



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



ISSUED: JULY 2, 2010

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
AND  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

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

**Certificate of Need Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6701/CN-09-1046  
Site Permit Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6701/WS-09-1239**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the applications of Lakefield Wind Project, LLC (applicant), for a certificate of need and site permit for the proposed Lakefield 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 following time and location:

**HEARING DATE AND LOCATION**

<b>July 19, 2010</b>	<b>6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lakefield Multipurpose Center 112 Main Street Lakefield, Minnesota 56150</b>
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**Administrative Law Judge.** Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Richard Luis 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 site can do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Luis: Richard Luis, Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620; (fax) 651-361-7936; e-mail: [richard.luis@state.mn.us](mailto:richard.luis@state.mn.us).

**Written Comments.** Written comments should be submitted to Judge Luis 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.

**Environmental Report.** The Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting, has completed and issued an environmental report for the proposed Lakefield 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 March 9, 2010, the Commission issued an order approving a draft site permit for distribution and public comment.

**Purpose and Conduct of the Hearing.** The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input on or 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, environmental report, and issues related to the proposed siting of the project. 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 Luis 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).

**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 with a rotor diameter of 77 meters (252 feet), 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), two permanent meteorological towers, and an operations and maintenance building located near the project substation.

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.

#### **Eminent Domain for Lakefield Wind Project, LLC**

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 both a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statute section 216B.243, to issue a certificate of need for a large energy facility if the applicant can prove 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 authorized by Minnesota Statutes, sections 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 project 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 216F.05 (3), to hold public meetings and hearings on such applications.

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

Bret Eknes  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,  
121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147,  
(651) 201-2236  
[bret.eknes@state.mn.us](mailto:bret.eknes@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 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 296-5089  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)

Ingrid Bjorklund, Public Advisor  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 297-7039  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us](mailto:ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us)

A copy of the certificate of need application can be found on the eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year “09” and the number “1046”). The LWECs site permit application and draft site permit can be found on the eDockets website (enter the year “09” and the number “1239”).

Copies of 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=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](mailto:MPeterson@enxco.com) or by mail at: Lakefield Wind Project, LLC, 10 Second Street NE, Suite 107, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

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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