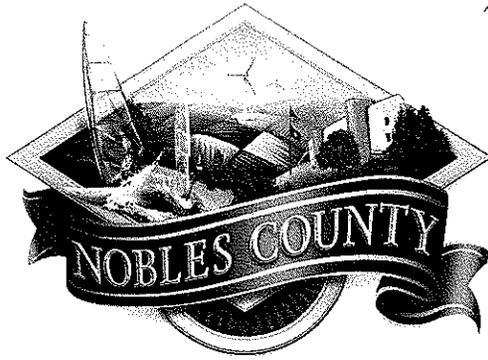


651-312

PUBLIC WORKS

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PO Box 187
Worthington, MN 56187-0187



Phone: 507-295-5322
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PublicWorks@co.nobles.mn.us

October 30, 2009

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



RE: LWECS Site Permit Application
PUC Docket # IP66446/WS-09-584

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Nobles County Planning and Zoning would like to take this opportunity to make comment on the proposed site permit application filed by enXco on behalf of Excel Energy.

Nobles County would like to see the following items addressed through the permitting process:

1.) High Level Rescue Plan

Local responders are not trained or experienced in responding to high aerial rescues. A written document providing details for training and a schedule of training dates of local emergency personnel with regards to wind turbines.

2.) Power line setback from road right-of-way

Nobles County Land Use Ordinance requires power lines to be setback the same distance from road right-of-ways as structures or in the road right-of-way, therefore, Nobles County encourages the power lines be placed in the road right-of-way, or meet the County setbacks of 80' from a township road and 125' from a County or State road.

3.) Tower Setback from residence

Nobles County Land Use Ordinance requires a 750' setback for wind turbines from a residence to help reduce the shadow/flicker effect,

throwing of ice/snow and reduce noise. Nobles County encourages the state to require this as a minimum setback.

4.) Tower Setback from road right-of-way

Nobles County Land Use Ordinance requires the setback from a road right-of-way to be a minimum of 1.25 times the height of the wind turbine. Nobles County encourages the state to require this as a minimum setback, especially on high traffic volume roads.

5.) Pre-Construction Meetings

Nobles County Environmental Services would like to be notified of all pre-construction meeting so that we may attend.

6.) Noise Minimization

The existing Reading sub-station was permitted by the State with no requirements for trees or screening around it. As we have already received noise complaints; including trees and/or screening surrounding the sub-station as a condition of this project would be appropriate as this project will generate more noise as more electricity will be processed through that sub-station. Cost share for a shelter belt would be available, please contact our office

7.) E-911 Addressing

Nobles County Land Use Ordinance requires all structures have an E-911 address for emergency services. It would be appropriate to require this as a condition of the permit.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the items listed above I can be reached at 507-295-5322.

Sincerely,



Wayne Smith
Environmental Services Director

WS/kh

Cc: Matthew Langan
Ian Krygowski
Nobles County Planning and Zoning Commission
Nobles County Commissioners