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April 12, 2013

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

**RE: Comments and Recommendations of the Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting Staff
Docket No. IP-6846/WS-10-798**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Attached please find the initial comments and recommendations of the Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff in the following matter:

Petition of Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC to extend the in-service date and amend its site permit.

The petition for approval to extend the in-service date and amend the site permit for the 41 MW Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC Project was filed on January 15, 2013 and revised on March 12, 2013. The petitioners are:

Sarah Johnson Phillips Stoel Rives LLP 33 South Sixth Street, Suite 4200 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Will Cooksey National Wind, LLC 706 Second Avenue South, Suite 1200 Minneapolis, MN 55402
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Energy Facility Permitting staff has prepared a proposed LWECs amended site permit. EFP staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

/s/LARRY B. HARTMAN
Energy Facility Permitting

LBH/sm
Attachment



BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING STAFF**

DOCKET NO. IP-6846/WS-10-798

Date: April 12, 2013

EFP Staff: ...Larry B. Hartman.....651-296-5089

In the Matter of the Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit of Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC

Issues Addressed: These Comments and Recommendations address the petition of Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC to extend the in-service date and amend its site permit.

Document Attached:

1. EFP Proposed Amended Site Permit
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Introduction and Background

On February 8, 2011, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued a site permit to Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC to construct a 41 MW large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Kandiyohi and Meeker counties.¹

2013 Amendment Request

On January 15, 2013, Lake Country Wind, LLC (Lake Country), filed a petition in accordance with Minnesota Rule 7854.1200 and Section 10.3 [Failure to Commence Construction] of the

¹ Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Order, February 8, 2011 (91 pages), eDockets Document ID [20112-59340-01](#).

site permit, notifying the Commission of a delay in construction and to request an amendment to its site permit by extending for two years both the time in which to obtain a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity and the deadline to begin construction.² On March 12, 2013, Lake Country filed a revised petition that provided additional information in support of its request.³

Project Location

The Lake Country 41 MW Project site is approximately 16,100 acres in size and will be located on agricultural land in Kandiyohi and Meeker counties, near the city of Atwater, Minnesota, approximately midway between the cities of Litchfield and Willmar. The landscape within and around the project site is mainly rural open cropland with relatively flat terrain. Upon completion of the project, approximately 19.4 acres would be converted to turbines and associated infrastructure.⁴

Specifically, the project area encompasses some or all parts of sections 1-4, 7, 10-12, 13-18, 19-21, 24 and 29 of Genessee Township; sections 33-36 of Harrison Township; and sections 5-8, 17 and 18 of Acton Township.⁵

At the time the permit was issued, Lake Country had received commitments for wind rights on over 13,124 acres of privately owned land within the project area. The existing land rights encompass 80 percent of the project area and are sufficient to site the 41 MW of wind turbines proposed for the project. The wind rights were obtained via a combination of easements and participation agreements. Approximately sixty-six landowners owning 167 parcels consisting of 12,819 acres within the project area have signed easements with Lake Country. The easements include full easements over 12,526 acres owned by 63 landowners, participation agreements over 294 acres owned by three landowners and 108 acres pending the negotiation of an easement with one landowner. Both the easement and the participation agreement allow for 30 years of project operation with options to operate the project an additional 20 years. Additional agreements may allow easements for collector lines, access roads, and other infrastructure needed for the project.⁶

Regulatory Process and Procedures

Siting of Large Wind Energy Conversion Systems are governed by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216F. Minnesota Statutes 216F.03 states:

² Lake Country Wind, LLC Petition for Approval to Extend the In-Service Date and Amend the Site Permit for the 41 MW Lake Country Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS), January 15, 2013. eDockets, Document ID: [20131-82745-01](#).

³ Revision to Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC Petition for Site Permit Amendment or Modification, March 12, 2013. See eDockets, Document ID [20133-84617-01](#).

⁴ Site Permit Application at p. 1-1.

⁵ Site Permit Application, Appendix A, Figure 1.

⁶ Site Permit Application at pp. 4-5 and 4-6.

"The legislature declares it to be the policy of the state to site LWECS in an orderly manner compatible with environmental preservation, sustainable development, and the efficient use of resources."

Minnesota Rules, part 7854.1000, subpart 1, directs the Commission to make a final site permit decision based on the record that has been compiled in the matter. Minnesota Rule, part 7854.1000, subpart 3, requires that the Commission determine that:

"...the project is compatible with environmental preservation, sustainable development, and the efficient use of resources, and the applicant has complied with this chapter."

Minnesota Rules, part 7854.1300, subpart 2, states that:

"The Commission may amend a site permit for an LWECS at any time if the commission has good cause to do so."

EFP Staff Analysis and Comments

The Commission's initial notice requested comments on whether the Commission should:

- amend Lake Country's site permit, authorizing Lake County an additional two years to commence construction and to obtain a power purchase agreement or other enforceable mechanism;
- allow for up to 23 turbines of unspecified make and model; and
- authorize an extension of the permit for 30 years from the date of reissuance.⁷

Because the Commission found in its initial permit decision that the proposed project is compatible with environmental preservation, sustainable development and the efficient use of resources, it would appear that any permit amendment should also meet those standards. To that end, EFP staff focused its analysis on three areas:

- Compliance with existing site permit terms and conditions
- Potential permit amendments not requested by the applicant, but consistent with more recently issued site permits.
- Project changes – compatibility considerations, proposed project changes that would substantially change the findings accompanying the Commission's original permit

⁷ Notice of Comment Period on Petition for Site Permit Amendment, See eDockets, Document ID [20131-83417-01](#)

- decision, and potentially change the Commission's determination that the project is compatible with the standards set out in Statute and Rule

Compliance with Existing Site Permit Terms and Conditions

In recent years and for a variety of reasons, several permitted wind projects have petitioned the Commission for permit amendments to allow additional time to obtain a power purchase agreement (PPA) or some other enforceable mechanism and to commence construction.

Lake Country's petition relates to compliance with permit conditions 10.2 and 10.3.

10.2 Power Purchase Agreement. Lake Country proposes amending Site Permit Condition 10.2 of the site permit to extend the period in which to obtain a PPA or other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity generated by the Project for two more years.

In its January 15, 2013, petition Lake Country states, "These poor market conditions limited opportunities for Lake Country to secure a long-term PPA and impacted the ability of the Project developer, National Wind, LLC (National Wind), to make the necessary investment to overcome these challenges." The petition also provides several other reasons for the Commission to grant the time extension request to obtain a PPA and begin construction of the 41 MW Lake Country Project. They include, but are not limited to the following:

- That National Wind's ability to invest in development of the Project was improved by a transaction that resulted in Trishe Wind Energy, Inc. acquiring National Wind and a restructuring of National Wind's interest in Lake Country.
- Since acquiring National Wind, Trishe has demonstrated its commitment to Lake Country and the Project through investment of approximately \$750,000 in development efforts.
- The Project fulfilled the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator's (MISO) newly increased "M2 milestone" requirement by making a non-refundable \$290,000 deposit to secure its interconnection queue position and move into the definitive planning phase process.
- Lake Country is close to finalizing agreements with consultants, contractors, and suppliers for the Project, including a turbine suppliers, a balance –of-plant contractor, a meteorology consultant/contractor, and an environmental/permitting consultant.
- National Wind is also developing several alternative power sales strategies that would be enforceable and financeable and would allow the Project to meet the extended Site Permit deadlines, if authorized.

- Allowing additional time to complete the Project helps protect the investment of both the local community of approximately 70 residents and the developer.

10.3 Failure to Commence Construction. Permit Condition 10.3, states that:

"If the Permittee has not completed the pre-construction surveys required under this permit and commenced construction of the Project within two years of the issuance of this Permit, the Permittee must advise the Commission of the reason construction has not commenced."

The Permit, at condition 10.2, does not authorize construction of the Project without a PPA or other enforceable mechanism; it follows that Lake Country must find a purchaser for its power before commencing construction or providing for an enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity generated by the project.

EFP Staff Analysis: With regard to permit conditions (10.2 and 10.3), Lake Country's situation is similar to others (Paynesville, Pleasant Valley, EcoHarmony and others) who have requested permit amendments allowing for more time to obtain a PPA and commence construction. Amendment requests generally cite uncertainly related federal production tax credits, MISO Group 5 studies and interconnection issues. EFP staff has reviewed Lake Country's compliance filings to date and believe they are current, except as described below.

On April 9, 2013, DNR filed a comment letter on Lake County's permit amendment request. The DNR letter notes that the Permittee submitted to DNR "a memo dated December 10, 2012, regarding Fall 2012 Acoustic Bat Survey Results."⁸ EFP staff review of eDocket (10-798) submissions by the Permittee, revealed no information regarding the Fall 2012 Acoustic Bat Survey Results. One of the requirements of Section 6.1 states: "The Permittee shall file any biological surveys or studies conducted on this Project, including those not required under this Permit." It is the opinion of EFP staff that these study results should be filed with the Commission, in order to comply with the requirement of the Permit. Therefore, EFP staff recommends that a report regarding Fall 2012 Acoustic Bat Survey Results be filed consistent with the requirement of Section 6.1.

Consistency with Recently Issued Site Permits

Since issuance of a site permit in February 2011 to Lake Country, the Commission has made several modifications to LWECs site permits. Language changes have been made to the following permit conditions and requirements:

- 4.7 [Native Prairie]
- 5.6 [Pre-Construction Meeting]
- 5.7 [Pre-Operation Meeting]

⁸ See eDockets, Document ID [20134-85556-01](#)

- 6.1 [Biological and Natural Resource Inventories]
- 6.2 [Shadow Flicker]
- 6.7 [Avian and Bat Protection]
- 6.8 [Project Energy Production]
- 6.9 [Wind Resource Use]
- 8.4 [Notification to the Commission]
- Attachment 2 [Complaint Handling Procedures for Large Wind Energy Conversion Systems]
- Miscellaneous changes for consistency purposes.

The EFP Proposed Amended Site Permit (Attachment 1) incorporates language changes made by the Commission from site permits for the Getty Wind Project (Docket IP- 6866/WS-11-831), and the Black Oak Wind Farm (IP-6853/WS-10-1240), and from amended site permits for Paynesville (Docket IP-6830/WS-10-49) and Pleasant Valley (Docket IP-6830/WS-09-1197)), as identified above.

Other minor modifications also made in the Paynesville and Pleasant Valley dockets include a universal change throughout the permit modifying the number of days for submittal of pre-construction and pre-operation compliance filings from 10 working days to 14 calendar days, unless otherwise noted, and clarifying what is meant by the term “filing.” The accompanying proposed amended permit shows all modifications and changes (all language deletions and additions are shown by strike out and underlining and are highlighted in red).

Other EFP Proposed Permit Changes

Based on the recent filing of “as-built plans and specifications” for the Big Blue and Community Wind South Projects and recent Commission discussions regarding changes or modifications in Project ownership, EFP staff is proposing modifications to Section 8.1, Attachment 3 and Section 11.5, for clarification purposes.

Section 8.1 [As-Built Plans and Specifications]. EFP staff proposes to modify Section 8.1 [As-Built Plans and Specifications] of the Site Permit to read as follows:

8.1 AS-BUILT PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Within sixty (60) days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall ~~submit to the~~ file with the Commission a copy of the as-built plans and specifications. The Permittee must also provide this data in a geographic information system (GIS) compatible format so that the Commission can place it into the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office’s (MnGeo) geographic data clearinghouse located in the Office of Enterprise Technology.

Accompanying this proposed language in Attachment 3.C. is a description for providing data in a GIS compatible format that reads as follows:

C. Preferred GIS formats include Esri® shapefile (with associated projection data) and ArcGIS® Geodatabase. The preferred map projection is UTM Extended Zone 15, NAD83. A PDF document containing clear descriptions of file naming conventions, data projection and feature attributes must be included with the GIS data provided.

EFP Staff Analysis: This language modification is proposed to clarify for the Permittee what is required for filing “as-built plans and specifications” on eDockets and how to provide GIS shape files. “As-built plans and specifications” are required by the permit and must be filed with the Commission on eDockets; however, eDockets is only capable of accepting static “pdf” files. “As-built plans and specifications,” provided as shape files will be placed into Minnesota’s database by MnGEO.

Rather than specify “GIS format” requirements in the body of the permit, EFP proposes to include the “GIS format requirements” in Attachment 3.

11.5 Transfer of Permit and Change in Ownership. Based on recent Commission discussions regarding notification of ownership changes, EFP is proposing to modify Section 11.5 [Transfer of Permit and Change in Ownership] of the Site Permit to read as follows:

11.5 TRANSFER OF PERMIT AND CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

The Permittee may not transfer this permit without the approval of the Commission. If the Permittee desires to transfer this Permit, the holder shall advise the Commission in writing of such desire. The Permittee shall provide the Commission with such information about the transfer as the Commission requires to reach a decision. The Commission may impose additional conditions on any new Permittee as part of the approval of the transfer.

Any and all changes in the Permittee’s ownership structure and ownership interests must be reported to the Commission. The Permittee shall, in a timely fashion, file with the Commission the Notice of Change in Ownership for every change in ownership structure and ownership interest for the duration of this permit.

EFP Staff Analysis: The proposed language requires the Permittee to notify the Commission of any and all changes in ownership of the Project. To assist the Permittee in filing this information, EFP is developing a form applicable for all energy facilities permitted by the Commission that allows a Permittee to notify the Commission of any and all changes in contact information requirements for the Project. This form will be made available on the DOC EFP website.

EFP believes the proposed modification to Section 11.5 addresses the Commission’s concerns regarding any ownership changes.

Because of the Commission's interest in ownership changes, EFP staff would like to note National Wind was the manager of the Project and owned a minority share in Lake Country when the site permit was issued. As noted in its January 15, 2011, filing, Trishe Wind Energy, Inc. (Trishe) acquired National Wind and restructured National Wind's interest in Lake Country. Trishe is part of the Trishe Energy Group, an international renewable energy company. The original local investors, many of whom also are participating landowners, maintain a significant financial stake in the Project.⁹

Project Changes -- Compatibility Considerations

EFP staff also evaluated proposed project changes that could substantially change the findings accompany the Commission's original permit decision, and potentially change the Commission's determination that the project is compatible with the standards set out in Statute and Rule.

EFP staff evaluation of project changes and compatibility considerations associated with Lake Country's permit amendment requests covers the following topic areas:

- Turbine Technology
- Project Design and Layout
- Environmental Impacts
 - Noise
 - Visual Impacts
 - Cultural and Archaeological Resources
 - Surface Waters and Floodplain Resources
 - Wetlands
 - Vegetation Rare and Unique Natural Resources

Turbine Technology. The February 2011 site permit (Section 1.0) indicates that the Project would consist of 20 Repower 2.05 MW MM92 wind turbines on 328 foot (100 meter) towers and a rotor diameter of 302 feet (92 meters). Based on improvements in turbine technology and changes in turbine availability since permit issuance, Lake Country has elected to consider alternative wind turbine models.

Lake Country's revision to its petition, filed on March 12, 2013, notes that Lake Country "is now in the process of negotiating turbine supply contracts for the Project and recently narrowed its choices to three turbine models beyond the originally selected Repower 2.05 MW MM92 turbine.

The turbine models now under consideration for the Project are similar to the REpower turbine previously selected and are shown in the following table.

⁹ See eDockets, Document ID [20131-82745-01](#)

Turbine Manufacturer	Turbine Model	Tower Height	Rotor Diameter
REpower	2.0 MW MM100	328 feet (100-meter)	328 feet (100 meters)
Gamesa	2.0 MW G97	295 feet (90-meters)	318 feet (97 meters)
General Electric (GE)	1.7 MW 1.7-100	262 feet (80-meters)	328 feet (100 meters)

The original Site Permit authorized up to 20 turbines locations with no alternate locations identified. As now proposed, the total number of turbines proposed is between 20 and 23. Lake Country is also proposing to include 2 to 3 alternate turbine locations to facilitate resolution of any unanticipated issues that might arise with any specific turbine location.

In its petition, Lake County states, “that the requested change in turbine technology will not substantially alter the findings accompanying the Commission’s original approval of the Site Permit nor the Commission’s determination that the Project is compatible with environmental preservation, sustainable development, and the efficient use of resources under Minn. Stat. 216F.03.”¹⁰

EFP Staff Analysis: For one of the three turbine models being proposed the tower height is the same, and the tower height is somewhat shorter for the two other turbines, while the rotor diameter is somewhat larger for all turbine models under consideration. The Repower 2.05 MW turbine was selected for the recently built 30 MW Community Wind South Project, located in Nobles County, and the Gamesa G97 turbine was selected for the 36 MW Big Blue Project in Faribault County. A significant number of wind turbines in Minnesota are made by General Electric; however, they all have a smaller rotor diameter and are on 80-meter towers. The turbine models proposed for the Lake Country Project are representative of current turbine technology and an appropriate choice for use in lower speed wind regimes.

Project Design and Layout. Optimized turbine layouts have been identified for each of the alternative turbine technologies, all of which use 18 of the originally approved 20 turbine locations. Two of the originally approved turbine locations northwest of Wheeler Lake have been removed due to avian surveys and recommendations from Lake Country’s environmental consultants. Lake Country reviewed these changes in meetings with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in December 2012. Replacement locations for these two sites are identified in each of the new turbine layouts in addition to two or three alternative turbine locations (See EFP Proposed Amended Site Permit, Attachment 1-A (Gamesa/Repower Turbine Layout) and Attachment 1-B (GE Turbine Layout).

The layouts of the Repower 2.0 MM100 and Gamesa G97 Turbine are identical, with 18 of the originally permitted locations, two new locations to replace those eliminated and three alternates (total 23 locations). The layout for the GE 1.7-100 turbine includes 18 of the originally approved

¹⁰ Lake Country Wind, LLC Petition for Approval to Extend the In-Service Date and Amend the Site Permit for the 41 MW Lake Country Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS), January 15, 2013. eDockets, Document ID: [20131-82745-01](#)

locations, five new locations (two of which replace those eliminated) and two alternates (total of 25 locations).

Lake County in its March 12, 2013, filing notes, “the two” updated turbine layouts are designed to meet the requirement set forth in Section 4.0 of the Permit, including requirements relating to setbacks, noise, spacing, footprint minimization, aviation, and restrictions on siting turbines and associated facilities on public lands, wetlands, native prairies, and sand and gravel operations.”¹¹

In the turbine layouts provided by Lake Country, each turbine will be set back at least 1,200 feet from residential dwellings, 400 feet from township roads, and 528 feet from other roads.

Environmental Impacts. In its March 12, 2013, filing, Lake County noted that the Site Permit Application for Lake County provided analysis of impacts in 18 subject areas and that the alternative turbine technologies and layouts would not present a material change in **environmental** impacts from those contemplated in the February 2011 site permit for the following subject areas:¹²

- Demographics
- Public Services and Infrastructure
- Recreational Resources
- Public Health and Safety
- Hazardous Materials
- Land Based Economics
- Tourism and Community Benefits
- Topography
- Soils
- Geologic and Groundwater Resources

For other potential impacts (Noise, Visual Impacts (including shadow flicker), Cultural and Archaeological Resources, Surface Water and Flood Plain Resources, Wetlands, Vegetation, Wildlife and Rare and unique Natural Resources), Lake Country provided supporting explanations indicating why the alternative turbine technologies and turbine layouts do not present a material change in environmental impacts from those contemplated in the Site Permit issued on February 8, 2011.

Noise. The three turbine models now under consideration have similar noise generation characteristics. Noise emissions from the REpower MM92, the turbine model approved in the Site Permit (February 2011), are 104.2 dBA at 10 meters in altitude with a wind speed of 8 meters per second (17.9 mph). At the same altitude and wind speed, the Repower MM100, Gamesa G97 and GE 1.7-100 generate noise levels of 104.8, 105.8 and 107 dBA, respectively. Lake Country has indicated that they are carrying out noise modeling on these three turbine

¹¹ See eDockets, Document ID [20133-84617-01](#)

¹² Ibid.

models to confirm that the turbine locations for the revised layouts will comply with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) noise standards.

If the modeling predicts that MPCA noise standards would be exceeded by a specific turbine model at a specific location, Lake Country has stated that the situation will be remedied by (1) selection of a turbine model that would not exceed MPCA noise standards; (2) elimination of the problematic turbine location in favor of a suitable alternate location; or (3) shift the turbine location during micro-siting to provide sufficient spatial separation between the turbine and nearest residence(s). Lake Country has stated that any noise mitigation measures applied based on modeling results will be described in the noise report filed with the Commission prior to the pre-construction meeting.

Visual Impact (including shadow flicker). The Commission's February 8, 2011, Order (Finding 71) states "Seventy-eight percent of the residential dwellings within one-mile of the project area will not be exposed to shadow flicker. Four residential dwellings may receive more than 20 hours of shadow flicker per year with the maximum exposure that may be realized at a residential dwelling of 27 hours and 32 minutes per year."¹³ All of the additional and alternate turbine locations have been located in close proximity to previously approved turbine locations to minimize any potential for change in visual impacts. Lake Country has stated that all of the new and alternate turbine locations would be more than 1,200 feet from the nearest residence, as were the turbine locations in the approved Site Permit. Similar to noise, shadow flicker will be modeled to ensure that the selected turbine technology and layout will not result in shadow flicker exposure that is materially different from that depicted in the site permit application. Lake Country will file shadow flicker modeling results with the Commission in accordance with the pre-construction filing requirements.

If modeling results indicate that shadow flicker would be higher than depicted in site permit application, Lake Country has stated that it will eliminate the turbine location in favor of a more suitable location, by increasing the separation distance between the turbine and nearest receptor or by visual screening, such as the planting of trees.¹⁴

Cultural and Archaeological Resources. According to Lake Country the proposed turbine layout does not affect any architectural resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or potentially eligible architectural resources.

Once a final turbine layout and design of associated facilities is completed, Lake Country will coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office and will complete a Phase I archaeology survey as required by the Section 6.3 of the Site Permit. If the Phase I survey identifies any potentially eligible archaeological sites that would be affected by project infrastructure, Lake Country will avoid these sites.¹⁵

¹³ February 8, 2011, Commission Order, See eDockets, Document ID [20112-59340-01](#), Finding 71.

¹⁴ See eDockets, Document ID [20133-84617-01](#)

¹⁵ Ibid.

Surface Water and Floodplain Resources. Lake Country has stated turbine placement will not encroach upon any of the surface waters and floodplains identified in the site permit application.¹⁶

Wetlands. Lake Country's March 14, 2013, filing states, none of the turbine locations are within wetlands identified in the original Site Permit application and all turbine locations meet Kandiyohi County's 600-foot setback requirement for public waters wetlands. Lake Country will document avoidance of wetlands in its pre-construction filings.¹⁷

Vegetation. Lake Country's March 14, 2013, filing states that all new turbine locations are in cropland and will not affect grassland or forested areas.¹⁸

Wildlife. There are no Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) or Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) within the site boundary.

There are three WMA's within one mile of the project area (Butternut WMA, Groveland WMA, and Yohi WMA). There are three WPAs within one mile of the project area (Ella Lake WPA, Summit Lake WPA, and Uncle Matt's Lake WPA). Turbines will not be located within these sites or within any other public lands and will be setback a minimum of 3 rotor diameters from WMAs and WPAs.

Two turbine locations northwest of Wheeler Lake were removed to reduce the potential for conflict with avian activity around the lake. New alternative locations were identified and located near previously approved turbine locations in order to minimize the potential for new avian conflicts. All new and alternative turbine locations have been located in croplands, to avoid potential wildlife habitat associated with grasslands, wetlands or wooded areas.¹⁹

Rare and Unique Natural Resources. Lake Country in its March 12, 2013, filing states, "None of the new or alternative locations involve known rare or unique resources." As noted earlier, all of the new and alternative turbine locations are in cropland. Lake Country states in its March 12, 2013, filing that, "Once a final turbine layout is selected and associated infrastructure design is completed, Lake Country will commission a final review by qualified biologists and/or botanists of the areas to be disturbed by construction." Lake Country states, if any previously unidentified rare or unique resources are found during this review, impacts will be avoided by shifting the location of the problematic turbine or associated infrastructure to avoid the resource, or the use of an alternate turbine location.²⁰

EFP Staff Analysis: Lake Country's site permit application, the Commission's Order of February 8, 2011, and information in the Permittee's petition for a permit amendment filed

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

January 15, 2013, and revised on March 12, 2013, and the record have been reviewed by EFP staff. Based upon this review, EFP staff concurs with Lake Country's analysis and believes that the mitigation procedures outlined in its amendment request are appropriate to address potential project impacts. EFP staff concludes that the permit amendment request and proposed Project design and layout would not substantially change the findings accompanying the Commission's original permit decision, and potentially change the Commission's determination that the project is compatible with the standards set out in Statute and Rule.

DNR Comment Letter – April 9, 2013

Comments by DNR recommend that turbine monitoring for fatality surveys be increased from 6 to ten turbines and that the increase should be from turbines located in Sections 10 and 15 in Genessee Township.

Other DNR comments suggest relocation of one more turbine, in proximity to public water habitat, in addition to the two that have been removed and relocated to avoid possible avian and bat collisions.

EFP Staff Analysis: EFP staff has modified language in Section 13.1 of the EFP Proposed Amended Site Permit to reflect an increase in the number of turbines to be monitored. EFP staff also modified the language in Section 13.2 to indicate that additional bat fatality monitoring may be required. This is dependent on monitoring results.

Because Lake Country has proposed alternate turbine locations (two to three), this may allow for relocation of the turbine suggested by DNR; however, EFP staff believes that this suggestion should be more closely examined by the Permittee, DNR and EFP staff prior to making a determination on turbine relocation, relative to other siting factors.

EFP staff believes the proposed modifications to Section 13.1 and other changes address DNR's comments.

Similar to the Paynesville and Pleasant Valley permit amendment requests, the DNR's Natural Heritage Information System: Rare Features Database information for this project is now more than two years old. EFP staff recommends that NHIS search results should be updated if the original search data is more than one year old. Likewise, updated information on the possible presence of state-or federally-listed species such, as bald eagles or trumpeter swans, should be provided, as well as updated or refreshed Biological and Natural Resource Inventories (Section 6.1), prior to submittal of a final turbine layout and filed at least 30 days prior to a pre-construction meeting.

EFP Staff Recommendations

EFP staff believes that the three alternate turbine technologies and proposed turbine sites are appropriate, and the proposed Project would not substantially change the findings accompanying

the Commission's original permit decision, and potentially change the Commission's determination that the project is compatible with the standards set out in Statute and Rule.

EFP staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Issue an Amended Site Permit as proposed by EFP staff that incorporates permit modifications previously approved by the Commission, and other proposed modifications.
2. Direct Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC to:
 - a) File any biological surveys or studies conducted on this Project, including those not required specifically under this Permit,
 - b) File all biological and natural resources inventories or studies it has conducted or will conduct at least 30 days prior to a pre-construction meeting, and
 - c) Work with DOC EFP and DNR to review turbine relocation requests consistent with Minnesota Rule, part 7854.1000 and the terms and conditions of an Amended Site Permit for the 41 MW Lake Country Wind Project.

PERMIT AMENDMENT

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**SITE PERMIT FOR A
LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM**

IN KANDIYOHI AND MEEKER COUNTIES

**ISSUED TO
LAKE COUNTRY WIND ENERGY, LLC**

PUC DOCKET NO. IP-6846/WS-10-798

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 216F.04, this site permit is hereby issued to:

Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC

Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC, is authorized to construct and operate up to a 41 megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System on the site identified in this site permit and in compliance with the conditions contained in this site permit.

This site permit shall expire thirty (30) years from the date of ~~this~~ approval of this amended permit.

Approved and adopted this _____ day of May 2013

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BURL W. HAAR
Executive Secretary

This document can be made available in alternative formats; i.e. large print or audio tape by calling (651) 296-0391.

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1-A	Site Permit Boundary and Preliminary Layout for Gamesa/Repower Turbine
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Attachment 2 -	Complaint Handling Procedures
Attachment 3	Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities
Attachment 4 -	Permit Compliance Filings

SITE PERMIT

This **SITE PERMIT** for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) authorizes Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC, (Permittee) to construct and operate the Lake Country Wind Farm (Project), an up to 41 megawatt (MW) nameplate capacity LWECS and associated facilities in Kandiyohi and Meeker counties, on a site of approximately 16,100 acres in accordance with the conditions contained in this Permit.

~~The Permittee shall comply with those practices set forth in its site permit application, dated August 4, 2010, the revised site boundary maps (Appendix A) of the site permit application, dated September 16, 2010, and the record of this proceeding unless this Permit establishes a different requirement in which case this Permit shall prevail.~~

SECTION 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The up to 41 MW nameplate capacity LWECS authorized to be constructed in this Permit will be developed and constructed by the Permittee. The Project will consist of an array of ~~20 REpower 2.05 MW MM92 wind turbines. The turbines will consist of 328 foot towers with 269 foot diameter rotors for a maximum height of 479 feet.~~ up to 20 Repower 2.0 MW MM100 wind turbines on 328-foot (100 meter) towers with a rotor diameter of 328 feet (100 meters), up to 20 Gamesa 2.0 MW G97 wind turbines on 295-foot (90-meter) towers with a rotor diameter of 318 feet (97 meters), or up to 23 1.7 MW General Electric 1.7-100 turbines on 262-foot (80-meter) towers with a rotor diameter of 328 feet (100 meters). The Project will also require the following associated facilities as identified in the site permit application:

- pad mount transformers;
- collection lines;
- supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) communication lines;
- a project substation with switching and protection equipment, metering equipment, a small control house, and a 48 K transformer;
- access roads; and
- one permanent meteorological tower

The Project also includes an operations and maintenance facility; it will be permitted locally once the location is finalized. The Project will interconnect to an existing Xcel Energy 69 kV transmission line with a proposed project substation in section 6, of Acton Township, in Meeker County. The Project is expected to generate between 139,480 MW hours and 142,747 MW hours annually.

SECTION 2

DESIGNATED SITE

2.1 PROJECT BOUNDARY

The approved LWECS site permit boundary and preliminary project layout are shown on the maps that are attached hereto as **Attachment 1-A & 1-B**.

Within the site permit boundary, the project and associated facilities shall be located on lands for which the permittee has obtained wind rights. Wind rights or easements have been obtained by the permittee and include 12,526 acres of full easements and 294 acres of participation agreements, totaling approximately 12,820 acres in sections of Acton, Genessee and Harrison townships. Upon completion, the total project site would be converted to wind turbines and associated infrastructure for a total of approximately 19.4 square acres. (Attachment 1 A & 1-B).

2.1 TURBINE LAYOUT

The wind turbine and associated facility layout shown on Attachment 1 A and 1-B represents the preliminary location of wind turbines and associated facilities within the project boundary and identifies a layout that minimizes the overall potential human and environmental impacts, which were evaluated in the permitting process. The final layout depicting the location of each wind turbine and associated facility shall be located within the project boundary. The project boundary serves to provide the permittee with the flexibility to do minor adjustments to the preliminary layout to accommodate landowner requests, unforeseen conditions encountered during the detailed engineering and design process, and federal and state agency requirements. Any modification of the location of a wind turbine and associated facility depicted in a preliminary layout shall be done in such a manner as to have comparable overall human and environmental impacts and shall be specifically identified in the site plan pursuant to Section 5.1. The permittee shall ~~submit~~ file the final site layout in the site plan pursuant to Section 5.1.

SECTION 3

APPLICATION COMPLIANCE

The Permittee shall comply with those practices set forth in its Site Permit Application, dated August 4, 2010, the revised site boundary maps (Appendix A) of the Site Permit Application, dated September 16, 2010, and the record of this proceeding unless this Permit establishes a different requirement in which case this Permit shall prevail. Attachment 4 contains a summary of compliance filings required under this permit, which is provided solely for the convenience of the Permittee.

SECTION 4

SETBACKS AND SITE LAYOUT RESTRICTIONS

4.1 WIND ACCESS BUFFER

Wind turbine towers shall not be placed less than five (5) rotor diameters (RD) on the prevailing wind directions and three (3) RD on the non-prevailing wind directions from the perimeter of the property where the permittee does not hold the wind rights, without the approval of the Commission. This section does not apply to public roads and trails.

4.2 RESIDENCES

Wind turbine towers shall not be located closer than 1,200 feet to a residence, as instituted by the permittee in its site permit application or the distance to comply with the noise standards pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7030.0040 established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), whichever is greater.

4.3 NOISE

The wind turbine towers shall be placed such that the Permittee shall comply with noise standards established as of the date of this permit by the MPCA at all times and at all appropriate locations. The noise standards are found in Minnesota Rules, chapter 7030. Turbine operation shall be modified or turbines shall be removed from service if necessary to comply with these noise standards. The Permittee or its contractor may install and operate turbines as close as the minimum setback required in this permit, but in all cases shall comply with MPCA noise standards. The Permittee shall be required to comply with this condition with respect to all homes or other receptors in place as of the time of construction, but not with respect to such receptors built after construction of the towers.

4.4 ROADS

Wind turbines and meteorological towers shall not be located less than 250 feet from the edge of the nearest public road right-of-way, or in compliance with the county ordinance regulating wind turbines and meteorological towers in the county the tower is built, whichever is more restrictive. See Section 13.2 of this permit.

4.5 PUBLIC LANDS

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers, shall not be located in public lands, including Waterfowl Production Areas, State Wildlife Management Areas, Scientific and Natural Areas or county parks, and wind turbine towers shall also comply with the setbacks of Section 4.1.

4.6 WETLANDS

Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable and transformers, shall not be placed in public waters wetlands, as defined in Minnesota Statutes,

section 103G.005, subdivision 15(a), except that electric collector or feeder lines may cross or be placed in public waters or public waters wetlands subject to permits and approvals by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and local units of government as implementers of the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act.

4.7 NATIVE PRAIRIE

The Permittee shall, in consultation with the Commission, Department of Commerce, and DNR, prepare a Prairie Protection and Management Plan and submit it to the Commission, DOC and DNR at least thirty (30) days prior to pre-construction meeting if Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, collector and feeder lines, underground cable, and transformers, shall not be placed in native prairie, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 84.02, subdivision 5, is identified in any biological and natural resource inventories conducted pursuant to Section 6.1. addressed in a prairie protection and management plan. The permittee shall, in consultation with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and DNR, prepare a prairie protection and management plan and submit it to the Commission and DNR at least ten (10) working days prior to the pre-construction meeting if native prairie is identified in any biological and natural resource inventories conducted pursuant to Section 6.1. The plan shall address steps taken to avoid impacts to native prairie and mitigation to unavoidable impacts to native prairie by restoration or management of other native prairie areas that are in degraded condition, by conveyance of conservation easements, or by other means agreed to by the Permittee and Commission. Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, collector and feeder lines, underground cable, and transformers, shall not be placed in native prairie unless addressed in a Prairie Protection and Management Plan and shall not be located in areas enrolled in the Native Prairie Bank Program. Construction activities, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 216E.01, shall not impact prairie unless addressed in a Prairie Protection and Management Plan.

4.8 SAND AND GRAVEL OPERATIONS

Wind turbines and all associated facilities, including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers shall not be located within active sand and gravel operations, unless otherwise negotiated with the landowner with notice given to the owner of the sand and gravel operation.

4.9 WIND TURBINE TOWERS

Structures for wind turbines shall be self-supporting tubular towers, consisting of four conical tubular steel sections with a steel door at the base of the tower; interior lighting; electrical, control, and communication cables; a control system located at the bottom of the tower; and a safety ladder or lift with fall-arresting safety system for access to the nacelle. Tower surfaces are sandblasted, coated for protection against corrosion, and painted with non-glare paint. The towers will be up to 328 feet above grade measured at ~~the~~ hub height.

4.10 TURBINE SPACING

The turbine towers shall be constructed within the site boundary as shown in Attachment 1-A & 1-B. The turbine towers shall be spaced no closer than three (3) RD in the non-prevailing wind

directions and five (5) RD on the prevailing wind directions. If required during final micro-siting of the turbine towers to account for topographic conditions, up to 20 percent of the towers may be sited closer than the above spacing but the permittee shall minimize the need to site the turbine towers closer.

4.11 METEOROLOGICAL TOWERS

Permanent towers for meteorological equipment shall be free standing. Permanent meteorological towers shall not be placed less than 250 feet from the edge of the nearest public road right-of-way and from the boundary of the Permittee's site control, or in compliance with the county ordinance regulating meteorological towers in the county the tower is built, whichever is more restrictive. Meteorological towers shall be placed on property the permittee holds the wind or other development rights.

Meteorological towers shall be marked as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). There shall be no lights on the meteorological towers other than what is required by the FAA. This restriction shall not apply to infrared heating devices used to protect the wind monitoring equipment.

4.12 AVIATION

The Permittee shall not place wind turbines or associated facilities in a location that could create an obstruction to navigable airspace of public and private airports (as defined in Minnesota Rules 8800.0100, subparts 24(a) and 24(b)) in Minnesota, adjacent states, or provinces. The Permittee shall apply the minimum obstruction clearance for private airports pursuant to Minnesota Rules 8800.1900, subpart 5. Setbacks or other limitations shall be followed in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Department of Aviation, and the FAA. The Permittee shall notify owners of all known airports within six (6) miles of the project prior to construction.

4.13 FOOTPRINT MINIMIZATION

The Permittee shall design and construct the LWECS so as to minimize the amount of land that is impacted by the LWECS. Associated facilities in the vicinity of turbines such as electrical/electronic boxes, step-up transformers, and monitoring systems shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be mounted on the foundations used for turbine towers or inside the towers unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

4.14 COMMUNICATION CABLES

The Permittee shall place all supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) cables underground and within or adjacent to the land necessary for turbine access roads unless an alternate location is contractually permitted by the affected landowner(s).

4.15 ELECTRICAL COLLECTOR AND FEEDER LINES

Collector and feeder lines comprise the electrical collection system. Collector lines that carry electrical power from each individual transformer associated with a wind turbine to an internal project interconnection point shall be buried underground. Collector lines shall be placed within

or adjacent to the land necessary for turbine access roads unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

Feeder lines that carry power from an internal project interconnection point to the project substation or interconnection point on the electrical grid may be overhead or underground. Feeder line locations shall be negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

Any overhead feeder lines that parallel public roads shall be placed within the public rights-of-way or on private land immediately adjacent to public roads. If overhead feeder lines are located within public rights-of-way, the Permittee shall obtain approval from the governmental unit responsible for the affected right-of-way.

Collector and feeder line locations shall be located in such a manner as to minimize interference with agricultural operations including, but not limited, to existing drainage patterns, drain tile, future tiling plans, and ditches. Safety shields shall be placed on all guy wires associated with overhead feeder lines. The permittee shall submit the engineering drawings of all collector and feeder lines in the site plan pursuant to Section 5.1.

The Permittee must fulfill, comply with, and satisfy all Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) standards applicable to this Project including, but not limited to, IEEE 776 (Recommended Practice for Inductive Coordination of Electric Supply and Communication Lines), IEEE 519 (Harmonic Specifications), IEEE 367 (Recommended Practice for Determining the Electric Power Station Ground Potential Rise and Induced Voltage from a Power Fault), and IEEE 820 (Standard Telephone Loop Performance Characteristics) provided the telephone service provider(s) have complied with any obligations imposed on it pursuant to these standards. Upon request by the Commission, the Permittee shall report to the Commission on compliance with these standards.

SECTION 5

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

The following administrative compliance procedures ~~shall be executed in accordance with the Permit Compliance Filings at Attachments 3 and 4.~~ require submissions to the Commission. Submissions to the Commission must be made by electronic filing (eFiling).

5.1 SITE PLAN

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission:

- (a) a site plan for all turbines, roads, electrical equipment, collector and feeder lines, and other associated facilities to be constructed;
- (b) engineering drawings for site preparation, construction of the facilities; and
- (c) a plan for restoration of the site due to construction.

Construction is defined under Minnesota Statutes section 216E.01. The Permittee may submit a site plan and engineering drawings for only a portion of the Project if the Permittee intends to commence construction on certain parts of the Project before completing the site plan and engineering drawings for other parts of the Project. The Permittee shall document, through GIS mapping, compliance with the setbacks and site layout restrictions required by this Permit, including compliance with the noise standards pursuant to Minnesota Rules, chapter 7030. In the event that previously unidentified environmental conditions are discovered during construction that by law or pursuant to conditions outlined in this Permit would preclude the use of that site as a turbine site, the Permittee shall have the right to move or relocate turbine site. The Permittee shall notify the Commission of any turbines that are to be relocated before the turbine is constructed on the new site and demonstrate compliance with the setbacks and site layout restrictions required by this Permit.

5.2 NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Within ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days of ~~approval of this~~ Permit issuance, the Permittee shall send a printed copy of the Permit to the office of the auditor of each county in which the site is located and to the clerk of each city and township within the site boundaries. ~~If~~ As applicable, the permittee shall, within ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days of Permit ~~approval~~ issuance, send a printed copy of this Permit to each regional development commission, local fire district, soil and water conservation district, watershed district, and watershed management district office with jurisdiction in the county where the site is located. Within thirty (30) days of approval of this Permit, the Permittee shall send a printed copy of the Permit to each landowner within the project boundary. In no case shall the landowner receive this site permit and complaint procedure, developed pursuant to Section 5.8, less than five (5) days prior to the start of construction on their property.

5.3 NOTICE OF PERMIT CONDITIONS

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction and ongoing operation of the Project of the terms and conditions of this Permit.

5.4 FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting and continuously throughout construction, including site restoration, the Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during the construction phase of this Project. This person (or a designee) shall be accessible by telephone during normal working hours. This person's address, phone number, email, and emergency phone number shall be ~~provided to~~ filed with the Commission, which may make the contact information available to local residents and officials and other interested persons. The Permittee may change the field representative by notification to the Commission by eFiling.

5.5 SITE MANAGER

The Permittee shall designate a site manager responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this Permit during the commercial operation and decommissioning phases of this Project. The Permittee shall provide the Commission with the name, address, email, phone

number, and emergency phone number of the site manager fourteen days (14) prior to placing any turbine into commercial operation. This information shall be maintained current by informing the Commission of any changes by eFiling, as they become effective.

5.6 PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING

Prior to the start of any construction, ~~the permittee shall conduct a pre-construction meeting with the Field Representative and the State Permit Manager designated by the Commission to coordinate field monitoring of construction activities.~~ representatives of the Permittee, the Field Representative, and the Department of Commerce State Permit Manager for this Project shall participate in a pre-construction meeting to review pre-construction filing requirements, scheduling, and to coordinate monitoring of construction and site restoration activities. The Permittee shall file with the Commission with fourteen (14) days following the pre-construction meeting a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees. The Permittee shall indicate in the filing the project's construction start date.

5.7 PRE-OPERATION COMPLIANCE MEETING

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to commercial operation, ~~the permittee shall conduct a pre-operation compliance meeting with the Site Manager and the State Permit Manager designated by the Commission to coordinate field monitoring of operation activities.~~ representatives of the Permittee, the Site Manager and the Department of Commerce State Permit Manager shall participate in a pre-operation compliance meeting to review compliance reporting requirements. The Permittee shall file with the Commission within fourteen (14) days following the pre-operation meeting a summary of the topics reviewed and discussed and a list of attendees. The Permittee shall indicated in the filing the Project's date of commercial operation.

5.8 COMPLAINTS

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the permittee shall submit to file with the Commission the company's procedures to be used to receive and respond to complaints. The Permittee shall report to the Commission all complaints received concerning any part of the project in accordance with the procedures provided in Attachments 2 and 3 of this permit.

SECTION 6

SURVEYS AND REPORTING

6.1 BIOLOGICAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES

The Permittee, in consultation with the Commission, DOC and DNR, shall design and conduct pre-construction desktop and field inventories of potentially impacted native prairies, wetlands, and any other biologically sensitive areas within the site and assess the presence of state threatened, endangered, or species of special concern or federally listed species. The results of any surveys these inventories shall be submitted to the Commission and DNR filed at least thirty (30) days prior to the pre-construction meeting to confirm compliance of conditions in this Permit.

The Permittee shall ~~provide to the Commission file~~ any biological surveys or studies conducted on this Project, including those not required under this Permit.

6.2 SHADOW FLICKER

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall provide data on shadow flicker for each residence of non-participating landowners and participating landowners within and outside of the project boundary subject to exposure from turbine shadow flicker. Information shall include the results of modeling used, assumptions made, and the anticipated ~~duration- levels~~ of exposure from turbine shadow flicker for each residence. The Permittee shall provide documentation on its efforts to minimize shadow flicker ~~impacts exposure~~. The results of any modeling shall be filed with the Commission at least fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting to confirm compliance with conditions of this Permit.

6.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Permittee shall work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the State Archaeologist. The Permittee shall carry out a Phase 1 or 1A Archaeology survey for all proposed turbine locations, access roads, junction boxes, and other areas of Project construction impact to determine whether additional archaeological work is necessary for any part of the proposed Project. The Permittee shall contract with a qualified archaeologist to complete such surveys, and shall submit the results to the Commission, the SHPO, and the State Archaeologist at least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting.

The SHPO and the State Archaeologist will make recommendations for the treatment of any significant archaeological sites which are identified. Any issues in the implementation of these recommendations will be resolved by the Commission in consultation with SHPO and the State Archaeologist. In addition, the Permittee shall mark and preserve any previously unrecorded archaeological sites that are found during construction and shall promptly notify the SHPO, the State Archaeologist, and the Commission of such discovery. The Permittee shall not excavate at such locations until so authorized by the Commission in consultation with the SHPO and the State Archaeologist.

If human remains are encountered during construction, the permittee shall immediately halt construction at that location and promptly notify local law enforcement authorities and the State Archaeologist. Construction at the human remains location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement authorities or the State Archaeologist.

If any federal funding, permit, or license is involved or required, the Permittee shall notify the SHPO as soon as possible in the planning process to coordinate section 106 (36 CFR part 800) review.

Prior to construction, construction workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction. If any archaeological sites are found during construction, the Permittee shall immediately stop work at the site and shall mark and preserve the site and notify the Commission, SHPO, ~~and State Archaeologist~~ about the discovery. The Commission and SHPO shall have three working days from the time the agency

is notified to conduct an inspection of the site if either agency shall choose to do so. On the fourth day after notification, the Permittee may begin work on the site unless the SHPO has directed that work shall cease. In such event, work shall not continue until the SHPO determines that construction can proceed.

6.4 INTERFERENCE

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall ~~submit to the Commission file~~ the results of an assessment of television and radio signal reception, microwave signal patterns, and telecommunications in the project area. The assessment shall be designed to provide data that can be used in the future to determine whether the turbines and associated facilities are the cause of disruption or interference of television or radio reception, microwave patterns, or telecommunications in the event residents should complain about such disruption or interference after the turbines are placed in operation. The permittee shall be responsible for alleviating any disruption or interference of these services caused by the turbines or any associated facilities.

The Permittee shall not operate the Project so as to cause microwave, television, radio, telecommunications, or navigation interference in violation of Federal Communications Commission regulations or other law. In the event the Project or its operations cause such interference, the permittee shall take timely measures necessary to correct the problem.

6.5 WAKE LOSS STUDIES

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall ~~provide to the Commission file~~ the pre-construction micro-siting analysis leading to the final tower locations and an estimate of total Project wake losses. The Permittee shall ~~provide to the Commission file~~ any operational wake loss studies conducted on this Project during the calendar year preceding the report.

6.6 NOISE

The Permittee shall ~~submit file~~ a proposal ~~to~~ with the Commission at least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-operation compliance meeting for the conduct of a post-construction noise study. Upon the approval of the Commission, the Permittee shall carry out the study. The study shall be designed to determine the operating LWECs noise levels at different frequencies and at various distances from the turbines at various wind directions and speeds. The Permittee shall ~~submit file~~ the study within eighteen (18) months after commercial operation.

6.7 AVIAN AND BAT PROTECTION PLAN

6.7.1 AVIAN AND BAT PROTECTION PLAN

The Permittee shall, in consultation with the Commission, DOC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the DNR, prepare an Avian and Bat Protection Plan ~~and submit it to the Commission file it~~ at least ~~ten (10) working~~ thirty (30) days prior to the pre-construction meeting. The plan shall address steps to be taken to identify and mitigate impacts to avian and bat species during the construction phase and the operation phase of the Project. The plan shall

also include formal and informal monitoring, training, wildlife handling, documentation (e.g., photographs), and reporting protocols for each phase of the Project.

The Permittee shall, by March 15th following each complete or partial calendar year of operation file with the commission an annual report detailing findings of its annual audit of ABPP practices. The annual report shall include summarized and raw data of bird and bat fatalities and injuries and shall include bird and bat fatalities estimates for the Project using agreed upon estimators from the prior calendar year. The annual report shall also identify any deficiencies or recommended changes in the operation of the Project or in the ABPP to reduce avian and bat fatalities and shall provide a schedule for implementing the corrective or modified actions. The Permittee shall provide a copy of the report to DOC, DNR and to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) at the time of filing with the Commission.

6.7.2 QUARTERLY INCIDENT REPORTS

The Permittee shall ~~submit file~~ quarterly avian and bat reports ~~to the Commission~~. Quarterly reports are due by the 15th of each January, April, July, and October commencing the day following commercial operation and terminating upon the expiration of this permit. Each report shall identify any dead or injured avian and bat species, location of find by turbine number, and date of find for the reporting period in accordance with the reporting protocols. If a dead or injured avian or bat species is found, the report shall describe the potential cause of the occurrence and the steps taken to avoid future occurrences. The Permittee shall provide notice of the report to DOC, DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the time of filing with the Commission.

6.7.3 IMMEDIATE INCIDENT REPORTS

The Permittee shall notify the Commission, DOC, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and DNR within twenty-four (24) hours of the discovery of any of the following within the vicinity of the rotor swept area:

- (a) five or more dead or injured non-protected avian or bat species within a reporting period;
- (b) one or more dead or injured migratory avian or bat species;
- (c) one or more dead or injured state threatened, endangered, or species of special concern;
~~or~~
- (d) one or more dead or injured federally listed species; or-
- (e) one or more bald eagles.

6.8 PROJECT ENERGY PRODUCTION

The Permittee shall ~~submit a report no later than by~~ February 1st following each complete or partial year of Project operation file a report with the Commission including- ~~The report shall include:~~

- (a) The ~~rated~~ installed nameplate capacity of the permitted Project;
- (b) The total monthly energy generated by the Project in MW hours;
- (c) The monthly capacity factor of the Project;
- (d) Yearly energy production and capacity factor for the Project;
- (e) The operational status of the Project and any major outages, major repairs, or turbine performance improvements occurring in the previous year; and
- (f) Any other information reasonably requested by the Commission.

This information shall be ~~considered public and must be submitted~~ filed electronically.

6.9 WIND RESOURCE USE

The Permittee shall, ~~upon the request of the Commission, report to the Commission on the monthly energy production of the project and by February 1st following each complete or partial calendar year of operation, file with the Commission the average monthly and average annual wind speed collected at one permanent meteorological tower selected by the Commission during the preceding year or partial year of operation.~~

~~The provisions of Section 11.7 shall apply to the Commission's review of data provided pursuant to this section. This information shall be considered public and must be filed electronically.~~

6.10 EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

Within twenty-four (24) hours of an occurrence, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of any extraordinary event. Extraordinary events include but shall not be limited to fires, tower collapse, thrown blade, collector or feeder line failure, and injured LWECS worker or private person. The Permittee shall, within thirty (30) days of the occurrence, ~~submit file~~ submit file a report ~~to~~ with the Commission describing the cause of the occurrence and the steps taken to avoid future occurrences.

SECTION 7

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION PRACTICES

7.1 SITE CLEARANCE

The Permittee shall disturb or clear the site only to the extent necessary to assure suitable access for construction, safe operation, and maintenance of the Project.

7.2 TOPSOIL PROTECTION

The Permittee shall implement measures to protect and segregate topsoil from subsoil in cultivated lands unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

7.3 SOIL COMPACTION

The Permittee shall implement measures to minimize soil compaction of all lands during all phases of the project's life and shall confine compaction to as small an area as practicable.

7.4 LIVESTOCK PROTECTION

The Permittee shall take precautions to protect livestock during all phases of the Project's life.

7.5 FENCES

The Permittee shall promptly replace or repair all fences and gates removed or damaged during all phases of the Project's life unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s). When the Permittee installs a gate where electric fences are present, the permittee shall provide for continuity in the electric fence circuit.

7.6 DRAINAGE TILES

The Permittee shall take into account the location of drainage tiles during project layout and construction. The Permittee shall promptly repair or replace all drainage tiles broken or damaged during all phases of the Project's life unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

7.7 EQUIPMENT STORAGE

The Permittee shall not locate temporary equipment staging areas on lands under its control unless negotiated with affected landowner(s). Temporary staging areas shall not be located in wetlands or native prairie as defined in Sections 4.6 and 4.7.

7.8 ROADS

7.8.1 PUBLIC ROADS

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall identify all state, county, or township roads that will be used for the Project and shall notify the Commission and the state, county, or township governing body having jurisdiction over the roads to determine if the governmental body needs to inspect the roads prior to use of these roads. Where practical, existing roadways shall be used for all activities associated with the Project. Where practical, all-weather roads shall be used to deliver cement, turbines, towers, assembled nacelles, and all other heavy components to and from the turbine sites.

The Permittee shall, prior to the use of such roads, make satisfactory arrangements through development and/or road development agreements with the with the appropriate state, county, or township governmental body having jurisdiction over roads to be used for construction of the

Project for maintenance and repair of roads that will be subject to extra wear and tear due to transportation of equipment and project components. The Permittee shall notify the Commission of such arrangements upon request of the Commission.

7.8.2 TURBINE ACCESS ROADS

The Permittee shall construct the least number of turbine access roads it can. Access roads shall be low profile roads so that farming equipment can cross them and shall be covered with Class five gravel or similar material. Access roads shall not be constructed across streams and drainage ways without required permits and approvals from the DNR and the USACE. When access roads are constructed across streams and drainage ways, the access roads shall be designed in a manner so runoff from the upper portions of the watershed can readily flow to the lower portion of the watershed. The access or intersection points with the public roadways shall be located in accordance with all necessary township, county or state road requirements and permits. The ~~A~~access roads shall ~~also~~ be constructed in accordance with all necessary townships, county or state road requirements and permits.

7.8.3 PRIVATE ROADS

The Permittee shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when obtaining access to the site, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s).

7.9 CLEANUP

The Permittee shall remove all waste and scrap that is the product of construction, operation, restoration, and maintenance from the site and properly dispose of it upon completion of each task. Personal litter, bottles, and paper deposited by site personnel shall be removed on a daily basis.

7.10 TREE REMOVAL

The Permittee shall minimize the removal of trees and the permittee shall not remove groves of trees or shelter belts without notification to the Commission and the approval of the affected landowner(s).

7.11 SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

The Permittee shall develop a soil erosion and sediment control plan and submit the plan to the Commission at least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting. This plan may be the same as the storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) submitted to the MPCA as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application.

The soil erosion and sediment control plan shall address what types of erosion control measures will be implemented during each Project phase and shall at a minimum identify: plans for grading, construction, and drainage of roads and turbine pads; necessary soil information; detailed design features to maintain downstream water quality; a comprehensive re-vegetation plan to maintain and ensure adequate erosion control and slope stability and to restore the site after temporary project activities; and measures to minimize the area of surface disturbance.

Other practices shall include containing excavated material, protecting exposed soil, and stabilizing restored material and removal of silt fences or barriers when the area is stabilized. The plan shall identify methods for disposal or storage of excavated material. Erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be implemented prior to construction and maintained throughout the project's life.

The Permittee shall develop an invasive species prevention plan to prevent the introduction of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities. This requirement may be included as an element of the soil erosion and sediment control plan.

7.12 RESTORATION

The Permittee shall, as soon as practical following construction of each turbine, considering the weather and preferences of the affected landowner(s), restore the area affected by any Project activities to the condition that existed immediately before construction began, to the extent possible. The time period may be no longer than twelve (12) months after completion of construction of the turbine, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner(s). Restoration shall be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the Project.

7.13 HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean-up, and disposal of hazardous wastes generated during any phase of the Project's life.

7.14 APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES

The Permittee shall restrict herbicide use to those herbicides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. The Permittee shall contact the landowner or his designee to obtain approval for the use of herbicide prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of herbicides on any part of the site within the landowner's property. All herbicides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as to not damage property, including crops, orchards, tree farms, or gardens. The Permittee shall also, at least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the application, notify beekeepers with an active apiary within one mile of the proposed application site of the day the company intends to apply herbicide so that precautionary measures may be taken by the beekeeper.

7.15 PUBLIC SAFETY

The Permittee shall provide educational materials to landowners within the site boundary and, upon request, to interested persons about the Project and any restrictions or dangers associated with the Project. The Permittee shall also provide any necessary safety measures, such as warning signs and gates for traffic control or to restrict public access. The Permittee shall submit the location of all underground facilities, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 216D.01, subdivision 11, to Gopher State One Call.

7.16 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Permittee shall prepare an emergency response plan (fire protection and medical emergency plan) in consultation with the emergency responders having jurisdiction over the area prior to Project construction. The Permittee shall ~~submit~~ file a copy of the plan ~~to~~ with the Commission at least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting and a revised plan, if any, at least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-operation compliance meeting. The Permittee shall also register the Project with the local governments' emergency 911 services.

7.17 TOWER IDENTIFICATION

All turbine towers shall be marked with a visible identification number.

7.18 FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION LIGHTING

Towers shall be marked as required by the FAA. There shall be no lights on the towers other than what is required by the FAA. This restriction shall not apply to infrared heating devices used to protect the wind monitoring equipment.

SECTION 8

FINAL CONSTRUCTION

8.1 AS-BUILT PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Within sixty (60) days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall ~~submit to the~~ file with the Commission a copy of the as-built plans and specifications. The Permittee must also provide this data in a geographic information system (GIS) compatible format so that the Commission can place it into the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office's (MnGeo) geographic data clearinghouse located in the Office of Enterprise Technology.

8.2 FINAL BOUNDARIES

After completion of construction, the Commission shall determine the need to adjust the final boundaries of the site required for this Project. If done, this Permit may be modified, after notice and opportunity for public hearing, to represent the actual site required by the Permittee to operate the Project authorized by this permit.

8.3 EXPANSION OF SITE BOUNDARIES

No expansion of the site boundaries described in this permit shall be authorized without the approval of the Commission. The Permittee may submit to the Commission a request for a change in the boundaries of the site for the Project. The Commission will respond to the requested change in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

8.4 NOTIFICATION TO THE COMMISSION

At least three (3) days before the Project is to commence commercial operation, the Permittee shall file the date on which the Project will commence commercial operation and the date on which construction was completed.

SECTION 9

DECOMMISSIONING, RESTORATION, AND ABANDONMENT

9.1 DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-operation compliance meeting, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission a Decommissioning Plan documenting the manner in which the Permittee anticipates decommissioning the Project in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules 7854.0500, subpart 13. The Permittee shall ensure that it carries out its obligations to provide for the resources necessary to fulfill its requirements to properly decommission the project at the appropriate time. The Commission may at any time request the Permittee to file a report with the Commission describing how the Permittee is fulfilling this obligation.

9.2 SITE RESTORATION

Upon expiration of this Permit, or upon earlier termination of operation of the Project, or any turbine within the Project, the Permittee shall have the obligation to dismantle and remove from the site all towers, turbine generators, transformers, overhead and underground cables and lines, foundations, buildings, and ancillary equipment to a depth of four feet. To the extent feasible, the Permittee shall restore and reclaim the site to its pre-project topography and topsoil quality. All access roads shall be removed unless written approval is given by the affected landowner(s) requesting that one or more roads, or portions thereof, be retained. Any agreement for removal to a lesser depth or no removal shall be recorded with the county and shall show the locations of all such foundations. All such agreements between the Permittee and the affected landowner(s) shall be ~~submitted to~~ filed with the Commission prior to completion of restoration activities. The site shall be restored in accordance with the requirements of this condition within eighteen (18) months after site permit expiration or upon earlier termination of the Project, or any turbine within the Project.

9.3 ABANDONED TURBINES

The Permittee shall advise the Commission of any turbines that are abandoned prior to termination of operation of the Project. A Project, or any turbine within the Project, shall be considered abandoned after one (1) year without energy production and the land restored pursuant to Section 9.2 unless a plan is developed and ~~submitted to the Commission~~ filed outlining the steps and schedule for returning the Project, or any turbine within the Project, to service.

SECTION 10

AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT LWECS

10.1 WIND RIGHTS

At least ~~ten (10) working~~ fourteen (14) days prior to the pre-construction meeting, the Permittee shall demonstrate that it has obtained the wind rights and any other rights necessary to construct and operate the Project within the boundaries of the LWECS authorized by this Permit.

Nothing in this Permit shall be construed to preclude any other person from seeking a permit to construct a WECS in any area within the boundaries of the Project covered by this Permit if the Permittee does not hold exclusive wind rights for such areas.

10.2 POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

In the event the Permittee does not have a power purchase agreement or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity to be generated by the Project at the time this permit is issued, the Permittee shall provide notice to the Commission when it obtains a commitment for purchase of the power. This Permit does not authorize construction of the Project until the Permittee has obtained a power purchase agreement or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity to be generated by the Project. In the event the Permittee does not obtain a power purchase agreement or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the electricity to be generated by the Project within two years of the issuance of this Permit, the Permittee must advise the Commission of the reason for not having such commitment. In such event, the Commission may determine whether this Permit should be amended or revoked. No amendment or revocation of this Permit may be undertaken except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules, including Minnesota Rules 7854.1300.

10.3 FAILURE TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION

If the Permittee has not completed the pre-construction surveys required under this Permit and commenced construction of the Project within two years of the issuance of this Permit, the Permittee must advise the Commission of the reason construction has not commenced. In such event, the Commission shall make a determination as to whether this Permit should be amended or revoked. No revocation of this Permit may be undertaken except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules, including Minnesota Rules 7854.1300.

10.4 PREEMPTION OF OTHER LAWS

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 216F.07, this site permit shall be the only site approval required for the location of this Project, and this Permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, and land use rules, regulations, and ordinances adopted by regional, county, local, and special purpose governments. Nothing in this Permit shall release the Permittee from any obligation imposed by law that is not superseded or preempted by law.

10.5 OTHER PERMITS

The Permittee shall be responsible for acquiring any other federal, state, or local permits or authorizations that may be required to construct and operate a LWECs within the authorized site. The Permittee shall submit file a copy of such permits and authorizations to the Commission upon request.

10.5.1 COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCY PERMITS

The Permittee shall comply with all terms and conditions of permits or licenses issued by Federal, State, or Tribal authorities including but not limited to the requirements of the MPCA (Section 401 Water Quality Certification, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) stormwater permit for construction activity, and other site specific discharge approvals), DNR (License to Cross Public Lands and Water, Public Water Works Permit, and state protected species consultation), SHPO (Section 106 Historic Consultation Act), FAA determinations, and Mn/DOT (Utility Access Permit, Highway Access Permit, Oversize and Overweight Permit, and Aeronautics Airspace Obstruction Permit, and the Mn/DOT Utility Accommodation Policy).

10.5.2 COMPLIANCE WITH COUNTY, CITY, OR MUNICIPAL PERMITS

The Permittee shall comply with all terms and conditions of permits, authorizations, or licenses issued by the counties, cities, and municipalities affected by the Project that do not conflict with or are not pre-empted by federal or state permits and regulations. These authorizations include, but are not limited to, compliance with Minnesota's Wetland Conservation Act.

SECTION 11

COMMISSION POST-ISSUANCE AUTHORITIES

11.1 PERIODIC REVIEW

The Commission shall initiate a review of this Permit and the applicable conditions at least once every five (5) years. The purpose of the periodic review is to allow the Commission, the Permittee, and other interested persons an opportunity to consider modifications in the conditions of this Permit. No modification may be made except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

11.2 MODIFICATION OF CONDITIONS

After notice and opportunity for hearing, this permit may be modified or amended for cause, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) Violation of any condition in this permit;
- (b) Endangerment of human health or the environment by operation of the project; or
- (c) Existence of other grounds established by rule.

11.3 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMIT

The Commission may take action to suspend or revoke this Permit upon the grounds that:

- (a) A false statement was knowingly made in the application or in accompanying statements or studies required of the Permittee, and a true statement would have warranted a change in the Commission's findings;
- (b) There has been a failure to comply with material conditions of this Permit, or there has been a failure to maintain health and safety standards; or
- (c) There has been a material violation of a provision of an applicable statute, rule, or an order of the Commission.

In the event the Commission determines that it is appropriate to consider revocation or suspension of this Permit, the Commission shall proceed in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules 7854.1300 to determine the appropriate action. Upon a finding of any of the above, the Commission may require the Permittee to undertake corrective measures in lieu of having this permit suspended or revoked.

11.4 MORE STRINGENT RULES

The Commission's issuance of this Site Permit does not prevent the future adoption by the Commission of rules or orders more stringent than those now in existence and does not prevent the enforcement of these more stringent rules and orders against the Permittee.

11.5 TRANSFER OF PERMIT AND CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

The Permittee may not transfer this permit without the approval of the Commission. If the Permittee desires to transfer this Permit, the holder shall advise the Commission in writing of such desire. The Permittee shall provide the Commission with such information about the transfer as the Commission requires to reach a decision. The Commission may impose additional conditions on any new Permittee as part of the approval of the transfer.

Any and all changes in the Permittee's ownership structure and ownership interests must be reported to the Commission. The Permittee shall, in a timely fashion, file with the Commission the Notice of Change in Ownership for every change in ownership structure and ownership interest for the duration of this permit.

11.6 RIGHT OF ENTRY

Upon reasonable notice, presentation of credentials and at all times in compliance with the Permittee's site safety standards, the Permittee shall allow representatives of the Commission to perform the following:

- (a) To enter upon the facilities easement of the site property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations;

- (b) To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations;
- (c) To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property; and
- (d) To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this Permit.

11.7 PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Certain information required or requested to be ~~submitted to the Commission~~ filed with the Commission under this Permit, ~~including certain energy production and wake loss data,~~ may constitute trade secret information or other type of proprietary information under the Data Practices Act or other law ~~and is not to be made available by the Commission.~~ The Permittee must satisfy requirements of applicable law to obtain the protection afforded by the law.

SECTION 12

EXPIRATION DATE

This Permit shall expire thirty (30) years after the date this permit was approved and adopted.

SECTION 13

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Special conditions shall take precedence over any of the other conditions of this Permit if there should be a conflict between the two.

13.1 AVIAN AND BAT PROTECTION PLAN SPECIAL PROVISION

The Permittee shall, in cooperation with the Commission, the DNR, and the USFWS, develop protocols to conduct a minimum of one (1) year of avian fatality monitoring after the project becomes operational. The surveys shall target a limited area of ~~six ten (6 10)~~ turbines that are proposed to be located in the northwest portion of the project near Wheeler Lake (sections 33, ~~and 34 and 35~~ of Harrison Township) and turbines from Sections 10 and 15 of Genessee Township, an area of the project with higher avian species abundance and diversity, as identified in the Avian Impact Assessment. Survey protocols shall be included in the Avian and Bat Protection Plan filed by the Permittee under Section 6.7 of this Permit. The results of the post-construction avian surveys shall be ~~submitted to~~ filed with the Commission, DOC, DNR and USFWS at least quarterly. Final results of first year post-construction avian surveys shall be filed no later than January 15th of the following year. Results shall be filed in an Excel spreadsheet and include summarized and raw data. Based on those results, the Commission may modify conditions or monitoring requirements in this Permit pursuant to Section 11.2.

13.2 APPLICATION OF COUNTY STANDARDS

The Permittee shall site all wind turbines and associated facilities consistent with the wind energy ordinances adopted by Kandiyohi and Meeker counties.

13.2.1 KANDIYOHI COUNTY

Kandiyohi County has adopted more stringent WECS standards than those identified in Section 4 of this permit for the following features:

- a) Rights-of-way Setback: Turbines shall have a setback of 1.1 times total turbine height from the edge of all rights-of-way (roads, railroads, power lines, pipelines, and other recorded rights-of-way).
- b) Public Water Inventory (PWI) Wetlands: Turbines shall be setback at least 600 feet from PWI wetlands.
- c) Zoning District Regulations: Turbines shall not be located in the zoning districts where prohibited pursuant to Kandiyohi County's WECS Ordinance.

13.2.2 MEEKER COUNTY

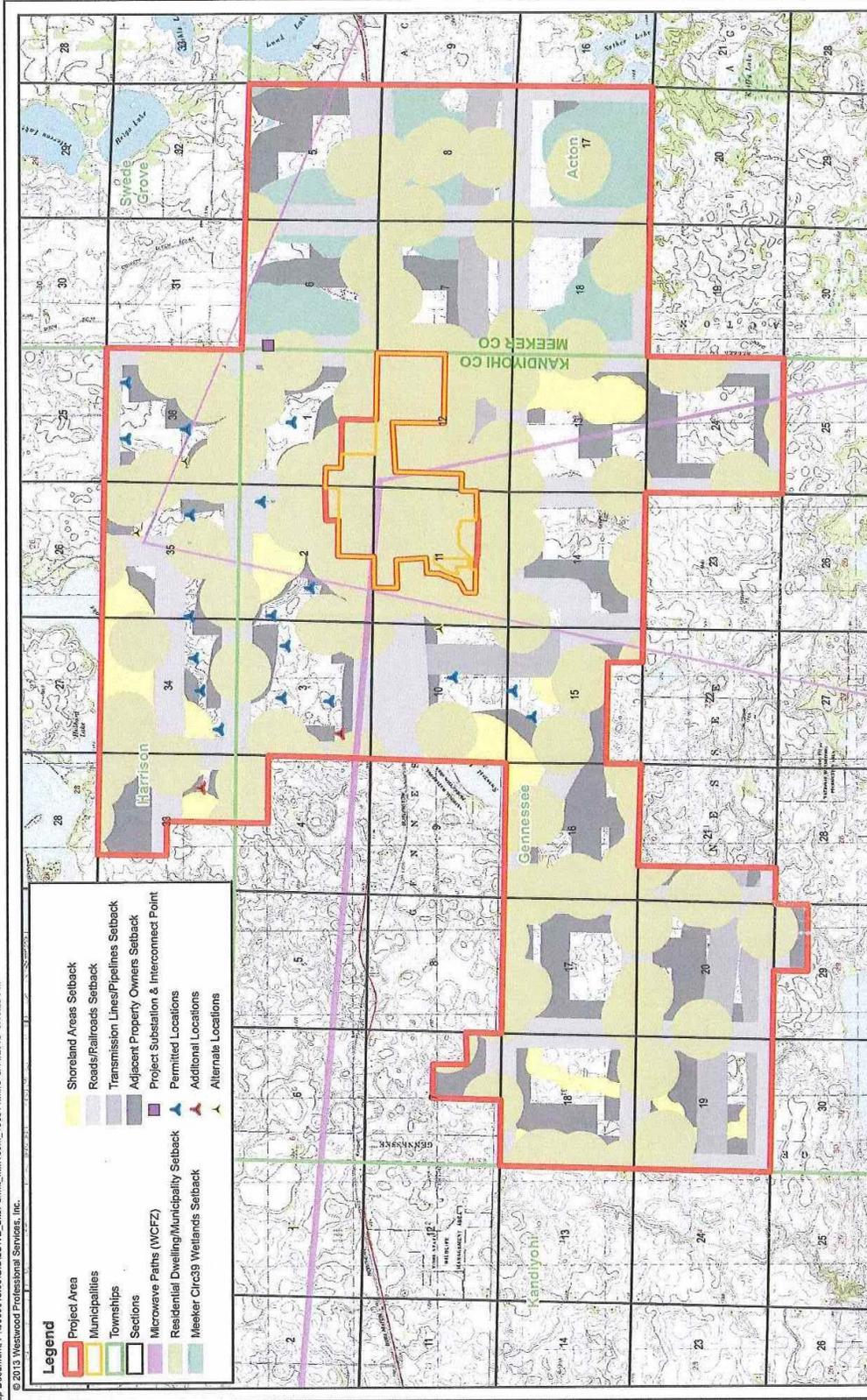
Meeker County has adopted more stringent standards than those identified in Section 4 of this permit for the following features:

- a) Rights-of-way Setback: Turbines shall have a setback of 1 times total turbine height plus 10 feet from the edge of all rights-of-way (roads, railroads, power lines, pipelines, and other recorded rights-of-way).
- b) Wetlands USFWS Types III, IV, and V (five acres or greater): Turbines shall be setback at least three (3) rotor diameters on east-west axis and five (5) rotor diameters on north-south axis from wetlands as defined in Meeker County's LWECS Ordinance.
- c) Other Structures: Turbines shall have a setback of 1 times total turbine height plus 10 feet from structures other than homes or dwellings.
- d) Zoning District Regulations: Turbines shall not be located in the zoning districts where prohibited pursuant to Meeker County's Windpower Management Ordinance.

13.3 AMENDED PERMIT DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT

Within thirty (30) days of the issuance of any permit amendment the Permittee shall send an explanatory letter to each landowner within the Project Boundary. The explanatory letter shall accompany the copy of the site permit required to be provided to landowners under Section 5.2 of this permit and shall summarize changes from previously issued permits for this Project. The Permittee shall have the letter approved by Commission staff before sending it.

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Legend

- Project Area
- Shoreland Areas Setback
- Municipalities
- Roads/Railroads Setback
- Townships
- Transmission Lines/Pipelines Setback
- Sections
- Adjacent Property Owners Setback
- Microwave Paths (WCFZ)
- Project Substation & Interconnect Point
- Residential Dwelling/Municipality Setback
- Permitted Locations
- Meeker Circ39 Wetlands Setback
- Additional Locations
- Alternale Locations

Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC
 Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties, Minnesota

Project Constraints
 Gamesa/REpower 2.0 MW

EXHIBIT 3A

Westwood Professional Services, Inc.
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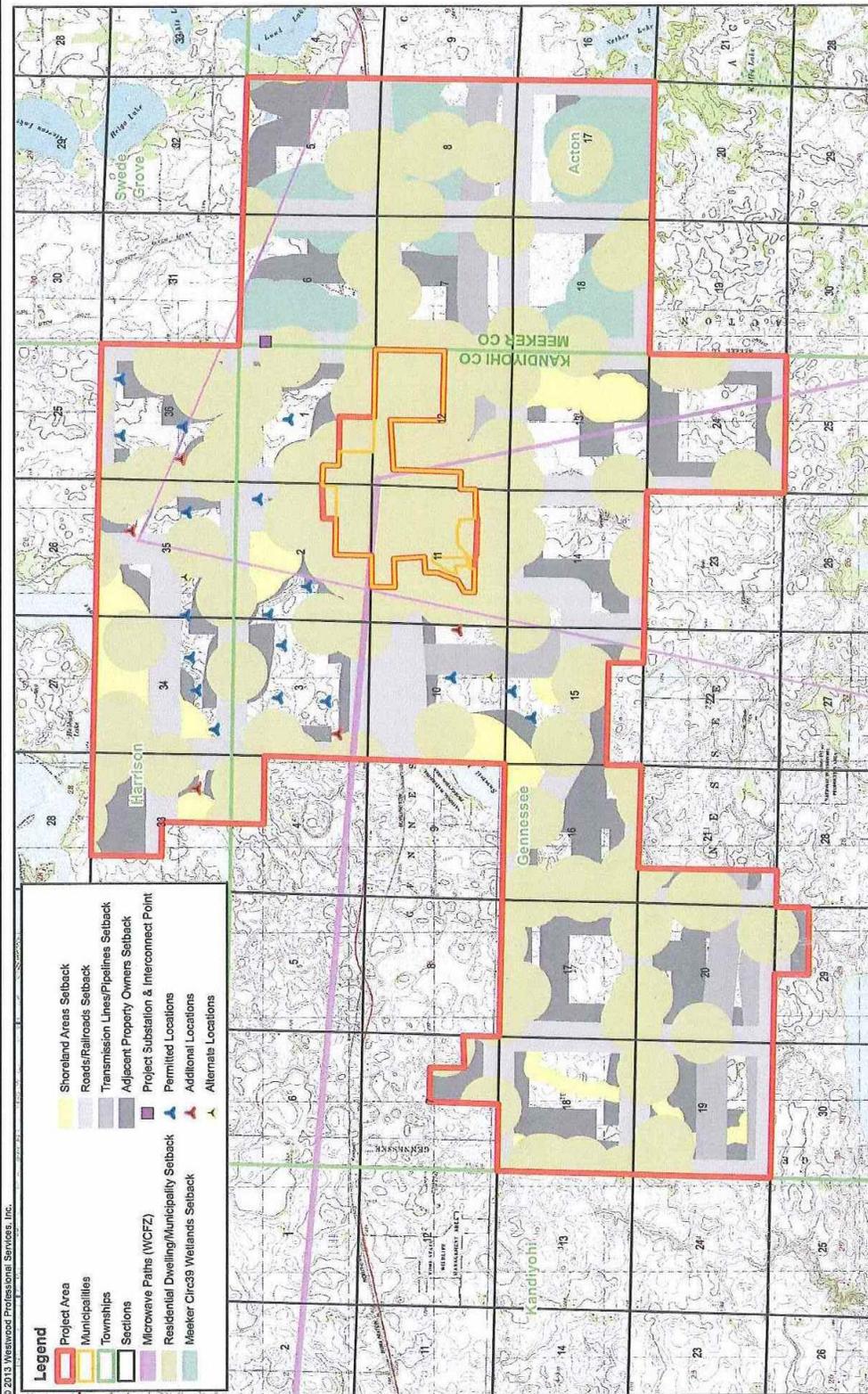
LAKE COUNTRY Wind Energy

Scale: 0 to 1 Miles

Data Sources: Public Water Inventory (2009), USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2011), MnDOT Basemap Roads and Railroads (2011), ArcGIS (2012), National Pipeline Mapping System (Accessed 2013), Venturx Velocity Suite (2013), National Wind (2013), and Westwood Professional Services (2013).

PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
 Created: March 11, 2013

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Legend

- Project Area
- Shoreland Areas Setback
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Roads/Railroads Setback
- Transmission Lines/Pipelines Setback
- Sections
- Adjacent Property Owners Setback
- Microwave Paths (WCFZ)
- Project Substation & Interconnect Point
- Residential Dwelling/Municipality Setback
- Meeker Ctrc3a Wetlands Setback
- Permitted Locations
- Additional Locations
- Alternate Locations

Data Source(s): Public Water Inventory (2009), USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (2011), MnDOT Basemap Roads and Railroads (2011), ArcGIS (2012), National Pipeline Mapping System (Accessed 2013), Ventyx Velocity Suite (2013), National Wind (2013), and Westwood Professional Services (2013).

PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Created: March 8, 2013



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Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC
 Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties, Minnesota
 Project Constraints
 GE 1.7 MW
 EXHIBIT 3B

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES
FOR
LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS**

A. Purpose:

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting complaints received by the Permittee concerning Permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, operation, and resolution of such complaints.

B. Scope:

This document describes Complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

C. Applicability:

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the Permittee and all complaints received by the Commission under Minn. Rule 7829.1500 or 7829.1700 relevant to this Permit.

D. Definitions:

Complaint: A verbal or written statement presented to the Permittee by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other LWECS and associated facilities site permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions, or general comments.

Substantial Complaint: A written Complaint alleging a violation of a specific Site Permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in Permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Unresolved Complaint: A Complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person(s), remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

Person: An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

E. Complaint Documentation and Processing:

1. The Permittee shall designate an individual to summarize complaints for the Commission. This person's name, phone number and e-mail address shall accompany all complaint submittals.

2. A Person presenting the Complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
 - a. Name of Complainant, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
 - b. Date of complaint
 - c. Tract or parcel number
 - d. Whether the complaint relates to (1) a Site Permit matter, (2) an LWECS and associated facility issue, or (3) a compliance issue.
3. The Permittee shall document all Complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the Complaint, including the following:
 - a. Docket Number and Project Name
 - b. Name of complainant, phone number and e-mail address.
 - c. Precise property description or parcel number.
 - d. Name of Permittee representative receiving Complaint and date of receipt.
 - e. Nature of Complaint and the applicable Site Permit conditions(s).
 - f. Activities undertaken to resolve the Complaint.
 - g. Final disposition of the Complaint.

F. Reporting Requirements:

The Permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports: All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at 1-800-657-3782 or consumer.puc@state.mn.us. Voice messages are acceptable. E-mail Subject Line should read "EFP Complaint" with Docket Number.

Monthly Reports: By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be Filed to Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the Commission's eDocket system.

If no Complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall submit (eFile) a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

Permittee shall commence complaint reporting at the beginning of project construction and continue through the term of the permit.

G. Complaints Received by the Commission or the Department of Commerce:

Complaints received directly by the Commission or the Department of Commerce from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the Permittee.

H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints:

Initial Screening: Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved Complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial LWECS Site Permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify Permittee and appropriate person(s) if it determines that the Complaint is a Substantial Complaint. With respect to such Complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the Staff notification. Staff shall present Briefing Papers to the Commission, which shall resolve the Complaint within twenty days of submission of the Briefing Papers.

I. Permittee Contact for Complaints:

Permittee will eFile the Project's Complaint Contact information within fourteen (14) days of the Order granting a site permit and will include the Project's Complaint Contact information in the mailing to landowners and local governments.

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE
FOR PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission's energy facility permits.

2. Scope and Applicability

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

3. Definitions

Compliance Filing – A filing of **required** information ~~to the Commission, where the information is~~ required by a Commission site or route permit.

4. Responsibilities

A) The Permittee shall eFile all compliance filings with Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the Department of Commerce (DOC) eDocket system. The system is located on the DOC website:
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the website. Permittees must register on the website to eFile documents.

A) All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:

- 1) Date
- 2) Name of submitter / permittee
- 3) Type of Permit (Site or Route)
- 4) Project Location
- 5) Project Docket Number
- 6) Permit Section Under Which the Filing is Made
- 7) Short Description of the Filing

B) Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, plan and profile) must, in addition to being eFiled, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Dr. Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN, 55101-2198. Additionally, the Commission may request a paper copy of any eFiled document.

- C) Preferred GIS formats include Esri® shapefile (with associated projection data) and ArcGIS® Geodatabase. The preferred map projection is UTM Extended Zone 15, NAD83. A PDF document containing clear descriptions of file naming conventions, data projection and feature attributes must be included with the GIS data provided.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS¹

PERMITTEE: Lake Country Wind, LLC
PERMIT TYPE: LWECS Site Permit
PROJECT LOCATION: Kandiyohi and Meeker counties
COMMISSION DOCKET NUMBER: IP-6846/WS-10-798

PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date	Notes
1	4.7	Native Prairie Protection Plan	30 days prior to pre-construction meeting, if required.	Develop in consultation with Commission and DNR
2	5.1	Site Plan	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting.	
3	5.4	Field Representative	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting.	
4	5.8	Complaint Reporting Procedures	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting and complaint submittals on the 15 th of each month or within 24 hours.	
5	6.1	Biological & Natural Resource Inventories	30 days prior to pre-construction Meeting.	Results may trigger need for a Native Prairie Protection Plan
6	6.2	Shadow Flicker Analysis	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting.	
7	6.3	Archaeological Resources	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting and as recommended by the State Historic Preservation Office.	

¹ This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. However, it is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS
PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING

Filing Number	Condition	Description	Due Date	Notes
8	6.4	Interference	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting.	
9	6.5	Wake Loss	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting and may be included with site plan or operation studies if performed.	
10	6.7	Avian and Bat Protection Plan	30 days prior to pre-construction meeting.	Develop in consultation with Commission and DNR
11	7.8	Roads	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting.	
12	7.11	Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting.	
13	7.16	Emergency Response	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting. Must register in 911 Program.	
14	10.1	Wind Rights	14 days prior to pre-construction meeting.	

PRE-OPERATION COMPLIANCE MEETING

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date	Notes
15	5.7	Pre-operation compliance meeting	Prior to commercial pre-operation.	
16	6.6	Noise Study Protocol	14 days prior to pre-operation meeting.	
17	9.1 & 9.3	Decommissioning Plan	14 days prior to pre-operation meeting.	

OTHER COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Filing Number	Permit Section	Description	Due Date	Notes
18	5.2	Notice to Landowners and Governmental Units	Within 14 days of permit approval to local units of government and within 30 days to landowners.	
19	5.5	Site Manager	14 days prior to prior to commercial operation.	Update contact information as necessary.
20	6.6	Noise Study Results	Within 18 months of Commercial Operation, if required.	
21	6.7.1	Annual Audit Report of ABPP	By March 15 th following each complete or partial year of operation.	
22	6.7.2	Quarterly Incident Reports	By 15 th January, April, July, and October.	
23	6.7.3	Immediate Incident Report	Within 24 hours of discovery.	
24	6.8	Project Energy Production	Due 2/1 each year.	

25	6.9	Wind Resource Use	February 1 st following each partial or complete year of operation.	
26	6.10	Extraordinary Events	Within 24 hours and report on occurrence of event within 30 days.	
27	8.1	As Builts	Within 60 days of completion of construction.	
28	8.4	Notification of Commercial Operation	At least 3 days prior to commencement of commercial operation.	
29	10.2	PPA or Enforceable Mechanism	Within two years of permit issuance.	If no PPA or other enforceable mechanism at time of permit issuance
30	10.3	Failure to Start Construction	Within 2 years of permit issuance.	
32	13.1	Avian & Bat Post Construction Monitoring	Quarterly for one year	