



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: November 12, 2009

**NOTICE OF
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
ACCEPTANCE OF THE
BUFFALO RIDGE POWER PARTNERS, LLC
APPLICATION FOR A LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM
SITE PERMIT**

MPUC Docket No. IP 6684/WS-08-1448

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC (Applicant) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a site permit to build and operate an up to 138 Megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Yellow Medicine and Lincoln counties, near Canby, Minnesota. The Commission accepted the site permit application as complete at its November 12, 2009, meeting.

Project Description. Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, proposes a LWECS of up to 138 MW using between 46 and 92 utility scale wind turbine generators, depending on what turbines are ultimately selected. Turbines between 1.5 MW and 3.0 MW in nameplate capacity are under consideration. Turbines under consideration have hub heights between 80 meters (262 feet) and 120 meters (394 feet); total heights (ground to tip when blades are fully extended) of these turbines are 389 to 568 feet. In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, meteorological towers, communications lines, power lines, and a Project substation.

Proposed Site Location. The Project area (shown in map at the end of this notice) consists of 22,434 acres located in Fortier, Norman, and Florida Townships in Yellow Medicine County and in the northern portion of Hansonville Township in Lincoln County. Approximately 12,600 acres within the Project Area are under the Applicant's control. The Applicant anticipates that the Project will permanently impact approximately 120 acres of the Project Area for all the facilities. The Applicant expects to begin construction in 2011 and begin commercial operation 12 – 18 months after construction begins. Electricity from the Project would be transmitted via 34.5 kV electric lines to a new Project substation. The Project would connect to the electric grid along Otter Tail Power Company's 115 kV Toronto-Canby transmission line at the new Project substation.

Site Permit Review Process. The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES), on behalf of the Commission is initiating the permit review process for this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minn. Stat. § 216F) and Wind Permitting Rules (Minn. Rules 7854). Upon completion of this process, the OES will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision.

The OES is currently soliciting comments on issues that should be included in the draft site permit for this project (see below).

Based on comments received, OES staff will prepare and submit a draft site permit to the Commission for consideration. If the Commission issues a draft site permit for public review and comment then a public meeting will be held in the project area and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and present comments. Persons on the Department of Commerce's mailing list for this project (see below) will receive notice of all public and Commission meetings.

Public Comments

The OES is soliciting comments on issues that should be included in the draft site permit for this project. Such issues include unique characteristics of the proposed site or project that should be considered, and items that may be missing or mischaracterized in the site permit application. Interested persons may comment until **December 1, 2009**. Please include the project docket number (IP 6684/WS-08-1448) on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Suzanne Steinhauer
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The site permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25538> , and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 08-1448).

Copies of the application are also available for review at Auditor's Offices in Yellow Medicine and Lincoln counties and at the Canby Public Library.

DOC Project Contacts

Questions about the project and the PUC permitting process may be directed to:

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Persons interested in adding their names to the Department of Commerce mailing list for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25538>

Questions about the Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, LWCS Site Permit Application can also be directed to the applicants by contacting the company's developer Mr. Peter Kennon at 312-673-3020, pkennon@acciona-na.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).

