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: Duane H Klocke

Address: 7890 160th Ave

City: Hayfield State: MN ZIP: 55940

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 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.**

Dear Ingrid.

Why and where were you people before the crooks come and sign up the old farmer first. They won't be living here the next 50 years. Please stop this project here and now, hasn't wind energy ditroy enough of the best agriculture land in the Midwest already. There a day coming when food wouldn't be as cheap as it is today, because all the best land has been ditroy. Why not put these project next to the Met. area? like twin city or on lake Superior lake Michigan next to Chicago put them right off shore Detroit I know the wind blow there I have felt it. And what about the east + west coast? thats where the power is really being used. We only have a small amount of productive land in this county we cannot afore to lose one more ac to this kind of distruction. Why is it always okay for there project to come to rural America but not —

Signature: Date:

P.S. Please look at set back 2000' min!
Make this project liveable. This will destroy rural America
there a very few jobs coming that bu[redacted]!

PLACE POSTAGE HERE

When I see a wind farm near a large Met area, or on the coast, east or west then I or lake Michigan then I be okay with one in rural Heyfield.

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

to Metro. America? I know the east coast protects the people, when year ago they want wind energy off shore — No No we don't want to look at that!

Fold Here

Well this is my life, and my good bad life. this is our lake home where we work and play we shouldn't have to look and listen to these ugly wind generator either, I know you don't want to look at them either. The only people getting rich here are the foreign investor and a few land owner but what about the rest of the people in the area? It's you didn't sign up or our land is in the right place you get [redacted]!

Fold Here

the set back are way to Close to peoples homes should be at least 2000' not 1000'. You have the power to get this stop now due it Take a stand for what is right don't go along Just because its already here. There are better way to get energy, solar on all home roof and nuclear is the cheaper way. Don't destroy one more acre of productive land for this project and destroy anymore lives this is our country too.

Thank You Duane Klaber

Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Technical Support
Utility Permits Unit
Mail Stop 678, 6th Floor
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

Office Tel: (651) 366-4635
Fax: (651) 366-4769

March 15, 2010

Larry Hartman
Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: Pleasant Valley Wind Project
PUC Docket No. IP6828/WS-09-1197

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has reviewed the Site Permit Application for the Pleasant Valley Wind Project. In response to the Notice of Application Acceptance, Public Information and Scoping Meeting issued by the Office of Energy Security (OES), Mn/DOT submits these comments regarding topics and impacts that should be addressed in the development of the Draft Site Permit and on the Scope of the Environmental Report that the OES will be preparing.

Mn/DOT appreciates the opportunity to comment and commends the applicants and OES for their communication efforts throughout this process. Depending on the site and alignments that are ultimately selected, there is a potential for impact to Mn/DOT interests in the vicinity of State Highways 56, 30 and I-90. The following are local Mn/DOT projects, comments and district concerns for the proposed project area.

HWY	Project #	Year	Description
TH 30	2004-20	2015	Bituminous mill and overlay from 6th Avenue NE (Hayfield) to north junction of TH 63
TH 56	2005-24	2010	Bituminous mill and overlay from south City limits of Brownsdale to 0.35 miles north Dodge CSAH 10 (Dodge Center)

There may be a reason to preserve additional land for public use in and around Rochester International Airport (RST) as this area may be a candidate for trail development and future Personal Rapid Transit (PRT). Please note that the RST is 15.83 miles from the center of the wind farm and the airport is less than half the distance from the eastern edge of the project area.

Mn/DOT has adopted a formal policy and procedures for accommodation of utilities on the highway rights-of-way ("Utility Accommodation Policy"). A copy of Mn/DOT's policy can be found at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/files/pdf/appendix-b.pdf.

Any work, possible placement of structures, materials or access to adjacent properties within Mn/DOT right of way is of concern. Mark Schoenfelder (507-286-7552 or mark.schoenfelder@state.mn.us), Mn/DOT District 6 Planning Director, should review the project again when the high voltage transmission lines have been delineated. If work is required within Mn/DOT right of way for temporary or permanent access, please coordinate these efforts through Mn/DOT's Property Management/Right of Way Permits Office with Thomas Streiff, District 6A Permits, at 507-446-5505 thomas.streiff@state.mn.us and/or Terry Condon, District 6B permits at 507-446-5505 terry.condon@state.mn.us.

Mn/DOT has a continuing interest in working with the OES to ensure that possible impacts to highways, airports, waterways, rail lines and the environmentally significant areas of highway right of way are adequately addressed. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.

Stacy Kotch
Utility Transmission Route Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Blvd., Mailstop 678
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone (651)366-4635
stacy.kotch@state.mn.us

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: Mike Macho Sue Macho

Address: 63539 250th 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 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.**

Absolutly no problems with this project.

Signature: Mike Macho Date: 3-8-10

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-40

March 5, 2010

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

RECEIVED
MAR - 9 2010
MAILROOM

RE: Pleasant Valley Wind Farm LWECS Site Permit Application
[PUC Docket Number: IP-6828/WS-09-1197]

Dear Ms. Bjorklund:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Site Application concerning the above referenced wind project located in Dodge, Mower, and Olmsted Counties. The DNR is providing the following comments to identify potential natural resource issues to be considered during project development. Two DNR owned and managed Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) are located within and adjacent to the project area, and the project area contains a "Grant in Aid" snowmobile trail administered by the DNR. The following comments also address rare features and species and further coordination with the applicant.

Scientific and Natural Areas

The Iron Horse Prairie SNA is located adjacent to the northwest portion of the study area and the Wild Indigo Prairie SNA runs across the entire project area from Brownsdale to Dexter, MN. As required for all non-participating parcels, a 5 rotor prevailing wind, 3 rotor non-prevailing wind setback needs to be included from DNR owned SNAs. The current turbine layouts do not appear to include turbines near the Iron Horse Prairie SNA. However, based on the two options of turbine layouts, it appears that numerous turbines and other infrastructure are planned in close proximity to Wild Indigo Prairie SNA. Turbine layouts need to be adjusted to follow setback requirements for non-participating parcels. The DNR also recommends that no direct impacts occur in either SNA from transmission lines, roads, or other associated infrastructure. If any impacts are proposed, a DNR License to Cross Permit would be required.

A Unit Trail, managed by the DNR Parks and Trails Division, has been proposed along the old railroad bed in the Wild Indigo Prairie SNA. The DNR recommends locating turbines and other infrastructure a greater distance than required, as possible, to help avoid degrading a proposed recreational area with noise, shadow flicker, or visual effects. If alternate siting exists, the DNR recommends avoiding SNAs in alternative turbine layouts. SNA boundaries can be downloaded from the DNR Data Deli at the following webpage: http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us/ .

Snowmobile Trail

The project area contains "Grant in Aid" snowmobile trails that are in close proximity to some of the proposed turbines. Turbines should be placed a sufficient distance from the trails so ice does not fall onto the trails and create a hazard for recreational trail users.

www.dnr.state.mn.us
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER CONTAINING A MINIMUM OF 10% POST-CONSUMER WASTE

Rare Features

The project boundary has changed since the last Natural Heritage review. Given that there are known occurrences of state-listed threatened and endangered plants in the area, an updated GIS shapefile should be submitted to Lisa Joyal, Natural Heritage Review Coordinator, at lisa.joyal@state.mn.us.

The first paragraph of Section 6.19.2 titled "Impacts" states that the "State listed or rare species that may occur within the Project area are species dependent on wetlands and aquatic areas." This is incorrect. Many of the state-listed plants in the project area are upland species. The loggerhead shrike, a state-listed threatened bird, is also not dependent on wetlands or aquatic areas.

In Section 6.19.3 titled "Mitigation Measures" it is unclear what mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid impacting streams and rivers and whether mitigation measures previously provided as part of the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) response will be implemented to avoid impacting Blanding's turtles and turtle habitat.

General

Please refer to the attached DNR letter dated July 16, 2009. The DNR requested coordination with the applicant regarding various topics such as suggested best management practices and recommended setbacks from wetlands. The DNR has not been contacted at this time for coordination on these topics.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the Pleasant Valley Wind Farm LWECS Site Permit Application. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jamie Schrenzel
Principal Planner
Environmental Review Unit
(651) 259-5115

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological Resources – Reg. 4
261 Hwy 15 South
New Ulm, MN 56073-8915
Phone: (507) 359-6073 Fax: (507) 359-6018 E-mail: kevin.mixon@dnr.state.mn.us

July 16, 2009

Mr. Jeffrey S. Broberg
McGhie & Betts Environmental Services, Inc.
1648 Third Avenue S.E.
Rochester, MN 55904

In re: Pleasant Valley Wind Farm LWECS
Preliminary Review
Dodge, Mower, and Olmsted Counties, MN

Dear Mr. Broberg:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has received information concerning the above referenced wind project located in Dodge, Mower, and Olmsted Counties, MN. The DNR is providing the following comments as a mechanism to collaboratively work together to identify potential natural resource issues that should be considered during project development.

Two DNR managed Scientific & Natural Area's (SNA) are located within and adjacent to the project area boundary that you provided. The DNR recommends that no direct impacts occur to the SNA from tower construction, transmission lines, or road networks associated with the project. The Iron Horse Prairie SNA is located just north of Dodge County CSAH 2 adjacent to the northwest portion of the study area. The DNR recommends a 5 rotor diameter setback from the SNA boundary. The Wild Indigo Prairie SNA cuts across the entire study area from Brownsdale to Dexter, MN. A Unit Trail, managed by the DNR Parks and Trails Division, has been proposed along the old railroad bed along this section of the SNA. The DNR recommends a viewshed analysis be conducted if any infrastructure will be within 5 miles of the SNA boundary. The analysis involves the development of a map or modeling that shows how far the viewshed extends from the SNA and what wind farm infrastructure would be seen from the SNA. The DNR recommended setback from the Wild Indigo Prairie SNA will be determined based on the viewshed analysis. SNA boundaries can be downloaded from the DNR Data Deli (http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us/).

The DNR recommends a 600 foot buffer be placed from the edge of the forested habitat that is associated with the stream as indicated on the attached map (green and black boundary). The buffer has been recommended in order to reduce potential avian and bat mortality and wildlife avoidance that may occur if the turbines are constructed in close proximity to the existing stream and forest habitat complex.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Reinvest in Minnesota areas are contained within the project area and could potentially be affected by this project. The Farm Service Agency located in the county(s) where the project is occurring should be contacted (http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=mn&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing) in order to coordinate potential issues involving these properties.

The project area contains past occurrences of rare features as tracked by the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS). The NHIS request should be submitted and any issues resolved prior to applying for the permit. A NHIS request form can be found at the following web link, **http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp/nhis_data_request.pdf.** NHIS tracks important information on the distribution of rare natural plants, animals and biological communities throughout Minnesota. This information will assist in the planning of your wind project. Please contact Lisa Joyal (651-259-5109) if more detailed information is needed to ensure the known locations of species are avoided.

Minnesota Statute 84.415 requires a DNR license be obtained for the passage of any utility over, under or across any state land or public waters. Information concerning the need and process of obtaining a License for Utility can be found at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/utility_crossing/index.html.

Potential wetland impacts could involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Potential wetland impact(s) may require a boundary delineation and potential mitigation. If wetland impacts may occur you should contact the Board of Water and Soil Resources at www.bwsr.state.mn.us.

The DNR recommends a 600 foot setback from wetlands (FWS Circular 39 Type III, IV, and V) and perennial streams in order to reduce potential mortality to birds and bats that are actively using this habitat.

Additional project considerations include utilities and roads that could cross or impact waters, streams, or wetlands. Discharge of fill or dredge material in waters of the U.S. are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

The DNR recommends 2 years of post-construction mortality studies using the Minnesota Protocols to Monitor Bat & Bird Mortality at Large Wind Energy Conversion Systems (attached). The studies are needed due to the lack of information on mortality to birds and bats in southern Minnesota from operating wind farms. In addition, technological advances in the operation and size of turbines along with updated mortality study methods further justify the need for mortality surveys. The information requested is outlined in the Post-Construction Report Guidelines (attached).

This review constitutes an office review only and is not a substitute for reviewing the project area and potential turbine placement and other infrastructure in the field. A field review of the project may be needed when the preliminary turbine, transmission lines, and access roads are determined.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issues the National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System/State Disposal System permit in order to control stormwater runoff from construction sites. Information on the permit process can be obtained at http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife from wind development should be adhered to as part of the project. The guidelines and additional information can be found at the following site: http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/Service Interim Guidelines. PDF

Wind projects disturb soils, surface water and associated ground cover. These disturbances create openings for invasive species that quickly colonize these sites putting adjoining lands and habitat at risk. In addition, this can cause erosion and sedimentation into adjacent waters. The DNR, Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency or the Department of Agriculture may recommend BMP's for different areas of the project. These BMP practices help address construction and maintenances activities to minimize impacts to soil, water and existing ground cover. The BMP's may also provide site restoration recommendations.

Minnesota Administrative Rules 7836.0500, Subpart 7, requires the applicant to analyze potential environmental impacts of the project, proposed mitigative measures, and any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided. Groundwater resources, surface waters, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, rare and unique natural resources, etc. are included. In order to address the potential environmental impacts the applicant should resolve all outstanding issues with the DNR prior to applying for the Large Wind Energy Conversion System permit from the Public Utilities Commission.

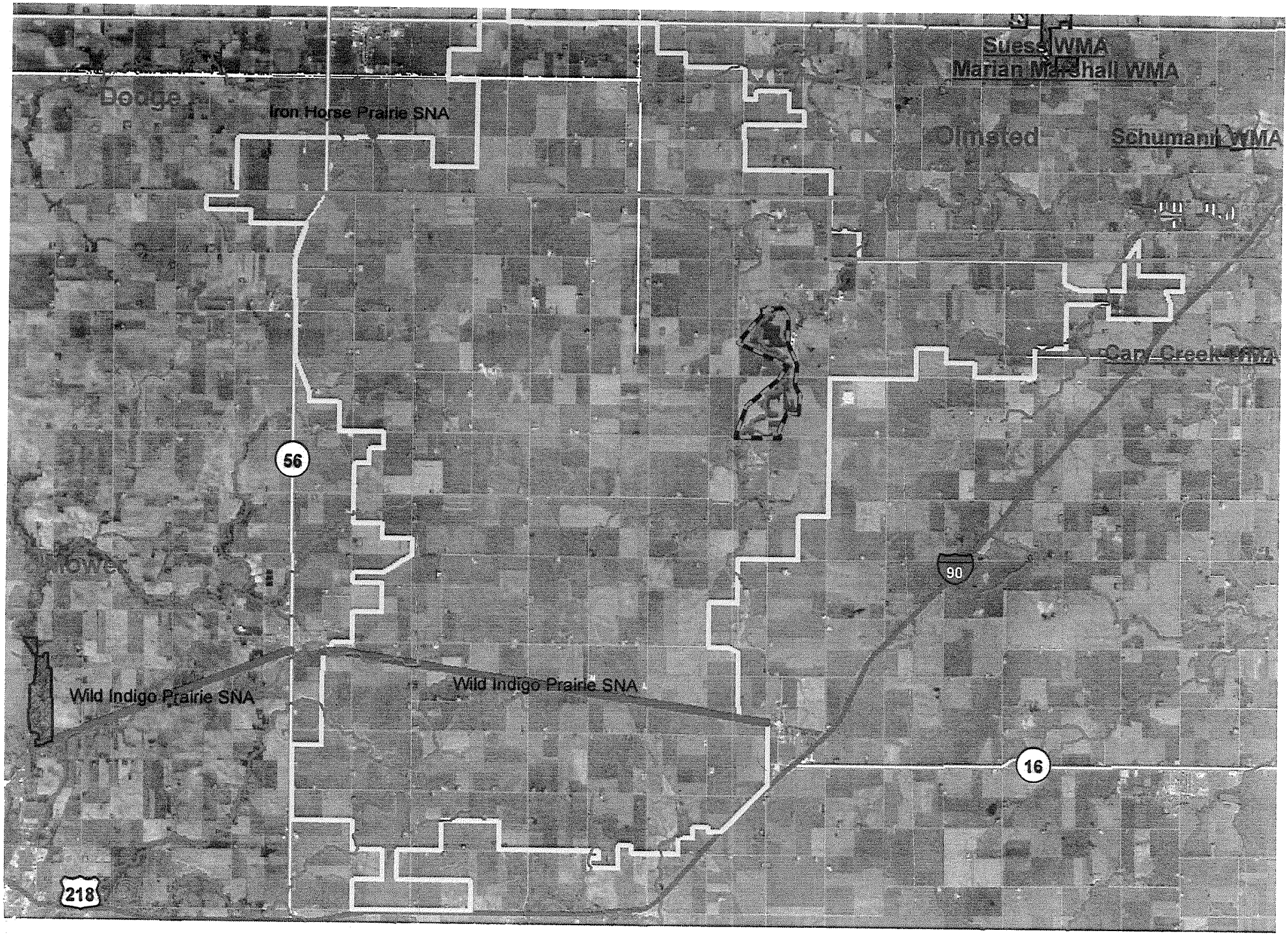
In order to address the above referenced issues, prior to submitting the LWECS site application, a response to the outstanding issues is requested. The response should address the additional setbacks/avoidance areas, mortality surveys, and potential impacts from the NHIS review. In addition, a meeting may be necessary if any infrastructure is planned within the viewshed of the SNA or to further discuss pre and post-construction surveys.

The DNR looks forward to working in a positive and collaborative manner on this project to ensure that sustainable energy sources are developed while protecting Minnesota's natural resources. Please contact me directly at 507-359-6073 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Kevin Mixon
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist
Division of Ecological Services

Cc: Mark Matuska, DNR
Lisa Joyal, DNR
Randall Doneen, DNR
John Schladweiler, DNR
Ken Varland, DNR
Jeanine Vorland, DNR
Craig Mitchel, DNR
Joel Wagar, DNR
Bob Hobart, DNR
Ben Schaefer, DNR
Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer, DNR
Peggy Booth, DNR
Ruth Thornton, DNR
Rich Davis, U.S. FWS
Matt Langan, PUC


Suess WMA
Marian Marshall WMA
Dodge
Iron Horse Prairie SNA
Olmsted
Schumann WMA
Cap Creek WMA
56
90
Lower
Wild Indigo Prairie SNA
Wild Indigo Prairie SNA
16
218

Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)

From: wap@frontiernet.net
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 5:16 AM
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: comments

re: Pleasant Valley Wind LLC

Ms. Bjorklund,

I am taking this opportunity to write in regard to the proposed wind factory in the Mower, Dodge County area. Being a property owner located within the designated area of this project I most certainly have some serious concerns. I live in the proximity of a wind factory developed by Enexco two years ago and am able to covey with experience what it can be like to live around these machines. My home is approximately 2200 feet from the nearest wind turbine. Even though the distance exceeds state recommendations, the noise is very annoying to say the least. The sound is worst at night when a person is trying to get to sleep. Our home is not old by any means and is very well insulated yet the noise still makes its way in. If I did get to sleep, I would be woken up many times during the night because of the sound. Once the turbines began turning, I tried to deal with it for two weeks and finally moved the sleeping quarters to the basement. This is after having been told by the developer Enexco, that we would not even hear them. People should not have to change their lives because of these machines. This industry has indeed had a very negative impact on our lives. A little research will show that there are other health issues that need to be addressed as well.

I attended both meetings sponsored by the Office of Energy Security (OES) on Feb. 22, 2010. These were to be informational meetings and also to have questions offered by the public answered. The meetings turned out to be more of a sales pitch sponsored by the OES for the benefit of Renewable Energy Systems of America (RES) than truly informational meetings. Mr. Hartman was not impartial in moderating but rather came across as a salesman for RES. Having spoken to many people who attended, I realized I was not alone in my observation.
I heard very few questions that were actually answered, but for the most part were side stepped by much rambling and meaningless talk. How can people come to clear conclusions if clear answers are not given?

I have a few questions:

1. What data does OES or RES have proving there are no decreases in property values?

2. What data does OES or RES have proving there are no negative health consequences caused by wind factories?
(Mr. Hartman stated there has been scant research done in regard to possible health issues caused by wind factories and yet our very own Minnesota Department of Health did a study in May of 2009).

3. Why is it that wind factory developers are required to obtain a certificate of need, and then turn around and request a series of exemptions negating the better share of the need of the certificate in the first place?

4. What data does OES or RES have proving the wind velocities are what RES claims them to be?

(Paul Johnson of RES stated at the meeting in Dexter on 2/22/2010 that the wind in the proposed area is equivalent to that in the Buffalo Ridge area in western Minnesota. This is totally FALSE.

5.What data does OES or RES have to prove a net capacity factor of 40% plus when all the other projects in this area are considerably less?

6. What data does OES or RES have to prove, "It will produce enough energy to meet the energy needs for approximately 114,000 average households".
(certificate of need application, page 17, Benefits Society, 2.3)

Unfortunately these projects have very little to do with energy production but almost exclusively with money.
I certainly hope common sense will prevail when coming to any conclusions in regard to this project.

Sincerely,

Wayne Peterson
26887 665th ave,
Dexter, MN. 55926

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: Guy Rockwell

Address: 61 5-62 240th St

City: Brownsdale State: Mn ZIP: 55918

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 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.**

IT Would be nice if they would give a financial Report each year,
To see if it was wise to give up Top Farm land to this Project. Hopefully it Does grow.

Sincerely
Guy Rockwell

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)

From: Trevor [trevors@q.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 12:00 PM
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: WS-09-1197
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Feb 23, 2010

I moved to the country to live in the country and not in an industrial park. While these developments are currently miles from where I live now I am still affected by being subject to look at a sea of blinking red lights at night and that in itself is disturbing and sad.

The developers make ridiculous claims including 3 total complaints, no evidence of effect on property values or adverse effects on health when common sense and evidence show otherwise. The large land owner's property values are largely based on the lands ability to produce income and not their homestead (if they even live on site). For the smaller land owner who invested in a nice country home the location, location, location is suddenly not so good. In short the large land owners and wind developers are profiting at the expense of the surrounding residents. You can see how this has pitted neighbor against neighbor and is unfair. This will continue to tear apart neighborhoods and communities and will get worse as the rush to consume government money pushes forward.

Last year renewable energy accounted for less then 10 percent of US electric generation and wind power was responsible for only 10 percent of that 10 percent. How can anyone justify this sacrifice for such an insignificant contribution? The number of wind farms necessary to have any meaningful impact would completely ruin Minnesota's rural landscape and lives of countless residents forever. Goodbye land of 10,000 turbines if this happens.

Sincerely,

Trevor Scrabeck

Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)

From: Amanda Thoe [ajthoe@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 11:01 AM
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: Wind Turbine Opposition

To whom it may concern,
I am a resident of Minnesota's first district and I am concerned about the rapid expansion of wind farms in southern Minnesota, as there could be serious health hazards to those living near wind farms if regulations are not put in place. I believe our government officials have a responsibility to protect Southern Minnesota by restricting the distance wind turbines can be built from home.
Dr. Nina Pierpoint, physician and ecologist from New York has written a soon-to-be-published book on the health hazards associated with wind turbines.
Among the problems associated with Wind Turbine Syndrome are "a debilitating, complex of symptoms" including sleep disturbance, headache, dizziness, vertigo, nausea and panic episodes "associated with sensations of internal pulsation or quivering which arise while awake or asleep."[1]

Mayo One helicopters may be unable to land near wind turbines, endangering the health of many southern Minnesotans. Additionally, the turbines interfere with the GPS device used on most tractors. The GPS device is used to ensure the rows are equidistant so the canning companies can combine the crop; the device is required by most canning companies.
In addition to the symptoms listed above, those living near wind farms complain of ice throw, shadow flicker and nosie generated by the turbines. Homeowners also face significant depreciation of their property with the introduction of windmills on or near their property.
The wind turbines have already begun, and will continue, to drastically alter the horizons of southern Minnesota; proper health precautions must be taken. While I fully support and appreciate the transition to more energy efficient sources, I simply ask that there be a mandated distance separating wind turbines from homes of at least one and a half miles. The health of Minnesotans needs to be a priority; regulations stipulating the distance wind turbines may be built from homes must be established.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.
Sincerely,
Amanda J. Thoe
Tax Revenue Specialist
Special Taxes
Minnesota Department of Revenue
507-251-9268

[1] http://www.katu.com/news/34469989.html

--
Amanda Joy Thoe
Revenue Tax Specialist
Insurance Tax
Minnesota Department of Revenue, Special Tax Division
Cell: 507-251-9268
Work: 651-556-4897

Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)

From: Susan Thoe [niftyfarm@myclearwave.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 6:28 PM
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: Fw: PV.doc

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

Office of Energy Security and
Energy Facility Permitting

We have several concerns regarding the potential impacts and mitigation measures to be considered in the scoping document and environmental issues in developing the draft site permit for the proposed **Pleasant Valley Wind Project.**

The wind turbines included in the Pleasant Valley Wind Project should not be put up at this time for many reasons.

First and foremost, are the ***Health Concerns***.

Current research by Amanda Harry, Dr. Nina Pierpont, and Nissenbaum, all show a high incidence of adverse health conditions suffered by people living in areas within one to three miles of industrial wind turbines. Theses adverse effects, often referred to Wind Turbine Syndrome, or WTS, include but are not limited to the following constellation of symptoms:

Sleep disturbances
Headaches
Tinnitus
Ear pressure
Dizziness
Vertigo
Nausea
Visual blurring
Tachycardia
Irritability
Panic disorder
Concentration and memory problems

The current recommended setbacks are not nearly far enough to protect the public residences and schools from these effects. A large percentage of the general public is unaware of the Wind Turbine Syndrome and its adverse health effects and consequent symptoms, which will surely cause more people to oppose these two projects with even more intensity.

Secondly, there is a tremendous amount of ***opposition*** to the wind turbine project by the general public as was witnessed at the Public Hearrings held in Dexter, MN, Monday, Feb. 22, 2010 for the Pleasant Valley Wind Project, as well as in Mazzeppa, MN, March 4, 2010, for the Goodhue Wind Project. Most of this opposition was based upon a huge ***loss to the quality of life*** for the people living near the wind Turbines. These concerns included ***sight pollution*** in the day, ***light pollution*** at night, as well as ***noise pollution*** created by the Turbines and their electrical generators.

Other topics that have come up during discussions are the slower transportation times for people in need of ***emergency services***, as Mayo One is leary of flying near the Turbines. Also of concern is the fact that many farmers will lose the option of ***aerial applications*** of their farm products due to wind turbines and their neighbors may lose this option as well due to proximity.

Also of concern is that fact that several farmers have complained about GPS interference with their farm GPS devices.

Property tax issues were also a concern as farm land taxed as agricultural may be changed to industrial or commmercial taxation.

Property values have been proven to go down in many areas, often as much as 30%. Your literature claims this is not true; if so, then the wind companies or the Office of Energy Security and Energy Facilty Permitting should have no problem **guaranteeing** their **property value** in writing.

In view of the overwhelming evidence showing these adverse health effects, the Office of Energy Security and the State of Minnesota would, in our opinion, be extremely negligent to let the Pleasant Valley Wind Project continue.

This wind project, and all wind projects in Minnesota, needs to be stopped immediately until responsible setbacks from these wind turbines, for homes, hospitals and schools, are established by the Minnesota State legislature.

This is a certificate of need (C.N.) proceeding. We certainly do not need to make

people sick! Nor, do we need to denigrate the public's quality of life.

We do need to supply renewable energy alternatives to fulfill a requirement by our Minnesota Renewable Portfolio Standard, to supply 25% of our states electricity by the year 2025. This gives us FIFTEEN YEARS to find solutions! There are many, many, new solutions being developed to meet this requirement. Some of the solutions that are ready or close to being marketable are using high efficiency electrical generation using ***Bio Mass*** from the corn stalks, corn cobs, and soybean stubble. These biomass sources are renewable. We already have one such facility at the University of Minnesota providing heat, air conditioning, and electricity to the University Campus. Roughly, using this new technology will offset 80% of UM Morris fossil fuel usage. These corn stalks, corncobs, and bean stubble can easily be baled up and delivered to these high efficiency furnaces. The Biomass is readily available in Minnesota right now! The farmers are willing and able to sell and deliver these products. The advantages are many, including no sight and light pollution or Wind Turbine Syndrome illnesses. Also, the generating facility can be built near an existing sub-station and does not need new transmission lines. A huge advantage is a consistent source of electricity available 24 hrs per day, 365 days per year! The facilities are far less expensive to build and maintain per kilowatt than these large industrial wind turbines.

Another great place to get renewable energy is from ***Methane Digesters,*** using waste products from Minnesota's huge livestock industry. This system provides methane, which can be stored and used with our existing Natural Gas System. We have the technology to do this. Methane digesters are just starting to be used in the United States. There is potential for a tremendous amount of energy to be produced in Minnesota from the animal waste. This system has further advantages by using the methane, a greenhouse gas by itself, rather than letting it go into the atmosphere, thus, further reducing a damaging green house gas for our world. By using an abundant and readily renewable resource, we can preserve our rural landscape, which is also, a non-renewable resource.

Solar energy is vastly underused in this country. In California's Mojave Desert, solar energy provides electricity to 350,000 homes daily.

One new product recently developed is called, the ***Bloom Box.*** It can be used with renewable gases, landfill gases, methane digesters or solar. It is cheaper than the grid, and cleaner than the grid. They can be used in our homes on a daily basis. They believe these bloom boxes will be ready for home use in about five years and will be inexpensive to purchase, at about $3,000.00 per home unit. It does not need the big expensive transmission lines to be used. It puts the power directly in

to your home when you need it, to supplement our existing electrical supply. Expected future cost per unit should be very cost effective once larger scale production of the Bloom Box occurs. Powerhouse Ebay has already installed boxes and is receiving an estimated 15% of its energy from Bloom, for a savings of about $100,000 since their installation nine months ago!

Experience tells us that when we as a nation use our minds to solve problems we will continue to develop new and better solutions to our problems. There is NO NEED to build large industrial wind turbines within 1½ miles of homes! These turbines have many, many, negative impacts on our community with very few positives.

It should be very easy for this, Certification of Need proceeding to declare a NO BUILD ruling for the Pleasant Valley Wind Project, for the many reasons pointed out here, and the important fact that a 1½ mile set back from homes, schools and hospitals can not be achieved in this, Pleasant Valley Wind Project. There is nothing "pleasant" about this project.

Wind energy could be a viable energy source if the community could agree to a design, which was less than 100 ft. tall, did not have a blinking red light on it, had the generator on the ground so that the noise could be contained, and if the design was changed to eliminate shadow flicker, motion sickness, and the compression thump. This design, as seen on, ECO-NEX, uses durable ***vortex wind turbines,*** that could also be a useful supplement to our future energy needs.

These energy alternatives mentioned here have many, many advantages over the industrial wind turbines proposed for this wind project.

A bigger, more reliable source of energy from renewable energy sources readily available in Minnesota. We must find alternatives, which fit into the fabric of our community, rather than fracture our community.

History tells us we always have options; we always have different ways to solve a problem. We need to find a solution to our search for renewable energy that will be great! For everyone involved! We can do this. We already have a good start towards that goal. The Industrial Turbines proposed for the Pleasant Valley Wind Project are a **BAD PLAN and SHOULD NOT BE BUILT!**

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Thoe
Susan Thoe
26200 748 Street

Hayfield, MN 55940
507-365-8884

Three reports, created specifically to guide legislators in wind turbine siting decisions, and alert them to areas of concern, all identify a half mile as the minimum setback needed to mitigate major problems from turbine noise and shadow flicker.

The Reports include:

The National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies of Science Report "Environmental Impacts of Wind-Energy Projects". (2007)

The Congressional Research Service Report prepared for Members and Committees of Congress "Wind Power in the United States: Technology, Economic, and Policy Issues (2008)

The Minnesota Department of Health, Environmental Health Division In response to a request from: Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security: "Public Health Impacts of Wind Turbines" (2009)

NOISE STUDY: A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR SITING INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINES By Kaperman and James

LARGER SETBACKS

The Noise Heard Round the World - the trouble with industrial wind turbines
1/2 mile more or more setback
www.wind-watch.org/alerts/?p=591

Simple guidelines for siting wind turbines to prevent health risks
George W. Kamperman, INCE Bd. Cert. Emeritus Kamperman Associates, Inc.
george@kamperman.com
Richard R. James, INCE E-Coustic Solutions rickjames@e-coustic.com
1.25 miles or more setback
www.windaction.org/?module=uploads&func=download&fileId=1650

French Academy of Medicine warns of wind turbine noise

1.5km (.9-mile) setback for one turbine, more for multiple turbines
kirbymtn.blogspot.com/2006/03/french-academy-of-medicine-warns-of.html

Trempealeau County, Wisconsin
1-mile setback
betterplan.squarespace.com/the-trempeleau-county-wind-ord/

National Wind Watch
1-mile setback
www.wind-watch.org/press-070402.php

U.K. Noise Association
1-mile setback
U.K. Noise Association: 1 mile setback needed for wind turbines
kirbymtn.blogspot.com/2006/08/uk-noise-association-1-mile-setback.html
UK Noise Association - Wind Farms are Causing Noise Problems
www.windaction.org/news/4230

Beech Ridge Wind Farm, West Virginia
1 to 4 miles setback
www.beechridgewind.com/Docs/1-25-06_Beech_Ridge_Wind_Fa_Sheet.pdf

Deal reached in wind turbine dispute - Fayette County
6000 foot setback
www.windaction.org/news/16447
www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/fayette/s_573705.html

Noise Radiation from Wind Turbines Installed New Homes: Effects o Health
2km (1.2 mile) setback
www.windturbinenoisehealthhumanrights.com/wtnhhr_june2007.pdf

Location, Location, Location. An investigation into wind farms and noise by the Noise Association
1 to 1.5 mile setback
www.windaction.org/documents/4281

Are wind farm turbines making people sick? Some say yes.
1.5 mile setback
www.pantagraph.com/articles/2008/04/17/news/doc4807500d59725857996033.txt

Dr. Nina Pierport

1.5 mile setback, more for mountainous geography
Health Effects of Wind Turbine Noise
www.windturbinesyndrome.com/?p=76
Noisy Wind and Hot Air
www.windturbinesyndrome.com/?p=69
Wind Turbine Syndrome - testimony before the New York State Legislature Energy Committee
www.savewesternny.org/docs/pierpont_testimony.html
except from rebuttal to Noble Environmental's draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding noise, shadow flicker, and health
www.windturbinesyndrome.com/?p=100

Wind Turbines, Noise and Health
Dr. Amanda Harry
1.5 mile setback
www.windturbinenoisehealthhumanrights.com/wtnoise_health_2007_a_barry.pdf

Riverside County, California
2-mile setback
www.rcip.org/documents/general_plan/gen_plan/03_d_16.pdf

Marjolaine Villey-Migraine
Docteur en sciences de l'information et de la communication, Université Paris II-Panthéon-Assas, Sp&egravecialiste de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (IST)
5 km (3.1 miles)
www.wind-watch.org/documents/?p=588

Microseismic and Infrasound Monitoring of Low Frequency Noise and Vibrations from Windfarms
10km (6.2-mile) setback
www.esci.keele.ac.uk/geophysics/dunlaw/Final_Report.pdf

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 8.5.436 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2746 - Release Date: 03/14/10 07:33:00

Mower County
MINNESOTA

Board of Commissioners
201 1st Street NE, Austin, Minnesota 55912
Phone: 507-437-9549 Fax: 507-437-9458

March 2, 2010

RECEIVED
MAR - 4 2010
MAIL ROOM

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

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

Dear Ms. Bjorklund;

In review of the application I would like to bring to the attention of the Public Utilities Commission two concerns that Mower County Board of Commissioners has regarding the above application request:

1) Mower County has a Wind Tower Ordinance in place which particular corridors are protected for microwave beam paths, both present and possibly future. In the above application one of these paths (Elkton to Waltham) was not reflected within the application as submitted. It is our understanding that the Applicant may request Mower County to abandon this corridor, but as of this date no decision has been rendered by the County on this matter.

   Should the County Board choose not to abandon such corridor, we request that the Applicant be required to reconfigure the layout of the project to preserve such corridor as reflected by the Mower County Zoning Ordinance.

   Should the Mower County Board choose to abandon or vacate this corridor at the Applicant's request through the appropriate process; this point shall no longer exist and the project as proposed will suffice.

2) Mower County hereby requests that the project developer work closely with the County Highway Department during the project development and construction. Some concerns include but are not limited to:

   - Traffic Routes and Haul Roads
   - Proposed Driveway Locations
   - Permitting Requirements [utilities, driveways, widened radii, etc]
   - 911 Addressing of Sites
   - Concerns During Construction [dust, road condition, farm tile damage, etc]

We would also request that a signed agreement between the County and the Developer be required to address the project and define how the expected road damages will be mitigated.

Sincerely,

Ray Tucker
Mower County Board Chair

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: Dya Weber

Address: 29088 670th Ave.

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 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.**

Is there an electric grid in place currently that can accept the power proposed to be generated by this project?

If no - what needs to be developed to harness this power?

If yes - where does the energy get stored presently - how much is lost?

Signature: Dya L Weber Date: 2/22/10