



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



November 2, 2010

**NOTICE OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT ISSUANCE
AND
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**In the Matter of the Application of Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC for a 41 Megawatt Large
Wind Energy Conversion System in Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties**

PUC Docket No. IP6846/WS-10-798

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) will hold a public information meeting on the application by Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC (Lake Country), to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a site permit to build and operate a 41 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) near Atwater, Minnesota (Figure 1).

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Wednesday, December 1, 2010 – 6:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center
107 2nd Street North
Atwater, Minnesota 56209
(320) 974-8599

The purpose of the public information meeting is to provide information about the proposed project and to solicit public comment on the site permit application submitted by Lake Country and the draft site permit issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit. Representatives of Lake Country will be present to answer questions about the proposed project.

Public Comments. In addition to receiving comments at the public information meeting, EFP staff will also accept written comments on the proposed project, site permit application, and draft site permit until **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 15, 2010**. Please include Docket Number IP6846/WS-10-798 on your comments. Comments should be mailed, faxed, or emailed to:

Scott Ek
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500 | St. Paul, Minnesota | 55101-2198
Fax: (651) 297-7891 | email: scott.ek@state.mn.us

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.

Project Description. The project is a proposed 41 megawatt (MW) wind farm to be located on approximately 16,047 acres of agricultural land in Kandiyohi and Meeker counties, near the city of Atwater, Minnesota. Lake Country, in its LWECS Site Permit Application, designated 16,047 acres of land as the project area. Upon completion of the project, approximately 19.4 acres of the 16,047 acres would be converted to turbines and associated infrastructure, as indicated by Lake Country.

Lake Country anticipates using an array of 20 REpower 2.05 MW MM92 wind turbines. The turbines would consist of 328 foot towers with 269 foot diameter rotors for a maximum wind turbine height of 479 feet. The project would also require the following associated facilities as identified in the 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;
- turbine access roads;
- two temporary meteorological towers and one permanent meteorological tower; and
- an operations and maintenance facility (1 to 2 buildings with an approximate footprint of 3,000 to 5,000 square feet).

The project would interconnect to an existing Xcel Energy 69 kV transmission line with a proposed project substation in section 6 of Acton Township in Meeker County.

As indicated in the site permit application, Lake Country intends on commencing construction of the LWECS in August 2012, with commercial operation by December 31, 2012.

Review Process. EFP staff, on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the permit review process for this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules 7854).

On August 4, 2010, Lake Country filed an application with the Commission for a site permit to build and operate a LWECS near Atwater, Minnesota. The Commission accepted the site permit application as complete on September 9, 2010. EFP staff solicited comments on issues to be considered in developing a draft site permit for this project until October 4, 2010. Staff prepared a draft site permit for consideration by the Commission. On October 22, 2010, the Commission issued an Order approving the draft site permit for distribution and public comment and authorized the EFP staff to implement the public participation process outlined in Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. Upon completion of this process, the EFP staff will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision. Under the LWECS siting process, environmental review is incorporated into the development of the site permit application and the site permit itself; there is no separate environmental review document prepared on the project.

Contested Case Hearing Request. Any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the LWECS pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with the Commission in writing by 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 15, 2010.

The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the contested case hearing will aid the Commission in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

Eminent Domain. Lake Country does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the LWECS facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and Lake Country.

Project Documents. Electronic versions of the site permit application, the draft site permit and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=29189> and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter "10" and "798" docket number).

A hard copy of the LWECS Application and Draft Site Permit are also available for public review at the Auditor's Offices in Kandiyohi and Meeker counties; the city offices in Atwater; the township offices in Acton, Harrison, and Genessee townships, and at the public library in the city of Atwater.

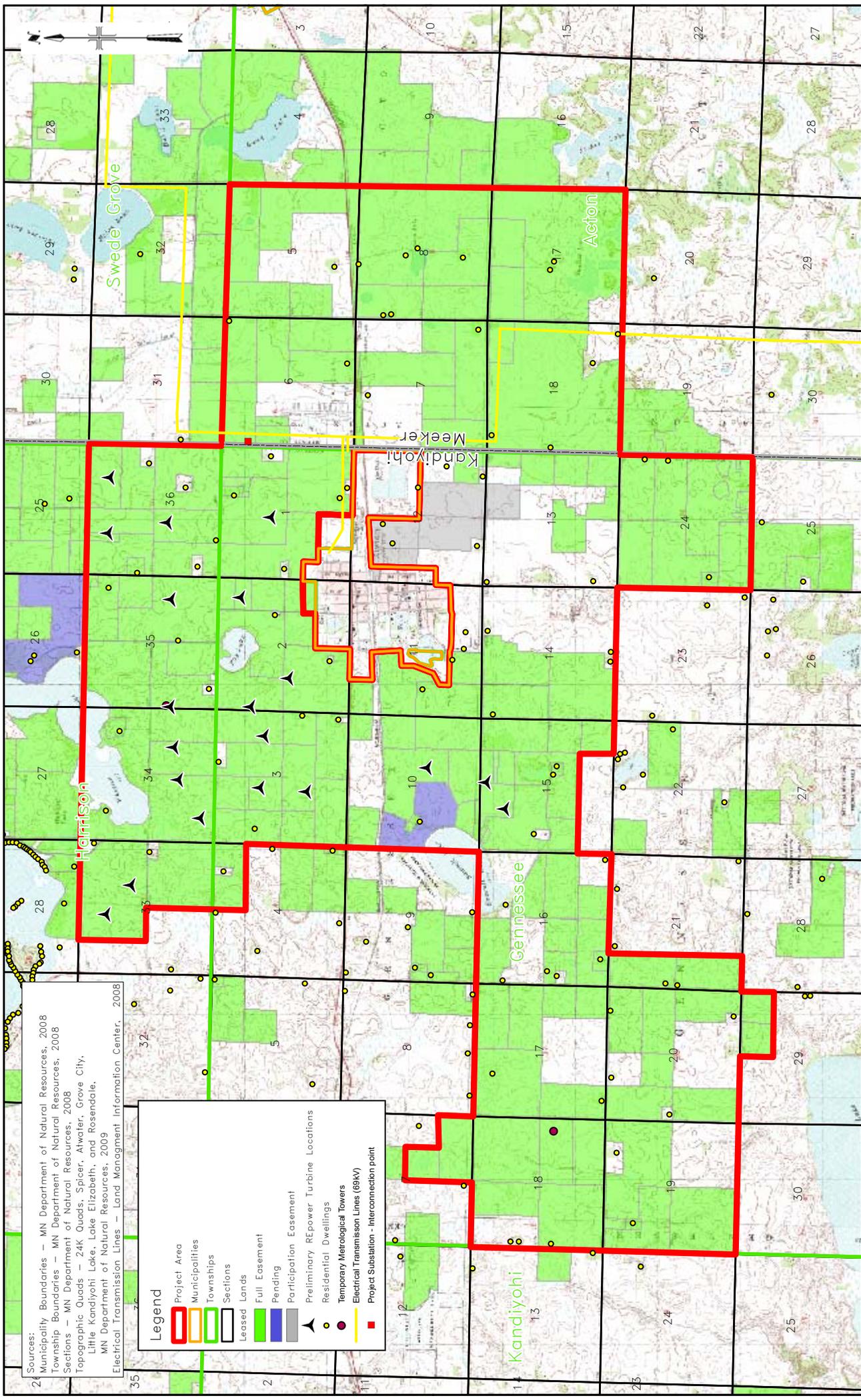
Mailing List. Persons interested in adding their names to the mailing list for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#MailingLists>.

Project Contacts. For more information about the permit process and the proposed project please contact:

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Questions about the LWECS permit application may also be directed to Lake Country by contacting the company's representatives, Mr. Chuck Burdick (612) 746-6338 or cburdick@nationalwind.com.



Sources:
 Municipality Boundaries – MN Department of Natural Resources, 2008
 Township Boundaries – MN Department of Natural Resources, 2008
 Sections – MN Department of Natural Resources, 2008
 Topographic Quads – 24K Quads, Spicer, Atwater, Grove City, Little Kandiyohi Lake, Lake Elizabeth, and Rosendale, MN Department of Natural Resources, 2009
 Electrical Transmission Lines – Land Management Information Center, 2008

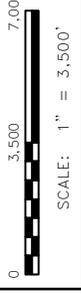
Legend

- Project Area
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Sections
- Leased Lands
- Full Easement
- Pending
- Participation Easement
- Preliminary REpower Turbine Locations
- Residential Dwellings
- Temporary Meteorological Towers
- Electrical Transmission Lines (69kV)
- Project Substation - Interconnection point



LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM

SITE CONTROL



OCTOBER 2010