at the PUC website, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=24613>.

10-03-09

Among other objections to the Greenvale Wind Farm you may hear, my main one is that Greenvale Township is too densely populated for a wind farm. My experience when traveling in northwestern Iowa is that the wind farms I see there are in isolated farm areas, miles from the town which utilizes the electricity these windmills produce. Within a mile circle of our home there are two dairy farms, one business, and at least fourteen homes. Enlarging the circle to 1 1/2 to 2 miles, the number would certainly double or more. To me, this population makes the problems a windfarm would bring denies this project as feasible.

Second, I attended the Greenvale Township meeting in September to hear that the majority, in my opinion were against this project. My perception of the conduct of the meeting was not favorable towards the two women conducting the meeting. I am 79 and in my life and career have been to many and varied meetings. At this meeting, I sensed we were not receiving straight answers. I heard too many "I cannot answer that" or "I don't know." what I deemed evasiveness was palpable to me.

Teresa Stead  
10001 305th St. W.  
resident - Greenvale  
Township

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinbauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinbauer@state.mn.us)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=24613>.
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**Comments must be received by  
October 7, 2009**



## Public Comment Sheet



Greenvale Wind Farm  
Large Wind Energy Conversion System  
Submitted by Sparks Energy, LLC, & Medin Renewable Energy, LLC

MPUC Docket Number IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

Name: ROGER C. GORTZ, 9135 295TH ST W, NORTHFIELD, MN 55057  
Please share your comments on the Site Permit Application and Draft Site Permit for the proposed Morgan Wind Project. Copies of the Application and Draft Site Permit are available for review at the office of the Dakota County Auditor and at the PUC website,  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=24613>.

My opposition to this proposed wind farm is the following concerns. This is the First and ONLY such installation in the 7 County Metro area. The location in the township appears to have been selected without respect of the local residents and did not consider their interests. This location is NOT an open space area with sparse population. This will have a negative impact on our property values as all studies have shown. Quality of life in Greenvale township will be severely impacted if this projected is permitted to go forward.

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinbauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinbauer@state.mn.us)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at,  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=24613>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by

**From:** [Candy Gillard](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** MPUC Docket Number IP 6819,6820/WS-09-722 Proposed Greenvale Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 06, 2009 5:04:43 PM

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We are firm believers in wind energy so we went to the meeting on September 22, 2009, at Greenvale Townhall with an open mind. In the end the only green part seemed to be the money going into the pockets of Sparks Energy and Medin Renewable Energy. They were not really concerned about any of the questions raised about noise, sightlines, property values, safety, etc. and answered most questions with we'll have to look into that and get back to you.

Wind is highly variable. Wind speed varies by numerous factors, including weather, location and season, so not all places are appropriate for wind energy. Saying "You have good wind," is not a valid reason for putting wind towers in a highly populated area and it does not answer the questions on noise and safety that will have a direct effect on the people living in Greenvale Township. It does not address the issue of property values, sightlines, or the effects windfarms have on birds and wildlife. We are not against wind farms. We feel they should be put in areas with no or very few people and thousands of acres surrounding them. Then the noise, flickering shadows, and safety would not be an issue. In an unpopulated area the height would not be a serious eyesore.

We are against having wind farms of any size put up in the 7 metro area or any area with a high concentration of people. We also feel that we should be preserving agricultural area, not turning it into industrial sites.

Greg Gillard & Candy Gillard  
8210 280th St W  
Farmington MN 55024  
[cggillard@aol.com](mailto:cggillard@aol.com)

**From:** [Stephanie Gillard](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** MPUC Docket Number IP 6819,6820/WS-09-  
722 Proposed Greenvale Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 06, 2009 5:14:33 PM

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Dear Ms. Steinhauer,

Let me start by saying that wind energy is a great idea however not in Greenvale township. The area is too populated and quite frankly does not need to look like the oil fields of Montana and Texas just to grease the pockets of a few individuals. Going green does not mean to pollute the landscape with large noisy and obnoxious towers.

The fact that one individual was turned down by the township to have a smaller version of these towers put on his land and in turn he got more people involved and requested that more and bigger towers be installed appalls me. He is simply trying to supersede the township's wishes by going thru a higher level of government to get what he wants without regard for his neighbors.

Please don't allow this to happen.

Thanks,

Steph Gillard

7822 Whitney Dr #203

Apple Valley, MN 55124

(952)217-0486

**From:** [Groves, Cheryl](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** MPUC Docket Number IP 6819,6820/WS-09-  
722 Wind Towers - Greenvale Township  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 07, 2009 2:48:22 PM

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Ms. Steinhauer,

As a resident of southern Eureka Township and a Planning Commission member of that township, my husband and I would like to clearly state that we oppose construction of the wind towers at the proposed location in Greenvale Township. Wind towers in this predominantly agricultural community are completely at odds with the environment we as residents value and enjoy. The noise relative to construction and then year round operation of multiple wind turbines near several rural homes and hundreds of acres of hunting land enjoyed by many Minnesotans is without merit. The Chub Lake area offers a wonderful rural environment rich in wild life which will be forever changed if these towers are built in the proposed location.

In reading about some of the issues related to wind towers, safety is a primary concern. Metal fatigue, fire, and mechanical malfunction are major concerns. These towers should not be placed near homes along a primary highway thereby putting residents and travelers at risk in the event of a problem.

We understand the importance of utilizing wind power for energy and applaud the move toward making better use of this resource. However, a great deal more study and thought needs to be invested in the selection of an appropriate site to ensure it is a good fit. Noise, safety, and the proximity to the metro are huge concerns affecting the residents of both Greenvale and Eureka Township, along with the hundreds of people traveling through our area every day.

Please carefully consider the appropriateness of allowing the construction of multiple wind towers in Greenvale Township and the impact it will have on the surrounding community for decades to come.

Thank you,

Cheryl & Michael Groves  
27640 Galaxie Avenue  
Farmington, MN 55024

