



## Minnesota Department of Transportation

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**Office of Technical Support**  
Utility Permits Unit  
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May 10, 2010

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

Re: In the Matter of Paynesville Wind Farm  
MPUC Docket No. IP-6830/WS-10-49

Dear Mr. Hartman:

On March 18, 2010, the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) issued a Notice of Application Acceptance and Scoping Meeting, which includes a public comment period regarding the scope of the environmental report (ER) with respect to the applications by Paynesville Wind, LLC for a certificate of need and a site permit for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) located near Paynesville in Stearns County. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has reviewed the site permit application regarding the proposed project and submits the following comments in response to the Notice.

Based on the information provided in the Paynesville Wind Farm Site Permit Application, it does not appear that the project area directly abuts a state trunk highway. However, there may be highway-related considerations related to oversize/overweight hauling of wind turbines and equipment. Specifically, these large loads of freight are often transported via interregional corridors such as TH 23. The TH 23 bypass that is now under construction has a new alignment which appears to skirt the southern portion of the project area near the Paynesville electric substation. Because Mn/DOT's highway construction activities could impact the Applicant's plans to haul oversize loads to the proposed site, the Applicant will need to coordinate with Mn/DOT when planning such loads. If the Paynesville Wind Farm or its associated facilities should happen to intersect with the trunk highway system, the Applicant will need to apply for and obtain permits for those locations.

Any HVTL construction work, including delivery or storage of structures, materials or equipment that may affect Mn/DOT right-of-way is of concern such that Mn/DOT should be involved in planning and coordinating such activities. Please note that if work is required within Mn/DOT right of way for temporary or permanent access, such work should be coordinated with Mark Renn in Mn/DOT's District 3B Utility Permits Office at 320-223-6522 or [Mark.Renn@state.mn.us](mailto:Mark.Renn@state.mn.us) or, for TH 23 Bypass, Geri Vick in Mn/DOT's District 8 Utility Permits Office at 320-214-6364 or [Geri.Vick@state.mn.us](mailto:Geri.Vick@state.mn.us).

Please note that Mn/DOT is uncertain at this time whether the Paynesville Wind Farm is an entity that has lawful authority to place its facilities in a public road right-of-way. This matter should be addressed in the ER.

Mn/DOT appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

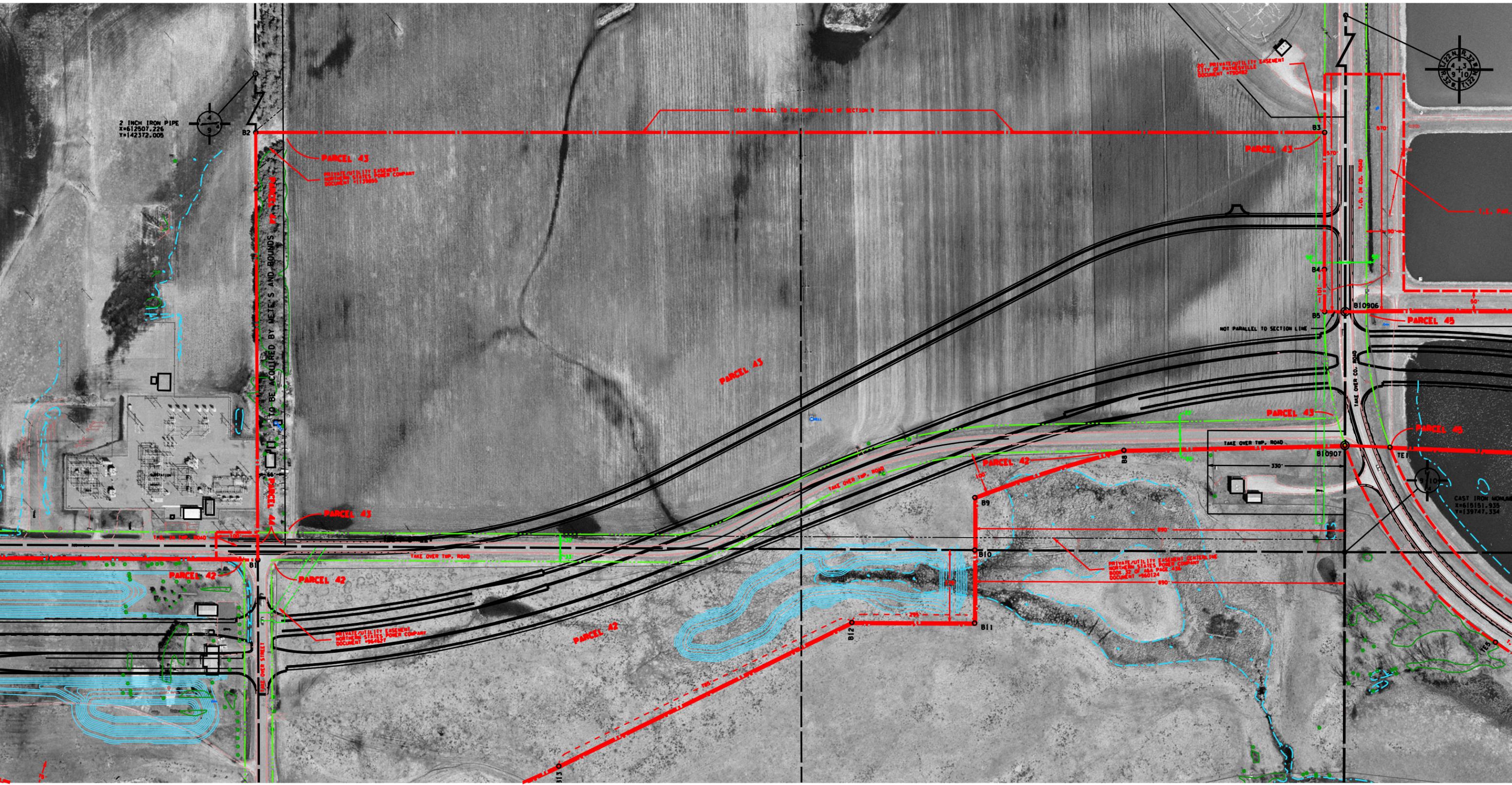
Sincerely,



Stacy Kotch  
Utility Transmission Route Coordinator  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
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Phone (651)366-4635  
[stacy.kotch@state.mn.us](mailto:stacy.kotch@state.mn.us)

Enclosures:  
TH 23 Right of Way Plat

cc: Justin Pickar –Geronimo Wind Energy  
Patrick Smith – Geronimo Wind Energy  
Geri Vick – District 8  
Mark Renn – District 3B  
Steve Voss – District 3



2 INCH IRON PIPE  
X=612307.226  
Y=142372.005



B2

PARCEL 43

PRIVATE UTILITY EASEMENT  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
DOCUMENT #115005

TO BE ACQUIRED BY METE'S AND BOUNDS  
77' 12.00"

PARCEL 45

PARCEL 43

B3

B3

B4

B5

NOT PARALLEL TO SECTION LINE

PARCEL 43

PARCEL 45

PARCEL 45

PARCEL 42

PARCEL 42

PRIVATE UTILITY EASEMENT  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
DOCUMENT #660124

PARCEL 42

PARCEL 42

B9

B10

B11

B12

PRIVATE UTILITY EASEMENT  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
DOCUMENT #660124

TAKE OVER TWP. ROAD

B10906

B10907

CAST IRON MOUND  
X=615151.935  
Y=139747.354

