



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



**ISSUED: FEBRUARY 12, 2010**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
AND  
SCOPING MEETING**

**AWA Goodhue, LLC, Applications for a Large Wind Energy Conversion  
System (LWECS) Site Permit and a Certificate of Need  
for the 78 MW Goodhue Wind Project  
in Goodhue County, Minnesota**

**Site Permit and Certificate of Need Applications  
PUC Docket Numbers: IP-6701/WS-08-1233 and IP-6701/CN-09-1186**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Office of Energy Security Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff will hold a public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the applications submitted by AWA Goodhue, LLC, (Applicant), to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Site Permit and Certificate of Need (CN) to build and operate the 78 MW Goodhue Wind Farm (Project).

**THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010  
7:00 p.m.**

**Zumbrota-Mazepa Middle School Cafeteria  
343 3rd Ave. NE, Mazepa, MN**

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information about the proposed Project and to take public comment and input on issues to be considered in the scope of the Environmental Report (ER) to be prepared for the Certificate of Need. EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy permitting process. The public is invited to review the Project applications, learn more about the Commission review process, make comments, and ask questions, including suggestions about alternatives to the Project and impacts to address in the ER. Representatives from AWA Goodhue will be available to answer questions about the Project.

**Project Description**

AWA Goodhue, LLC, proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 78 MW using up to 52 of the General Electric (GE) XLE 1.5 MW wind turbine generators, with a 271 foot (82.5) meter rotor diameter. The GE XLE 1.5 MW wind turbine has a hub height of 262.5 feet (80 meters). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, two

permanent meteorological towers, electrical collection system, junction boxes that deliver power to the two Project Substations. The two substations will step up the voltage from the 34.5 kV feeder lines to two separate 69 kV transmission lines, one existing and the other proposed.

### **Proposed Site Location**

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 32,000 acres located in southern Goodhue County in the townships Belle Creek, Goodhue, Vasa, Minneola and Zumbrota townships just north, west and south of the city of Goodhue. The Applicant believes they have enough easements to provide flexibility in the micro-siting process.

### **Eminent Domain for Goodhue Wind Project**

The Applicant **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 facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicant.

### **Commission Review Process**

Two separate Commission approvals are required to build a LWECS larger than 50 MW. A project developer must obtain a Certificate of Need (CN) under Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243 and a Site Permit under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F.

The Applicant filed its CN application on October 15, 2009, and its Site Permit application on October 19, 2009. The Commission accepted both applications as complete on December 30, 2009, and November 30, 2009, respectively. The applications are available on the Commission's website and from the Applicant's representative listed below. Landowners and governmental units inside the LWECS boundary should have received a copy of the Site Permit application directly from the Applicant.

The OES EFP staff is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review for the CN Application under Minnesota Rule 7849.1400. The ER will consider issues related to the CN, such as size, type, timing, and general human and environmental impacts of the Project. The ER is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the Project, alternatives to the Project and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The ER must be prepared before the Commission can make a decision on the CN for the Project.

After completion of the ER, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the CN application, presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under Minnesota law, the CN proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new electrical generating facility can be considered. These items will not be addressed in the Site Permit process. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the OES Project mailing list.

In addition to the CN, a Site Permit for a LWECS under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F is required from the Commission before the Project can be constructed. The process for reviewing site permit applications is outlined in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854. After a site permit application is accepted by the Commission, the OES EFP staff initiates the review process in consultation with Commission staff. In this instance, the site permit application was made available for public review and comment until January 22, 2010. Following this comment period,

the Commission will make a preliminary determination as to whether a permit should be issued or denied. If the determination is to issue a draft site permit, then a draft site permit is authorized and made available for public review. The Commission may hold a public hearing on the draft site permit in conjunction with the CN proceeding described above.

The Commission will make a final decision on both the CN and the Site Permit after it receives the record of the proceeding from the Administrative Law Judge. If the Project is approved, a CN and Site permit are issued with any conditions the Commission considers necessary to protect the environment, enhance sustainable development, and promote the efficient use of resources.

The Applicant will seek the necessary permits for its proposed transmission line and substations at the county level.

***Public Comment Period***

This public information meeting and comment period are the public’s opportunity to participate in the determination of the content or “scope” of the ER.

The EFP staff will accept written comments on issues that should be considered and suggested alternatives to be evaluated in the ER until **March 26, 2010**. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Larry Hartman (see contact information below).

**Project Contacts and Information**

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=25631>, and on the Department of Commerce’s eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 08-1233 for the Site Permit documents or 09-1186 for the CN documents).

Questions about the Project and the Public Utilities Commission’s permitting process may be directed to:

Larry Hartman, Project Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 296-5089  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)

Ray Kirsch, Public Advisor  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 296-7588  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP Project 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=25631>

Questions about the Goodhue Wind Project and its applications can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ben Kerl, Senior Wind Developer, Tel (612) 746-6606,  
[bkerl@nationalwind.com](mailto:bkerl@nationalwind.com).

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the public library in Zumbrota, the Auditor's Office in Goodhue County, and the city offices in Goodhue and Zumbrota and with the clerks of Belle Creek, Goodhue, Minneola, Vasa and Zumbrota townships.

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



Project Area



Township Boundary



Municipality



Vasa Twp.

Featherstone Twp.

Belle  
Creek  
Twp.

Goodhue Twp.

352<sup>nd</sup> St.

Wheat Tr.

County Rd 47

350<sup>th</sup> St.

County Hwy 6

360<sup>th</sup> St.

County Hwy 7

County Hwy 9

177<sup>th</sup> Ave

370<sup>th</sup> St.

Goodhue

MINNESOTA

58

390<sup>th</sup> St.

52

400<sup>th</sup> St.

410<sup>th</sup> St.

County Hwy 8

County Rd 150

135<sup>th</sup> Ave

420<sup>th</sup> St.

Minneola Twp.

Zumbrota Twp.

Wanamingo

MINNESOTA

60

Zumbrota

