



West Stevens Wind, LLC

Monday, June 08, 2015

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

**Re: In the Matter of West Stevens Wind, LLC, Site Permit for a 20 MW Wind Project in Stevens Counties, Minnesota - Request for Permittee to Show Cause.
MPUC Docket: IP6824/WS-09-830**

Dear Dr. Haar:

The Local Owners of West Stevens Wind, LLC (Permittee) have received, and are responding to, the letter requesting the Permittee to show cause from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) dated May 8, 2015.

Permittee's intention has been to develop a wind energy project that would be community-owned, and that would qualify as a "C-BED" project under Minnesota Statutes. However, current rules for C-BED projects lack a meaningful requirement for utility purchasers to engage in negotiations to purchase energy from C-BED projects. As a result, Permittee has been unable to obtain a power purchase agreement (Site Permit Condition III.J.4) for the West Stevens Wind project. Without a power purchase agreement, it is not possible for the project to commence construction (Site Permit Condition III.K.2) as required under the Site Permit. Similarly, study deposit requirements within the Midwest ISO interconnection process make it extraordinarily difficult for smaller, community-owned projects to obtain an interconnection due to over whelming costs and risks.

Given these obstacles we do not envision being able to satisfy either condition in the foreseeable future. For that reason the Permittee is amenable to the Commission's revocation of Site Permit IP-6684/WS-09-830 that was issued to Permittee on February 25, 2010. Should the Permittee subsequently determine that the West Stevens Wind Project is able to move forward, the Permittee will apply for a new Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit.

Our hope is that future regulatory requirements will make it economically feasible for smaller, community-owned renewable energy projects to successfully complete their wind energy projects.

If the Commission should have any questions regarding the West Stevens Wind project, please contact Keith L. Thorstad or Roland Jurgens at 320-324-7122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roland H Jurgens III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Roland H Jurgens III
Senior Project Manager

Mnioka Construction, LLC
PO Box 321
Chokio, MN 56221