



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
SCOPING DECISION**

Issued: May 27, 2010

**In the Matter of Paynesville Wind, LLC
Application for a Certificate of Need
for the 95 MW Paynesville Wind Farm**

Docket No. IP-6830/CN-09-1110

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

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25836>

Additional Certificate of Need documents can be obtained from the Department of Commerce's eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> by searching for **year:** 09 and **number:** 1110.

Paper copies may be requested from the OES Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff listed at the end of this notice.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Paynesville Wind, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Geronimo Wind Energy, proposes a 95 MW large wind energy conversion system using between 42 and 63 utility scale wind turbine generators each 1.5, 1.8, or 2.3 MW in capacity and associated facilities including access roads, electrical collection system, a meteorological tower, a substation, a transmissions line, a Sonic Detection and Ranging unit or a Light Detection and Ranging unit, and an operation and maintenance building. The proposed Project will be located in Stearns County in Zion, Paynesville, Spring Hill, and Lake Henry townships. The Project area is located north of Paynesville and south and east of Lake Henry. The Project area encompasses approximately 15,000 acres, of which approximately 11,500 acres are under site control via wind easements. The project is proposed to connect to the electrical grid at the Paynesville substation.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW PROCESS

The project is a “large energy facility” as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 216B.2421, subdivision 2(1), and a Certificate of Need from the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is required for such a project under Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243. On December 8, 2009, Paynesville Wind, LLC filed a Certificate of Need application for the Paynesville Wind Farm. On February 5, 2010, the Commission issued an order accepting the application as substantially complete.

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

SCHEDULE

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

PROJECT CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact Ingrid Bjorklund (651-297-7039 or ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us) Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the Department of Commerce.