



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: March 15, 2010

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
AND
SCOPING MEETING**

**In the Matter of Lakefield Wind Project, LLC's Applications for a Certificate of Need and
for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) Site Permit for the
205.5 MW Lakefield Wind Project in Jackson County, Minnesota**

**Certificate of Need Docket Number: IP-6829/CN-09-1046
Site Permit Docket Number: IP-6829/WS-09-1239**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Minnesota Office of Energy Security staff will hold a public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the applications submitted by Lakefield Wind Project, LLC ("Lakefield Wind" or "Applicant") to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a certificate of need (CN) and a site permit to build and operate the 205.5 megawatt (MW) Lakefield Wind Project in Jackson County.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

at the

**Immanuel Lutheran School Gymnasium
620 Bush Street
Lakefield, MN**

Prior to the public information meeting, the Applicant will host an open house beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information about the proposed project and to take public comment and input on (1) issues to be considered in the scope of the environmental report (ER) to be prepared for the certificate of need, and (2) on the draft site permit issued by the Commission. Office of Energy Security (OES) staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy permitting process. The public is invited to review the CN and site permit applications, learn more about the Commission review process, make comments, ask questions, and suggest alternatives to the project and impacts to address in the ER and in the draft site permit. Representatives from the applicant will be available to answer questions about the project.

Public Comment Period. This public information meeting and comment period are the public's opportunity to participate in the determination of the content or "scope" of the ER and comment on the draft site permit. OES staff will accept written comments on (1) issues that should be considered and suggested alternatives to be evaluated in the ER and (2) comments on the draft site permit by the close of business (**4:30 p.m.**) on **April 29, 2010**. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Larry Hartman (see contact information below). Please include the project docket number (**IP-6829/CN-09-1046 or IP-6829/WS-09-1239**) on all comments.

Project Description. The proposed Lakefield Wind Project includes 137 General Electric 1.5 MW wind turbine generators mounted on 80 meter (262.5 foot) towers, gravel access roads to the turbines, an electrical system consisting of underground collection and feeder lines that will deliver power to an on-site project substation (located near the Lakefield Junction Substation), permanent meteorological towers, and an operations and maintenance building located near the project substation. Lakefield Wind's goal is to complete construction of the project and achieve commercial operation prior to December 31, 2010.

Proposed Location. The project site is located in Heron Lake, Belmont, Des Moines and Hunter townships about six miles west of Jackson, Minn., on either side of I-90 (see attached map). Lakefield Wind has over 19,780 acres under easement agreement within the proposed 28,622 acre project area. The site is large enough to provide flexibility in the micro-siting process.

Eminent Domain. The applicant **does not** have the power of eminent domain to acquire land or wind rights for the project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the applicant.

Commission Review Process. Two separate Commission approvals are required to build an LWECS larger than 50 megawatts (MW). A project developer must obtain a certificate of need (CN) under Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243 and a site permit under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F.

The applicant filed its CN application on September 2, 2009, and its site permit application on November 4, 2009. The Commission accepted both applications as complete on December 3, 2009, and December 21, 2009, respectively. The applications are available on the Commission's website and from the applicant's representative listed below.

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

After completion of the ER, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the CN application, presided over by an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under Minnesota law, the CN proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the

size, type, and timing of a new electrical generating facility can be considered. These items will not be addressed in the site permit process. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the OES project mailing list.

In addition to the CN, a site permit for a LWECs under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F is required from the Commission before the project can be constructed. The process for reviewing site permit applications is outlined in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854. After a site permit application is accepted by the Commission, OES staff initiates this review process. The site permit application was made available for public review and comment until January 22, 2010. Following this comment period, the Commission, on March 9, 2010, issued a draft site permit for public review and comment. The Commission may hold a public hearing on the draft site permit in conjunction with the CN proceeding described above.

The Commission will make a final decision on both the CN and the site permit after it receives the record of the proceeding from the administrative law judge. If the project is approved, a CN and site permit are issued with any conditions the Commission considers necessary to protect the environment, enhance sustainable development, and promote the efficient use of resources.

Contested Case Hearing Request. Any person may request a contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the Lakefield Wind Project pursuant to Minnesota Rules part 7854.0900. Contested case hearing requests must be received during the public comment period. 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.

Project Contacts and Information. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project please contact:

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Persons interested in adding their names to the OES mailing list for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25684>.

Questions about the project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ms. Melissa Peterson, Landowner & Community Coordinator, Tel (612) 746-0770 ext. 333; MPeterson@enxco.com or by mail at: Lakefield Wind Project, LLC, 10 Second Street NE, Suite 107, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

The site permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25684> and on the eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 09-1239 for the site permit and 09-1046 for the CN).

Copies of the application are also available for review at the public library in Jackson, the Auditor's Office in Jackson County, the city offices in Jackson and Lakefield and with the clerks of Hunter, Des Moines, Belmont and Heron Lake townships.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-210-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

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