

**From:** [Leatha Norman](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Concerns over Greenvale Wind Farm  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 07, 2009 7:03:47 AM

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Good morning,

I am sending this email with regard to concerns I have with the project docket noted below. Although I am impressed with the potential that wind energy holds, it is critical that the PUC understand the issues that wind farms bring to a community.

- \* They are loud. Even if the wind mill hardware is quiet, their impact is huge when they rotate through the wind with recorded "woosh" sound levels of 75db. That is like being in the Metrodome during a playoff game.
- \* The effect of light flicker is also well documented for anyone living within the shadow of a windmill. It can cause motion sickness and even seizures in people.
- \* They can be a safety hazard. Wind towers that have failed have caused damage for nearly a mile from their location.
- \* A wind farm has a negative impact on property values. While I like the idea of wind farms, I would not want one in my backyard. It would have a huge negative impact on my property valuation which means lower resale and tax valuations.

Wind farms have their place in locations that are rural or remote and away from homes and communities. They should always have a buffer range of 3-7 miles depending on the terrain. The Greenvale township is too densely populated for any such project.

#### Mitigation

Require that all wind farms have sufficient buffer space to shield residents from their impact and risk, 3-7 miles. Any residents in the buffer zone should be removed and relocated and compensated for their property.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Leatha Norman

# Project docket

**Docket No:** IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

**Project name:** Greenvale Wind Farm

**Applicant:** Sparks Energy, LLC; Medin Renewable Energy, LLC

**Description:** Site Application for an 11 MW LWECS in Dakota County

**Subjects:** Environmental policy; Wind power

**Location:** Dakota County; Dakota County -- Greenvale Township

**Docket created:** July 20, 2009

**Contacts(s):** [Suzanne Steinhauer](#), 651-296-2888, Project Manager.

**Status:**

**From:** [SHAWN LORENCE](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #09-722 Greenvale Wind Farm Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 07, 2009 2:03:08 PM

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From: lorenceberryfarm@msn.com  
To: consumer.puc@state.mn.us  
Subject: Docket #09-722 Greenvale Wind Farm Project  
Date: Wed, 7 Oct 2009 03:43:13 +0000

October 6, 2009

Public Utilities Commission  
Public Comment  
Docket # 09-722

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to state concerns about the proposed Greenvale Wind Farm project (docket #09-722) currently under permit review. Our home and u-pick berry business is located near (1/2 to 1 mile depending on placement) the proposed site. In the short time allowed to research this, we were able to view the impact of a wind farm that was developed in Fond Du Lac County, Wisconsin. Some of our concerns shadow what those residents have experienced.

We are concerned about the number of issues relating to the project...

- The companies proposing the project, Medin Renewable Energy and Sparks Energy, are start-up enterprises with **no experience in alternative energy or wind farming**.
- They do not know how many turbines there will be, what size they will or where they will be. **They do not have a concrete plan to get the energy to the grid**. A representative from Dakota Electric, speaking at the public hearing on Sept. 22, 2009, contradicted the information given by the project managers stating the energy would connect at the Castle Rock substation. Dakota Electric has only just begun determining how the energy might be transmitted.
- Residents have been given **very little information about the specifics of the project** overall. At the Public Hearing held Sept. 22, 2009, the project

managers could not answer many of the questions posed by residents. Additionally, **the time frame is weighted against residents**. We were notified in August with an October 7, 2009 deadline for commenting, which does not give residents enough time to educate and mobilize support.

- **The landowners that have so far agreed to lease their land for the project do not reside in the project area.** No one that lives near the project has agreed to lease land.
- **The population density of the proposed site alone should be enough to deny the permit.** Over twenty families will be directly (and negatively) affected and numerous others in close proximity including 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> generation family farms and u-pick farming operations attracting thousands of customers per year to this area.
- Safety - turbines disintegrating in high winds is not only a concern because of **human safety** but there is a **major gas line** running directly down the east side of the project area. This could prove incredibly dangerous. Other safety concerns are lightning, fire, and ice build-up just to name a few.
- Health issues – the MN Department of Health has published a White Paper on the adverse **health affects from wind turbines**. It is not something people normally think about but there has been substantial documentation stating the potential health risks involved. These can include sleep disturbance, headache, ringing or buzzing in the ears (tinnitus), ear pressure, dizziness, vertigo, nausea, visual blurring and racing heartbeat (tachycardia) among others.
- Wildlife – We enjoy the outdoors...hiking, hunting, and fishing. **Large wind turbines must have a negative effect on wildlife in the area?** There are woods, wetlands, and farmland in the proposed project area. There are migrating flocks of geese, ducks, and other waterfowl. There are coyotes, deer, pheasants, wild turkeys among others.
- Property values - aesthetics, noise, strobe lights and the flickering sunlight from behind the turbines all contribute to a **decrease in property values** for nearby homeowners. Because of the special, rural character of the area and the commutable distance to the Twin Cities, many homeowners paid a premium for their property, which will decrease in value if the wind farm is developed. Private, for-profit companies should not be entitled to ruin families financially for personal benefit. This is **amoral, unethical and unjust!**

Additionally, we want to add that:

- I have not given an easement to my property or my wind rights and do not intend to.
- If a permit should be issued, I request notification 30 days prior to construction and request I be provided with the final citing map showing all set backs.

We hope that the permit for this project be denied. We understand the need for the development of alternative energy sources. Greenvale Township just doesn't seem like the right place for a wind farm! This is a populated rural area close to the suburbs. People move here to get away from the busy city life. Our home is here and our u-pick berry business. Customers comment on how peaceful and tranquil it is here. We hope you can understand our concerns with this project and how it will affect our family and farm too. Can't we can develop new energy sources without negatively affecting so many people and a tranquil rural community? Wind farms belong in remote areas with limited numbers of people!

The detriments to people and property greatly outweigh the benefits in this case. Please deny Medin Renewable Energy and Sparks Energy the permit to build this wind farm!

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please reply with a response confirming receipt of this letter.

Shawn and Gayle Lorence  
28556 Foliage Ave.  
Northfield, MN 55057

**From:** [susie lorence](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Greenvale Wind Farm  
**Date:** Sunday, October 04, 2009 4:33:13 PM

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We have a 20+ acre strawberry farm 100s of feet away from the proposed wind farm. We are very concerned about what impact this would have on our business. There are a lot of people that might think its not healthy to be picking berries so close to something that generates electricity. Its hard enough during these economic times to make a living without something like this threatening us. Sparks and Medins totally went behind the Greenvale residents back and never informed even our board about the proposals. Even at the meeting on Sept 22nd. they either refused to answer 75% of our questions or couldn't. Medins have over 15 judgements against them. If they couldn't pay their own bills, how can they possibly be stable enough to do this. All of the proposed sites are on peoples land that is rented out. These people no longer live in Greenvale Township. The only thing they care about is the yearly money they will get not the impact this will have on all the other residents. We worry about the safety being so close to a major Williams Pipeline above ground facility. The issues of health and property values haven't even been considered in looking at the this proposed site. Greenvale is a highly populated area in the 7 county metro area. We can't believe that you would allow this to pass in such a beautiful rural community. You will find that none of the residents will give them any wind rights. We truly care about the community. Please don't let this pass.

**From:** [Malecha, Tom](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us);  
**Subject:** Greenvale Wind Farm  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009 9:00:26 AM

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Suzanne,

My name is Tom Malecha, I'm a landowner in Greenvale township, with property adjacent to the Greenvale Wind Farm project. I fully support the project and hope that the State will also support the project. Long term our state and country need alternative means to producing energy especially means that are renewable. I'm sure this project has its detractors, but wind energy is a proven benefit to producing energy in a green and environmentally friendly manner. Please help support this project and help to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Sincerely,

Tom Malecha

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For more information please visit <http://www.messagelabs.com/email>

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**From:** [Ken Malecha](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Greenvale Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 06, 2009 8:16:18 AM

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I write this correspondence in favor of the Greenvale Wind Farm. I am a landowner in the project area. I do not have a lease for any turbines at this time. My family has owned this property for many many years. My father moved to this area in 1951.

I have had many conversations with the deveopers and I beleive they have done a good job with this project. I feel the developers have taken some undue criticism on this project. I have had discussion with the developer in regards to placing turbines in my proerty, however at this time I do not have a lease. I also farm the land on two other properties in the project area.

I not only support this project but renewable energy as a whole. As a society we need to embrace projects that make sense. I would rather have a project like this that can feed the energy produced to a local sub-station via underground means vs a large overhead system.

If you have any questions please contact me,

Sincerely, Kenneth R. Malecha

**From:** [Mark Malecha](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us);  
**Subject:** Greenvale Wind Farm  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009 1:31:04 PM

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Suzanne

As a land owner and a nearby resident I would like to let you know I think the wind farm is a good idea. Currently in the area there are 2 other wind generators and they are appealing to look at. Additionally I feel that any renewable energy we harvest from nature is a good program.

Thank you

Mark Malecha, manager  
Feely's Elevator  
420 2nd St Farmington Mn 55024  
651-463-8611

**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Janak Tue Oct 6 21:25:53 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 06, 2009 9:25:24 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: Julie Janak

County: Dakota County

City: Northfield

Email: [jjanak@integraonline.com](mailto:jjanak@integraonline.com)

Phone: 952-652-2062

Impact: I have concerns that this project will definitely have a negative impact on our property value. We worked very hard to save over the years to purchase a property in the country and now our life dream is at risk of being destroyed by two start up LLC companies looking to only make money at the expense of Greenvale Township residents. The meetings I attended, both companies were unable or unwilling to answer residents' questions on this project. They could not tell us where these were going to be erected, they would only talk in generalities and not specific. I think the companies owe it to the residents of Greenvale Township to provide answers to our questions.

This wind farm does not belong in the 7 county metro. Going back to my first concern on property value, living in this 7 county metro we know some day the growth of the city will be upon us and with urban sprawl we accept that. I don't accept urban sprawl that eliminates my property from reaping the benefits of growth by cities due to the wind farm being placed here because some entrepreneurs were granted permits by the PUC. This is wrong to allow gain by so few and take away rights of many. This is wrong and you can not allow this permit to be issued.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Tue Oct 6 21:25:53 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

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: Roger Janak

County: Dakota County

City: Northfield

Email: [rjanak@integraonline.com](mailto:rjanak@integraonline.com)

Phone: 952-652-2062

Impact: I am opposed to this project as there are many documented cases of health issues that wind farms can create. I am very opposed to letting this project be approved as the first one in the 7 county metro area. I am not opposed to renewable energy but it does not belong in a metro adjacent area where the current population in the proposed area of this project is NOT sparsely populated. This in itself raises the risk of these known health issues and who knows what others in the future could appear due to the proximity to residential occupied dwellings.

I have a major concern about my property value being negatively impacted. It is not fair to me and others that our home values are lowered because of a few entrepreneurs wanting to make money at my expense. The proposed project properties where the towers are to be erected are NOT lived on by the owners, so they do not have to look at these or deal with any of the issue associated with them. They will continue to live in their homes far away from this project and collect the rent from their lease with these entrepreneurs.

Please take my opposition into consideration before making a decision that will impact me for my entire life and my children's lives.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Tue Oct 6 20:30:04 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:** Kazmierczak Sun Sep 27 19:17:37 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Sunday, September 27, 2009 7:17:22 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: Susan Kazmierczak

County:

City: Hammond

Email:

Phone:

Impact:

A good friend of mine who has lived in Greenvale Township (MN), has owned his own business for over 40 years (Johnson Hardware in Bloomington, MN), is now faced with the possibility of wind towers being placed within 1,000 feet of his property.

How can this possibly be legalized??? The constant noise, strobe lights (both day and night), and threats to human health and wildlife....not to mention TV reception....he will no longer be able to be an occupant in his own house!!!! How can this possibly be legalized????? I do not understand!!!

Can you not put these windtowers elsewhere?????

I'm sure there are other areas you can target, some may be which uninhabitated.....

I hope you have the common sense to reconsider this ridiculous project, as it will affect not just one, but an entire community.

Just my 2 cents

Mitigation:

Submission date: Sun Sep 27 19:17:37 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

**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us);  
**Subject:** Kazmierczak Wed Sep 30 06:17:21 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009 6:18:43 AM

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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: Tim Kazmierczak

County:

City: Hammond

Email: [timkaz989@yahoo.com](mailto:timkaz989@yahoo.com)

Phone: 715-796-2538

Impact:

As a concerned citizen, I am worried about the environmental and economical impact of a windfarm in the seven county metro area. Within a metropolitan area, the health and well-being of the citizens in this area would be severely affected.

With little environmental research about the impact on humans, wildlife, insects and habitat in general, I feel as though this project is being rushed through and not thoroughly being considered from an objective point of view.

Few people stand to gain from the Greenvale windfarm while more people would be unfairly affected.

This project should be stopped immediately.

Thank you for listening to my comments.

Tim Kazmierczak

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed Sep 30 06:17:21 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

October 5, 2009

To whom it may concern,

As a homeowner in the Greenvale township, we would like to express our concerns on the proposed Greenvale Wind Project. At this time, we do not feel that we have been informed on all aspects to such a development and how this will affect the quality of life we currently maintain in the country.

Questions we have which have not been addressed or supported by test results are:

Safety – what measures have been put into place to avoid wind turbines from obstructing other utility services to the community such as major gas lines, electric, etc.? How do wind turbines handle severe weather conditions which we face such as high winds, ice from hail storms, and extreme temperature fluctuations?

Health – what is the noise levels for one wind turbine? How is this level when multiplied by the number of wind turbines proposed in the Greenvale Wind Project?

Wildlife- we have always enjoyed the wildlife that our township has attracted. When our children and grandchildren come for visits, enjoyment in our simple life adds to their fond memories of their past. Wildlife that nests on our land and surrounding land are not ones they necessarily see in their everyday lives in the city.

Property Values – Our property has been in the family all of Randy's life plus more. His father and mother worked hard to maintain and improve the land to pass on to their children. To think that their years of hard work only ended up in being forgotten is sad to us. With decreased property values, the work that we have also put into the land is heartbreaking.

Our family has been blessed with three healthy generations that continue to grow. We value our time together when they come for visits and spend those special holidays in the country. They enjoy the wildlife and peace that "Grandma & Grandpa's farm brings. I do not want these memories to be erased by the proposed Greenvale Wind Project.

Sincerely,

*Sandra Knutson*

**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** LaBonne Wed Oct 7 08:48:51 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 07, 2009 8:48:24 AM

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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: Amy LaBonne

County: Dakota County

City: Eagan

Email:

Phone:

Impact: Everyone agrees renewable energy is much needed but please consider the impact on neighbors and wild life. Less populated areas would be a better choice for this type of project. Please help keep the high quality of life for our Greenvale township neighbors!

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed Oct 7 08:48:51 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 Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Langer Wed Oct 7 07:01:21 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 07, 2009 7:00:57 AM

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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: Linus Langer

County: Dakota County

City: Northfield

Email: [linuslanger@gmail.com](mailto:linuslanger@gmail.com)

Phone: 507-663-1798

Impact: Friends,

This windfarm project lacks community support and should not be approved. As a lifelong resident of Greenvale Township I am disappointed the "process" appears to discount the importance of community support. Let us not be "rolled" please! There are ample opportunities to find better more agreeable alternatives.

Sincerely,

Linus Langer

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed Oct 7 07:01:21 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



## 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: Alie L Langer (In mbr Land Stewarship)

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>.

As a 61 yr. resident of Greenvale Township I've watched a few changes in the structure and population of Greenvale.

Greenvale has always been considered an "Agricultural township" dedicated to the practice of farming. With the influx of population there has been many poor decisions by the township government - poor permitting process for one. For this reason I believe ~~was~~ need to "re-assess" the need for this project. We need more information about future possible expansion, the possibility of damages to land and its value as well as to health safety.

There are four options for submitting comments on this project:

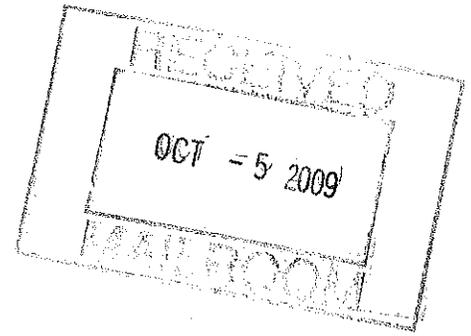
- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)
- 3) submit your comments electronically at, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24613>.
- 4) Fold, tape, and mail this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

Comments must be received by  
**October 7, 2009**

October 1, 2009

To: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Regarding the Proposed Greenvale Wind Farm



We are property owners on the north side of the project. The project owners have proposed placing large turbines as close as 500-600 feet from our home. This will have adverse effects on our family.

1. Our property values will go down significantly.
2. Flashing lights for aircraft will flash at our house 24/7 affecting our quality of life.
3. Health concerns with the constant low level noise.
4. We have large populations of wild turkeys, hawks, and migratory birds. Especially eagles that frequent my woods and adjoining fields where the turbines are proposed. Wouldn't the Department of Natural Resources want to investigate this issue?  
Has there been an environmental study done?
5. These turbines wreak havoc on low flying birds, as I have witnessed at the Carleton College wind turbine. Dead birds are frequently picked up near the wind turbine.
6. Flocks of wild turkeys with up to one hundred birds go from the woods to the fields daily, often flying back to the woods after feeding. The turbines will no doubt claim a number of these birds.

My neighbors have voiced similar concerns. We can't imagine why large wind turbines could be allowed so close to populated areas. In southern Minnesota wind turbines are placed in large fields where homesteads are far away.

Please consider our concerns as this will greatly reduce our quality of life for many years to come. The owners of the turbines don't have a deal with this eye sore like we would have to. Surely they could find a more suitable area for these things.

*Diane Larsen + Family*  
1740 280<sup>TH</sup> ST  
FARMINGTON MN 55024



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: Lawrence

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.

My son's have a 40 acre plus strawberry, raspberry and asparagus farm 100's of feet away from the proposed site of many of the turbines. Please come to our farm to relax and enjoy the rural setting not to listen to turbines. We will not give them an easement to any wind rights. They have totally gone behind the backs of all the residents. They have no experience and are only looking for financial gains as a private enterprise. We worry about they impact on the environment and wildlife. If the braking system should fail (as things do break) and hit the Williams Pipeline facility with a rotor, it would knock out half a Greenvale township. Please take this into consideration and don't allow something of the magnitude into our peaceful township.

Lorenna Berry Farm
28625 Foliage 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.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
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: BOYD Lundquist

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>.

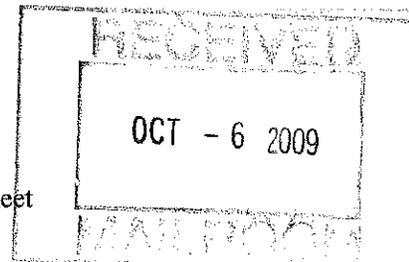
THIS PROJECT DOES NOT FIT IN THIS RURAL RESIDENTIAL AREA. THE SET BACKS ARE NOT NEARLY ENOUGH FROM WIND MILLS (PROPOSED) & HOUSES (EXISTING).

Boyd Lundquist  
7232 285TH ST W.  
NORTHFIELD MN 55057

NO WIND FARM FOR GREENVALLEY !!

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  
October 7, 2009**

**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Medin Wed Oct 7 15:40:13 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 07, 2009 3:39:44 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: Dan & Janet Medin

County: Wright County

City: Clearwater

Email: [djmedin@email.com](mailto:djmedin@email.com)

Phone: 763-878-2375

Impact: Our feedback from Greenvale Township meeting:

- 1.Many people in Greenvale Township support the project however at the meeting the input consisted primarily of people opposed to the project. The Township supervisor sent postcards informing residents about the meeting only to those that live in the area and oppose the project.
- 2.Township supervisor publicly misrepresented developers as being solely motivated by money. The developers approach from the beginning was communication, collaboration and cooperation and our commitment to conservation and the environment.
- 3.A man who identified himself as a representative of Dakota Electric representative indicated that they were not required to purchase the electricity and publicly voiced the view that nothing about this project had been approved by the utility. In fact, the Developer has been working with Dakota Electric and CEG engineering for some time to determine best interconnect and Dakota Electric has told us they are excited about the project and it will help them meet their state mandates.
- 4.The developers provided detailed information about the project to every person in attendance and attempted to answer every question and concern. IN addition, we provided information about accessing more information for anyone to learn more about wind energy and wind turbines.

The facts are; the developer will meet or exceed all state guidelines in regard to noise, distance etc.

5. There were approximately 75 people at the meeting and about 15 people continually spoke negatively about the project. The population of Greenvale Township is about 900 and it seemed that this represented a very small minority of the township who are opposed to the project.

6. Wind Facts:

a. Minnesota ranks 9th in the US for potential wind energy output. Wind can be harnessed safely to generate electricity without producing any dangerous waste or unwanted by-products. (Source: AWEA)

b. Minnesota utilities must obtain a certain percentage of their energy production from renewable energy systems of which 25% must be from wind energy. (Source: 2007 Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard Legislation)

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed Oct 7 15:40:13 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

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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



October 7, 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 Draft Site Permit

Ms. Lamb Steinhauer:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Draft Site Permit and responses to comments on the Site Application for the above-described project. The following comments are provided to assist in development of a final permit that supports renewable wind energy and protects Minnesota's natural resources.

The DNR is concerned that the Draft Site Permit and Site Application may not adequately protect the Chub Creek Marsh wetland complex that is located within the project area. The Site Application acknowledges a 300 foot setback from the ordinary high water mark of Chub Creek. This setback does not extend to the wetland complex associated with Chub Creek and could potentially result in turbine or other infrastructure placement at the edge of the wetland complex. Chub Creek and its associated wetland complex at this site have been identified as a Regionally Significant Ecological Area by the DNR. The designation is based on the size and shape of the area, the connectivity to uplands and other wetlands, the diversity of upland cover types associated with the wetland, wildlife habitat, and native species diversity. Placement of turbines in close proximity to this ecologically significant landscape feature could result in unacceptable effects to the ecological functions of the wetland complex that could result from wildlife avoidance or avian/bat mortality.

The DNR is aware of the limited research and data associated with the affects of wind turbines on wildlife. However, the current draft of the USFWS Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee Synthesis Workgroup is based on the best science available to date, and recognizes that sites with significant ecological features should be avoided or mitigated. Given the identification of the wetland complex as a Regionally Significant Ecological Area, it would seem appropriate to apply a precautionary principle that provides a buffer between the wetland complex and turbine or other infrastructure placement. DNR staff would be happy to discuss potential buffer widths with OES.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Site Permit. Please contact me at (651) 259-5156 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randall Doneen'.

Randall Doneen  
Environmental Review Planning Director

C: Joe Kurcinka, DNR  
Steve Colvin, DNR  
Steve Hirsch, DNR  
Mark Lindquist, DNR  
Laurie Martinson, DNR

[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

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**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us);  
**Subject:** Moore Thu Oct 1 21:58:27 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2009 9:58:16 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: Daniel Moore

County: Dakota County

City: Rosemount

Email: [dcmoore83@live.com](mailto:dcmoore83@live.com)

Phone: 507-271-3039

Impact: I moved to 7253 290th St. W. in Greenvale Township with my family over ten years ago. Although I moved to Rosemount I still spend a great deal of time out at my parents home in greenvale (within 1000 ft of proposed windfarm turbines). Aside from the time spent at my family's home, I also utilize much of the area's thriving woodlands and wetlands for Deer hunting, and waterfowl hunting, along with many other sportsman from the surrounding area. Im extremely disgusted to hear about the proposed wind farm turbines not only because of the extremely dangerous negative health effects (i.e. sleep disturbance, headache, ringing or buzzing in the ears, ear pressure, dizziness, lightheadedness, sensation of spinning, nausea, visual blurring, irritability, and problems with concentration) but also because I have witnessed 1st hand how loud these turbines actually are as well as the "flicker" that is caused by shadows from the blades intermittently blocking the sun and I cannot emphasize enough how much this would impact anyone within close proximity as these proposed generators would be. These effects are unavoidable to residents such as my family. This will disrupt every aspect of their home lives. If this project is completed, extreme depreciation of property value could likely hinder residents from moving away from the wrath of these turbines, even if they wanted to uproot and relocate. I understand that these windmills will disrupt the surrounding habitat that so many of us greenvale residents enjoy hunting and

utilizing season after season. I feel that this means of energy still needs to be perfected due to the lack of cost versus reward. Especially when you consider how many people and families this will negatively effect. I believe there are thousands and thousands of acres that could be used for windfarms in areas that do not encroach upon homes and lives. So to make a long story short I feel obligated to voice the fact that myself as well as many many others, am definitely OPPOSED to the wind farm!

in Gree

nvale Township, please preserve the land that is so appreciated by the countless people that enjoy Greenvale just the way it is! Thank you.

Mitigation: Build them in non residential areas.

Submission date: Thu Oct 1 21:58:27 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

**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Moore Wed Oct 7 15:53:43 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 07, 2009 3:53:13 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: Quincy Moore

County: Dakota County

City: Northfield

Email: [qdispatch@yahoo.com](mailto:qdispatch@yahoo.com)

Phone: 612-685-1089

Impact: I would like to say that Greenvale Township being in the 7 county metro area is to densely populated for a project of this size. After much research, I think there should be at least a quarter mile (1320 ft.) set back from any adjoining PROPERTY LINE. Being a property owner in the permit area, I have NOT and do NOT intend to give any easements for this project.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed Oct 7 15:53:43 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)

## Steinhauer, Suzanne (COMM)

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**From:** Apache [apache@lmic.state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 07, 2009 12:24 PM  
**To:** Suzanne Steinhauer (COMM)  
**Subject:** MOORE Wed Oct 7 12:23:33 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722

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: SARAH MOORE

County: Dakota County

City: NORTHFIELD

Email: WILDWOOD@NORTHFIELDWIFI.COM

Phone: 612-685-1443

Impact: FIRST, I AM NOT OPPOSED TO WIND ENERGY. The opposition stems from the site proposal. My comments for this project are: \*The set backs and state guidelines do not take into consideration such a populated area. These guidelines are currently under review and should continue to be reviewed prior to this application being approved. \*The buffer zones infringe on property owners wind rights. \*A proposed site for 3 wind turbines sits atop a major gasline. EXTREMELY CONCERNED FOR SAFETY! \*Current electrical grid system can not adequately meet the demands of this project. This is even a concern that has been expressed by officials of Dakota Electric. The cost to upgrade would be undetermined, and the current sub-station is land locked. \*A commercial facility is included with the project application and approved upon permit approval. No township guidelines allowed to take into consideration how this commercial facility would impact the community, especially residents that live within 500 feet of the facility. \*Property values greatly affected. Studies proven show 18 to 25% reductions at minimums. \*Quality of life - health issues; research, proven studies, feedback from residents currently living in exactly same situations. Flickering, strobing, low-level vibrations. Wind turbine Syndrome, White paper, windwatch.org, ETC. \*Rural area, no other options for interruption for TV/Internet service, which can GREATLY be affected by turbines. Internet in our area is used for businesses/schooling. Most residents use a wifi service that could very well be impacted. \*Wildlife, domestic pets, livestock - concerns for their migration, nesting and health. Proven studies show impacts in these areas and more. \*This project has been set on an expedited course since it's inception. Placement, size of turbines, continual changes. The project is being rushed without enough information, planning and organization! \*This is the first project of it's kind for Medin Renewable Energy & Sparks Energy. These companies should have a proven track record before spearheading a project of this magnitude. \*FINANCIAL STABILITY a huge concern. David Medin of MRE has had numerous judgements for prior failed business ventures/dealings. Who is responsible if these companies go under? What is the fallout?

Mitigation: Set backs for all wind farms should be set no closer than 1/2 mile from residences. State guidelines that are under current review should be expedited, and changed prior to permit applications being approved. Sites to be considered should not be in such a populated area, and guidelines should be given to counties and townships.

A 60 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO RESIDENTS, DUE TO THE EXPEDITION OF THIS APPLICATION APPROVAL.

Submission date: Wed Oct 7 12:23:33 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



## 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:

*Suzanne R. Mulholland*

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>.

*I object to the windmill.  
It is an ugly looking structure  
on our pastoral landscape -  
I'm casting my comment against  
the steel structures.*

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:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Nelson Tue Oct 6 09:48:23 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 06, 2009 9:48:53 AM

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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: Ryan Nelson

County:

City: Roseville

Email:

Phone:

Impact: The proposed site doesn't adequately address the devaluation and exclusion of use of the land around it. The home owners that are the closest will be adversely affected. Corrective measures need to be taken or the project stopped all together.

Mitigation: The site could be moved far enough away that it would not affect the home owner. The home owners could be compensated for the loss of their property use and value.

Submission date: Tue Oct 6 09:48:23 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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>.

I believe this is not a appropriate place  
to put these wind turbines. We are  
country, but still a residential place.  
It would be a negative effect, for the  
Township + people. There is also a gas  
pipe-line near by - Please be aware that  
Greenvale Township is a nice place & the people  
are great.  
Thank you for time & consideration.

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  
October 7, 2009**

**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Nolden Wed Oct 7 15:58:05 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 07, 2009 3:57:41 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: Scott Nolden

County: Dakota County

City: Eagan

Email: [nolden17@hotmail.com](mailto:nolden17@hotmail.com)

Phone: 6514522650

Impact: Windmills are ugly, dangerous to humans and wildlife and inefficient. We do not want them anywhere in Dakota County.

Mitigation: If our goal is safe and efficient electricity production, nuclear power is the only way to go.

Submission date: Wed Oct 7 15:58:05 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.Steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us);  
**Subject:** Papke Wed Sep 30 15:30:26 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009 3:30:12 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: Jacob Papke

County: Hennepin County

City: Shorewood

Email: [jjbpapke@q.com](mailto:jjbpapke@q.com)

Phone:

Impact: Please rule against the Greenvale wind farm project. Wind farms have their place in locations that are rural or remote and away from private homes. This proposal would allow wind mills as close as 1000 feet from existing houses. They should always have a buffer range of 3-7 miles from people's homes. The Greenvale township is too densely populated for any such project.

Wind farms are too loud, cause light flicker that can be a health risk and hurt property values. While the wind farm may generate local electricity and be easy to connect to the grid, it will lower all property values in the area which will decrease tax revenues.

Please vote against this project.

Jacob Papke

Mitigation: Locate wind farms in rural areas away from residential areas. Look at any other power plant in Minnesota...they are always a safe distance from residents. Why should this be any different?

Submission date: Wed Sep 30 15:30:26 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

**From:** [Apache](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:Suzanne.Steinhauer@state.mn.us);  
**Subject:** Papke Wed Sep 30 15:47:16 2009 IP 6819, 6820/WS-09-722  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009 3:47:01 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: Nicole Papke

County: Hennepin County

City: Excelsior

Email: [ripstick@q.com](mailto:ripstick@q.com)

Phone:

Impact: Please vote NO for the Greenvale wind farm project.

\* A wind farm has a negative impact on property values. While I like the idea of wind farms, I would not want one in my backyard. It would have a huge negative impact on property valuation which means lower resale and tax revenues. Allowing a wind farm in Greenvale will ruin any property value that is close to it.

\* They are loud. Even if the wind mill hardware is quiet, their impact is huge when they rotate through the wind with recorded "woosh" sound levels of 75db. That is like being in the Metrodome during a playoff game.

\* The effect of light flicker is also well documented for anyone living within the shadow of a windmill. It can cause motion sickness and even seizures in people.

\* They can be a safety hazard. Wind towers that have failed have caused damage for nearly a mile from their location.

Please vote against the Greenvale wind farm project.

Nicole Papke

Mitigation: Wind farms have their place in locations that are remote and away

from homes and communities. They should always have a buffer range of 3-7 miles, depending on the terrain, from existing homes. The Greenvale township is too heavily populated for any such project.

Submission date: Wed Sep 30 15:47:16 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

**From:** [Bob Mathews](#)  
**To:** [Suzanne Steinhauer \(COMM\)](#);  
**Subject:** Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 06, 2009 9:01:27 PM

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I'm all for the construction of a wind farm in Greenvale Township. It's about time the farmers in Greenvale Township realize they don't control all the land in site. If it's not corn or beans or pigs they can't handle it. Wind Mills are cool and calming and offer some sensible energy. Go for it!!!!