



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891
www.commerce.state.mn.us

February 17, 2010

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

**RE: Comments and Recommendation of the Office of Energy Security Energy
Facility Permitting Staff
Docket No. IP6684/WS-08-1448**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Attached are the Comments and Recommendation of the Office of Energy Security Energy Facility Permitting Staff in the following matter:

In the Matter of the Application of Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, for an up to 138 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Yellow Medicine and Lincoln Counties

The OES EFP staff is also providing you with:

- A. Proposed Draft Site Permit
- B. Site Constraint Maps

Staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer
OES EFP Staff

Attachment

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BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING STAFF**

DOCKET NO. IP6684/WS-08-1448

Meeting Date: February 25, 2009

Agenda Item # _____

Company: Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC

Docket No. IP6684/WS-08-1448

**In the Matter of the Application of Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, for
an up to 138 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Yellow
Medicine and Lincoln Counties**

Issue(s): Should the Commission authorize distribution of a draft site permit for public
comment?

OES Staff: Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer.....651-296-2888

Relevant Documents

Route Permit Application.....October 13, 2009
Comments on Bitter Root Wind Farm LWECs Site Permit Application.....December 9, 2009
OES Comments and Recommendations to the CommissionDecember 9, 2009

The enclosed materials are work papers of the Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security Energy Facility Permitting Staff. They are intended for use by the Public Utilities Commission and are based on information already in the record unless otherwise noted.

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).

Documents Attached

1. Proposed Draft Site Permit
2. Site Constraint Maps

(Relevant documents and additional information can be found on eDockets (# 08-1448) or the PUC Facilities Permitting website <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25538>)

Statement of the Issue

Should the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) make a preliminary determination on whether a site permit may be issued or denied and authorize a draft Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) site permit for distribution and public comment?

Introduction and Background

Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC (Applicant), has submitted a site permit application for a proposed 138 megawatt (MW) wind farm in Yellow Medicine and Lincoln counties. Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company based in Minneapolis, is a joint venture of ACCIONA Wind Energy USA, LLC, and Global Winds Harvest, LLC. The Applicant anticipates that the Project will be owned and operated exclusively by ACCIONA Wind Energy once constructed and commercially operable. Neither the Applicant nor any of its related entities own or operate any other LWECS in Minnesota.

The Applicant proposes to locate the Bitter Root Wind Farm Project (Project) west and southwest of the city of Canby and has identified a Project Area of approximately 35 square miles (22,500 acres) located in Fortier and Florida townships of Yellow Medicine County and Hansonville Township in Lincoln County (see attached map). Depending upon final design, the Applicants anticipate that the Project would occupy approximately 120 acres. The Applicant represents having site control of approximately 18,000 acres within the Project Area, sufficient to allow siting flexibility to ensure that appropriate setbacks are met.

The Applicant proposes to use up to 92 1.5 Megawatt (MW) wind turbine generators, or up to 46 3 MW wind turbine generators. In addition to the turbines, the proposed Project would consist of:

- Associated turbine access roads and electric collector lines;
- A permanent meteorological towers;
- An operations and maintenance building;
- A project substation; and
- An interconnect to the transmission grid;

The Applicant anticipates that construction of the Project will begin in 2011, with commercial operation expected within 18 months from the commencement of construction.

Regulatory Process and Procedures

A site permit from the Commission is required to construct a LWECS, which is any combination of wind turbines and associated facilities with the capacity to generate five megawatts or more of electricity. This requirement became law in 1995. The Minnesota Wind Siting Act is found at Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F. The rules to implement the permitting requirement for LWECS are in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854.

Certificate of Need

Because the Project is larger than 50 MW, it is considered a large electric power generating plant under Minnesota Statute 216B.2421 and a Certificate of Need (CN) from the Commission is required for the Project under Minnesota Statute 216B.243.

The Applicant applied to the Commission for a CN for the Project on April 27, 2009, and accepted the application as complete in its order of July 17, 2009. The CN review is proceeding under PUC Docket Number IP6684/CN-08-785. A scoping meeting for the Environmental Report required for the CN process was held in Canby on November 3, 2009. OES EFP staff anticipates the Environmental Report will be available in February, 2010.

Site Permit Application and Acceptance

Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, filed an application with the Commission for a site permit on October 13, 2009. The Commission accepted the application a complete in its order dated November 13, 2009. A Notice of Application Acceptance was published and distributed to local governments and landowners in the Project Area on November 12, 2009. Public comments were accepted through December 1, 2009. OES EFP staff received written comments from Mike and Mona Evens and from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Evens comments expressed support for the Project. The DNR comments are summarized below under the heading **OES EFP Staff Analysis and Comments**.

Preliminary Determination on Draft Site Permit

Minnesota Rule 7854.0800 states that: “Within 45 days after acceptance of the application by the PUC, the PUC shall make a preliminary determination whether a permit may be issued or should be denied. If the preliminary determination is to issue a permit, the PUC shall prepare a draft site permit for the project. The draft site permit must identify the permittee, the proposed LWECS, and proposed permit conditions.”

Issuing a draft site permit does not authorize a person to construct a LWECS. The Commission may change, amend or modify the draft site permit in any respect before final issuance or may deny the site permit at a later date. OES EFP staff will bring this matter back to the Commission for final action upon the conclusion of the public participation process.

In its December 21, 2009, Order the Commission granted a variance to Minnesota Rules, part 7854.0800 to extend the period for the Commission to make a preliminary determination on whether a permit may be issued or should be denied in order for the Applicant to develop additional layout information regarding both the 1.5 and 3.0 MW turbines.

Public Participation Process

If the Commission makes a preliminary determination that the draft site permit may be issued, the OES EFP staff will implement the public participation process identified in Minnesota Rule 7836.0900. The public will be notified that a draft site permit has been issued, a public comment period will be established, and a public information meeting will be held near the project location. OES EFP staff will work with the public, local governmental units, and state agencies to identify issues, impacts and potential mitigation measures prior to bringing this matter back to the Commission for a final permit decision.

Minnesota Rule 7836.0900, Subpart 5, provides the opportunity for any person to request that a contested case hearing be held on the proposed LWECs project. The request must be filed within the time period established for submitting comments on the draft site permit and must include the issues to be addressed in a contested case hearing and the reasons a hearing is required to resolve these issues.

OES EFP Staff Comments and Analysis

Subsequent to the Commission's December 21, 2009 Order, the Applicant provided OES EFP staff with constraint maps (Attachment 2) showing two possible layouts, one showing the 1.5 MW turbines and one showing the 3.0 MW turbines. These maps also show public lands, 1,000-foot noise buffers from residences, and 3x5 rotor diameter setbacks in relation to the possible layouts.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) made several recommendations related to setbacks and surveys for the Project in its December 1, 2009 letter. That letter also made several clarifications and corrections to information contained in the site permit application and requested that the Applicant update the NHIS records search.

The DNR identified several species and areas of high biological value within the Project Area: native prairie; sites characterized as being of Biodiversity Significance based on the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS); and an area identified as the "Yellow Medicine Coteau Macrosite"). The DNR letter raised concerns with the potential placement of turbines within sites enrolled in DNR's Prairie Bank Program. The letter also recommended two years of post-construction avian and bat mortality studies for the Project.

OES Response: The Applicant submitted an updated request for an NHIS search on December 15, 2009 and will e-file the results from that search when received.

The Draft Site Permit, at Condition III.C.6, allows the Commission to require the Permittee to prepare a prairie protection and management plan 60 days prior to the start of construction. OES staff has refined this condition to include a prohibition on placement of turbines on lands enrolled in Minnesota's Native Prairie Bank Program. Under this program landowners may protect native prairie by entering into a conservation easement with DNR. Under terms of these easements, the DNR Commissioner must authorize any structures, roads, or utilities within the easement.

The MCBS collects information on the distribution and ecology of rare plants, rare animals, native plant communities, and functional landscapes throughout the state; the MCBS then ranks sites with outstanding, high, moderate or low biodiversity significance. These rankings do not take into account the ownership status of the land in question. The DNR has identified a “Yellow Medicine Coteau Macrosite” in the northeastern portion of the Project area, roughly north of the Sioux Nation WMA. The Site Permit, at III.C.4 prohibits wind turbines or associated facilities from being placed in areas of public ownership -- Waterfowl Production Areas, State Wildlife Management Areas, Scientific or Natural Areas or in county parks. The Project must also comply with required wind access buffer setbacks from areas included in Permit Condition III.C.4. The Site Permit, at III.C. 5, also preclude turbines, roads, underground cables and transformers from being placed in public waters wetlands. Site Permits to date have not precluded development on private lands beyond that required to meet setbacks required under Permit Conditions III.C.1-7.

The Site Permit, at III.D.1 requires that a biological inventory or survey of existing resources within the site and assess the presence of state-or federally-listed or threatened species. The Applicant has included a wildlife study in the Project Area in Appendix F of the Application. Additional studies will be done in accordance with Permit Conditions III.C.6 and III.D.1, Attachment 4 of the Site Permit, and Section 8.17.3 of the Site Permit Application filed on October 13, 2009.

As a requirement of the first permit issued for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System in 1995, Northern States Power Company (NSP) was required to conduct an avian study to determine the effect of the turbines on avian mortality. An additional two-year study was required to determine the effect of the turbines on bats. Wind developers were required to compensate Northern States for these studies; allowing the financial burden to be split among potentially affected parties, rather than borne by one party. Since that permit, surveys have not been a requirement of any individual permit.

Since the adoption of General Permit Standards, EFP and DNR staff have discussed LWECS layout on a Project specific basis. OES EFP staff believes that further information on the basis for DNR’s recommendations and an exploration of the range of issues associated with such setbacks and surveys for this Project, as well as for future projects, [are necessary before any recommendations can be made on the appropriateness of these additional setbacks, exclusion areas, and surveys.](#) OES staff continues to meet with DNR staff to discuss the development of LWECS site permits and appropriate conditions to address DNR concerns. It is OES staff’s understanding that the “Minnesota Protocols” referenced in DNR’s post construction survey recommendations are undergoing internal review and will not be available for several months.

Mike and Mona Evens: The Evens submitted a comment of support for the Project on November 3, 2009.

OES Response: Comment noted.

OES EFP staff used the information in the application and experience with other LWECS projects as a guide for evaluating whether a draft site permit may be issued for the project or should be denied, pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7854.0800, Subpart 1. OES EFP staff finds that the available information is sufficient to conclude that it is appropriate to make a preliminary determination that a site permit may be issued for the project. The applicant has agreed to provide EFP staff with any additional information. OES EFP staff has prepared a draft site permit identifying the permittee, the proposed LWECS, and proposed permit conditions. The proposed draft site permit is attached to these Comments and Recommendations. Commission approval of the draft site permit will allow for distribution of the draft site permit and initiation of the public review process, which includes a formal public comment period.

Commission Decision Options

Commission Decision Options

A. Preliminary Determination to issue a Draft Site Permit

1. Make a preliminary determination that a draft site permit may be issued.
2. Make a preliminary determination that a draft site permit should be denied.
3. Make some other decision deemed more appropriate.

B. Approve the proposed Draft Site Permit for distribution and public comment

1. Approve the proposed Draft Site Permit for distribution and public comment. Authorize EFP staff to implement the public participation process found in Minnesota Rules 7836.0900.

OES EFP Staff Recommendation: The staff recommends Options A1 and B1.

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM

SITE PERMIT

FOR THE

BITTER ROOT WIND FARM PROJECT

IN

YELLOW MEDICINE AND LINCOLN COUNTIES

ISSUED TO

BUFFALO RIDGE POWER PARTNERS, LLC

DOCKET NO. IP-6684/WS-08-1448

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 216F.04, this Site Permit is hereby issued to:

Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC

The Permittee is authorized to construct and operate up to a 138 Megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System on the site identified in this Site Permit and in compliance with the conditions contained in this Permit.

This Permit shall expire on_____.

Approved and adopted this ___ day of _____
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BURL W. HAAR
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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I. SITE PERMIT

This Site Permit for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) authorizes Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, (hereinafter “Permittee”) to construct the Bitter Root Wind Farm Project, a 138 Megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity LWECS and associated facilities in Yellow Medicine and Lincoln counties, on a site of approximately 22,500 acres in accordance with the conditions contained in this Permit. The project boundary is shown on the map that is attached hereto as Attachment 1.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The up to 138 MW nameplate capacity LWECS authorized to be constructed in this Permit (Bitter Root Wind Farm Project) will be developed and constructed by the Permittee. The Project will consist of up to up to 92 1.5 Megawatt (MW) wind turbine generators, or up to 46 3 MW wind turbine generators mounted on 262 - 394 foot (80 – 120 meter) towers having a combined nominal nameplate capacity of approximately 138 MW. The rotor diameter is 253 – 358 feet (77 - 109 meters). Associated facilities will include wind turbine access roads, underground collection lines, SCADA wiring, feeder lines, pad mounted turbine transformers, and meteorological towers. Turbines are interconnected by communication and underground electrical power collection facilities within the wind farm that will deliver wind-generated power to the collection substation. Power will ultimately be delivered from the Project substation to the existing 115 kV Canby to Toronto transmission line owned by Otter Tail Power.

III. CONDITIONS

The following conditions shall apply to site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation, maintenance, abandonment, decommissioning and all other phases of the LWECS. The Commission preserves all available remedies for violation of any of these Permit conditions, including revocation or modification of the Permit.

A. GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS

SITE PLAN

Prior to commencing construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission a site plan for all turbines, roads, electrical equipment, collector and feeder lines and other associated facilities to be constructed and engineering drawings for site preparation, construction of the facilities, and a plan for restoration of the site due to construction. The Permittee shall document compliance with the setbacks and site layout restrictions required by the permit. The Permittee may submit a site plan and engineering drawings for only a portion of the LWECS if the Permittee is prepared to commence construction on certain parts of the Project before completing the site plan and engineering drawings for other parts of the LWECS. In the event that previously unidentified environmental conditions are discovered during construction which by law or pursuant to conditions outlined in this Permit would preclude the use of that site as a turbine site, the Permittee shall have the right to move or relocate turbine sites. The Permittee shall notify the

Commission of any turbines that are to be relocated before the turbine is constructed on the new site and demonstrate compliance with the setbacks and site layout restrictions required by the permit.

2. FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Prior to the start of construction and continuously throughout construction and site restoration, the Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this Permit. This person (or a designee) shall be accessible by telephone during normal business hours. This person's address, phone number and emergency phone number shall be provided to the Commission, who may make the number available to local residents and officials and other interested persons. The Permittee may change the field representative by notification to the Commission.

3. PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING

Prior to the start of any construction, the Permittee shall conduct a preconstruction meeting with the person designated by the Commission to coordinate field monitoring of construction activities.

4. NOTICE OF PERMIT CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction and ongoing operation of the LWECS of the terms and conditions of this Permit.

B. MITIGATION MEASURES

1. SITE CLEARANCE

The Permittee shall disturb or clear the site only to the extent necessary to assure suitable access for construction, safe operation, and maintenance of the LWECS.

2. TOPSOIL PROTECTION

The Permittee shall implement measures to protect and segregate topsoil from subsoil in cultivated lands unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

3. SOIL COMPACTION

The Permittee shall implement measures to minimize soil compaction of all lands during all phases of the Project's life and shall confine compaction to as small an area as practicable.

4. LIVESTOCK PROTECTION

The Permittee shall take precautions to protect livestock during all phases of the Project's life.

5. FENCES

The Permittee shall promptly replace or repair all fences and gates removed or damaged during all phases of the Project's life unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. When the Permittee installs a gate where electric fences are present, the Permittee shall provide for continuity in the electric fence circuit.

6. DRAINAGE TILES

The Permittee shall take into account the location of drainage tiles during project layout and construction. The Permittee shall promptly repair or replace all drainage tiles broken or damaged during all phases of the Project's life unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

7. EQUIPMENT STORAGE

The Permittee shall not locate temporary equipment staging areas on lands under its control unless negotiated with landowner. Temporary staging areas shall not be located in wetlands or native prairie.

8. ROADS

(a) Public Roads

Prior to commencement of construction, the Permittee shall identify all state, county or township roads that will be used for the LWECS Project and shall notify the Commission and the state, county or township governing body having jurisdiction over the roads to determine if the governmental body needs to inspect the roads prior to use of these roads. Where practical, existing roadways shall be used for all activities associated with the LWECS. Where practical, all-weather roads shall be used to deliver cement, turbines, towers, assembled nacelles and all other heavy components to and from the turbine sites.

The Permittee shall, prior to the use of such roads, make satisfactory arrangements with the appropriate state, county or township governmental body having jurisdiction over roads to be used for construction of the LWECS for maintenance and repair of roads that will be subject to extra wear and tear due to transportation of equipment and LWECS components. The Permittee shall notify the Commission of such arrangements upon request of the Commission.

(b) Turbine Access Roads

The Permittee shall construct the smallest number of turbine access roads it can. Access roads shall be low profile roads so that farming equipment can cross them and shall be covered with Class 5 gravel or similar material. Access roads shall not be constructed across streams and drainage ways without required permits and approvals from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), and/or United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). When access roads are constructed across streams and drainage ways, the access roads shall be designed in a manner so runoff from the upper

portions of the watershed can readily flow to the lower portion of the watershed. Access roads shall also be constructed in accordance with all necessary township, county or state road requirements and permits.

(c) Private Roads

The Permittee shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when obtaining access to the site, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

9. SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

The Permittee shall develop a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan prior to construction and submit the Plan to the Commission. This Plan may be the same as the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application. A goal of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan is to minimize soil erosion, to revegetate non-cropland and range areas disturbed by construction with wildlife conservation species, and, wherever possible, to plant appropriate native species in cooperation with landowners.

The Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan shall address what types of erosion control measures will be implemented during each Project phase, and shall at a minimum identify plans for grading, construction and drainage of roads and turbine pads; necessary soil information; detailed design features to maintain downstream water quality; a comprehensive re-vegetation plan to maintain and ensure adequate erosion control and slope stability and to restore the site after temporary Project activities; and measures to minimize the area of surface disturbance. Other practices shall include containing excavated material, protecting exposed soil, and stabilizing restored material and removal of silt fences or barriers when the area is stabilized. The plan shall identify methods for disposal or storage of excavated material. Erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be installed prior to construction and maintained throughout the Project's life.

10. CLEANUP

The Permittee shall remove all waste and scrap that is the product of construction, operation, restoration and maintenance from the site and properly dispose of it upon completion of each task. Personal litter, bottles, and paper deposited by site personnel shall be removed on a daily basis.

11. TREE REMOVAL

The Permittee shall minimize the removal of trees and the Permittee shall not remove groves of trees or shelter belts without notification to the Commission and the approval of the affected landowner.

12. RESTORATION

The Permittee shall, as soon as practical following construction of each turbine, considering the weather and preferences of the landowner, restore the area affected by any LWECS activities to the condition that existed immediately before construction began, to the extent possible. The time period may be no longer than twelve months after completion of construction of the turbine, unless otherwise negotiated with the landowner. Restoration shall be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the LWECS.

13. HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean-up and disposal of hazardous wastes generated during any phase of the Project's life.

14. APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES

The Permittee shall restrict herbicide use to those herbicides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. The Permittee shall contact the landowner or his designee to obtain approval for the use of herbicide prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of herbicides on any part of the site within the landowner's property. All herbicides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as to not damage crops, orchards, tree farms, or gardens. The Permittee shall also, at least ten days prior to the application, notify beekeepers with an active apiary within one mile of the proposed application site of the day the company intends to apply herbicide so that precautionary measures may be taken by the beekeeper.

15. PUBLIC SAFETY

The Permittee shall provide educational materials to landowners within the site boundaries and, upon request, to interested persons, about the Project and any restrictions or dangers associated with the LWECS Project. The Permittee shall also provide any necessary safety measures, such as warning signs and gates for traffic control or to restrict public access. The Permittee shall submit the location of all "underground facilities," as defined in Minnesota Statute 216D.01, Subdivision 11, to Gopher State One Call.

16. FIRE PROTECTION

The Permittee shall prepare a fire protection and medical emergency plan in consultation with the fire department having jurisdiction over the area prior to LWECS construction. The Permittee shall submit a copy of the plan to the Commission upon request. The Permittee shall also register the LWECS with the local governments' emergency 911 services.

17. TOWER IDENTIFICATION

All turbine towers shall be marked with a visible identification number.

C. SETBACKS

1. WIND ACCESS BUFFER

Wind turbine towers shall not be placed less than 5 rotor diameters (RD) on the prevailing wind directions and 3 RD on the non-prevailing wind directions from the perimeter of the lands where the Permittee does not hold the wind rights, without the approval of the Commission.

2. RESIDENCES

Wind turbine towers shall not be located closer than 1000 feet from the nearest residence unless a waiver has been signed by the property owners, or the distance required to comply with the noise standards established by the MPCA at paragraph II.E.3, whichever is greater.

3. ROADS

Wind turbine and meteorological towers shall not be located closer than 250 feet from the edge of the nearest public road right-of-way.

4. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers, shall not be located in Waterfowl Production Areas, State Wildlife Management Areas or Scientific and Natural Areas or in county parks and shall also comply with the setbacks of III.C.1.

5. WETLANDS

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable and transformers, shall not be placed in public waters wetlands, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 103G.005, subp. 15a. However, electric collector or feeder lines may cross or be placed in public waters or public waters wetlands subject to DNR, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and/or United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits and approvals.

6. NATIVE PRAIRIE

The Permittee shall, with the advice of the DNR, Commission and any others selected by the Permittee, prepare a prairie protection and management plan and submit it to the Commission and DNR Commissioner 60 days prior to the start of Project construction. The plan shall address steps to be taken to identify native prairie within the Project area, measures to avoid impacts to native prairie, and measures to mitigate for impacts if unavoidable. Wind turbines and all associated facilities, including foundations, access roads, underground cable and transformers, shall not be placed in native prairie unless addressed in the prairie protection and management plan. Unavoidable impacts to native prairie shall be mitigated by restoration or management of other native prairie areas that are in degraded condition, or by conveyance of conservation easements, or by other means agreed to by the Permittee and Commission.

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers shall not be located in areas enrolled in the Native Prairie Bank Program.

7. SAND AND GRAVEL OPERATIONS

Wind turbines and all associated facilities, including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers shall not be located within active sand and gravel operations, unless otherwise negotiated with the landowner with notice given to the owner of the sand and gravel operation.

D. PRECONSTRUCTION SURVEYS

1. BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY/SURVEY

The Permittee, in consultation with DNR and Commission, shall conduct a pre-construction desktop and field inventory of existing, if any, native prairies, wetlands, Creek, CRP lands, publicly owned (county, state and federal) conservation lands and any other biologically sensitive areas within the site and assess the presence of state- or federally-listed or threatened species. The results shall be submitted to the Commission and DNR 30 days prior to the preconstruction meeting.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Permittee shall work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at the Minnesota Historical Society and the State Archaeologist. The Permittee shall carry out a Phase 1 or 1A Archaeology survey for all proposed turbine locations, access roads, junction boxes and other areas of project construction impact to determine whether additional archaeological work is necessary for any part of the proposed Project. The Permittee will contract with a qualified archaeologist to complete such surveys, and will submit the results to the Commission, the SHPO and the State Archaeologist.

The SHPO and the State Archaeologist will make recommendations for the treatment of any significant archaeological sites which are identified. Any issues in the implementation of these recommendations will be resolved by the Commission in consultation with SHPO and the State Archaeologist. In addition, the Permittee shall mark and preserve any previously unrecorded archaeological sites that are found during construction and shall promptly notify the SHPO, the State Archaeologist, and the Commission of such discovery. The Permittee shall not excavate at such locations until so authorized by the Commission in consultation with the SHPO and the State Archaeologist.

If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction at that location and promptly notify local law enforcement authorities and the State Archaeologist. Construction at the human remains location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement authorities or the State Archaeologist.

If any federal funding, permit or license is involved or required, the Permittee shall notify the MHS as soon as possible in the planning process to coordinate section 106 (36 C.F.R 800) review.

Prior to construction, construction workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction. If any archaeological sites are found during construction, the Permittee shall immediately stop work at the site and shall mark and preserve the site and notify the Commission and the MHS about the discovery. The Commission and the MHS shall have three working days from the time the agency is notified to conduct an inspection of the site if either agency shall choose to do so. On the fourth day after notification, the Permittee may begin work on the site unless the MHS has directed that work shall cease. In such event, work shall not continue until the MHS determines that construction can proceed.

3. INTERFERENCE

Prior to beginning construction, the Permittee shall submit a plan to the Commission for conducting an assessment of television signal reception and microwave signal patterns in the Project area prior to commencement of construction of the Project. The assessment shall be designed to provide data that can be used in the future to determine whether the turbines and associated facilities are the cause of disruption or interference of television reception or microwave patterns in the event residents should complain about such disruption or interference after the turbines are placed in operation. The assessment shall be completed prior to installation of the turbines. The Permittee shall be responsible for alleviating any disruption or interference of these services caused by the turbines or any associated facilities.

The Permittee shall not operate the LWECS and associated facilities so as to cause microwave, television, radio, telecommunications or navigation interference contrary to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations or other law. In the event the LWECS and its associated facilities or its operations cause such interference, the Permittee shall take timely measures necessary to correct the problem.

E. SITE LAYOUT RESTRICTIONS

1. WIND TURBINE TOWERS

Structures for wind turbines shall be self-supporting tubular towers. The towers may be up to 80 meters (262.5 feet) above grade measured at the hub.

2. METEOROLOGICAL TOWERS

Permanent towers for meteorological equipment shall be free standing. Temporary meteorological towers, which are those that will be removed no more than one year after the Project in-service date, may be guyed if the landowner has given written permission and the guys are properly marked with safety shields.

New temporary and permanent meteorological towers shall not be placed less than 250 feet from the edge of the nearest public road right-of-way and from the boundary of the Permittee's site control, or in compliance with the county ordinance regulating meteorological towers in the county the tower is built, whichever is more restrictive. Meteorological towers shall be placed on lands the Permittee holds the wind or other development rights.

Meteorological towers shall be marked as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). There shall be no lights on the meteorological towers other than what is required by the FAA. This restriction shall not apply to infrared heating devices used to protect the wind monitoring equipment.

3. NOISE

The wind turbine towers shall be placed such that the Permittee shall comply with noise standards established as of the date of this Permit by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at all times at all appropriate locations. The noise standards are found in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7030. Turbine operation shall be modified or turbines shall be removed from service if necessary to comply with this condition. The Permittee or its contractor may install and operate turbines, as close as the minimum setback required in this Permit but in all cases shall comply with PCA noise standards. The Permittee shall be required to comply with this condition with respect to all homes or other receptors in place as of the time of construction, but not with respect to such receptors built after construction of the towers.

4. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Towers shall be marked as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). There shall be no lights on the towers other than what is required by the FAA. This restriction shall not apply to infrared heating devices used to protect the wind monitoring equipment.

5. TURBINE SPACING

The turbine towers shall be constructed within the site boundary as shown in Attachment 1. The turbine towers shall be spaced no closer than 3 RD in the non-prevailing wind directions and 5 RD on the prevailing wind directions. If required during final micro siting of the turbine towers to account for topographic conditions, up to 20 percent of the towers may be sited closer than the above spacing but the Permittee shall minimize the need to site the turbine towers closer.

6. FOOTPRINT MINIMIZATION

The Permittee shall design and construct the LWECs so as to minimize the amount of land that is impacted by the LWECs. Associated facilities in the vicinity of turbines such as electrical/electronic boxes, transformers and monitoring systems shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be mounted on the foundations used for turbine towers or inside the towers unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

7. ELECTRICAL CABLES

The Permittee shall place electrical lines, known as collectors, and communication cables underground when located on private property. Collectors and cables shall also be placed within or adjacent to the land necessary for turbine access roads unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. This paragraph does not apply to feeder lines.

8. FEEDER LINES

The Permittee shall place overhead or underground electric lines, known as feeders, within public rights-of-way or on private land immediately adjacent to public rights-of-way if a public right-of-way exists, except as necessary to avoid or minimize human, agricultural, or environmental impacts. A change in feeder line locations may be made as long as feeders remain on public rights-of-way and approval has been obtained from the governmental unit responsible for the affected right-of-way. When placing feeders on private property, the Permittee shall place the feeder in accordance with easements negotiated with the affected landowner. In all cases, the Permittee shall avoid routing feeder lines in locations which may interfere with agricultural operations. Notwithstanding any of the requirements in paragraph III.D. to conduct surveys before any construction can commence, the Permittee may begin immediately upon issuance of this permit to construct the feeder lines that will be required as part of this Project. The Permittee shall submit the site plan and engineering drawings required under paragraph III.A.1. for the feeder lines before commencing construction. Any guy wires on the structures for feeder lines shall be marked with safety shields.

The Permittee must fulfill, comply with, and satisfy all Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) standards applicable to this Project, including but not limited to IEEE 776, IEEE 519, and IEEE 367, provided the telephone service provider(s) have complied with any obligations imposed on it pursuant to these standards. Upon request by the Commission, the Permittee shall report to the Commission on compliance with these standards.

F. STUDIES

1. WAKE LOSS STUDIES

The Permittee shall provide to the Commission with the site plan required by paragraph III.A.1. the preconstruction micro siting analysis leading to the final tower locations and an estimate of total Project wake losses. The Permittee shall provide to the Commission any operational wake loss studies conducted on this Project.

2. NOISE

The Permittee shall submit a proposal to the Commission for the conduct of a noise study. Upon the approval of the Commission, the Permittee shall carryout the study. The study shall be designed to determine the noise levels at different frequencies and at various distances from the turbines at various wind directions and speeds.

G. DECOMMISSIONING/RESTORATION/ABANDONMENT

1. DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

Prior to commercial operation, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission a Decommissioning Plan documenting the manner in which the Permittee anticipates decommissioning the Project in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules part 7854.0500, subp.13. The Permittee shall ensure that it carries out its obligations to provide for the resources necessary to fulfill its

requirements to properly decommission the Project at the appropriate time. The Commission may at any time request the Permittee to file a report with the Commission describing how the Permittee is fulfilling this obligation.

2. SITE RESTORATION

Upon expiration of this Permit, or upon earlier termination of operation of the LWECS, the Permittee shall have the obligation to dismantle and remove from the site all towers, turbine generators, transformers, overhead and underground cables, foundations, buildings and ancillary equipment to a depth of four feet. A LWECS shall be considered a discontinued use after one year without energy production, unless a plan is developed and submitted to the Commission outlining the steps and schedule for returning the LWECS to service. To the extent possible the Permittee shall restore and reclaim the site to its pre-project topography and topsoil quality. All access roads shall be removed unless written approval is given by the affected landowner requesting that one or more roads, or portions thereof, be retained. Any agreement for removal to a lesser depth or for no removal shall be recorded with the county and shall show the locations of all such foundations. All such agreements between the Permittee and the affected landowner shall be submitted to the Commission prior to completion of restoration activities. The site shall be restored in accordance with the requirements of this condition within 18 months after expiration.

3. ABANDONED TURBINES

The Permittee shall advise the Commission of any turbines that are abandoned prior to termination of operation of the LWECS. The Commission may require the Permittee to decommission any abandoned turbine.

H. REPORTING

1. PROJECT ENERGY PRODUCTION

The Permittee shall submit a report no later than February 1st following each complete year of project operation. The report shall include: a) the rated nameplate capacity of the permitted LWECS project; b) the total monthly energy generated by the LWECS in Megawatt Hours; c) the monthly capacity factor; d) yearly energy production and capacity factor; e) the operational status of the Project and any major outages, major repairs, or turbine performance improvements occurring in the previous year; and any other information reasonably requested by the Commission. This information will be considered public and must be submitted electronically.

2. WIND RESOURCE USE

The Permittee shall upon the request of the Commission report to the Commission on the monthly energy production of the Project and the average monthly wind speed collected at one permanent meteorological tower selected by the Commission during the preceding year or partial year of operation.

The provisions of paragraph III.K.5 shall apply to the Commission's review of data provided pursuant to III.H.2.

3. EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

Within 24 hours of an occurrence, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of any extraordinary event. Extraordinary events include but shall not be limited to: fires, tower collapse, thrown blade, collector or feeder line failure, injured LWECS worker or private person, kills of migratory, threatened or endangered species, or discovery of a large number dead birds or bats of any variety on site. In the event of avian mortality the DNR shall also be notified within 24 hours. The Permittee shall, within 30 days of the occurrence, submit a report to the Commission describing the cause of the occurrence and the steps taken to avoid future occurrences.

4. COMPLAINTS

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the company's procedures to be used to receive and respond to complaints. The Permittee shall report to the Commission all complaints received concerning any part of the LWECS in accordance with the procedures provided in Attachments 2 and 3 of this Permit.

I. FINAL CONSTRUCTION

1. AS-BUILT PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Within 60 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission a copy of the as-built plans and specifications. The Permittee must also submit this data in a geographic information system (GIS) compatible format so that the Commission can place it into the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office's (MnGeo) geographic data clearinghouse located in the Department of Administration.

2. FINAL BOUNDARIES

After completion of construction, the Commission shall determine the need to adjust the final boundaries of the site required for this Project. If done, this Permit may be modified, after notice and opportunity for public hearing, to represent the actual site required by the Permittee to operate the Project authorized by this Permit.

3. EXPANSION OF SITE BOUNDARIES

No expansion of the site boundaries described in this Permit shall be authorized without the approval of the Commission. The Permittee may submit to the Commission a request for a change in the boundaries of the site for the LWECS. The Commission will respond to the requested change in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

J. AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT LWECS

1. WIND RIGHTS

The Permittee shall advise the Commission of the obtaining of exclusive wind rights within the boundaries of the LWECS authorized by this Permit within 30 days of receiving such wind rights. The Permittee shall submit documentation of such exclusive wind rights if requested by the Commission.

2. OTHER PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Nothing in this Permit shall be construed to preclude any other person from seeking a site permit to construct a large wind energy conversion system in any area within the boundaries of the Project covered by this Permit if the Permittee does not hold exclusive wind rights for such areas.

3. PREEMPTION OF OTHER LAWS

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216F.07, this Site Permit shall be the only site approval required for the location of this Project, and this Permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, and land use rules, regulations, and ordinances adopted by regional, county, local, and special purpose governments. Nothing in this Permit shall release the Permittee from any obligation imposed by law that is not superseded or preempted by law.

4. POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

This Permit does not authorize construction of the Project until the Permittee has obtained a power purchase agreement or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity to be generated by the Project. In the event the Permittee does not obtain a power purchase agreement or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity to be generated by the Project within two years of the issuance of this Permit, the Permittee must advise the PUC of the reason for not having such power purchase agreement or enforceable mechanism. In such event, the PUC may determine whether this Permit should be amended or revoked. No amendment or revocation of this Permit may be undertaken except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules, including Minnesota Statute 216F.05 and Minnesota Rule 7836.1300.

K. MISCELLANEOUS

1. PERIODIC REVIEW

The Commission shall initiate a review of this Permit and the applicable conditions at least once every five years. The purpose of the periodic review is to allow the Commission, the Permittee, and other interested persons an opportunity to consider modifications in the conditions of the Permit. No modification may be made except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

2. FAILURE TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION

If the Permittee has not completed the pre-construction surveys required in paragraph III.D and commenced construction of the LWECS within two years of the issuance of this Permit, the Permittee must advise the COMMISSION of the reason construction has not commenced. In such event, the Commission shall make a determination as to whether this Permit should be amended or revoked. No revocation of this Permit may be undertaken except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules, including Minnesota Statute 216F.05 and Minnesota Rule 7854.1300.

3. MODIFICATION OF CONDITIONS

After notice and opportunity for hearing, this Permit may be modified or amended for cause including but not limited to the following:

- (a) Violation of any condition in this Permit;
- (b) Endangerment of human health or the environment by operation of the facility; or
- (c) Existence of other grounds established by rule.

4. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The Commission may take action to suspend or revoke this Permit upon the grounds that:

- (a) A false statement was knowingly made in the application or in accompanying statements or studies required of the Permittee, and a true statement would have warranted a change in the Commission's findings;
- (b) There has been a failure to comply with material conditions of this Permit, or there has been a failure to maintain health and safety standards; or
- (c) There has been a material violation of a provision of an applicable statute, rule or an order of the Commission.

In the event the Commission shall determine that it is appropriate to consider revocation or suspension of this Permit, the Commission shall proceed in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statute 216F.05 to determine the appropriate action. Upon a finding of any of the above, the Commission may require the Permittee to undertake corrective measures in lieu of having the Permit suspended or revoked.

5. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Certain information required to be submitted to the Commission under this Permit, including energy production and wake loss data, may constitute trade secret information or other type of proprietary information under the Data Practices Act or other law and is not to be made available

by the Commission. The Permittee must satisfy requirements of applicable law to obtain the protection afforded by the law.

6. TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittee may not transfer this Permit without the approval of the Commission. If the Permittee desires to transfer this Permit, the holder shall advise the Commission in writing of such desire. The Permittee shall provide the Commission with such information about the transfer as the Commission requires to reach a decision. The Commission may impose additional conditions on any new Permittee as part of the approval of the transfer.

7. OTHER PERMITS

The Permittee shall be responsible for acquiring any other federal, state, or local permits or authorizations that may be required to construct and operate a LWECS within the authorized site. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits and authorizations to the Commission upon request.

8. SITE MANAGER

The Permittee shall designate a site manager who shall be the contact person for the Commission to contact with questions about the LWECS. The Permittee shall provide the Commission with the name, address, and phone numbers of the site manager prior to placing any turbine into operation. This information shall be maintained current by informing the Commission of any changes, as they become effective.

9. NOTICE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

The Permittee shall, within ten working days of receipt of this Permit, send a copy of the Permit to the office of the auditor of each county in which the site is located and to the clerk of each city and township within the site boundaries. If applicable, the Permittee shall also, within 10 working days of issuance, send a copy of this Permit to each regional development commission, local fire district, soil and water conservation district, watershed district, and watershed management district office with jurisdiction in the county where the site is located. Within 30 days of issuance of this Permit, the Permittee shall send a copy of the Permit to each affected landowner within the site. In no case shall the affected landowner receive the site permit and complaint procedure less than five days prior to the start of construction on their property.

10. RIGHT OF ENTRY

The Permittee shall allow representatives of the Commission to perform the following, upon reasonable notice, upon presentation of credentials and at all times in compliance with the Permittee's site safety standards:

- (a) To enter upon the facilities easement of the site property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations.
- (b) To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.
- (c) To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property; and
- (d) To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this Permit.

11. MORE STRINGENT RULES

The Commission's issuance of this Site Permit does not prevent the future adoption by the Commission of rules or orders more stringent than those now in existence and does not prevent the enforcement of these more stringent rules and orders against the Permittee.

12. PERMIT COMPLIANCE MEETING

Prior to the start of commercial operation, the Permittee shall conduct a permit compliance meeting with the person designated by the Commission to coordinate permit compliance activities.

L. EXPIRATION DATE

This Permit shall expire on DATE [30 years after final permit issuance].

M. APPLICATION/PERMIT COMPLIANCE

1. APPLICATION COMPLIANCE

The Permittee shall comply with those practices set forth in its Site Permit Application, dated October 13, 2009, unless this Permit established a different requirement in which case this Permit shall prevail.

2. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCY PERMITS

The Permittee shall comply with all terms and conditions of permits or licenses issued by Federal, State, or Tribal authorities including, but not limited to the requirements of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (Section 401 Water Quality Certification, National

Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Construction Stormwater General Permit); Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (License to Cross Public Water, State Protected Species Consultation, and Public Water Works); Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (Section 106 Historic Consultation Act); Minnesota Department of Transportation (Utility Access Permit, Highway Access Permit and Oversize and Overweight Permit).

3. COMPLIANCE WITH COUNTY, CITY, OR MUNICIPAL PERMITS

The Permittee shall comply with all terms and conditions of permits or licenses issued by the Counties, Cities, and Municipalities affected by the Project that do not conflict or are not preempted by Federal or State permits and regulations.

N. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

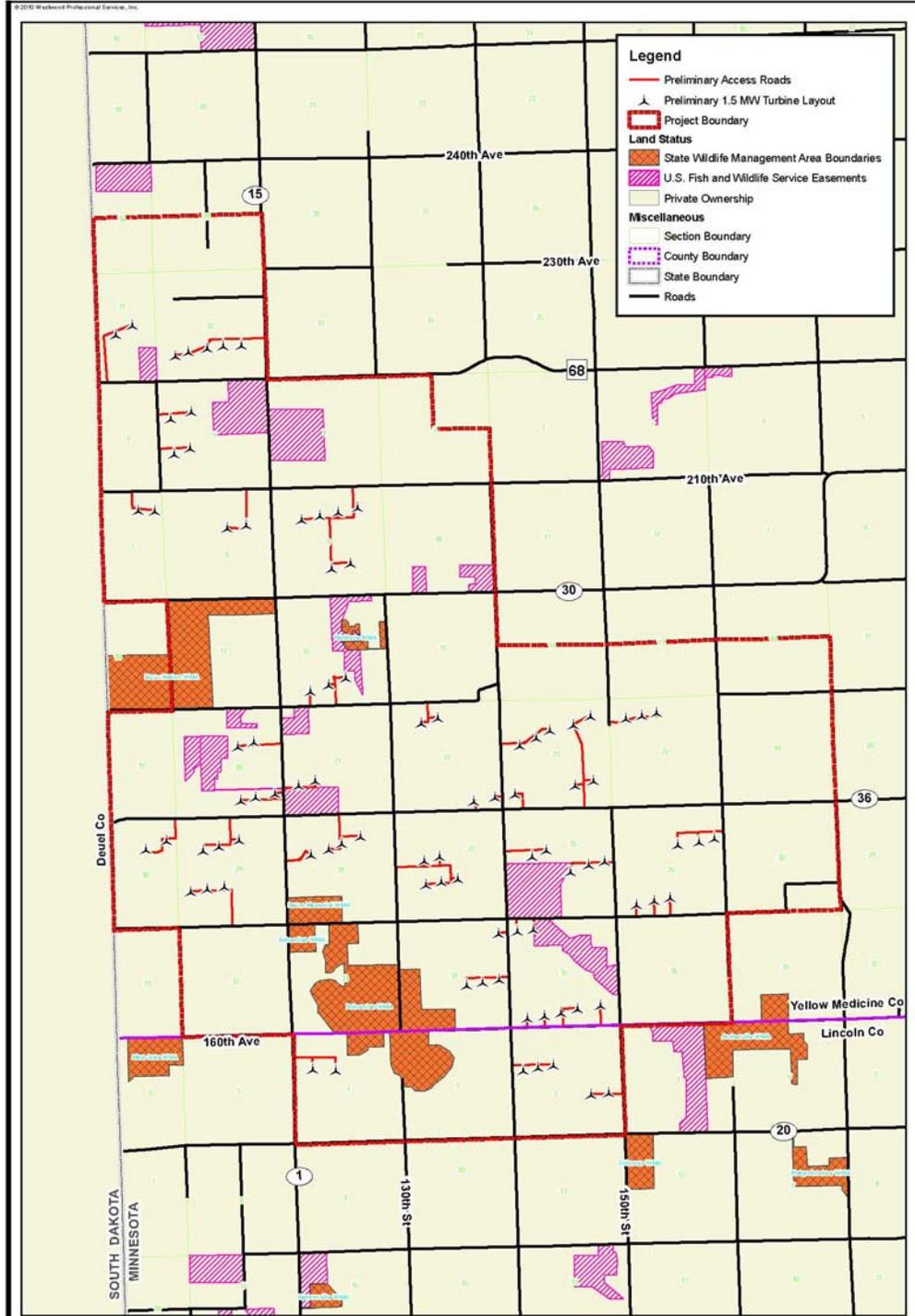
Special conditions shall take precedence over any of the other conditions of this Permit if there should be a conflict between the two.

1. SHADOW FLICKER

The applicant shall provide data on shadow flicker impacts at the time it submits the final site plan and profile. Information should include, but not be limited to, the results of modeling used (if any), assumptions made, and the anticipated levels of impact from turbine shadow flicker. Adoption of this special condition is based on facts unique to this case and provides no precedent or prediction regarding the information to be requested on shadow flicker that the Commission may deem appropriate and reasonable to require in future dockets.

ATTACHMENT 1A: SITE PERMIT MAP (1.5 MW TURBINE CONFIGURATION)

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Bitter Root Wind Project

Yellow Medicine and Lincoln Counties, MN
Private and Public Lands Map
with 1.5MW Layout
Attachment 1a

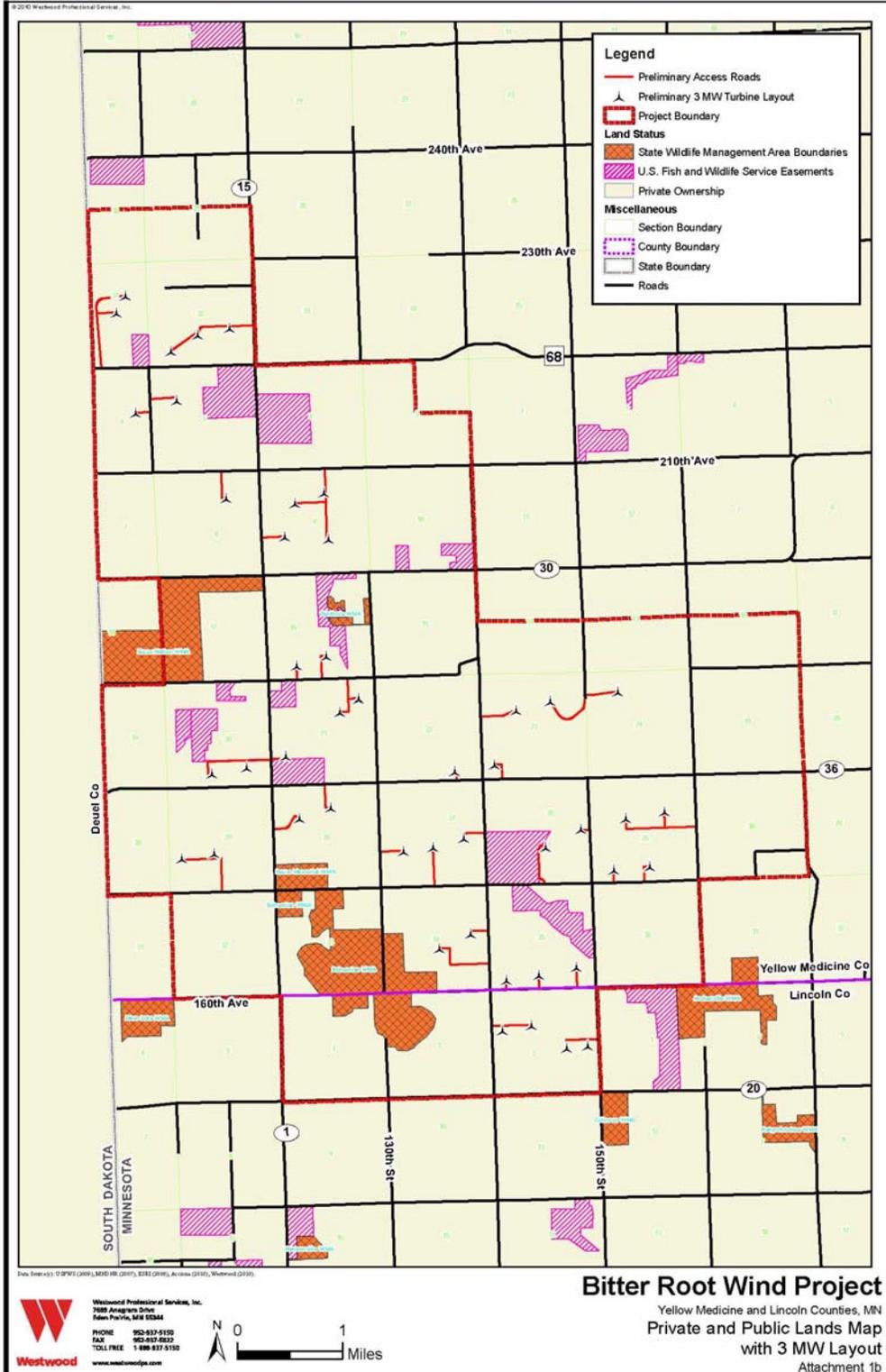


Westwood Professional Services, Inc.
7888 Anagnosin Drive
Farmington, MN 55030
PHONE 952-437-5100
FAX 952-437-5822
TOLL FREE 1-888-937-5150
www.westwoodps.com



ATTACHMENT 1B: SITE PERMIT MAP (3.0 MW TURBINE CONFIGURATION)

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**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES
FOR
LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS**

A. Purpose:

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittee concerning Permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation and resolution of such complaints.

B. Scope:

This document describes Complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability:

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittee.

D. Definitions:

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other LWECs and associated facilities site permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written Complaint alleging a violation of a specific Site Permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in Permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A Complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person(s), remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing:

1. The Permittee shall document all Complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the Complaint, including the following:

- a. Name of complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
 - b. Precise property description or parcel number.
 - c. Name of Permittee representative receiving Complaint and date of receipt.
 - d. Nature of Complaint and the applicable Site Permit conditions(s).
 - e. Activities undertaken to resolve the Complaint.
 - f. Final disposition of the Complaint.
2. The Permittee shall designate an individual to summarize Complaints for substantial to the Commission. This person's name, phone number and e-mail address shall accompany all complaint submittals.
 3. A Person presenting the Complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
 - a. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
 - b. Date
 - c. Tract or parcel
 - d. Whether the complaint relates to (1) a Site Permit matter, (2) a LWECS and associated facility issue, or (3) a compliance issue.

F. Reporting Requirements:

The Permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to Wind Permit Compliance, 1-800-657-3794, or by e-mail to: DOC.energypermitcompliance@state.mn.us, or. Voice messages are acceptable.

Monthly Reports: By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be Filed to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the Minnesota Department of Commerce eDocket system (see eFiling instructions attached to this permit).

If no Complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall submit (eFile) a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

G. Complaints Received by the Commission or OES:

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the Permittee.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints:

Initial Screening: Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved Complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial LWECS Site Permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify Permittee and appropriate person(s) if it determines that the Complaint is a Substantial Complaint. With respect to such Complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the Staff notification. Staff shall present Briefing Papers to the Commission, which shall resolve the Complaint within twenty days of submission of the Briefing Papers.

I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints:

Mailing Address: Complaints filed by mail shall be sent to one of the addresses below:

Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC
Acciona Energy North America
33 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60606

Tel: 312-673-3020

eMail:

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE
FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission energy facility permits.

2. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

3. Definitions

Compliance Filing – A sending (filing) of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

4. Responsibilities

- A) The permittee shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the Department of Commerce (DOC) eDocket system. The system is located on the DOC website:
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the website. Permittees must register on the website to eFile documents.

- B) All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:

- 1) Date
- 2) Name of submitter / permittee
- 3) Type of Permit (Site or Route)
- 4) Project Location
- 5) Project Docket Number
- 6) Permit Section Under Which the Filing is Made
- 7) Short Description of the Filing

- C) Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198. Additionally, the Commission may request a paper copy of any eFiled document.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS¹

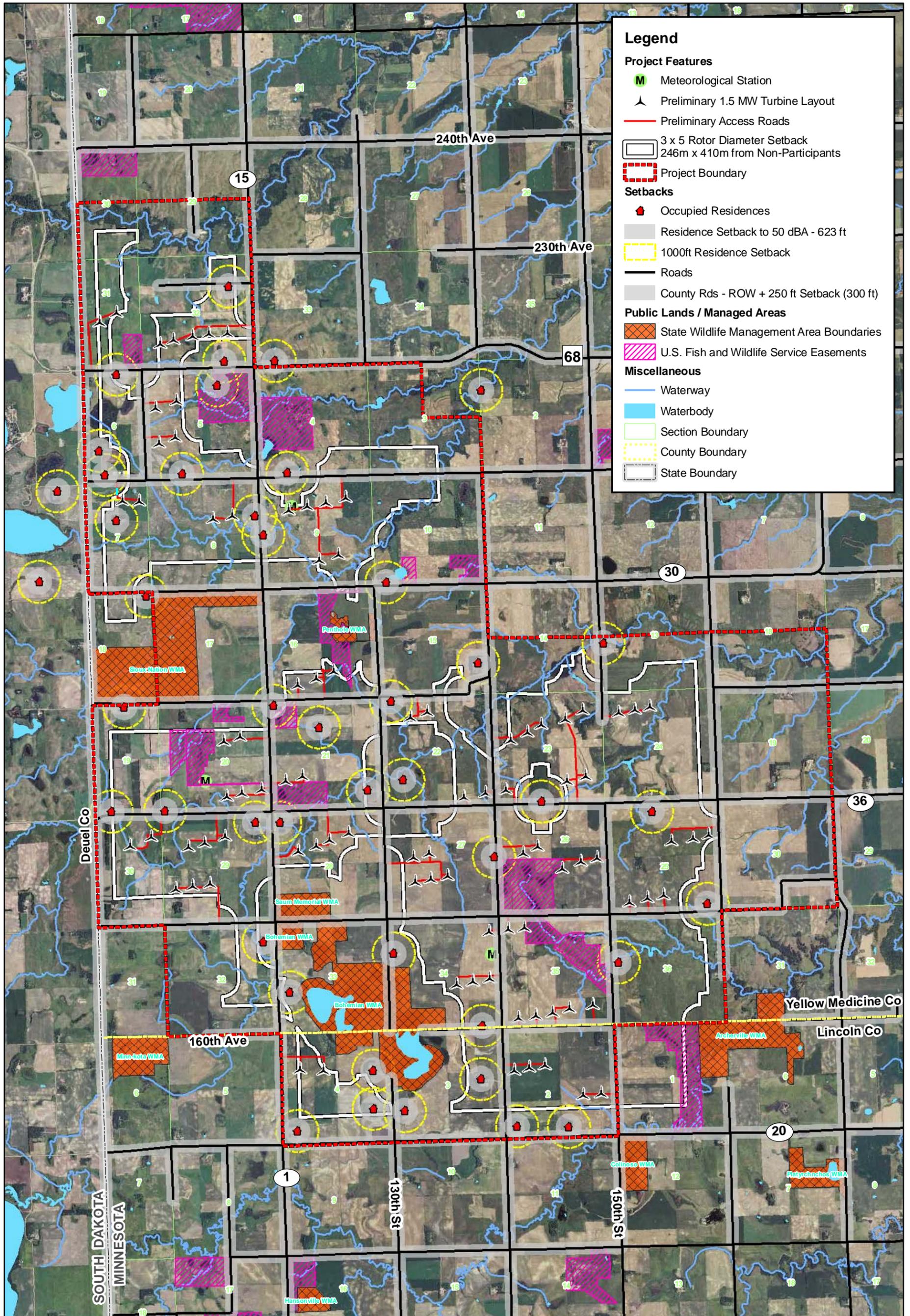
PERMITTEE: Bitter Root Wind Farm Project, LLC
PERMIT TYPE: LWECS Site Permit
PROJECT LOCATION: Yellow Medicine and Lincoln counties
COMMISSION DOCKET NUMBER: IP-6684/WS-08-1448

| Filing Number | Condition | Description | Due Date | Notes |
|----------------------|------------------|--|---|--------------|
| 1 | A.1. | Site Plan | Prior to starting construction | |
| 2 | A.2. | Field Representative | Prior to and throughout construction | |
| 3 | B.8. | Roads | Identify access roads and obtain road damage agreements before starting construction | |
| 4 | B.9. | Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan | NDPES Stormwater Runoff Control Permit | |
| 5 | B.15 | Educational Materials | Submit Upon Request | |
| 6 | B.16 | Fire Protection Plan | Submit Upon Request. Must Register in 911 Program | |
| 7 | C.6. | Native Prairie Protection Plan | 60 days prior to the start of construction, if required | |
| 8 | D.1. | Biological Survey | 30 days prior to Pre-construction Meeting | |
| 9 | D.2 | Archaeological Resources | Pre-construction Meeting and as Recommended by the State Historic Preservation Office | |
| 10 | D.3. | Electromagnetic Interference | Pre-construction Meeting | |

¹ This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

| Filing Number | Condition | Description | Due Date | Notes |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| 11 | F.1 | Wake Loss | Include with site plan or operation studies if performed | |
| 12 | F.2 | Noise Study | Pre-Construction Meeting | |
| 13 | G.1. | Decommissioning Study | Prior to commercial operation | |
| 14 | H.1 | Project Energy Production | Due 2/1 each year or quarterly | |
| 15 | H.2 | Wind Resource Use | Within 3 months after Operation or SCADA Access | |
| 16 | I.1. | As Builts | Within 60 days of Completions of Construction | |
| 17 | J.1. | Wind Rights | Within 30 days of Acquiring. Upon Request. | |
| 18 | K.2. | Failure to Start Construction | Within 2 years of Permit Issuance | |
| 19 | K.8 | Site Manager | Prior to Operation | |
| 20 | Complaints | Report | Due Each Month or within 24 hours | |
| 21 | C.2 | Map and Text | Illustrating Setbacks from Residences and Roads Pre-construction Meeting | |
| 22 | F.2 | Noise Study Results | Within 18 months of Commercial Operation | |
| 23 | N.1 | Shadow Flicker | Pre-construction Meeting | |
| 24 | | | | |

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Legend

Project Features

- M Meteorological Station
- ▲ Preliminary 1.5 MW Turbine Layout
- Preliminary Access Roads
- 3 x 5 Rotor Diameter Setback
246m x 410m from Non-Participants
- ▭ Project Boundary

Setbacks

- Occupied Residences
- Residence Setback to 50 dBA - 623 ft
- 1000ft Residence Setback
- Roads
- County Rds - ROW + 250 ft Setback (300 ft)

Public Lands / Managed Areas

- ▨ State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries
- ▨ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Easements

Miscellaneous

- Waterway
- Waterbody
- Section Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

Data Source(s): USFWS (2009), USGS (2009), MNDNR (2007), ESRI (2006), MN LMIC (2010), Acciona (2010), Westwood (2010).



Westwood Professional Services, Inc.
 7699 Anagram Drive
 Eden Prairie, MN 55344
 PHONE 952-937-5150
 FAX 952-937-5822
 TOLL FREE 1-888-937-5150
 www.westwoodps.com

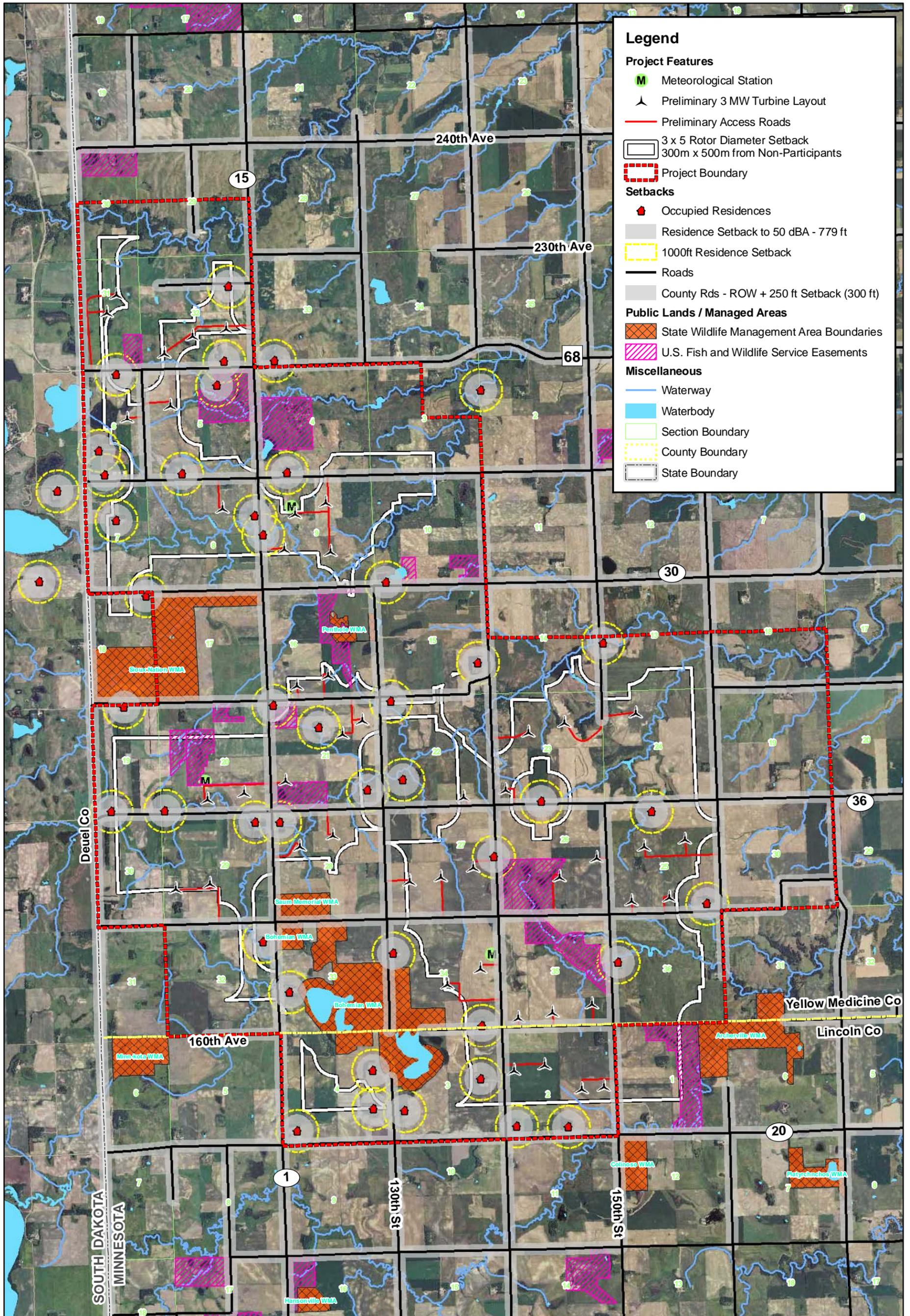


Bitter Root Wind Project

Yellow Medicine and Lincoln Counties, MN
 Public Lands and Constraint Map
 with Preliminary 1.5 MW Turbine Layout

EXHIBIT 1

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Data Source(s): USFWS (2009), USGS (2009), MNDNR (2007), ESRI (2006), MN LMIC (2010), Acciona (2010), Westwood (2010).



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 TOLL FREE 1-888-937-5150

www.westwoodps.com



Bitter Root Wind Project

Yellow Medicine and Lincoln Counties, MN
 Public Lands and Constraint Map
 with Preliminary 3 MW Turbine Layout

EXHIBIT 2