

Public Comments Received

by the

Minnesota Office of Energy Security

on

Issues That Should be Considered  
In Developing a Draft Site Permit for the

Goodhue Wind Project

PUC Docket No. IP6701/WS-08-1233

## **Commenters**

### Citizens

Chris Buck

Catherine Friend and Melissa Peteler

Mark and Susan Hinrichs

Erin Logan

Patricia and Richard Morrissey

Rochelle and Thomas Nygaard

Bill O'Reilly

Dave and Mary Jo O'Reilly

Regina Poncelet

Lois Zemke

### Governments and Agencies

City of Zumbrota

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Minnesota Department of Transportation

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Date: 2/8/2010

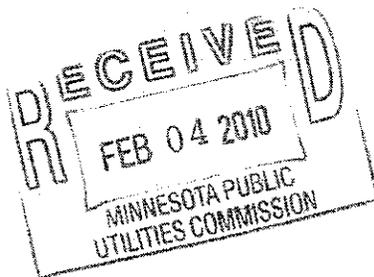
Public Comments Received by the Public Utilities  
Commission for week ending: 2-5-10

Docket Number 08-1233

[www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)

PHONE (651) 296-7124 • 800-657-3782 • FAX (651) 297-7073 • 121 7TH PLACE EAST • SUITE 350 • SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101-2147

C-BED status of Goodhue Wind  
Docket # 09-1349  
Docket# 09-1350



08-1233  
09-1349  
09-1350

Dear Dr. Burl Haar,

I'm responding to the comment period regarding Goodhue Wind as a community based (C-BED) project.

A community based project by definition should be a project based by community people. Projects such as a community pool, fire department, newspaper, playgrounds and school are community based in Goodhue. The community as a whole came together and made these things happen. Common interests and participation make it community based. Goodhue wind has not been about community in our area. I am a landowner that is in the blueprint of one of these possible projects. I was not once contacted by the wind project company about what was happening. I found out through other people talking about secret meetings that you had to be invited to. Once there you had to sign something or leave. If it is so great, why so many secrets?

Secondly, many of the investors in the project are not from our community. In fact they only need to be from Minnesota. I have doubts about the ownership and financing of Goodhue Wind and participants make it qualify as a C-BED. Can the PUC make sure they are following the guidelines? Shouldn't the benefit be for the local community if it is a C-BED project?

Thirdly, Goodhue wind has submitted inaccurate information. Many of the turbines were sited in the wrong spot. Many were spotted on land that was not signed over. Many did not have proper setbacks. They had a turbine at one time put on my land that was not signed over. They left off homes from their map. I surely would have thought long and hard about purchasing my farm this past year if I would have known about all of this. How well do they know the people in the area or even care about their health and safety if they can't get their information accurate? What happens when my land gets ruined because they accidentally started work in the wrong spot?

The wind project has been a secret from the start. They have gone about it totally backwards. There are still many people who have no idea a

turbine could be going up right behind them. A strong community which we had is a community that communicates and works together. Obviously this wind community is lacking in that department. All it has done is divided our community, our families, and our friends.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Chris Buck  
37799 171<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Goodhue, MN 55027  
651-923-5054



January 19, 2010

Mr. Larry Hartman, Project Manager  
MN Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RECEIVED  
JAN 22 2010  
MAILROOM



Docket No. IP-6701/WS-08-1233

Dear Mr. Hartman,

We are writing to comment on the application of Goodhue Wind for a permit to build 52 commercial wind generators in Goodhue County.

While we support wind energy as a viable alternative to coal and nuclear, we don't believe wind generators belong in populated areas. Goodhue County is highly agricultural, so the population density is of course lower than in urban areas, but there are thousands of people living in this county, and that number is projected to increase. The State's Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis website shows county population changes from 1900 to a projected 2020. Goodhue County is projected to move from 30,000-50,000 people to more than 50,000. It is a beautiful county located between the Twin Cities and Rochester, so this isn't surprising.

What's surprising is that the state would consider allowing 52 commercial wind generators to be built here. Once again, the Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis has a graphic that shows, over time, that the density of county populations has been falling in the southwest, west, and northwest areas of the state. The population density of Goodhue County has remained steady over the years and is projected to increase. The lowest population areas make more sense as locations for wind farms, such as the generators at Pipestone.

There are so many difficult issues surrounding wind—noise, safety, flickering—that it has already begun to tear communities apart as they debate the issue. If you give Goodhue Wind permission to build so many generators, the problem will only intensify. People in this county are passionate about the lives they've built on farms and rural homes. Agritourism is a growing industry in this area, but 52 generators towering 262 feet over the county will totally change this county's appearance.

This county is more 'crowded' than you may think. We urge the OES to reject Goodhue Wind's proposal and require them to move to a less populated area of the state.

Sincerely,

  
Catherine Friend  
Residents of Goodhue County

  
Melissa Peteler



To; State of Minnesota Office of Energy Security

PUC Docket number; **IP-6701/WS-08-1233**

I'm writing to comment on the Goodhue Wind LLC project. We have just recently received the information on Goodhue Wind LLC project for the townships of Goodhue, Belle Creek, Minneola, Vasa and Zumbrota in Goodhue County MN. This packet from the MN PUC and Goodhue Wind LLC has been the only contact we have received. A Project of this magnitude of cost, construction and impact in our area should have more time, accurate information and research such as proper set backs of ½ mile or more from property lines and residences. The area Goodhue Wind has chosen for this project for 52 1.5 mega watts turbines on 32,684 proposed acres is not a suitable site for a construction of this construction with out the proper ½ mile or more set backs. The site plans that Goodhue Wind LLC has submitted to the MN PUC are inaccurate. The site map has miss labeled roads, homes that excluded from the footprint site map and also homes located just out side of the footprint site map are not included. So it shows a less populated area for this project. Goodhue County has population of 45,897. Goodhue Wind LLC has 2 sub stations for the project but they are both out side of the site map. The land in Goodhue County consists of farms, rolling hills, the Richard Dorer Memorial State Hardwood Forest and many small communities. The Mississippi River is less than 25 miles away and several active eagle nests are located in the project site map footprint. In and around my township section alone we have 15 homes which include 3 dairy farms, other livestock farms and homes in wooded areas. This is just 1 section in 1 township of 5 of the townships included in this Goodhue Wind LLC project.

This Goodhue Wind project is going to have a negative effect on the local land values, economy, neighbors and the communities. The scar that this is going to impact on the community will be great. The health effects of the flicker , noise and the property value of the area. My son is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation to live on our farm. We are also 3<sup>rd</sup> generation small business owner that serves a lot of the communities though out Goodhue County Minnesota. I the people of Zumbrota, Minneola, Goodhue, Belle Creek and Vasa townships of Goodhue County are close knit areas and this project is dividing them .

Thank You

Mark and Susan Hinrichs  
20750 420<sup>th</sup> Street  
Zumbrota, MN. 55992

*Susan Hinrichs 1-22-2010*  
*Mark Hinrichs 1-22-2010*

**To the Attention of:** State of Minnesota, Office of Energy  
Security and Public Utilities Commission

**Regarding:** PUC Docket Number: IP-6701/WS-08-1233

Goodhue Wind, LLC application to Public Utilities Commission  
for site permit to build and operate a LWECS of up to 78MW in  
Goodhue County

**Subject:** Public Comments in response to the aforementioned  
application for site permit (Note: Comments due by January 22,  
2010)

**From:** Erin Logan

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Project Location and Applicant Information

#### 1.1.1 Project Location

“The project’s preliminary site layout is for 78 MW and potential alternate turbine locations are shown in Exhibit A-3. These are subject to change during the Project preconstruction surveys...”

**Comment:** All property owners within the project area should be given the opportunity to review and comment on the final placement plan for a wind turbine or associated facilities. Local government having jurisdiction should be allowed to decline approval of the final placement plan for any wind turbine or associated facility. Any building/construction permit application submitted by the general public requires a detailed, dimensioned, site plan prior to approval by the authority having jurisdiction. This application/site plan should not have any less stringent requirements than those imposed on any citizen/landowner in Goodhue County.

“Vasa: MISO Queue number H061. The Vasa POI is located approximately three miles north of the Project Area footprint. A 34.5 kV transmission line currently runs from the Vasa substation to a point close to the Goodhue Wind Project footprint.”

**Comment:** It is presented such that the Vasa point of interconnection(POI) is a requirement for transmission of the power generated. Thus making the power available to whomever the power purchase agreement(PPA) is contracted. If the POI is a requirement to fulfill the deliverables of the proposed project, then it should be included in the project area.

#### 1.1.2 Applicant Information

“Goodhue Wind has received a resolution of support from Goodhue County and is in the process of being certified as a Community-Based Energy Development (C-BED). The Goodhue County Commissioner’s meeting minutes reflect this approval(Appendix B)”

**Comment:** The meeting minutes outline that the project area is inclusive of Goodhue and Belle Creek Townships. Many of the referenced, solicited, responses from government agencies referred to in this application were solicited when the project area was inclusive of only 2 townships. The revised project area has added three townships and thousands of acres. All referenced approvals and comments should be provided as an attachment to the application and should reference all of the Townships included in the project area.

## 2.0 PROJECT AREA AND WIND RESOURCES

### 2.2 Specific Wind Characteristics in Project Area

#### 2.2.6 Extreme Wind Conditions

“The maximum recorded gust at the 70 meter elevation at the Clarks Grove Station for the period was recorded at 26.33 m’s. Using a conservative gust factor of safety of 1.3, the maximum probable gust would still not be in excess of the design parameters of most suitable, commercial wind turbine generators. .... Glaze icing may occur up to 6% of the operating hours of the year for wind turbines, which will be mitigated by siting the wind turbines in accordance with required setbacks and operational controls.”

**Comment:** The Clarks Grove Station is 50 miles away from the proposed project site. What has this area experienced for extreme wind conditions? What was the wind speed in the summer of 2007 that snapped numerous trees and power lines between Goodhue and Red Wing?

## 3.0 ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONAL DESIGN OF PROJECT

### 3.1 Project Layout and Associated Facilities

“The Project will consist of an array of wind turbines, transformers, collection and transmission lines, two project substations, access roads, two meteorological towers, and an O&M building. The Project’s preliminary site layout is for 78 MW and potential alternate turbine locations are shown in Exhibit A-3, which are subject to change during the Project preconstruction surveys and micrositing.”

**Comment:** Exhibit A-3 shows 52 turbine locations, two substations and one meteorological tower. This submittal is incomplete as it excludes placement of one meteorological tower and the O&M building. It also misrepresents the feasibility of the project because it has eliminated numerous homes in the project area and sites turbines on land that is not signed up under contract.

### 3.2 Operational Design

#### 3.2.1 Description of Turbines, Towers and Foundations

#### 3.2.2 Setbacks

Table 3-2: Goodhue County Commercial WECS Setbacks  
Property Lines – 1.2 times the total turbine height  
Neighboring Dwellings – 750 feet (229 meters)

**Comment:**

Repower MM92 total height is 414.2 feet (1.25 x height = 517.75 feet property line setback)

GE 1.5 MW xle total height is 397 feet (1.25 x height = 496.25 feet property line setback)

The County setbacks restrict what I can do on my property based on what my adjoining neighbor has committed to. These requirements essentially make a large portion of my property unbuildable, since I can not build within 750 feet of a wind turbine.

### **3.3 Related Equipment and Facilities**

#### **3.3.4 Roads and Temporary Construction Areas**

“The temporary roads will be approximately 45 feet wide. In addition, turbine assembly will require an approximate 40 by 120 foot gravel crane pad area extending from the access road to the turbine foundation...”

**Comment:** The temporary roads would be a substantial cost that I would like to know are included in the decommissioning estimate of \$55,000.

### **3.9 Decommissioning and Restoration**

“Goodhue Wind will begin decommissioning the facility within 12 months from the time the facility ceases to operate. Decommissioning will be completed within 18 months from the time the facility ceases to operate.”

**Comment:** What if Goodhue Wind has gone out of business prior to the decommissioning of the wind turbines? Who will fund the removal?

“Goodhue Wind requests the right to explore alternatives regarding Project decommissioning at the end of the LEWCS Site Permit term. One such option may be to reapply for a LEWCS Site Permit and continue operation of the project....”

**Comment:** This leaves an option to decide that it costs too much to decommission the wind turbines and leave them in place in a non-functioning capacity. There should be a limitation in the alternative option for reapplication for a LEWCS Site Permit, i.e. it must be received within a certain period of time. There should be no other option than successful reapplication or decommissioning including complete removal of the equipment, foundations and buried transmission lines.

“The estimated decommissioning cost in current dollars is expected to be \$58,000 per turbine, including associated facilities.”

**Comment:** Goodhue Wind, LLC has estimated the decommissioning cost at \$2,262,000(39 turbines) to \$3,016,000(52 turbines) in current dollars. This amount is in the range of 1.2% to 1.7% of the total project cost(\$179M), which is a very small amount relative to the size of the Project. It would be prudent to require this money be escrowed in an account from day one of the project. This would ensure there would be money available upon the end of life of the Project equipment for decommissioning.

“Decommissioning will involve removal of all above-ground wind facilities including towers, turbine generators, transformers, overhead cables, buildings, and ancillary equipment. Foundations will be removed to a depth of 4 feet below grade....”

**Comment:** The decommissioning plan does not include underground transmission lines. I think it would be inappropriate to abandoned these in place upon termination of the Project.

I have not seen any information included in this permit application regarding the typical foundation structure required to support a 1.5-2.0 MW wind turbine. Goodhue County Zoning, Article 18 – Wind Energy Conversion System Regulations, requires removal of all WECS and accessory facilities including all footing and foundations. There should not be any less stringent requirements on the Goodhue Wind project because it happens to be larger in scale. It would be reasonable to believe that the structural slab and footings to support a structure of this size would extend much further than 4 feet below grade.

#### **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

**Comment:** This section refers to the proximity of the project to the City of Goodhue. There is no mention of the proximity of 1 mile from the City of Zumbrota.

Any landowner who chooses not to participate in this project should not be subjected to any of the following: a noise level noticeably louder than the current background noise level at their home, shadow flicker at any time of the year or time of day, interference with any type of communication system.

##### **4.19 Rare and Unique Natural Resources**

**Comment:** The representation of the quantity of Bald Eagle nests near the project area is inaccurate. All of the information solicited for this section was done so prior to the change to the project area and therefore is not a complete assessment of the impact.

January 18, 2010

Mr Larry Hartman, Project Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East Suite 500  
St Paul MN 55101

**RE: Docket # IP-6701/WS-08-1233**

To All Concerned:

This letter is in regards to the Goodhue Wind, LLC proposal to construct a 78 megawatt wind project in our county. We live at 14399 County 1 Blvd, Goodhue. Our home is on a south-facing hillside directly north of the proposed site for several wind towers (approximately 1500 ft away).

I grew up on farm land in White Rock and twelve years ago, my husband and I bought my parents home. My mother, Rebecca Powell, lives with us and still owns farm land in this valley, some of which borders the proposed boundaries of this project. This farm land has been in our family for sixty years. Early in these years, my parents did much conservation work (tree planting, damming and terracing) to protect our valuable farm land and wildlife.

We've always felt that our county government body has done a good job implementing and maintaining procedures and laws to keep our county as much ag-based as possible. My husband and I moved back to this land for this very reason. And we've hoped to pass family property on to children and grandchildren. A wind farm is not agriculture, quite the opposite as it will be taking ag land out of production.

We fear for our health and safety. We believe the noise and flashing created by these wind towers will directly affect us if the requested set backs are allowed. And obviously this will have a very negative impact on our property values.

Goodhue County is too densely populated for a project of this magnitude. Too many innocent people will be affected by this. Please don't allow us to be a 'test site'. We ask for a delay of any action on this permit request. And please don't consider it unless the set backs are increased.

We ask that you consider our whole community before committing to this irreversible project.

Respectfully,

Patricia Morrisey  
Richard Morrisey



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Date: 2/1/2010

Public Comments Received by the Public Utilities  
Commission for week ending:

Docket Number 08-1233

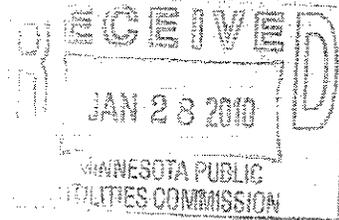
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08-1233

~~090890~~

MN PUC



I am writing to state my concerns with the fast movement forward with windfarms in the state of Minnesota.

As a resident of Goodhue County my concern at present is setbacks in this populated area.

National Wind is proposing to begin building in 2010 with the usual setback of between 500-1200 ft from residents.

With continued upset at past windfarm sites the Office of Energy Security ordered a study that was completed May 22 of 2009.

The Minnesota Dept of Health has made this White Paper available to you.

This paper states that there are few complaints with  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile setbacks from non-participating home residents.

State regulations must change. Leo Steinberg himself of National Wind says "a higher level of scrutiny is needed."

$\frac{1}{2}$  mile setbacks from non-participating landowners homes is the ethical and decent thing to do!

Population levels and rural Lifestyles are very different in Goodhue County as compared to Extreme Southwestern Minnesota and Northern Iowa.

Sections of land have 0-1 home per section there vs. 5-6 in the least populated areas of Goodhue County.

Responsible setbacks of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from non-participant residents is the responsible thing to do.

If participating Landowners desire to allow a turbine closer to their personal residents that is their choice.

It is clear in Minnesota's own White Paper that persons are affected by wind turbines.

Please follow the findings of the States own White Paper and rule for a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile setback from non-participant residents.

At this time I also believe a setback from a nuclear power plant needs to be addressed. The Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant will in my opinion be at risk with wind turbines in such close proximity. Low flying aircraft can fly undetected in an

area of a windfarm. With the threat of Terrorism our nuclear power plants are at risk.

I have heard of no safety measures to insure the security of the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant.

Some European Countries have a 45 mile setback from a nuclear plant.

This is a serious issue that must not be ignored.

Thank You

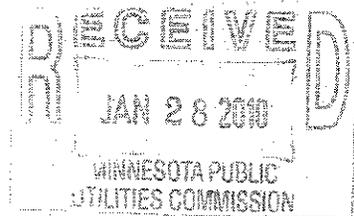
Rachelle + Thomas Nygaard

12110-355th St.

Goodhue MN - 55027

1-25-10

08-1233



Dear Mr. Burl Haar,

As a resident of Belle Creek Township, Goodhue County, Mn., I oppose the industrial wind turbines. They are a threat to our well being. No matter how much pressure you are under, you need to be a man and say no to this project. Your legacy is at stake. The project disrupts the lives and health of those living in Belle Creek Township.

Rather than list all the concerns, which are well known, I would like to make you aware of the threat to the nuclear plant. Radar clutter is real and creates a dangerous situation for citizens of Minnesota. Why would you expose your grandchildren to this danger? Research radar clutter and keep turbines 45 miles from the nuclear power plant. (Form 7460 is vital and needs to be completed in detail and shared with the FAA, DOD, NRC). Never say you were unaware of this issue because it is common knowledge in the military and now, Belle Creek citizens, and others, some of whom should not be aware of this weakness in our defense posture. Require a 'force on force' test if the towers come to be.

See the light, not the glow,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill O'Reilly".

Bill O'Reilly

12145-355 St.

Goodhue, MN 55027



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Date: January 25, 2010

Public Comments Received by the Public Utilities  
Commission for week ending: 1-22-10

Docket Number: 08-1233

[www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)

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Docket # 09-1349

Docket # 09-1359

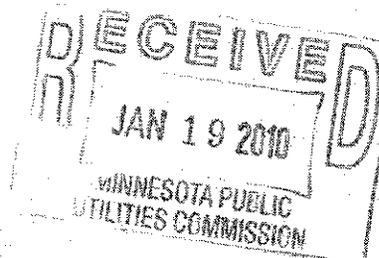
Dear Executive Secretary Haar,

Please, please, please slow down on making any decisions on the Goodhue County wind project! We are organic dairy farmers in the footprint and have so many concerns about this project. As organic farmers we are all for alternative, healthy means of making our life and the lives of others the best they can be. We understand the need for alternative energy but this project is being pushed through our system way too fast with so much false information and secrecy. Why? Developers convince the public of the benefits of industrial wind turbines while ignoring the health risks and the costs. Mr. Haar...the PUC needs to take a closer look to see if Goodhue Wind is indeed a Community Based Energy Development project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Dave P. O'Reilly*  
*Mary Jo O'Reilly*  
Dave and Mary Jo O'Reilly



January 14, 2010

Dear Mr. Haar and the MN Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing this letter to express my deep concern regarding the proposed windmill construction in Goodhue County.

The State of Minnesota has worked very hard over the years to create an environment that preserves our heritage and landscape. The size and scope of the proposed windmill sites will turn our land into a vast industrial site, one that will not only affect the visual beauty, but also affect the health and well being of those living near to them.

I ask you to consider the ramifications that these very large industrial windmills will have on the townships and communities in our state. The least that can be done is to enact more stringent regulations as to where these windmills can be constructed.

Also, I ask that you continue to look at the claims that Goodhue Wind is Community Based Energy Development Project. The project thus far appears to have some flaws in this qualification.

There are so many things to consider with a project of this magnitude such as the health and welfare of the citizens living near these windmills, the affect this will have on the property value of the land, and how will it affect the surrounding communities. The companies proposing these projects have it in their best interest to rush this project along.

We must also look closely at the proposed positives of such a project. If it is such a good thing, then why are the majority of the windmills to be constructed not on or near the property where the landowner resides? I believe that says a great deal about the windmills themselves.

I look forward to staying in the township of Belle Creek & in the State of Minnesota to continue to raise my children. If the continuation of such a project comes to be, it certainly makes this less of a possibility.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

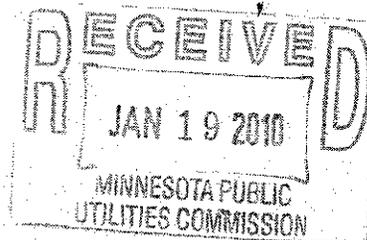
Sincerely,

*Regina Poncelet*

Regina Poncelet

37095 Co. 47 Blvd

Goodhue, MN 55027





January 18, 2010

Dear Sir,

I have a few comments on the possibility of wind turbines in the Goodhue County area.

By the time turbines are beginning to make a profit, they will be nearly worn out.

The cost of roads to build them, the huge amounts of concrete needed to support the huge turbines just doesn't make sense. Regular maintenance is also costly.

The sight pollution in our beautiful area would be so detrimental. The noise may not be too much of a consideration, but the wind is very unpredictable so there would not be a steady source of power.

I believe the need for these wind farms would not even be necessary if



we all cut down on our usage of power.

Are all the lights in big cities - even small ones - really necessary? Why are lights on in office buildings when no one is there? Half of them should be sufficient.

It's just against wind farms. We must learn to conserve what we have.

Sincerely

Lois Zunker

41055 215<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Zunker MN 55992



**City of Zumbrota**  
175 West Avenue  
Zumbrota, MN 55992  
Phone 507-732-7318  
Fax 507-732-7884

**\*\*\* FAX TRANSMITTAL \*\*\***

DATE: 1.22.10 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ (a.m.) (p.m.)

TO: Mr. Larry Hartman, OES

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX #: 651-297-7891

FROM: Dan King

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): \_\_\_\_\_

MEMO: Please accept this Resolution  
as Comment on Docket  
number IP-6701/WS-08-1233

**CITY OF ZUMBROTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RESOLUTION  
2010-01 AND ZUMBROTA CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2010-05  
REGARDING GOODHUE WIND SITE PERMIT REVIEW  
PUBLIC UTILITIES DOCKET NUMBER IP-6701/WS-08-1233**

WHEREAS, Goodhue Wind, LLC is proposing to construct a 78 megawatt wind project in Goodhue County; and

WHEREAS; Goodhue Wind, LLC originally filed an application for a site permit with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on October 24, 2008; and

WHEREAS; Goodhue Wind, LLC expanded the project area by several thousand acres to address future development concerns of the City of Goodhue; and

WHEREAS; Goodhue Wind, LLC subsequently filed a revised application for a site permit with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on October 19, 2009; and

WHEREAS; The revised project boundaries for the proposed project are within approximately one mile of the City of Zumbrota Corporate limits; and

WHEREAS; The City of Zumbrota was notified of the revised application on December 10, 2009 and comments on the project are now being solicited; and

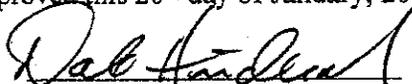
WHEREAS; According to the City's adopted Future Land Use Plan (See Attachment A), the area immediately south of the project area is zoned for low density residential development; and

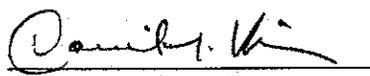
WHEREAS; It is the City's desire to promote orderly, efficient, municipal growth consistent with the adopted Land Use Plan;

WHEREAS; the erection of wind generation facilities near the planned growth area could have a detrimental effect on its orderly, efficient growth.

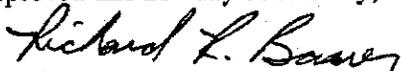
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and EDA for the City of Zumbrota hereby respectfully request the Public Utilities Commission restrict the project area to two miles from the Zumbrota Corporate Limit. (See Attachment B)

Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010 by the Zumbrota Economic Development Authority.

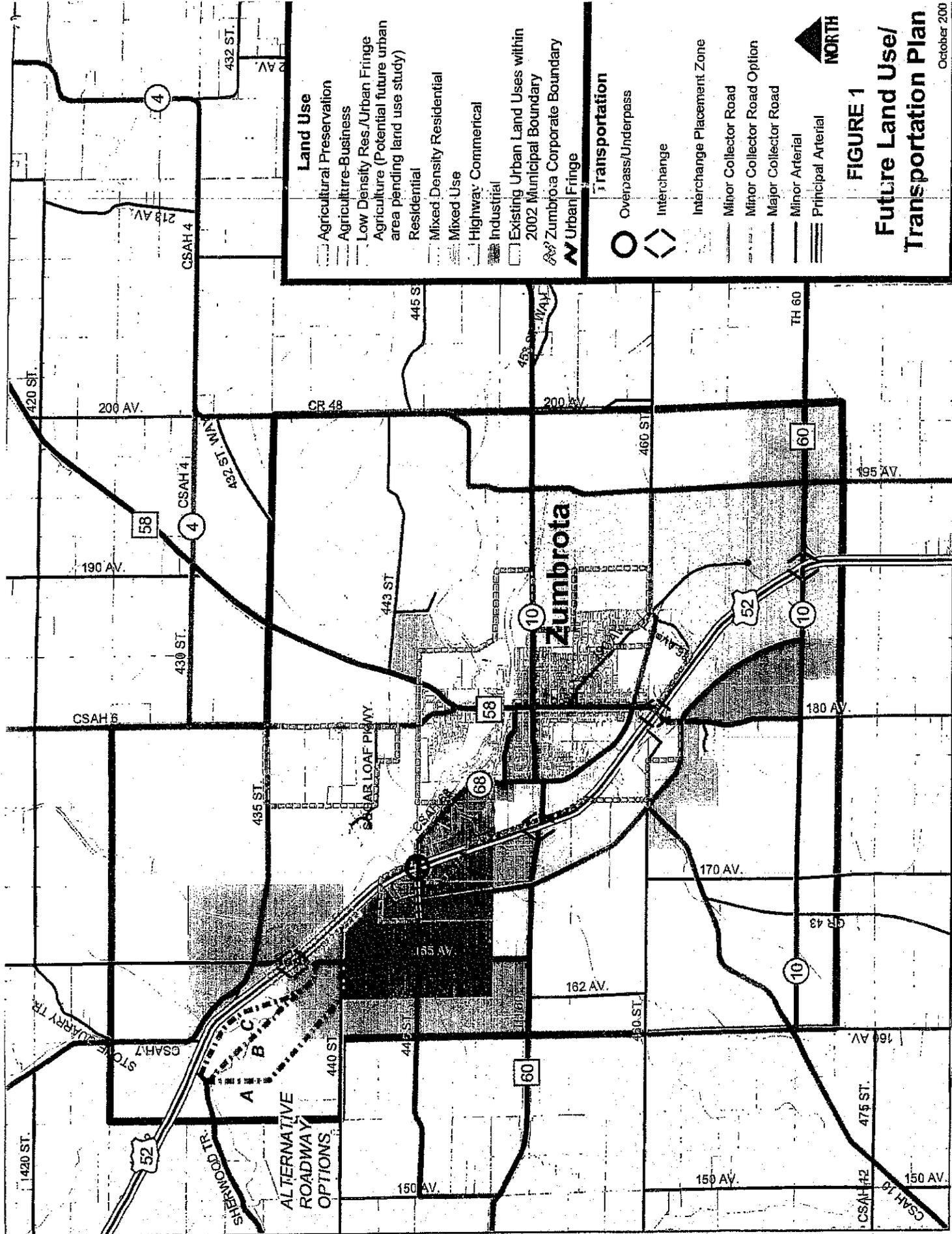
  
Chair of the EDA

  
Secretary of the EDA

Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2010 by the Zumbrota City Council

  
Mayor

  
City Administrator



- Land Use**
- Agricultural Preservation
  - Agriculture-Business
  - Low Density Res./Urban Fringe
  - Agriculture (Potential future urban area pending land use study)
  - Residential
  - Mixed Density Residential
  - Mixed Use
  - Highway/Commercial
  - Industrial
  - Existing Urban Land Uses within 2002 Municipal Boundary
  - 2002 Municipal Boundary
  - Zumbrota Corporate Boundary
  - Urban Fringe

- Transportation**
- Overpass/Underpass
  - ◇ Interchange
  - Interchange Placement Zone
  - Minor Collector Road
  - Minor Collector Road Option
  - Major Collector Road
  - Minor Arterial
  - Principal Arterial

**FIGURE 1**  
**Future Land Use/  
 Transportation Plan**

**NORTH**

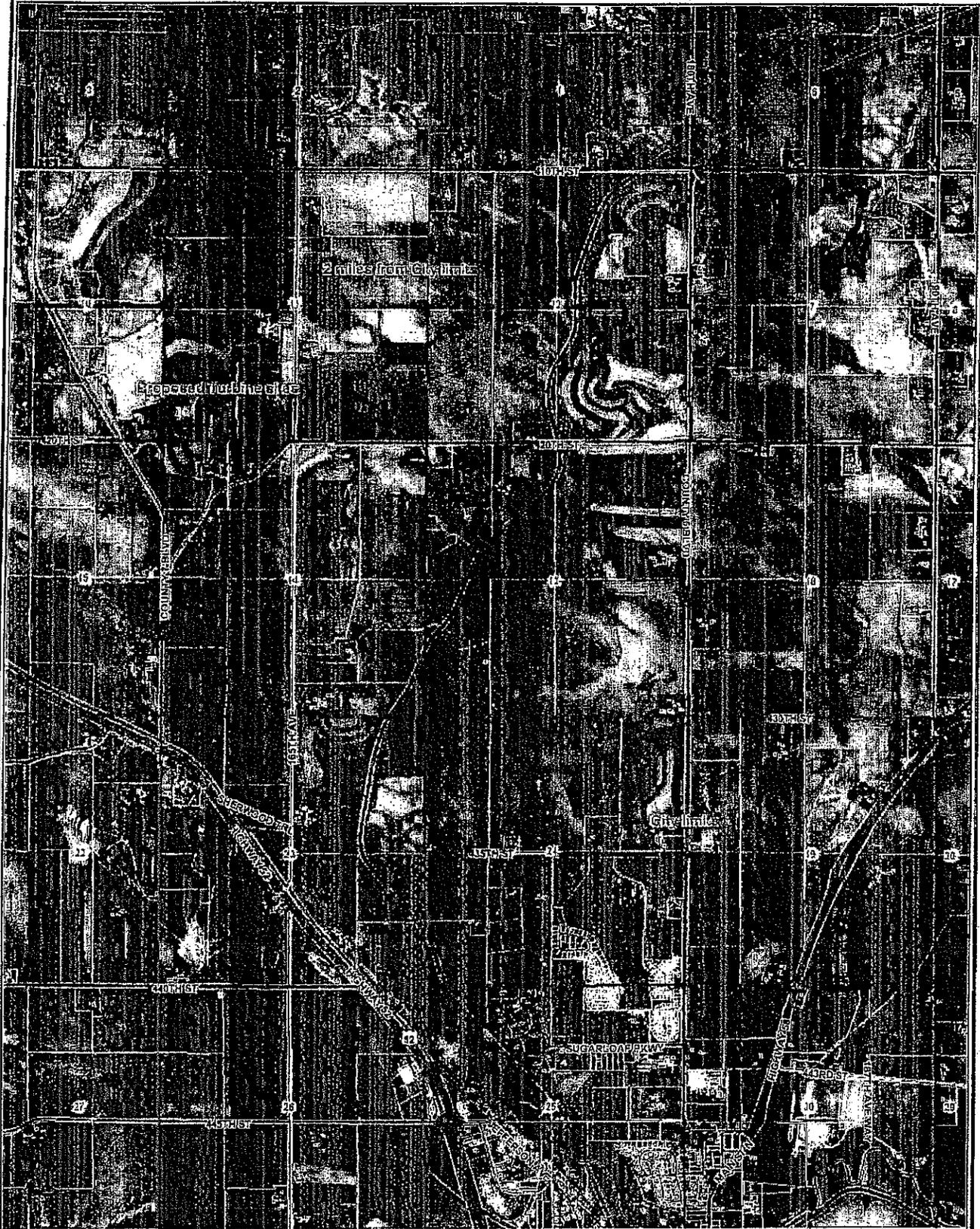
October 2000

ALTERNATIVE ROADWAY OPTIONS

**Attachment "A"**

# Attachment "B"

Turbine locations are approximate, based on PUC application



This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This map is a compilation of records, information and data located in various city, county, state and federal offices and other sources regarding the area shown, and is to be used for reference purposes only.  
 Created From Goodhue County Online Mapping Site. Sources: Goodhue County, MN.

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-40



January 22, 2010

Larry Hartman  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**RE:** Goodhue Wind, LLC Site Permit Application (IP-6701/WS-08-1233)

Mr. Hartman:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the Goodhue Wind Project Site Permit Application and provides the following comments for your consideration in preparing a draft site permit.

The application identifies that the project proposer is conducting an avian and bat risk assessment, loggerhead shrike habitat assessment, and pre-construction avian spring migration survey to address concerns related to avian and bat impacts from the project. The results from these assessments and surveys should be used to guide final turbine placement and to identify other potential mitigation measures such as reducing the number of turbines being used or decreasing velocities of turbines during peak avian and bat usage times.

The project proposer has recently developed a desktop avian and bat risk assessment that acknowledges fatality rates could be somewhat higher if turbines are sited near wetlands, grassland, or woodlands. The biological inventory site permit condition should include identification of where these habitats exist within the project area so that turbines can be setback or excluded from areas to minimize avian and bat mortality.

Acknowledging that the turbine placement depicted on Exhibit A-3 is preliminary, there are several proposed turbines located within the southern portion of the project area in Sections 11 – 14 (six turbines). Looking at Exhibit A-9, it appears that these turbine placements are in close vicinity to DNR Trails and Waterways lands associated with the Douglass State Trail. Turbines in this area need to conform to the five rotor diameter prevailing wind and three rotor diameter non-prevailing setback from properties where the applicant does not have wind rights. In addition, turbine placement in this area should consider the visual impact and safety of trail users.

Section 3.3.4 points out that the temporary construction areas adjacent to the turbine pads and access roads will be "restored....soils will be loosened if needed, and the site will be seeded if needed...". The site permit should include best management practices for preventing the introduction of invasive species into the disturbed areas and reseeded should use seed mixes that are native to the local area.

Please contact me at (651) 259-5156 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall Doneen", written over a horizontal line.

Randall Doneen  
Environmental Review Planning Director

[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER CONTAINING A MINIMUM OF 10% POST-CONSUMER WASTE



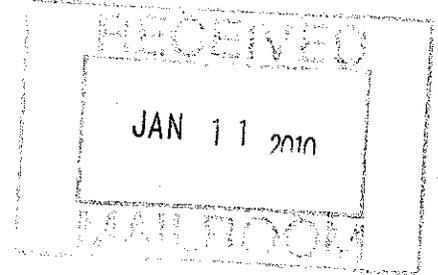
## Minnesota Department of Transportation

Minnesota Department of Transportation - District 6  
2900 48<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.  
Rochester, MN 55901-5848

Office Tel: 507-286-7545  
Fax: 507-285-7279  
E-mail: [jai.kalsy@state.mn.us](mailto:jai.kalsy@state.mn.us)

January 7, 2010

Larry Hartman, Project Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101



**RE: Proposed Goodhue Wind Project, Docket #IP-6701/WS-08-1233  
OES Request for comments for development of a draft site permit  
Goodhue Wind, LLC  
Goodhue County, Minnesota**

**MN 58 CS 2510**

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) District 6 staff has reviewed the request for comments or concerns regarding your plan to obtain a site permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the Goodhue Wind Project in late October, 2008. There is potential for impact to Mn/DOT interests in the vicinity of Minnesota State Highway 58 (MN 58) and US Highway 52 (US 52). Please be aware of the MN 58 bridge replacement 5188, and box culvert 6160 project over the north fork of the Zumbro River in Zumbrota scheduled for 2010. A Mn/DOT District 6 Access Management & Safety Plan is underway for US 52 in this area, and is progressing toward the vision for US 52 becoming a Freeway/Expressway from Rochester to the Twin Cities area.

Mn/DOT also is concerned about the location of associated transmission lines and cumulative effects of access to the Operations and Maintenance building as referenced in the application. In addition, any work and possible placement of structures adjacent to and within Mn/DOT right of way is of concern. If work is required within Mn/DOT right of way for temporary or permanent accesses, it should be coordinated with Terry Condon, District 6 West Permits, at (507) 446-5505 or [terry.condon@dot.state.mn.us](mailto:terry.condon@dot.state.mn.us). The placement of utilities would require a Utility Long Form Permit (TP-02525-03) issued through St. Paul and administered here in District 6. The temporary widening of field entrances (for delivery-if needed) or a new access would be issued through Mn/DOT District 6, using an Access Driveway Permit (TP-1721).

Please note that Mn/DOT's utility accommodation policy and procedures are listed on-line at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/files/pdf/appendix-b.pdf>.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jai Kalsy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jai" and the last name "Kalsy" clearly distinguishable.

Jai Kalsy, Interim Planning Director

cc: Nelrae Succio  
Greg Paulson  
Fausto Cabral  
Mark Trogstad-Isaacson  
Tracy Schnell  
Peter Waskiw  
Terry Condon  
Robert Hutton  
Stacy Kotch, Technical Support, MS 678  
Kathy Vesely, Mn/DOT Aeronautics, MS 410  
File

DOCS#870701



# Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300 | 800-675-3843 | 651-282-5332 TTY | [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)

January 5, 2010

Mr. Larry Hartman, Project Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

RE: Goodhue Wind Project, Goodhue County, Minnesota  
MPUC Docket No. IP6901/WS-08-1233

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Goodhue Wind, LLC, a proposed 78 megawatt wind farm, in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Regarding matters for which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has regulatory responsibility and other interests, the MPCA has the following comments to provide at this time.

- As expressed throughout the Amended Application for a Site Permit for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (Amended Application), this project will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Construction Stormwater Permit from the MPCA prior to construction. Information regarding the MPCA's Construction Stormwater Program can be found on the MPCA's Web site at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html>.
- Any project that will result in over 50 acres of disturbed area and has a discharge point within one mile of an impaired water is required to submit their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to the MPCA for a review at least 30 days prior to the commencement of land disturbing activities. The Amended Application cited on page 58 that the SWPPP would be submitted at the time the NPDES/SDS permit application is submitted.
- The project has expanded since it was last proposed in late 2008. The project area now encompasses the headwaters of Hay Creek and two tributaries to Belle Creek that have been identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as trout streams. The NPDES/SDS permit requires additional best management practices and enhanced runoff controls for discharges to these special waters. The Amended Application has stated that the turbines can be accessed without crossing any streams, wetlands or floodplains, and that no impacts to these waters are anticipated. However, the MPCA still encourages the project proposer to meet with staff early in the process to avoid additional requirements.
- Please be aware that Belle Creek is listed on the MPCA 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load List of Impaired Waters for Aquatic Life due to Turbidity. We recommend you

check with our current listing of impaired waters at our MPCA Web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-303dlist.html>. The impairment will dictate additional increased stormwater treatment both during construction and require additional increased permanent treatment post construction. These requirements will be included in the NPDES/SDS permit. The project proposer should identify that compliance with these increased stormwater water quality treatments can be achieved on the project site or elsewhere. Questions regarding construction stormwater permit requirements should be directed to Larry Zdon at 651-757-2839.

- As identified by the proposer on page 69, based on this project's need to obtain a United States Army Corp of Engineers Section 404 Permit and the project's proximity to impaired waters, this project may also require a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification or waiver from the MPCA to verify compliance with state water quality standards. For further information about the 401 Water Quality Certification process, please contact Kevin Molloy at 651-757-2577 or Bill Wilde at 651-757-2825.

Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this project, please contact Elise Doucette of my staff by email at [elise.doucette@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:elise.doucette@pca.state.mn.us) or by phone at 651-757-2316.

Sincerely,



Craig Affeldt  
Supervisor  
Environmental Review and Operations Section  
Regional Division

CA/EMD:bt

cc: Ben Kerl, Senior Wind Advisor ([bkerl@nationalwind.com](mailto:bkerl@nationalwind.com))  
Kevin Molloy, MPCA  
Bill Wilde, MPCA  
Larry Zdon, MPCA