

**STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**SITE PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A**

**LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM**

**IN GOODHUE COUNTY**

**ISSUED TO**

**AWA GOODHUE, LLC**

**PUC DOCKET NO. IP-6701/WS-08-1233**

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

AWA Goodhue, LLC

The Permittee is authorized to construct and operate up to a 78 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 thirty (30) years from the date of this approval.

Approved and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2010

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_  
BURL W. HAAR  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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## **SITE PERMIT**

This **SITE PERMIT** for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) authorizes AWA Goodhue Wind, LLC (Permittee) to construct and operate the Goodhue Wind Project, a 78 Megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity LWECS and associated facilities in Goodhue County, on approximately 12,000 acres of land within the site boundary in accordance with the conditions contained in this permit.

### **SECTION 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The up to 78 MW nameplate capacity LWECS authorized to be constructed in this Permit (Goodhue Wind Project) will be developed and constructed by the Permittee. The Project will consist of up to 50 General Electric 1.5 MW xle and 1.6 MW xle wind turbine generators mounted on 262.5 foot (80 meter) towers having a combined nominal nameplate capacity of approximately 78 MW. The rotor diameter is 271 feet (82.5 meters). The overall height of the tower, nacelle and blade will be approximately 397 feet (121 meters).

Associated facilities will include a concrete and steel foundation for each tower, pad mounted step-up transformers for each wind turbine, access roads, an electrical collection and feeder system, and operations and maintenance building, two project substations, and two permanent meteorological towers. The project will also include an underground automated supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA) for communication purposes. The energy from the proposed 78 MW project will be delivered from the project substation to the electrical grid via two points of interconnection. The northern 39 MW of the Project will interconnect to an existing 69 kV transmission line adjacent to the existing Vasa Substation approximately three miles north of the project via a new 69 kV transmission line. The southern 39 MW will interconnect to an existing 69 kV transmission line near the existing Goodhue Substation.

### **SECTION 2 DESIGNATED SITE**

#### **2.1 PROJECT BOUNDARY**

The Project boundary is shown on each of the three (3) maps in Attachment 1. The Goodhue Wind Project, except for the two 69 kV transmission lines, will be located on lands within the Project boundary on which AWA Goodhue, LLC has development agreements, which includes the following townships and sections: Vasa (sections 35-36); Belle Creek (sections 1-5, 8-11, 13-16, 21-28, 33-36); and Minneola (sections 1-4, 10-12, 14).

#### **2.2 TURBINE LAYOUT**

The preliminary site layout for the wind turbines and associated facilities are shown in Attachment 1 (pages 2 and 3). The preliminary site layout represents the approximate location of wind turbines and associated facilities within the Project boundary and identifies a layout that minimizes the overall human potential human and environmental impacts, which were evaluated

in the permitting process. The final layout depicting the location of all turbines and associated facilities, except for the two 69 kV transmission lines, shall be located within the Project boundary. The Project boundary serves to provide the Permittee with the flexibility to do minor adjustments to the preliminary layout to accommodate landowner requests, unforeseen conditions encountered during the detailed engineering and design process, and federal and state agency requirements. Any modification of the location of a wind turbine and associated facility to a preliminary layout shall be done in such manner to have comparable overall human and environmental impacts and shall be specifically identified in the site plan pursuant to Section 5.1. The Permittee shall submit the final site layout in the site plan pursuant to Section 5.1.

### **SECTION 3 APPLICATION COMPLINACE**

The Permittee shall comply with those practices set forth in its revised site permit application, dated October, 19, 2009, unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail. This section does not apply to public roads and trails.

### **SECTION 4 SETBACKS AND SITE LAYOUT RESTRICTIONS**

#### **4.1 WIND ACCESS BUFFER**

Wind turbine towers shall not be placed less than five (5) rotor diameters (RD) on the prevailing wind directions and three (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. This section does not apply to public roads and trails.

#### **4.2 RESIDENCES**

Wind turbine towers shall not be located closer than 1,000 feet from the nearest participating residence unless a waiver has been signed by the property owners, or the distance required to comply with the noise standards established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) at Section 4.3, whichever is greater.

Wind turbine towers shall not be located closer than 1,500 feet from the residences of non-participating landowners unless a waiver has been signed by the property owners, or the distance required to comply with the noise standards established by the PCA at Section 4.3, whichever is greater.

#### **4.3 NOISE**

The wind turbines shall be placed such that the Permittee shall comply with noise standards established as of the date of this permit by the PCA 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 these noise standards. 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 turbine construction, but not with respect to such receptors built after construction of the towers.

#### **4.4 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.

#### **4.5 PUBLIC LANDS**

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers, shall not be located in public lands, including Waterfowl Production Areas, State Wildlife Management Areas or Scientific and Natural Areas or in county parks, and wind turbine towers shall also comply with the setbacks of 4.1.

#### **4.6 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, subpart 15a. However, electric collector or feeder lines may cross or be placed in public waters or public waters wetlands subject to permits and approvals by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

#### **4.7 NATIVE PRAIRIE**

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, collector and feeder lines, underground cable, and transformers, shall not be placed in native prairie, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 84.02, subdivision 5, unless addressed in a prairie protection and management plan. The Permittee shall, with the guidance of the Commission and DNR prepare a prairie protection and management plan and submit it to the Commission and DNR Commissioner at least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting if native prairie could be impacted. The plan shall address steps to avoid impacts to native prairie and mitigation to unavoidable impacts to native prairie by restoration or management of other native prairie areas that are in degraded condition, 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, collector and feeder lines, underground cable, and transformers shall not be located in areas enrolled in the Native Prairie Bank Program.

#### **4.8 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.

#### **4.9 WIND TURBINE TOWERS**

Structures for wind turbines shall be self-supporting tubular towers. The towers may be up to 80 meters (262.5 feet).

#### **4.10 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 three (3) RD in the non-prevailing wind directions and five (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.

#### **4.11 METEOROLOGICAL TOWERS**

Permanent towers for meteorological equipment shall be free standing. 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.

#### **4.12 AVIATION**

The Permittee shall not place wind turbines or associated facilities in a location that could create an obstruction to navigable airspace of public and private airports (as defined in Minnesota Rule 8800.0100, subparts 24a and 24b) in Minnesota, adjacent states, or providences. The Permittee shall apply the minimum obstruction clearance for private airports pursuant to Minnesota Rule 8800.1900, subpart 5. Setbacks or other limitations shall be followed in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Aviation, and the FAA. The Permittee shall notify owners of all known airports within six (6) miles of the Project prior to construction.

#### **4.13 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, step-up 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.

#### **4.14. COMMUNICATION CABLES**

The Permittee shall place all supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) cables underground and within or adjacent to the land necessary for turbine access roads unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

#### **4.15 ELECTRICAL COLLECTOR AND FEEDER LINES**

Collector lines that carry electrical power from transformers associated with individual wind turbines to an internal project interconnection point shall be buried underground and placed within or adjacent to the land necessary for turbine access roads unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

Feeder lines that carry power from an internal project interconnection point to the Project substation or interconnection point on the electrical grid may be overhead or underground. Feeder line locations shall be negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

Any overhead feeder lines that parallel public roads shall be placed within the public rights-of-way or on private land immediately adjacent to public roads. Overhead feeder lines located within public rights-of-way shall obtain approval from the governmental unit responsible for the affected right-of-way.

Collector and feeder lines shall be located in such a manner to minimize interference with agricultural operations, including but not limited to existing drainage patterns, drain tile, future tiling plans and ditches. Safety shield shall be placed on all guy wires associated with overhead feeder lines. The Permittee shall submit the site plan and engineering drawings of all collector and feeder lines in the site plan pursuant to Section 5.1.

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 [Recommended Practice for Inductive Coordination of Electric Supply and Communication Lines], IEEE 519 [Harmonic Specifications], IEEE 367 [Recommended Practice for Determining the Electric Power Station Ground Potential Rise and Induced Voltage from a Power Fault], and IEEE 820 [Standard Telephone Loop Performance Characteristics] 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.

### **SECTION 5 ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES**

The following administrative compliance procedures shall be executed in accordance with the Permit Compliance Filings at Attachments 3 and 4

## **5.1 SITE PLAN**

At least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting 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 (through GIS mapping) 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 Project 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 Project. 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 the turbine site. 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 this permit.

## **5.2. NOTICE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS**

Within ten (10) working days of approval of this permit, the Permittee shall, 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 ten (10) working days of permit approval, 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 thirty (30) days of approval of this Permit, the Permittee shall send a copy of the permit to each landowner within the site permit boundary. In no case shall the landowner receive the site permit and complaint procedure less than five (5) days prior to the start of construction on their property.

## **5.3 NOTICE OF PERMIT CONDITIONS**

The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction and ongoing operation of the Project of the terms and conditions of this permit prior to the start of construction.

## **5.4 FIELD REPRESENTATIVE**

At least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting and continuously throughout construction, including site restoration, the Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during the construction of this Project. This person (or a designee) shall be accessible by telephone during normal working hours. This person's address, email, 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.

## **5.5 SITE MANAGER**

The Permittee shall designate a site manager responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during the commercial operation and decommissioning phases of this Project. The Permittee shall provide the Commission with the name, address, and phone number, and emergency phone number of the site manager prior to placing any turbine into commercial operation. This information shall be maintained current by informing the Commission of any changes, as they become effective.

## **5.6 PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING**

Prior to the start of any construction, the Permittee shall conduct a pre-construction meeting with the Field Representative and the State Permit Manager designated by the Commission to coordinate field monitoring of construction activities.

## **5.7 PRE-OPERATIONS COMPLIANCE MEETING**

At least ten (10) working days prior to commercial operation, the Permittee shall conduct a pre-operation compliance meeting with the Site Manager and the State Permit Manager designated by the Commission to coordinate field monitoring of operation activities.

## **5.8 COMPLAINTS**

At least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting, 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 Project in accordance with the procedures provided in Attachments 2 and 3 of this permit.

# **SECTION 6 SURVEYS AND STUDIES**

## **6.1 BIOLOGICAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES**

The Permittee, in consultation with DNR and Commission, shall conduct a pre-construction desktop and field inventory of potentially impacted, if any, native prairies, wetlands, and any other biologically sensitive areas within the site and assess the presence of state threatened, endangered, or species of special concern of federally listed species. The results shall be submitted to the Commission and DNR ten (10) working days prior to the preconstruction meeting to confirm compliance of conditions in this permit.

The Permittee shall provide to the Commission any biological surveys or studies conducted on this Project, including those not required under this permit.

## **6.2 SHADOW FLICKER**

At least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall provide data on shadow flicker impacts on each residence of non-participating landowners and participating landowners. Information shall include the results of modeling used, assumptions

made, and the anticipated levels of impact from turbine shadow flicker on each residence. The Permittee shall provide documentation on its efforts to minimize shadow flicker impacts.

### **6.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The Permittee shall work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the State Archaeologist. The Permittee shall file 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 at least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting.

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 SHPO 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 SHPO about the discovery. The Commission and the SHPO shall have three (3) 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 SHPO has directed that work shall cease. In such event, work shall not continue until the SHPO determines that construction can proceed.

### **6.4 INTERFERENCE**

At least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting, 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. 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 Project so as to cause microwave, television, radio, telecommunications, or navigation interference in violation of to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations or other law. In the event the Project or its operations cause such interference, the Permittee shall take timely measures necessary to correct the problem.

## **6.5 WAKE LOSS STUDIES**

At least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting the Permittee shall provide the Commission with a 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.

## **6.6 NOISE**

The Permittee shall submit a proposal to the Commission at least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-operation compliance meeting for the conduct of a post-construction noise study. Upon the approval of the Commission, the Permittee shall carry out the study. The study shall be designed to determine the LWECS noise levels at different frequencies and at various distances from the turbines at various wind directions and speeds. The Permittee shall submit the study within eighteen (18) months after commercial operation.

## **6.7 AVIAN AND BAT PROTECTION PLAN**

The Permittee shall prepare an avian and bat protection plan and submit it to the Commission at least (ten) 10 working days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The plan shall address how results of pre-construction avian surveys informed micro-siting and steps to be taken to identify and mitigate impacts to avian and bat species during the construction and operation phases of the Project. The plan shall also address formal and informal monitoring, training, wildlife handling, documentation (e.g., photographs), and reporting protocols for each phase of the Project.

The Permittee shall submit quarterly avian and bat fatality reports to the Commission. Quarterly reports are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each January, April, July, and October following commercial operation and terminating upon the expiration of this permit. Each report shall identify any dead or injured avian or bat species, location of find by turbine number and date of find for the reporting period in accordance with the reporting protocols.

In the event that five or more dead or injured non-protected avian or bat species or a single dead or injured migratory, state threatened, endangered, species of special concern, and federally listed species are discovered in the vicinity of the rotor swept area, the Commission, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and DNR shall be notified with twenty-four (24) hours.

## **6.8 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
- (f) any other information reasonably requested by the Commission.

This information will be considered public and must be submitted electronically.

## **6.9 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 Section 11.7 shall apply to the Commission's review of data provided pursuant to this section.

## **6.10 EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS**

Within twenty-four (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. The Permittee shall, within thirty (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.

# **SECTION 7 CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION PRACTICES**

## **7.1 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.

## **7.2 TOPSOIL PROTECTION**

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

### **7.3 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.

### **7.4 LIVESTOCK PROTECTION**

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

### **7.5 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.

### **7.6 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.

### **7.7 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 as defined in Sections 4.6 and 4.7.

### **7.8. ROADS**

#### **7.8.1 PUBLIC ROADS**

At least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting, 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.

### 7.8.2 TURBINE ACCESS ROADS

The Permittee shall construct the least 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.

### 7.8.3 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.

## 7.9 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.

## 7.10 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.

## 7.11 SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

At least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting the Permittee shall develop a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan 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.

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 implemented prior to construction and maintained throughout the Project's life.

The Permittee shall develop an invasive species prevention plan to prevent the introduction of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities. This requirement may be included as an element of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

## **7.12 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 Project activities to the condition that existed immediately before construction began, to the extent possible. The time period may be no longer than twelve (12) months after completion of construction of the turbine, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s). Restoration shall be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the Project.

## **7.13 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.

## **7.14 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 property, including crops, orchards, tree farms, or gardens. The Permittee shall also, at least ten (10) 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.

## **7.15 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.

## **7.16 EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

The Permittee shall prepare an emergency response plan (fire protection and medical emergency plan) in consultation with the emergency responders having jurisdiction over the area prior to LWECS construction. The Permittee shall submit a copy of the plan to the Commission at least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting and a revised plan, if any, at least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-operation meeting. The Permittee shall also register the LWECS with the local governments' emergency 911 services.

## **7.17 TOWER IDENTIFICATION**

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

## **7.18 FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION LIGHTING**

Tower shall be marked as required by the 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.

# **SECTION 8 FINAL CONSTRUCTION**

## **8.1 AS-BUILT PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Within sixty (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 compatible format so that the Commission can place it into the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office's geographic data clearinghouse located in the Department of Administration.

## **8.2 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.

## **8.3 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 Project. The Commission will respond to the requested change in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

**SECTION 9  
DECOMMISSIONING, RESTORATION, AND ABANDONMENT**

**9.1 DECOMMISSIONING PLAN**

At least ten (10) working days prior to pre-operating meeting, the 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.

**9.2 SITE RESTORATION**

Upon expiration of this Permit, or upon earlier termination of operation of the Project, or any turbine within the Project, 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. 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 eighteen (18) months after expiration.

**9.3 ABANDONED TURBINES**

The Permittee shall advise the Commission of any turbines that are abandoned prior to termination of operation of the Project. A Project, or any turbine within the Project, shall be considered abandoned after one year without energy production and the land restored pursuant to Section 9.2 unless a plan is developed and submitted to the Commission outlining the steps and schedule for returning the Project, or any turbine within the Project to service.

**SECTION 10  
AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT LWECS**

**10.1 WIND RIGHTS**

At least ten (10) working days prior to pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall demonstrate that it has obtained the wind rights and any other rights necessary to construct and operate the Project within the boundaries authorized by this LWECS permit.

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.

## **10.2 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 Rule 7854.1300.

## **10.3 FAILURE TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION**

If the Permittee has not completed the pre-construction surveys required under Section 5 and has not commenced construction of the LWECs within two (2) 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 Rule 7854.1300.

## **10.4 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.

## **10.5 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.

### **10.5.1 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 (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) stormwater permit for construction activity, and other site specific approvals), Department of Natural Resources (License to Cross Public Lands and Water, Public Waters Work Permit, and state protected species consultation); SHPO (Section 106 Historic Consultation Act); FAA

determinations, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Utility Access Permit, Highway Access Permit and Oversize and Overweight Permit, and Aeronautics Airspace Obstruction Permit).

#### 10.5.2 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 pre-empted by federal or state permits and regulations.

### **SECTION 11 COMMISSION POST-ISSUANCE AUTHORITIES**

#### **11.1 PERIODIC REVIEW**

The Commission shall initiate a review of this Permit and the applicable conditions at least once every five (5) 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.

#### **11.2 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.

#### **11.3 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 determines that it is appropriate to consider revocation or suspension of this permit, the Commission shall proceed in accordance with the requirements of

Minnesota Rule 7854.1300 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 this permit suspended or revoked.

#### **11.4 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.

#### **11.5 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.

#### **11.6 RIGHT OF ENTRY**

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

- (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.

#### **11.7 PROPRIETARY INFORMATION**

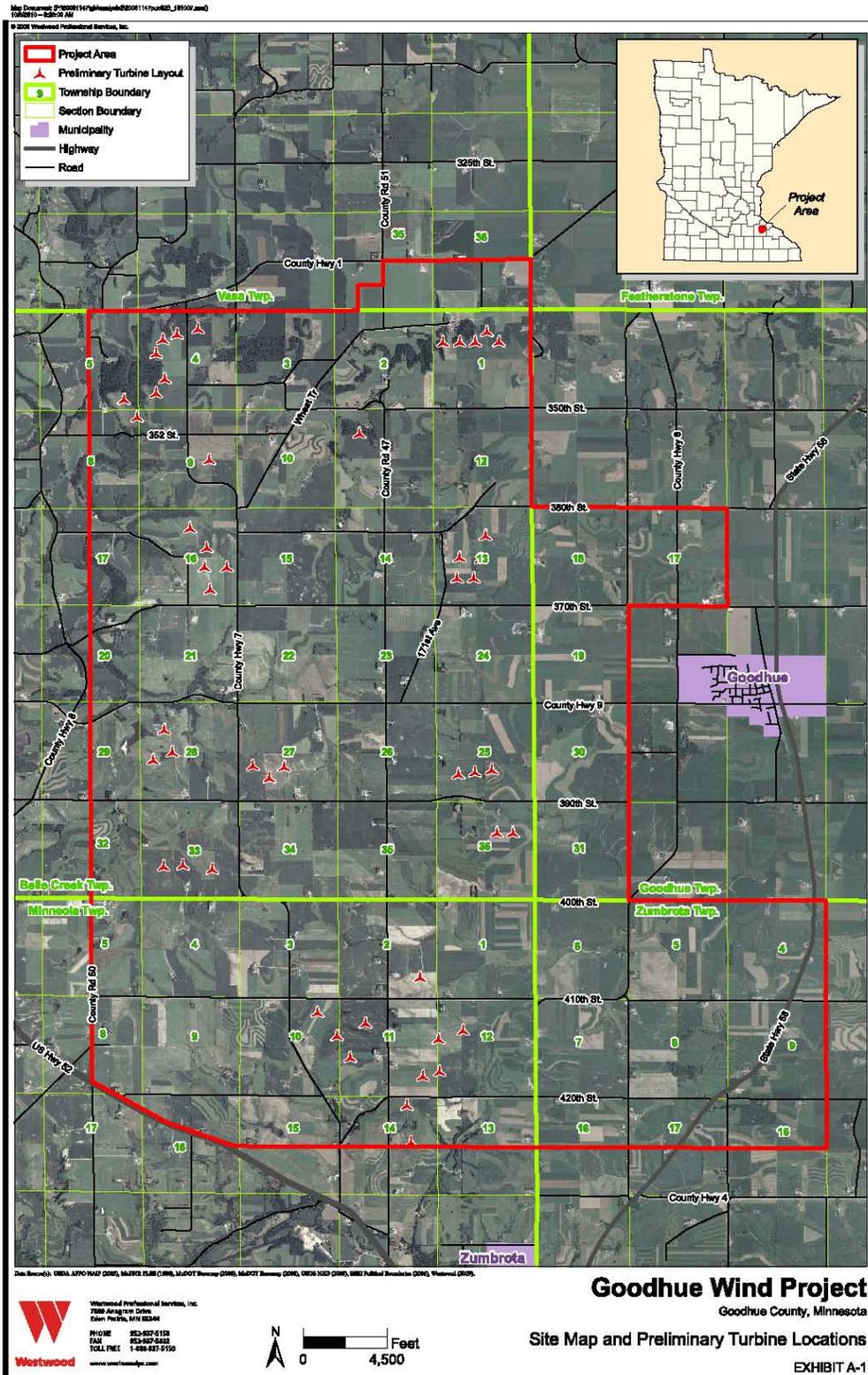
Certain information required to be submitted to the Commission under this Permit, including energy production and wake loss data, may constitute trade secret information or other type of proprietary information under the Data Practices Act or other law and is not to be made available by the Commission. The Permittee must satisfy requirements of applicable law to obtain the protection afforded by the law.

### **SECTION 12 EXPIRATION DATE**

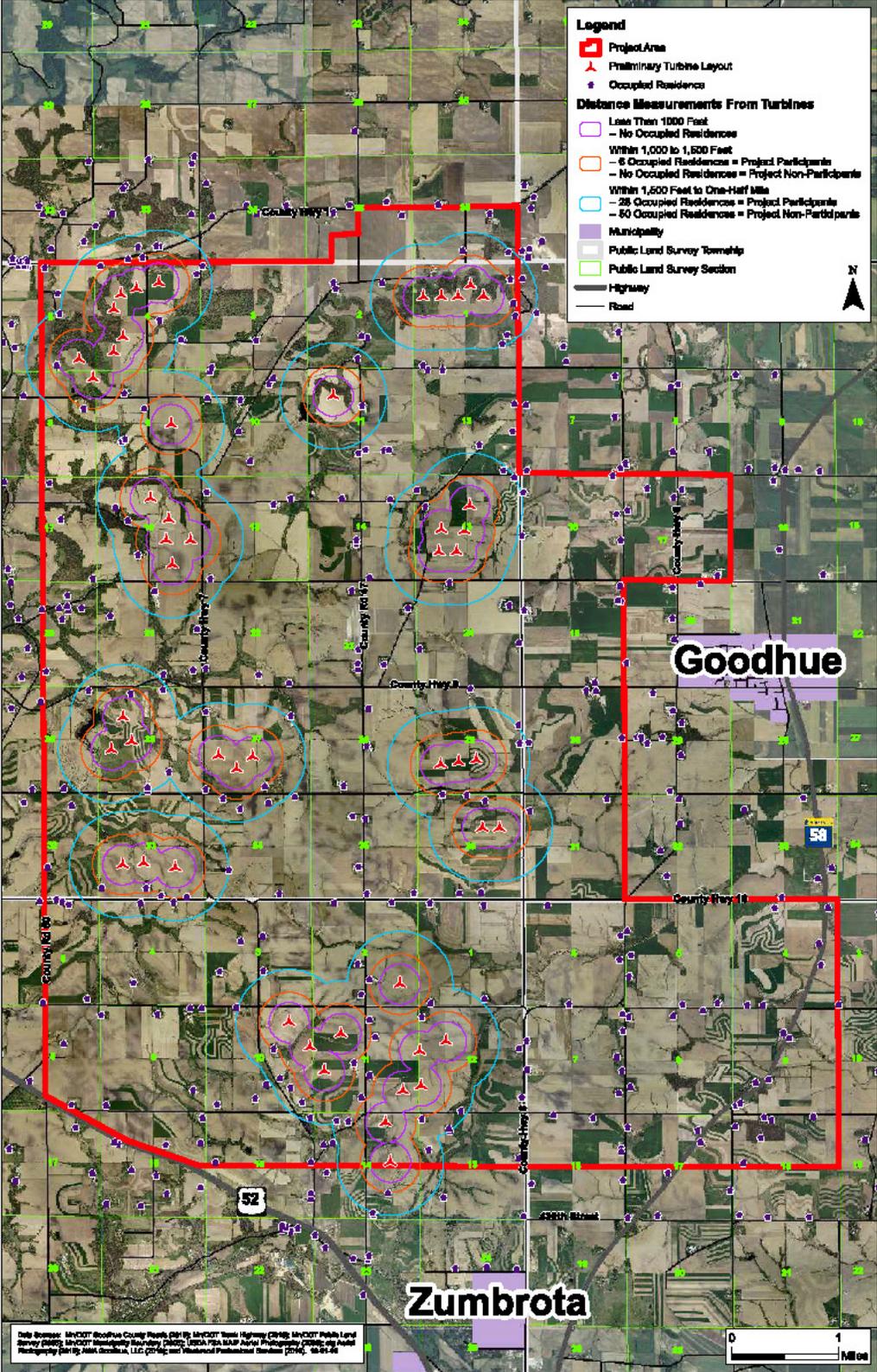
This Permit shall expire thirty (30) years after the date this permit was approved and adopted.

**SECTION 13  
SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

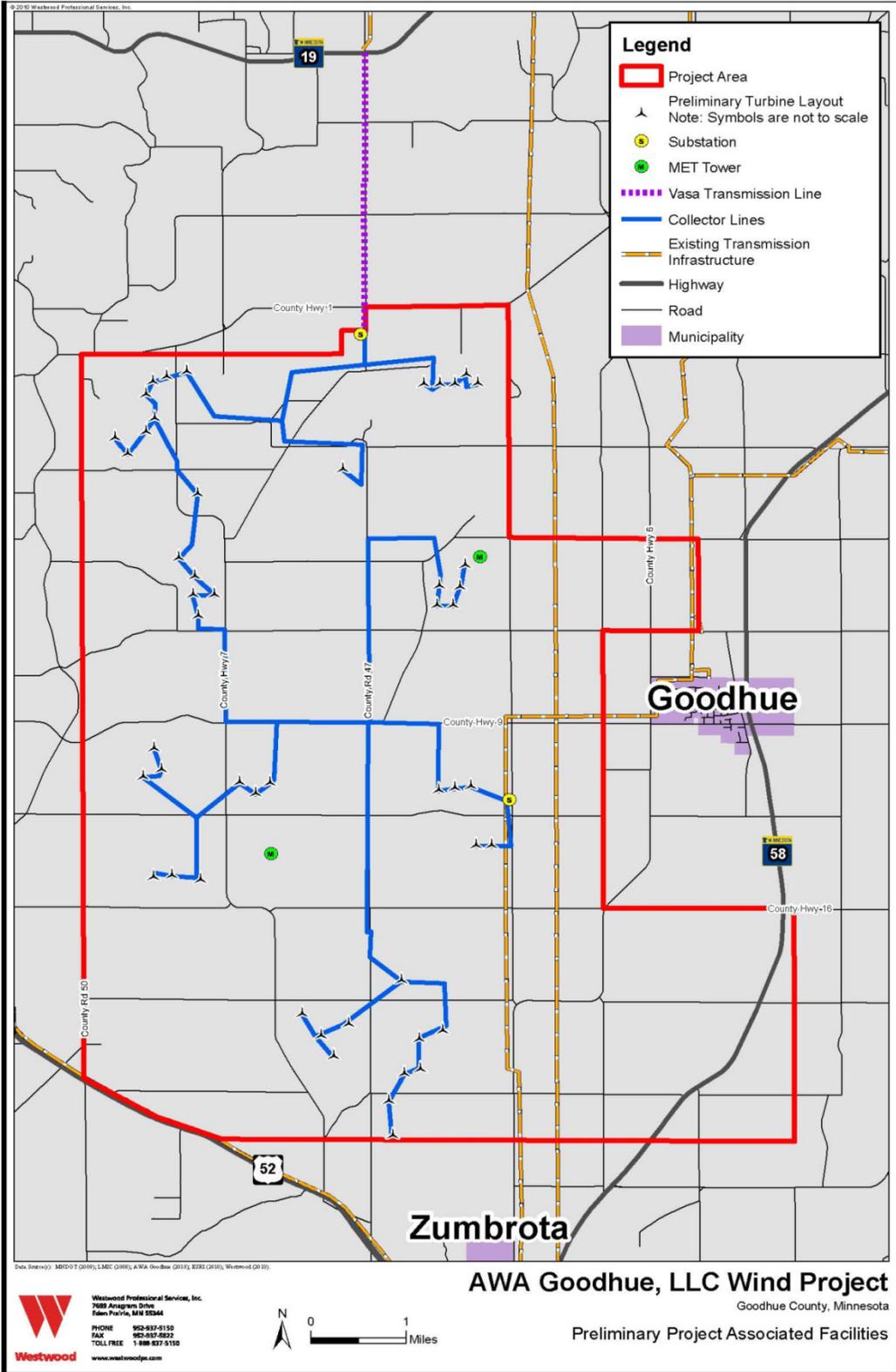
Special conditions shall take precedence over any of the other conditions of this Permit if there should be a conflict between the two.



SITE PERMIT MAP



SITE PERMIT MAP



**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 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](mailto: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:

**AWA Goodhue, LLC  
706 2nd Avenue South, Suite 1200  
Minneapolis, MN 55402**

**Tel: 612-746-6600**

**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 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198. Additionally, the Commission may request a paper copy of any eFiled document.

**PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS<sup>1</sup>**

**PERMITTEE:** AWA Goodhue, LLC  
**PERMIT TYPE:** LWECS Site Permit  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** Goodhue County  
**COMMISSION DOCKET NUMBER:** IP-6701/WS-08-1233

**PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING**

<b>Filing Number</b>	<b>Permit Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1</b>	4.7	Native Prairie Protection Plan	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting, if required	
<b>2</b>	5.1	Site Plan	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>3</b>	5.4	Field Representative	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>4</b>	5.8	Complaint Reporting Procedures	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting and complaint submittals on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of each month or within 24 hours	
<b>5</b>	6.1	Biological & Natural Resource Inventories	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>6</b>	6.2	Shadow Flicker Analysis	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>7</b>	6.3	Archaeological Resources	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting and as recommended by the State Historic Preservation Office	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS

## PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING

<b>Filing Number</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>8</b>	6.4	Interference	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>9</b>	6.5	Wake Loss	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting and may be included with site plan or operation studies if performed	
<b>10</b>	6.7	Avian and Bat Protection Plan	Ten days prior to pre-construction meeting	
<b>11</b>	7.8	Roads	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting.	
<b>12</b>	7.11	Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	Ten working days prior to pre-construction	
<b>13</b>	7.16	Emergency Response	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting. Must register in 911 Program	
<b>14</b>	10.1	Wind Rights	Ten working days prior to pre-construction meeting	

**PRE-OPERATION MEETING**

<b>Filing Number</b>	<b>Permit Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>15</b>	5.7	Pre-operation compliance meeting	Ten working days prior to commercial operation	
<b>16</b>	6.6	Noise Study Protocol	Ten working days prior to pre-operation meeting	
<b>17</b>	9.1 & 9.3	Decommissioning Plan	Ten working days prior to commercial operation	

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Filing Number</b>	<b>Permit Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>18</b>	5.2	Notice to Landowners and Governmental Units	Within 10 working days of permit approval	
<b>19</b>	5.5	Site Manager	Ten working days prior to prior to commercial operation	
<b>20</b>	6.6	Noise Study Results	Within 18 months of Commercial Operation, if required	
<b>21</b>	6.7	Avian and Bat Reporting Requirements	Quarterly Requirements	
<b>22</b>	6.8	Project Energy Production	Due 2/1 each year or quarterly	
<b>23</b>	6.9	Wind Resource Use	Upon request of the Commission	
<b>24</b>	6.10	Extraordinary Events	Within 24 hours and report on occurrence of event within 30 days	
<b>25</b>	8.1	As Builts	Within 60 days of completion of construction	
<b>26</b>	10.3	Failure to Start Construction	Within 2 years of permit issuance	