



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



November 5, 2009

**NOTICE OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT ISSUANCE
AND
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

In the Matter of the Site Permit Application for a 20 Megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Stevens County, Minnesota.

PUC Docket No. IP-6824/WS-09-830

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will hold a public information meeting on the application by West Stevens Wind, LLC, to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a site permit to build and operate a 20 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) near Chokio, Minnesota.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Monday, November 23, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.

Best Northland Prairie Inn
Cougar Meeting Room
200 East State Highway 28
Morris, Minnesota

The purpose of the public information meeting is to provide information about the proposed project and to solicit public comment on the site permit application submitted by West Steven Wind and the draft site permit issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). OES staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit. Representatives of West Stevens Wind will be present to answer questions about the proposed project.

Public Comments. In addition to receiving comments at the public information meeting the OES will also accept written comments on the proposed project, site permit application, and draft site permit until **4:30 P.M., Wednesday, December 16, 2009**. Please include Docket Number IP-6824/WS-09-830 on your comments. Comments should be mailed, faxed, or emailed to:

Scott Ek
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500 | St. Paul, Minnesota | 55101-2198
Fax: (651) 297-7891 | email: scott.ek@state.mn.us

Project Description. The project is a proposed 20 megawatt wind farm to be located on approximately 2,880 acres of agricultural land in Everglade Township just northwest of the city of Chokio in Stevens County, Minnesota. The project would consist of the following: approximately 13 turbines (depending upon specifications), permanent meteorological tower, project substation, transmission line interconnection point, and permanent access roads (see attached figure). As indicated in the site permit application, the applicants intend on commencing construction of the LWECS in February 2010, with completion by June 2010.

Review Process. The OES, on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the permit review process for this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules 7854).

West Stevens Wind filed an application with the Commission for a site permit to build and operate a LWECS near Chokio, Minnesota. The Commission accepted the site permit application as complete on September 8, 2009. The OES solicited comments on issues to be considered in developing a draft site permit for this project until September 30, 2009. Staff prepared a draft site permit for consideration by the Commission. On October 23, 2009, the Commission issued an Order approving the draft site permit for distribution and public comment and authorized the OES to implement the public participation process outlined in Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. Upon completion of this process, the OES will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision. Under the LWECS siting process, environmental review is incorporated into the development of the site permit application and the site permit itself; there is no separate environmental review document prepared on the project.

Contested Case Hearing Request. Any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the LWECS pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Mr. Ek in writing by 4:30 P.M. on December 16, 2009. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the contested case hearing will aid the Commission in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

Eminent Domain. West Stevens Wind does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the LWECS facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and West Stevens Wind.

Project Documents. Electronic versions of the site permit application, the draft site permit and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24842> , and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter "09" and "830" docket number).

Copies of the LWECS application and draft site permit are also available for public review at the Auditor's Office in Stevens County, the city offices in Chokio, Everglade Township in Stevens County, and the public library in the city of Morris.

Mailing List. Persons interested in adding their names to the OES mailing list for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#MailingLists>.

Project Contacts. For more information about the permit process and the proposed project please contact:

Scott Ek, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-8813
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Deborah Pile, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 297-2375
deborah.pile@state.mn.us

Questions about the LWECs permit application may also be directed to the applicant by contacting the company's representatives, Mr. Keith Thorstad (320-324-7122, Mnioka@fedtel.net) or Mr. Roland Jurgens (320-324-7122, rjurgens@mnioka.com).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

LEGEND

-  PROPOSED PROJECT BOUNDARY
-  TURBINE LOCATION
-  SECTION LINE
-  TOWNSHIP LINE
-  HOME RESIDENCE
-  HOME RESIDENCES 1200' RADIUS SETBACK
-  TURBINE SETBACKS
-  ACCESS ROAD
-  COLLECTION LINE
-  NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY WETLANDS
-  SUBSTATION/INTERCONNECT POINT
-  60 ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC (AADT) (HWY-2004 DATA) (COUNTY-2005 DATA)
-  DECIDUOUS FOREST

NOTES:

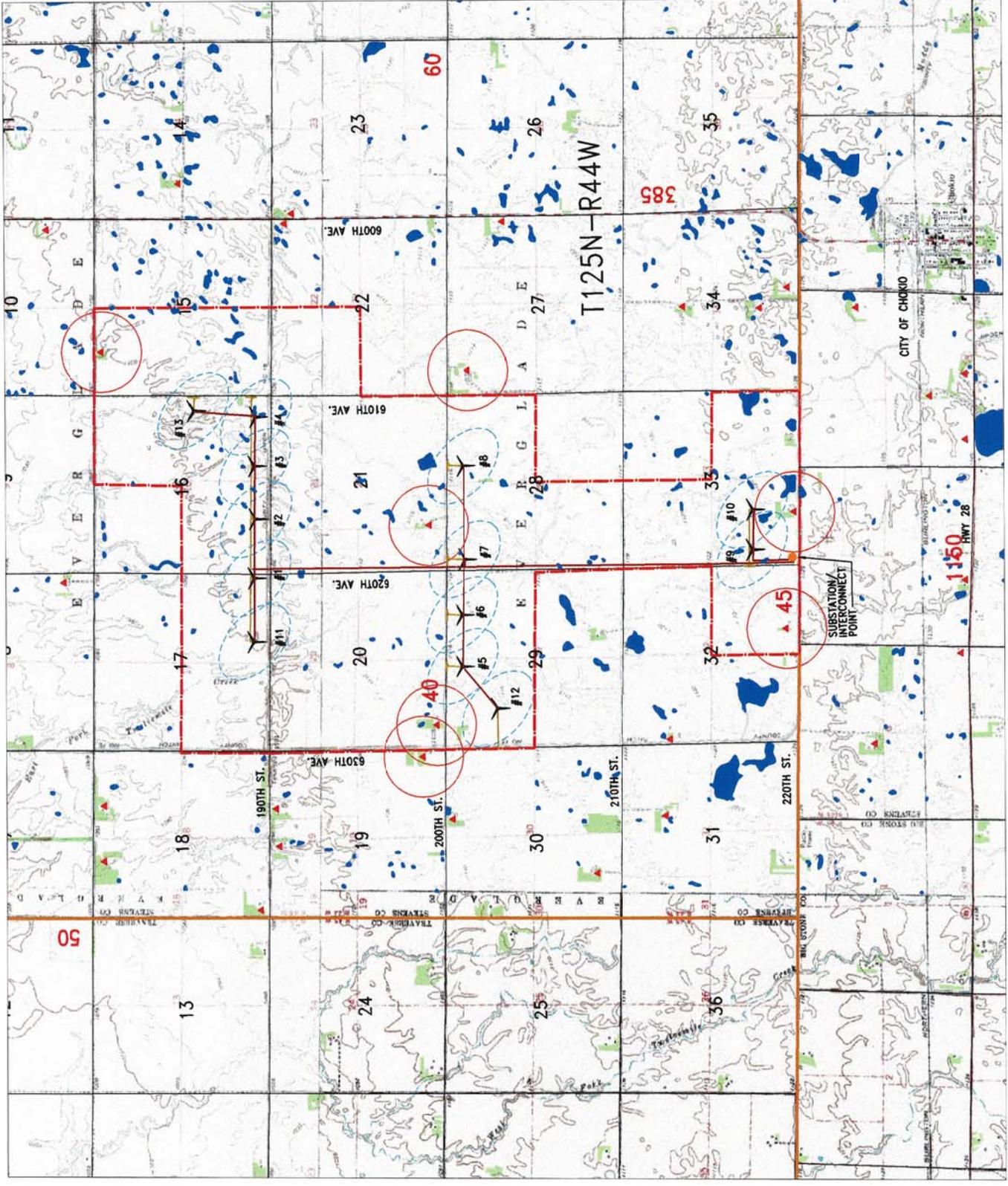
LAND USE: ALL LAND IS CROP LANDS UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
 CULTURAL RESOURCES: NONE FOUND WITHIN PROPOSED PROJECT BOUNDARY
 FLOOD PLAINS: NONE FOUND WITHIN PROPOSED PROJECT BOUNDARY
 NATURAL HERITAGE: NONE FOUND WITHIN PROPOSED PROJECT BOUNDARY

DATA SOURCES:

AADT-MnDOT
 WETLANDS-MN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



SCALE: 1"=3000'



CRAIG AFFELDT
MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL
AGENCY
520 LAFAYETTE RD N
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

DOUGLAS BENSON
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
625 NORTH ROBERT ST
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

MARIAN BISTODEAU
CECO LTD
8700 13TH AVE E
SHAKOPEE, MN 55379

RANDALL DONEEN
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES
500 LAFAYETTE RD, BOX 10
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

TRAVIS GERMUNDSON
MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL
RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE RD
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

DENNIS GIMMESTAD
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
345 KELLOGG BLVD W
ST. PAUL, MN 55101

ROBERT HENRY
2925 12TH ST E
GLENCOE, MN 55336

ROLAND JURGENS
MNIOKA CONSTRUCTION, LLC
PO BOX 321
CHOKIO, MN 56221

NIKKI KARNOPP
SATELLITESHelters INC
20050 75TH AVE N
HAMEL, MN 55340

NATHAN KESTNER
MNDNR
2115 BIRCHMONT BEACH RD NE
BEMIDJI, MN 56601

STACY KOTCH
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
395 JOHN IRELAND BLVD
MAILSTOP 678
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

SUSAN MEDHAUG
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
85 7TH PLACE EAST, SUITE 500
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

BOB PATTON
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
625 NORTH ROBERT ST
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

MIKE REESE
MINNESOTA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION, REGION 4
1000 WESTERN AVE
FERGUS FALLS, MN 56537

JENNIE ROSS
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
395 JOHN IRELAND BLVD, MS 620
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

SEAN SWARTZ
526 10TH ST NE
PO BOX 485
WEST FARGO, ND 58078

KEITH THORSTAD
WEST STEVENS WIND, LLC
PO BOX 321
CHOKIO, MN 56221

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
1ST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, SUITE
E200

STEVENS COUNTY PLANNING
COMMISSION
400 COLORADO AVE
MORRIS, MN 56267

CITY OF CHOKIO
221 MAIN ST
PO BOX 36
CHOKIO, MN 56221

NORTHLAND PRAIRIE INN
200 EAST STATE HWY 28
MORRIS, MN 56267

NEIL WIESE
STEVENS COUNTY AUDITOR/TREASURER
400 COLORADO AVE
PO BOX 530
MORRIS, MN 56267

WAYNE WESTERMAN
EVERGLADE TOWNSHIP
62012 180TH ST
CHOKIO, MN 56221

MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
102 E 6TH ST
MORRIS, MN 56267