



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



ISSUED: JUNE 9, 2010

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

In the Matter of the Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC, Applications for a Certificate of Need and Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the Pleasant Valley Wind Project in Dodge and Mower Counties.

**Certificate of Need Docket Number: IP-6828/CN-09-937
Site Permit Docket Number: IP-6828/WS-09-1197**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the applications of Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC (Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. (RES Americas), for a certificate of need and site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project (Project). The hearing will address: (a) whether the proposed project is needed and in the public interest, and (b) issues related to the proposed siting of the project. The hearing will be held at the following time and location:

**Thursday, July 1, 2010
6:30 p.m.**
Austin High School Cafeteria
301 3rd Street Northwest
Austin, Minnesota 55912

Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Manuel J. Cervantes 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 Cervantes: Manuel Cervantes, Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620; (fax) 651-361-7936.

Written Comments. Written comments should be submitted to Judge Cervantes at the address listed above. Comments will be accepted through **July 16, 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 Pleasant Valley 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. The Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting, prepared a draft site permit for consideration by the Commission. On April 23, 2010, the Commission issued an order approving the 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 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 written comment period, Judge Cervantes 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

Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC, proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 300 MW using between 130 and 200 utility scale wind turbine generators, depending on what turbines are ultimately selected. Turbines between 1.5 MW and 2.3 MW in nameplate capacity are under consideration and a rotor diameter of 82.5 meters (270 feet) and 101 meters (331 feet), respectively. Each turbine model has a hub height of 80 meters (262 feet). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, six temporary and two permanent meteorological towers, electrical collection system, three substations, and three transmission lines. The Applicant expects to begin commercial operation in December 2012.

Proposed Site Location

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 70,000 acres located in southern Dodge and northern Mower counties in Hayfield and Vernon townships of Dodge County and Waltham, Sargeant, Pleasant Valley, Red Rock, and Dexter townships of Mower County. The Project area is located six miles northeast of the city of Austin and approximately 15 miles west of Rochester. Approximately 52,000 acres within the Project area are under the Applicant’s control via wind easements.

Eminent Domain for Pleasant Valley Wind, 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, subdivision 2, 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 section 216E.02 to designate sites and issue site permits for certain projects. 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 sections 216B.243, subdivision 4, and 216F.05, subdivision 3, to hold public meetings and hearings on such applications.

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 Cervantes in writing by 4:30 p.m. on July 16, 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. Upon completion of the public participation and hearing process, the record created will be presented to the Commission for final decisions on the 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.

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

Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 297-7039
Fax: 651-297-7891
ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us

Larry Hartman, Public Advisor
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

A copy of the certificate of need application can be found on the Commission's eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "09" and the number "937"). The LWECS site permit application and draft site permit can be found on the eDockets website (enter the year "09" and the number "1197").

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=25724>

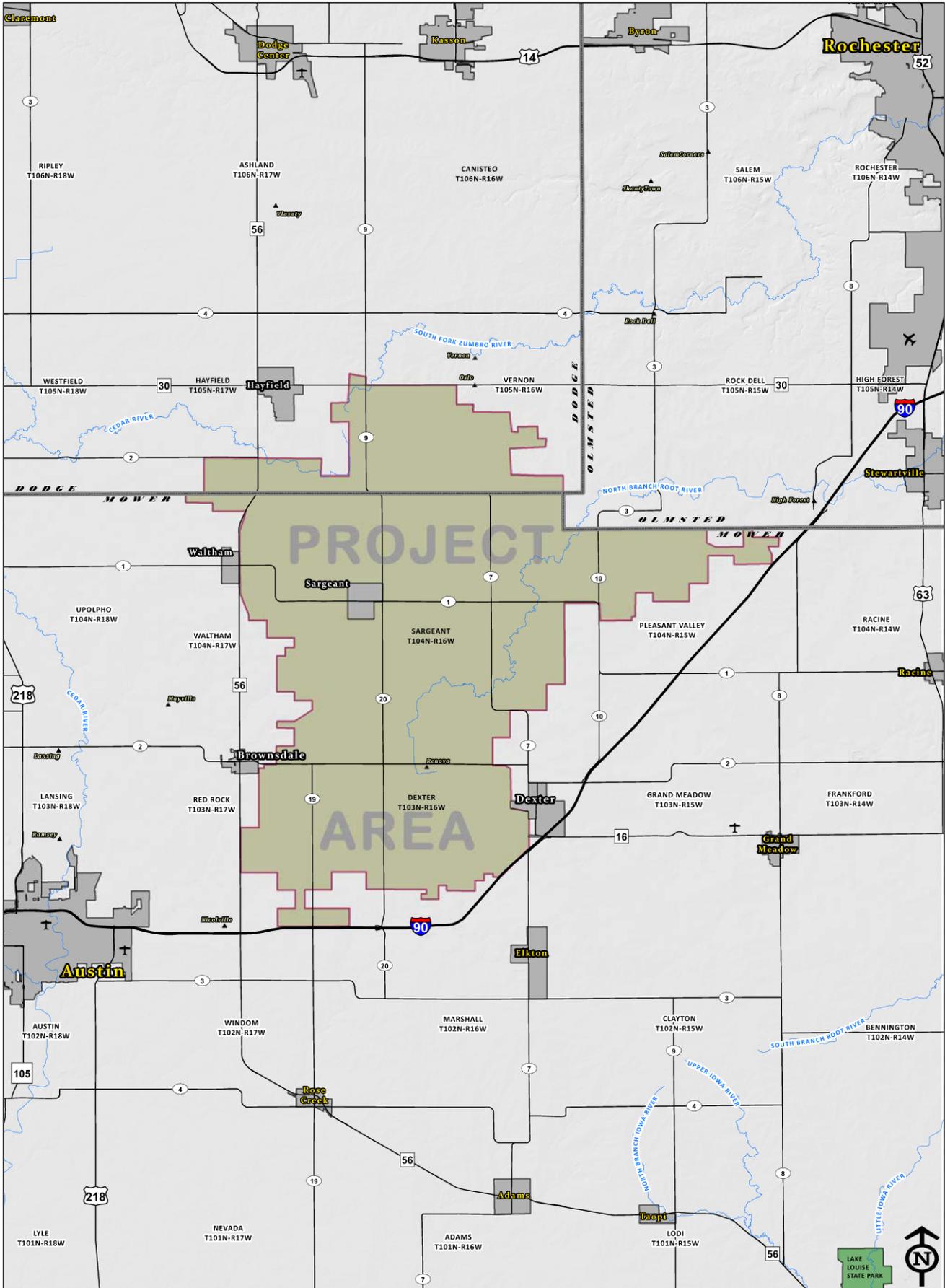
Copies of the site permit and certificate of need applications are also available for review at the: Auditor's Offices in Dodge and Mower counties; City Offices in Sargeant, Hayfield, Waltham, Brownsdale, and Dexter; Township Clerks of Hayfield, Vernon, Waltham, Sargeant, Pleasant Valley, Red Rock, Dexter, and Rock Dell; and the Grand Meadow Library in Mower County and the Dodge Center Public Library in Dodge County.

Questions about the Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC, LWECS Site Permit Application can also be directed to the applicants by contacting:

Joseph Grennan
Permitting Director
Renewable Energy Systems Americas, Inc.
11101 W. 120th Ave., Suite 400
Broomfield, CO 80021
(303) 439-4281
joe.grennan@res-americas.com.

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).

Project Boundary Map



PLEASANT VALLEY WIND, LLC PROJECT AREA

