



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
SCOPING DECISION**

Issued: June 4, 2010

**In the Matter of Lakefield Wind Project, LLC,
Application for a Certificate of Need
for the 205.5 MW Lakefield Wind Project**

Docket No. IP-6829/CN-09-1046

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Director of the Office of Energy Security (OES) has issued the Environmental Report Scoping Decision for the Lakefield Wind Project Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) proposed for Jackson County. The Environmental Report is being prepared for the Certificate of Need proceeding and will address potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed LWECS and project alternatives. Copies of the Environmental Report Scoping Decision and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25684>

Additional Certificate of Need documents can be obtained from the Department of Commerce's eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> by searching for **year:** 09 and **number:** 1046.

Paper copies may be requested from the Office of Energy Security staff listed at the end of this notice.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Lakefield Wind Project, LLC, proposes a 205.5 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) using up to 137 General Electric (GE) 1.5 MW wind turbine generators, with a hub height of 262.5 feet (80 meters) and a rotor diameter of 252 feet (77 meters). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project will include gravel access roads, two permanent meteorological towers, an electrical collection system, and junction boxes delivering power to the proposed project substation and a short 345 kV transmission (less than 1,500 feet) connecting the project substation to the Lakefield Junction Substation. There will also be an operations and maintenance building.

The Project site is located in Heron Lake, Belmont, Des Moines and Hunter townships about six miles west of Jackson, MN. Lakefield Wind has over 19,780 acres under easement agreement within the proposed 28,622 acre project area.

Assuming representative buffer setbacks based on rotor diameters (RD) and distances of 1,000 feet or more from the homes of participating and nonparticipating landowners setback, and other setback requirements, the wind easements under Lakefield Wind's site control should be sufficiently large enough to provide Lakefield Wind with some flexibility in the micro-siting process.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW PROCESS

The project is a "large energy facility" as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 216B.2421, subdivision 2(1), and a Certificate of Need from the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is required for such a project under Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243. On September 2, 2009, Lakefield Wind Project, LLC, filed a Certificate of Need application for the Lakefield Wind Project. On December 3, 2009, the Commission issued an order accepting the application as substantially complete.

A public hearing on the Certificate of Need will be held shortly after the OES completes preparation of the Environmental Report. Under Minnesota law, the Certificate of Need proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility can be considered. These items will not be addressed in the Site Permit process.

SCHEDULE

The Environmental Report is scheduled to be completed in June 2010.

PROJECT CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact Larry Hartman (651-296-5089 or larry.hartman@state.mn.us) Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the Department of Commerce.