



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: June 30, 2010

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING,
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT,
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT**

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

**Certificate of Need Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6701/CN-09-1186
Site Permit Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6701/WS-08-1233**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the applications of AWA Goodhue Wind, LLC (applicant), for a certificate of need and site permit for the proposed Goodhue Wind Project (project). The hearing will address: (1) whether the proposed project is needed and in the public interest, and (2) issues related to the proposed siting of the project. The hearing will be held at the times and location listed below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. Hearings may conclude earlier where all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

HEARING DATE & LOCATION

July 21, 2010	3:00 PM – 5:30 p.m. & 7:00 PM – 10:30 p.m.	Goodhue Public High School Gym 510 3 rd Ave. Goodhue, Minn., 55027
---------------	--------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Eric Lipman from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the need for the project or the proposed siting can do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Lipman: Eric Lipman, Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620; (fax) 651-361-7936; e-mail: eric.lipman@state.mn.us.

Written Comments. Written comments should be submitted to Judge Lipman at the address listed above. Comments will be accepted through **August 6, 2010**. Mailed comments must be postmarked by this date. Faxed and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on this date.

Purpose and Conduct of the Hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input about the project from members of the local community and general public. During the public hearing, members of the public may offer either oral or written testimony, offer exhibits for inclusion in the public hearing record, and ask questions of the applicant and agency representatives. Any person who wishes to ask questions, but does not want to ask the questions personally, may submit them in writing to the ALJ who will then ask the question during the hearing.

Interested persons may comment on the certificate of need and site permit applications, environmental report, draft site permit, or on the project generally. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If needed, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ. At the close of the written comment period, Judge Lipman will prepare a written summary of the comments received at the hearing and file it with the Commission which will consider them in its deliberations of the certificate of need and site permit applications.

Request for Accommodation. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

Environmental Report. The Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting, has completed and issued an environmental report for the proposed Goodhue Wind Project (see “Project Contacts and Information” below). The environmental report addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives.

Draft Site Permit. On May 6, 2010, the Commission issued an order approving a draft site permit for distribution and public comment.

Project Description. AWA Goodhue Wind, LLC, proposes to construct a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) of up to 78 MW using between 49 and 52 utility scale wind turbine generators, depending on what turbines are ultimately selected. General Electric wind turbines of 1.5 MW or 1.6 MW nameplate capacities are under consideration. Each turbine will have a hub height of 80 meters (262 feet) and a rotor diameter of 82.5 meters (271 feet). In addition to the wind turbines, the project would include gravel access roads, two permanent meteorological towers, an electrical collection system, an operations and maintenance building, two proposed project substations, and two 69 kV transmission lines.

The proposed Goodhue Wind Project will be located in central Goodhue County, on agricultural land in Belle Creek, Goodhue, Minneola, Vasa and Zumbrota townships and just west of the city of Goodhue and north of the city of Zumbrota, as shown on the accompanying map. The applicant has indicated that it has approximately 12,000 acres under easement agreement within the proposed 32,684 acre project boundary.

Eminent Domain. 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.

Authority and Statement of Issues to Be Decided. In order to proceed with this project, the applicant must obtain a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.243, to issue a certificate of need for a large energy facility if the applicant can demonstrate that there is a need for the project. A certificate of need is a state permit that is issued upon a determination that construction of an energy facility is in the public interest. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.243 to hold a hearing on an application for a certificate of need.

The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section 216E.02 and 216F.04 to designate sites and issue site permits for certain energy facilities. When the Commission designates a site, it issues a site permit for the construction of a facility specifying the design, location, preparation, and operation of the facility, along with any other appropriate conditions it deems necessary. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes, section 216F.05 and Minnesota Rules, part 7854.0900 to hold a public meeting on an application for a site permit for an LWECs.

Contested Case Hearing Request. Any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the LWECs pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Judge Lipman in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **August 6, 2010**. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the contested case hearing will aid it in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

The Commission heard a request for a contested case in these dockets on April 15, 2010. In its May 6, 2010 order, the Commission denied the request for a contested case and ordered the scope of this public hearing be expanded to include comments on both the certificate of need and draft site permit.

Project Contacts and Information. For more information on the **Certificate of Need**, please contact:

Tricia DeBleekere
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147
(651) 201-2254
tricia.debleekere@state.mn.us

For additional information regarding the **Site Permit** application, or to place your name on the project mailing list maintained for this project, please contact:

Larry Hartman, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-5089
Fax: 651-297-7891
larry.hartman@state.mn.us

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

The certificate of need application and environmental report can be found on the eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year “09” and the number “1186”). The LWECs site permit application and draft site permit can be found on the eDockets website (enter the year “08” and the number “1233”).

The site permit application, draft site permit, environmental report, and other relevant documents, including Minnesota statutes and rules governing the site permitting process, are also available on the Commission’s energy facility permitting website 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.

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

N



Vasa Twp.

Featherstone Twp.

Belle
Creek
Twp.

Goodhue Twp.

352nd St.

Wheat Tr.

County Rd 47

350th St.

County Hwy 6

360th St.

370th St.

177th Ave

County Hwy 9

Goodhue

MINNESOTA

58

390th St.

52

400th St.

410th St.

County Hwy 8

County Hwy 7

420th St.

County Rd 150

135th Ave

Minneola Twp.

Zumbrota Twp.

Wanamingo

MINNESOTA

60

Zumbrota

