

OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY  
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING COMMENT AND SCOPING FORM

PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT  
PUC Docket Nos. IP6828/WS-09-1197 (Site Permit),  
IP6828/CN-09-937 (Certificate of Need)

Name: Dave + Marcia Allen  
Address: 64364 250 St.  
City: Dexter State: MN ZIP: 55926

Please share your comments on the potential impacts and mitigation measures to be considered in the scoping document and environmental report and/or issues to be considered in developing the draft site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

Turn this form in at the meeting or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Ingrid Bjorklund, Project Manager at: [Ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us](mailto:Ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us) with one of the docket numbers (listed above) in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., March 15, 2010.

- \*What impacts does the wind turbine have on animals, we have 2 dogs + canines have very sharp hearing, how will the noise affect them and our other animals? My daughter rides horses, will it be spooked from the light flicker, therefore endangering her?
- \*What is the evidence that the light flicker + night red strobe lights does not affect people with attention deficit or epilepsy. Have there been enough research on the health effects related to wind turbines? If so, where do I find the studies which have been done.
- \*We live on a gravel road, will extra chloride be put down prior to the construction of the wind turbines due to the extra travel of semi's, and work crew. Will RES pay?
- \*Since this is called a wind "Farm", our 7 acres lie within it, no one asked us if we wanted to be part of it, they only asked the people with many acres, we had no choice + feel discriminated against because the landowners around us were offered compensation but

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

we will be the ones looking out our front door directly at 4 of them close-up and we get what in return. What's our benefit? And don't say ↓ taxes. Marcia Allen + Dil B. Allen 3/8/10

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PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT  
PUC Docket Nos. IP6828/WS-09-1197 (Site Permit),  
IP6828/CN-09-937 (Certificate of Need)

Name: Laska Bungum  
Address: 28564 650th Ave  
City: Sargeant State: MN ZIP: 55973

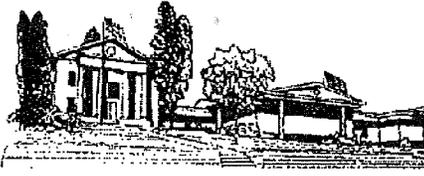
Please share your comments on the potential impacts and mitigation measures to be considered in the scoping document and environmental report and/or issues to be considered in developing the draft site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

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I have several concerns on this project first our property values. I feel the studies you are using are not adagut and at the meeting should have just stated that you do not have correct study done. Second the set backs need to be further. That maps that were given were practically unreadable for people that live here and still have problems reading them they should be better. I felt the answers at the meeting by Larry were not presented in a professional maner. Several of the people thought that he worked for the company R.E.S. This project at this time has no way to move the electricity to the needed area. So my feeling there is no need for this project until there is proper lines ~~are~~ in stalled for the electricity to get to the needed areas. We have horses in pasture within the set back area you are going to promise me they will not effect them one bit. My night sky is allready been effected to the East by windmill Red lights now they will be all around me what do I get for my troubles?

Signature: Laska Bungum Date: 3-9-10

p.s. My R.E.S. CD did NOT work on any program.



Dodge County Courthouse

## DODGE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

22 6TH ST EAST • DEPT 123 • MANTORVILLE MN 55955-2240

507-635-6272 • FAX 507-635-6193

March 4th, 2010

Ms. Ingrid Bjorklund, Project Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Ms. Bjorklund:

RE: Dodge County Comments  
Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC Application of LWECS Site Permit  
MPUC Docket Number IP 6828/WS-09-1197  
Dated February 5th, 2010

Dodge County Environmental Services staff have reviewed the above referenced application and have the following comments and questions:

**Page 2, Section 1.6 (Siting Plan) – refers reader to site layout maps**

Two alternatives are proposed in this single application which involve two different layouts and two different wind turbines

Based upon review of Map 2 "GE Project Site Map", three GE Turbines 200 approximately ½ mile north of the Dodge/Mower line in Section 31 of Vernon Township. The map shows residential receivers and identifies a 1500 foot buffer identified around each turbine.

Map 3 "Siemens Project Site Map" shows two Siemens Turbines 130 immediately north of the Dodge/Mower Road in Sections 34 and 35 of Hayfield Township. This map also shows residential receivers and the 1500 foot buffer.

However, based upon review of Map 1 (Project Area) and the above two layout maps, it appears that there is a significant area of land leased which is not currently proposed for turbines. Is this area proposed for future turbines? Does the application under review accurately reflect all phases of the project and any future development proposed for this area?



**Page 6, Section 3.2 (State Policy) [See also Page 8, Section 4.2 (Wind Rights)]** states "*Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC achieved site control through easement agreements with property owners in the Project area and currently has easement providing site control of 99 percent of the land required for all turbines and project infrastructure.*" As Pleasant Valley Wind does not have eminent domain authority, how is it allowed to propose turbines and infrastructure on the 1% of land that is not currently under its control? How does this affect the project as proposed?

**Page 14, Section 5.1.1 (General Layout and Setback Consideration)** It states "*Turbines will be no closer than 250 feet from the edge of road right-of-ways (ROW) to the center of the tower; however, for the purposes of preparing the Project layout Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC employed a more stringent setback of approximately 1.5 times the tip height from the road centerline. This distance is 596 feet for GE XLE turbine and 642 feet for the Siemens 2.3/101m turbine. During the final field siting, turbine strings may be relocated closer to the roads to reduce construction costs, but in no case will a turbine be sited closer than 250 feet from the edge of the ROW. All turbines will comply with roadway setback when erected.*"

Does the analysis of impacts (noise, shadow, etc) to adjacent properties presented in this application represent the "worse case" scenario? Which is the "worst case" scenario? 596 (GE) and 642 (Siemens) to the ROW or 250 feet to the ROW? What analysis of impacts is presented in this application?

Paragraph three four of this same section states "*In most cases, the Applicant proposes a 1,500 foot residential setback; however, to create a more compact Project Layout the Applicant will consider moving turbines closer to consenting landowners' home to compact the layout. A minimum of 305 meter (1,000 ft) setback to inhabited structures will be maintained to assure that the State sound standards are not exceeded.*"

Again, does the analysis given for all impacts in the application apply to impacts of the turbines located at 1,500 feet or 1,000 feet from residences? If it is for impacts at 1,500 feet, is the analysis still valid if setbacks are reduced to 1,000 feet? Will the PUC require new information if the applicant reduces the setbacks to 1,000 feet from residences.

**Page 15, Section 5.2.3 (Foundation)** The application indicates that 300-400 cubic yard of structural concrete is used for a spread footing and 250-300 cubic yards is used for pier foundations. What does the applicant intend to do with the excavated material prior to pouring the foundation. Where does the applicant plan on storing the topsoil and excavated subsoils?

**Page 17, Section 5.3 (Description of Electrical System)** It states "*Each turbine will have a step-up transformer to raise the voltage to the 34.5 kV distribution line.*" While the turbines are exempt from local zoning permits, the 34.5 kV distribution line is considered an "Essential Service" subject to a Conditional Use Permit under the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance. Dodge County has minimum standards for installation of essential services and performance standards for the use.

**Page 20, Section 5.4.2 (Meteorological Towers)** If the proposed met towers are located within Dodge County, they will require a Conditional Use Permit under the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance.

**Page 21, Section 6.2 (Socioeconomics)**  
Does the analysis account for recent

**Page 30, Section 6.3.2 (Noise Impacts)**

It states *"The findings from this analysis indicate that the minimum distance where the Minnesota State noise standard of nighttime  $L_p = 50/50$  dBA would be exceeded for a single isolated wind turbine is 656 feet (200 meters) for the GE and 1,049 feet (320 meters) for the Siemens.*

*The typical proposed setback of 1,500 feet (460 m) from occupied residences will ensure that cumulative noise levels resulting from multiple turbines and noise drift resulting from wind will not exceed the regulatory limit at any residence."*

Earlier in this application, the applicant indicates that the 1,500 foot setback may be reduced to 1,000 feet to make a more compact project. How does the analysis of the noise from the single turbine translate into multiple turbines? The statement indicates that the "cumulative noise levels resulting from multiple turbines and noise drift resulting from wind will not exceed the regulatory limit at any residence." What are the cumulative noise impacts in dBA and will (or how often will) the noise standards be exceeded? Also, Minnesota Rules does not specifically indicate that the noise standard has to be met at a residential receiver, but could be any area outside where the family spends time.

*"Cumulative noise impacts resulting from turbine strings were analyzed for the project layout. This analysis concluded that noise levels did not exceed 50 dBA at any inhabited structures located in the Project area for either the GE 1.5 XLE layout or the SWT 2.3/101."*

Where is the analysis for the cumulative noise impacts? Was the analysis done assuming a 1,500 foot setback or the 1,000 foot setback? What are the impacts in dBA for both?

The results in the table indicate for a single isolated wind turbine the dB for the GE is 104 and the Siemens is 108 (plus or minus 2 dBA). This sound level correlates approximately to that generated by a jackhammer, pneumatic chipper or chain saw. This exceeds a majority "common noise sources and sound levels on the farm" listed in the Table 6.3.1 on Page 28. What is the predicted dBA for multiple turbines?

Page 31, Under **130 Siemens SWT-2.3-101** it states that this turbine *"uses the latest advances in the fields of aerodynamics and structural dynamics to reduce noise."* What specifically are these advances and how do they reduce noise?

**Page 31, Section 3.4.1 (Description of Resource – under Visual Resources)**

It states, *"The Project area is recognized as open space, but northern Dodge and southern Mower Counties are not renowned or recognized for scenic vistas, commanding views, or natural landscapes. The fertile ground and productive farms have a visual appeal to crop producers, but have little appeal to naturalists or those interested in scenic vistas, artistic or cultural resources. The recent development of a LWECs in the areas to the south, have recently attracted tourists interested in viewing the new wind turbines."*

The proposed project area is located in southern Dodge and northern Mower counties. The analysis of visual appeal is subjective offers a biased opinion on what is considered scenic or desirable. It would also be beneficial to obtain the opinions of the landowners that live in these areas rather than the tourists that come to visit on a limited basis.

The statement that *"The proposed 80m (262 ft) towers with 77 m (252 ft) to 101 m (331 ft) rotor blades will compliment the visual landscape."* is also a biased opinion.

**Page 32, Section 6.4.2 (Impacts – under Visual Resources)**

In the third paragraph of this section, it states *"Within the Project Area turbine setbacks of over 1,500 feet are proposed from occupied structure minimizing shadow flicker."*

What specifically are the impacts predicted from shadow flicker? Which residences are impacted? For how many hours a day are they impacted? How does this change from season to season? Is the analysis for flicker performed for the 1,500 foot setback or the 1,000 foot setback and how does this change the impacts?

Later in the same paragraph it states *"Because there are no important scenic vistas or important landscape features in the agricultural area unique view sheds will not be impacted."*

See previous comments on the subjective nature of this analysis in above section.

**Page 34, Section 6.5.2(Impacts – Public Services, Infrastructure and Traffic- Roads and Transportation Systems)**

Without the specific location of the haul routes, Dodge County cannot adequately address concerns that may arise due to the road upgrades, bridge/culvert replacement and increasing of turning radii or make comments on mitigation.

**Page 35, (Impacts to Telecommunication Facilities and Microwave Beam Paths)**

This section indicates there is no radio, television or cellular communication transmission or relay towers within the Project Area.

**Page 48, Section 6.8.1 (Description of Resource under Public Health and Safety)**

Based upon review of literature, Minnesota State Transmission Line EMF Standards limits the Electric Field on the ROW to 8 kV/m. There are no Magnetic Field standards. What is the total EF on the edge of the ROW including any current essential service lines located within the proposed transmission corridors?

**Page 55, Section 6.10.2 (Impacts)**

Paragraph 2 addresses "temporary land conversion" for land preparation and construction activities and indicates that the "temporary impacts will be restored to crop production". During what time of the year is preparation and construction proposed to take place? Is it during the growing season? How long is considered to be "temporary"?

**Page 58, Section 6.11.2 (Impacts – Tourism and Community Benefits)**

It states *"The local and surrounding community will benefit from an economic stand point by an increase in revenues and jobs from the development of this Project."*

No information or analysis is provided on what the economics benefits of tourism or the local individual communities will be and whether they are short term or long term.

**Page 63, Section 6.16.2 (Impacts – Wetlands)**

It states *" A review of National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps indicates minimal wetland impacts are expected within the Project area, as shown in Map 19 "Protected Waters and Existing Wetland Boundaries.""*

Wetlands are identified in the Project Area in Dodge County. No specific information is given on the type(s) of wetland or the amount of acres expected to be impacted. Dodge County administers the Wetland Conservation Act and any proposed impacts to wetland would be subject to WCA. Additional information on impacts is required before the county can comment on the impacts or any proposed mitigation.

**Page 67, Section 6.18.2 (Impacts – Wildlife)**

Impacts to bats and avian impacts are to be determined. No information is given on which to base comments.

However it indicates in **Section 6.18.3 (Mitigation Measures)** that *"Impacts to these habitats are minimal resulting in no necessary mitigative measures."* How is the applicant able to draw the conclusion that no mitigation is need when based upon the information in **Section 6.18.2 (Impacts – Wildlife)** the impacts are yet to be determined?

**Page 75, Section 7.2.2 (Site Preparation and Road Construction)**

Paragraph three states *"Site grading will require the use of dozers, backhoes, trucks and other similar equipment."* Is the project predicted to comply with Minnesota Noise standards during the construction phase of the project? How long is the construction phase of the project? How many hours per day or days per week does construction take place?

The presence of the large equipment will cause soil compaction of agricultural land and possible crushing of tile. How will the applicant assure that the soil is not compacted? If tile is crushed or damaged, impacts may not be able to be observed immediately. How will the applicant deal with tile issues that may become evident after construction occurs?

**Page 76, Section 7.2.3 (Foundation Construction)**

See comments above regarding noise during construction and compaction.

**Page 76, Section 7.2.4 (Electrical Collection System Construction)**

Paragraph one indicates "Unless limited by the terrain or leasing agreements, the collection of cables will be located along the backside of the turbines which will require clearing of a 40 foot right-of-way for trenching and installation." Is this ROW area included in the analysis of the "Temporary" and "Permanent" impacts on Page 56?

**Page 78, Section 7.2.8 (Project) Construction Clean-up**

Paragraph two states *"Disposal of all construction wastes will be off-site. Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. or the subcontractors will contract with a licensed waste hauler for the transportation and disposal of all excess materials. Recycling will be conducted when possible"* If RES hauls their own solid waste, it is required that the waste is delivered to the Dodge County Transfer Station in accordance with the Solid Waste Designation Ordinance. If they contract with a licensed hauler is required to deliver it to the Transfer Station. In addition, under the Dodge County Solid Waste #4, it is a violation to throw recyclable materials in with mixed waste.

**Page 78, Section 8.1 (Project Control, Management, and Service**

Paragraph one states *"The other equipment operation and maintenance is the responsibility of the Owner."* Who is the "Owner"? Does this apply to the project owner or the landowner?

**Page 81, Section 10.5 (Financing)**

*"The Applicant will be responsible for all pre-development, development and construction activities, as well as permanent financing form the Project."* Does "permanent financing" include operation, maintenance, decommissioning and restoration activities?

This paragraph also states *"The financing plan also anticipates sale of 50 percent of the Project to another party upon the Project achieving commercial operation."* Is there another party currently identified? Does the applicant have the resources to finance the total project in the event a sale does not happen? If 50 percent of the project is sold, who is responsible for financial assurance for operation, maintenance, decommissioning and restoration activities?

**Page 81, Section 11 (Energy Projections)**

Based upon review of the nameplate capacity, energy output and net capacity factor, the two turbines are almost identical. However, the number of turbines required between the two scenarios as well as the temporary and permanent land conversion is significantly different (130 turbines vs. 200 turbines). Why is the applicant proposing these two scenarios? What is the cost of development under each scenario? What will be the deciding factor on which layout is selected?

**Page 83, Section 12.1 (Decommissioning Economics and Financial Surety)**

Considering the volatility of the scrap market, the amount of funds that may be available for decommissioning are very unreliable. Similar operations in Minnesota and North Dakota have done an analysis which provided an estimate for decommissioning of the various aspects of the project, which covers everything from to removal of the access

roads to final restoration of the land. Paragraph 2 of this section, which is on page 83 states *"To provide the financial securities and establish a decommissioning fund in an amount up to \$25,000 in cash or as a letter of credit per wind turbine generator and will be placed in escrow to the benefit of the landowners."* This wording regarding the escrow appears to imply that the landowner is responsible for decommissioning. Who is financially responsible for the decommissioning of the project? What happens when 50% of the project is sold as is referenced in their financing plan? An analysis should be done on this site as it would be useful in determining if the proposed \$25,000 fund is adequate. A letter of credit will not ensure that the site gets decommissioned.

After that, it indicates *"The applicant will establish this decommissioning security when it has paid 75 percent of the original principal amount of its initial financing for the Project."* Is this 75% of the estimated cost of 600 million dollars?

It also states *"The Applicant will review and update the cost estimate of decommissioning and restoration for the Project in December 2020, 15 years after the Project commissioning."* Based upon review of the document, the project is expected to be in commission in December of 2012. Does the above December 2020 date still apply?

### **Page 86, Section 13 (Identification of Required Permits and Approvals)**

The 34.5 kV lines extending from the turbines would require a CUP under the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance. Dodge County Administers the Wetland Conservation Act and any impacts to wetland would be subject to approval. As the project is permitted by the state, no CUP or Zoning Permit is required for the towers located in Dodge County. Based upon the application, no buildings, substations, transmission lines or septic system are proposed for this project in Dodge County.

#### **Other Comments:**

The current boundary of the City of Hayfield is located one mile north and one mile west of the Project Boundary. No turbines are currently proposed in this location, however the land is currently under lease. Any future phases of this project should require a new application and review.

To summarize some key points: No final site plan or turbine type is selected, no final setbacks from the ROW or residences are given. It doesn't indicate whether the analysis for noise and shadow are for the "worst case" scenario or even what the specific results of the noise and shadow analysis are. Haul roads and routes are not identified or are the areas where bridge/culvert replacement or turning radius modifications are proposed. Environmental, wildlife and resource impacts are yet "to be determined", although the application assures that the impacts will be "mitigated" or that "no mitigation is needed". The application indicates a positive Socioeconomic benefit, but does not give any specific information as to where or how much benefit is expected, aside from the estimate or production tax. The document is full of statements which indicate the project is predicted to be in compliance with standards, but with very little or no technical information or analysis to support them.

**Overall, the application as submitted offers very little useful information for evaluating the impacts of the project or developing meaningful comments.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. Dodge County would again like the opportunity to comment on the Project when the application is *complete*. The comments in this letter address specifically the concerns of the Dodge County Environmental Services Department. The Dodge County Highway Department and the affected townships may contact you also with their questions, comments and concerns. If you have questions regarding this information, please contact this office at (507) 635-6283.

Sincerely,



Melissa DeVetter  
Dodge County Zoning Administrator

Cc: Mark Gamm, Environmental Services  
County Administrator, Jim Elmquist  
County Commissioners  
Dodge County Hwy Engineer, Guy Kohlhofer  
Hayfield Township, Harry Roberts  
Vernon Township, Judy McGowan

## **Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)**

---

**From:** Ed and Linda Emerick [elemerick@frontiernet.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 13, 2010 8:31 PM  
**To:** Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)  
**Subject:** Pleasant Valley Wind Project

Ingrid,

I attended the public informational meeting on February 22 at Dexter concerning the Pleasant Valley Wind Project. I want to let you and your office know that my wife, myself and my mother are all in favor of the project, We know that we need to harvest the wind for the purpose of making power. We can't keep buying oil and natural gas from the middle east to power our homes and businesses. We need to produce as much power as we can from the natural resources that God has given us. The wind blows and we need to use it to benefit ourselves, our children, our grand-children etc.

I drive by the current wind farm North of Dexter at least 5 days a week and I enjoy looking at the generators. My wife and I wish we were getting one on our farm, but that is not in the plans. I hope that this project gets permitted and construction will start yet in 2010.

Thank you,

Ed & Linda Emerick  
Mary Emerick  
30422 600th Ave.  
Waltham, MN 55982  
507-421-3816

City of Austin  
500 Fourth Avenue N.E.  
Austin, Minnesota 55912-3773



**Jon W. Erichson**  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer  
507-437-9950 Fax 507-437-7101

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Ingrid Bjorklund  
MN Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Dear Ms. Bjorkland:

Attached is the request for review of the impacts on the Austin Municipal Airport associated with the Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

Pleasant Valley Wind Project  
PUC Docket Nos.: IP6828/WS-09-1197  
IP6828/CN-09-937

Thank you for the opportunity to request this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon W. Erichson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jon W. Erichson, P.E.  
City Engineer

Enclosure  
JWE/ct



OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY  
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING COMMENT AND SCOPING FORM

PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT  
PUC Docket Nos. IP6828/WS-09-1197 (Site Permit),  
IP6828/CN-09-937 (Certificate of Need)

Name: Austin Municipal Airport (Jon Erickson)  
Address: 500 4th Ave N.E  
City: Austin State: MN ZIP: 55912

Please share your comments on the potential impacts and mitigation measures to be considered in the scoping document and environmental report and/or issues to be considered in developing the draft site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

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The City of Austin requests that impacts to the Austin Municipal Airport be considered in the scoping document and environmental report for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

Signature: Jon W. Erickson Date: 2-22-10

**Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)**

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**From:** Kathy Gaster [kathygaster@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 14, 2010 10:05 PM

**To:** Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)

**Cc:** Hartman, Larry (COMM)

**Subject:** Wind Energy

Dear Ingrid and Larry,

I am writing about my concerns. I have vertigo. When I drive through a city, if there is a sunny spot, then shade from a tree, then sunny, then shade from a tree and this continues this makes me sick to my stomach. So I know the flickering of the wind turbines will make me sick, also. I do have tinitis, too. I already have wind turbines by me. The noise is more than a little hum. They are very loud now. So if 130 - 200 more are added it will be very loud here.

I hope the State would consider all of our concerns and not rush into this project.

Thank you, Kathleen Gaster

66291 265th St Dexter, Mn 55926 507-584-6464

**Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)**

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**From:** Chris Goddard [ckgoddard21@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2010 8:09 PM  
**To:** Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)  
**Subject:** PUC Docket Nos. IP6828/WS-09-1197 Site Permit, IP6828/CN-09-937 Certificate of Need Pleasant Valley Wind Project

Ms. Bjorklund,

I would like to comment on the above subject project on issues that I feel need to be adequately addressed prior to moving forward with this project:

1. Declining property values - this item was brought up at the public information and scoping meeting on February 23, 2010. This was the only subject that "Larry" (or anyone else for that matter) did not try to issue a response to those that questioned what this project would do to value of properties in the area of this proposed project. I feel this needs to be explored in depth as there are already a substantial amount of wind turbines located Mower/Dodge counties and there has to be some information available as to how homes in the existing areas that wind turbines have been erected have impacted the sale of homes surrounding sites with these wind turbines on them. In addition, the information included in the Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC LWECS Site Permit Application (pages 22 & 25) indicated according to 2000 U.S. Census reports the median housing values in both Dodge & Mower County are already less than the state averages - Dodge County \$22,500 less and Mower County \$51,000 less.

2. Certificate of Need - It is my understanding that the end recipient of the energy generated from the turbines from this proposed project have not yet been designated. It is also my understanding that the MN legislature has passed law that renewable energy is "needed" in Minnesota so this may addresses the "need" for this project. I have to question this because if the ultimate end recipient is not going to benefit a community or area in Minnesota how does this prove a "Certificate of Need" for Minnesota.

I believe renewable energy is needed in Minnesota but only to the extent that it will be generated for and remain within Minnesota. I do however have to question this project because I feel Mower & Dodge County already have a large amount of existing turbines for the area and according to the information included in the Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC LWECS Site Permit Application the population in the rural townships of Mower County are already experiencing declining populations (page 24). More turbines in Mower County may increase the rate of declining population.

The applicant is also stating jobs will be created. This may be true but the majority of the jobs will only be temporary based on the construction period and will most likely not directly have an impact for the truly rural communities in Dodge & Mower County because of the existing lack of restaurants, motels, grocery stores, etc. that may typically be expected to benefit from a large construction project due to the additional traffic generated through the communities during the construction. If local contractors are not used, employees will have to travel to larger communities to obtain lodging & meals therefore not a "true" benefit to the smaller rural communities that don't have this to offer.

Ultimately my objection to this project is that I feel Dodge & Mower County already have a substantial amount of wind turbines - especially Mower County and at what point is enough - enough? The sky is already "peppered" with turbines in Mower County so to see more appear especially from a project of this magnitude is too much! Mower County is already a county of lower median incomes, elderly & minority population, and declining population so to see more

2/26/2010

turbines being allowed to be constructed in this area will eventually have a negative impact on the area. This impact may not be felt right away but will eventually take a toll of the viability of "rural" Minnesota as a whole.

Thank you in advance for addressing my comments.

Christine Goddard  
(507) 440-1844

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PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT  
PUC Docket Nos. IP6828/WS-09-1197 (Site Permit),  
IP6828/CN-09-937 (Certificate of Need)

Name: RANDALL GRONSETH  
Address: 23185 Ddg/MW, RD  
City: SARGEANT State: MN ZIP: 55973

Please share your comments on the potential impacts and mitigation measures to be considered in the scoping document and environmental report and/or issues to be considered in developing the draft site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

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Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., March 15, 2010.

I live in Sargeant Township. My father James Gronseth lives on 680<sup>TH</sup> Ave. where the transmission <sup>lines</sup> are going. We feel we have been very cooperative with this project.

The straw that is breaking the camel's back is the line that is going to the Byron substation from Pleasant Valley. With R.E.S., Excel, F/NEC it totals up to over 300 K.V. going past ~~my~~ my father's house and other neighbors on that ave. I know contracts have been signed. But I question if all companies are really working together and are the people on 680<sup>TH</sup> being fairly ~~compensated~~ compensated.

Thank you,  
Randall J. Gronseth

Signature: Randall J. Gronseth Date: 3-11-10

OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY  
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING COMMENT AND SCOPING FORM

PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT  
PUC Docket Nos. IP6828/WS-09-1197 (Site Permit),  
IP6828/CN-09-937 (Certificate of Need)

Name: Glenn Hahn  
Address: 24402 Dodge Manor Rd  
City: Sargeant State: Mn ZIP: 55993

Please share your comments on the potential impacts and mitigation measures to be considered in the scoping document and environmental report and/or issues to be considered in developing the draft site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project.

Turn this form in at the meeting or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Ingrid Bjorklund, Project Manager at: [Ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us](mailto:Ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us) with one of the docket numbers (listed above) in the subject line. **Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., March 15, 2010.**

Tile, field drainage systems - the contracts assure us that the heavy equipment will be allowed only on the access roads. However, the project just to the south of ours had the same assurances. But when push comes shove - the crane operators drove where ever they damn well pleased! This spring there were a number of farms that had significant damage - Who pays beside the farmers ??

Signature: Glenn Hahn Date: 2-27-2010

## Brownsdale Wind, LLC

March 5, 2010

Dr. Burl Haar  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place E., Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Docket Number: IP-6828/WS-09-1197

Dear Dr Haar,

The Brownsdale Wind LLC wind project has observed that the Project Boundary Map submitted by Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC (PUC Docket Number: IP-6828/WS-09-1197) in their permit Application includes within their identified project boundary land that is within the project boundaries of our proposed wind project.

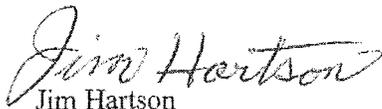
The Brownsdale Wind LLC wind project is located in Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, & 27 of Waltham TWP, and Sections 19 & 30 of Sargeant TWP, Mower County, about 2 miles northeast of Brownsdale, Minnesota. Land lease options for the placement of turbines, including access roads, have been scouted and signed with all of the landowners for eventual long term land lease procurement.

Please see the attached map that identifies the Brownsdale Wind LLC project area.

Since we have signed lease options with the landowners of the parcels as identified, we request that the Public Utilities Commission exclude these parcels from consideration as potential turbine sites in this facility siting permit application process.

The Commission should require Pleasant Valley wind LLC group to revise and resubmit their Project Boundary Map for their Project showing our identified lease option areas as excluded from their project scope. We would like the chance to review the Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC updated project boundary map before any further action is taken regarding this permit application. For more information about this request please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Thank you.



Jim Hartson  
(507) 567-2293  
59931 300th St.  
Waltham, MN 55982  
[janelhartson@frontier.com](mailto:janelhartson@frontier.com)

# Brownsdale Wind, LLC

## Project Boundary

