COMMENTS RECEIVED

BY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING

ON THE

BIG BLUE WIND FARM

IN

FARIBAULT COUNTY

PUC DOCKET NO. IP-6851/WS-10-1238

MAY 19, 2011

Written Public Comments Received by May 6, 2011

1. Exergy Development Group of Idaho (first 3 comments)
2. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
3. William Olson
4. Raymond and Patricia Bell
5. Greg Johanson
6. Rusty and Shirley Hannaman
7. Roscoe and Shirley Hannaman
8. Noreen and DeWayne Hannaman
9. Aaron and Jenna Johnson
10. Paul Mittelstadt
11. Dan Moore
12. Debra Murphy
13. Richard Murphy
14. Jim Oltman
15. Alex Sucher
16. Michael Hannaman
17. Mary Rosenau
18. Jim Wagner
19. Faribault County Board of Commissioners
20. JoDaviess Township Supervisors
21. Sharon Hannaman
22. Jason Larsen
23. James Welchlin
24. Walter Krosch
25. Michael Hannaman
26. Bevcomm (William Eckles, President and CEO)

22 April 2011

Dr. Burl A. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Overhead vs. Underground Collector Lines

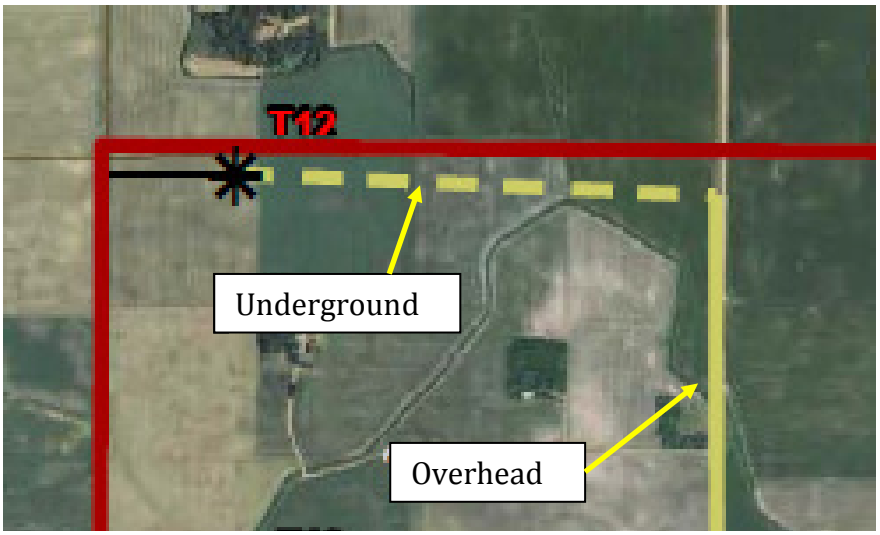
Dear Dr. Haar,

Exergy is concerned about the issue of the Commission's future determination on requirements for collection lines within the Big Blue Wind Park. Exergy believes that the project should not be required to have all of its collection lines underground for a number of reasons.

Confusion of Where Overhead is Proposed

After speaking with some of the landowners following the public meeting that was held in Blue Earth on April 19, 2011, there may have been some confusion on the intentions of the project. To be clear, Exergy does not intend to place overhead collection lines in the middle of landowner's fields. The current collector system design calls for lines to be underground from the turbines until they reach road rights of way. Only collector lines that parallel roads would be overhead.

Exergy Development Group 802 W Bannock, 12th Floor Boise, ID 83702 **P** 208.336.9793 **F** 208.336.9431



Distance to Substation

The Big Blue Project is a little bit unique, in that the project area is fairly large for a small project, and turbines are a fairly long distance from the substation.

Existing Underground Infrastructure

There is a significant amount of underground infrastructure already in place in the project area, including communications, gas and, most significantly, tile lines. Exergy will take special care to properly locate and avoid damage when laying underground collector lines. However, it is much easier to create accidental damage to existing underground infrastructure when burying underground collector lines than when installing overhead lines. Private tile lines prove to be especially difficult, as they are often mapped only approximately. Further, having 34.5 kV electrical lines underground throughout the project area would create additional complications to anyone adding additional underground infrastructure after the project is constructed. For example, if a landowner wanted to lay new tile lines within the project area, it would be his responsibility to contact Big Blue Wind Park to locate these lines. Overhead collector lines, however, do not add this unseen complication.

Existing Overhead Infrastructure

There are already overhead distribution lines in the project area. Project collector lines would often be placed on the opposite side of roads from existing infrastructure and not significantly alter the visual landscape. Project collector lines will also look similar in nature to the existing distribution lines. In the current layout, only about three miles of roadways would have new overhead lines along them that do not have them already. This is further illustrated in the attached maps.

Concerns about aerial spraying were also raised at the April 19 public meeting in Blue Earth. However, because there is not a significant amount of new overhead line in the project area, the impact to aerial spraying will be minimal.

Project Viability

The Big Blue project is a little unique in that it has a fairly large project area for a small project, and the turbines are a fairly long distance from the substation. While it may be reasonable to require a project that is close to the substation to have all underground lines, this is a completely different scenario.

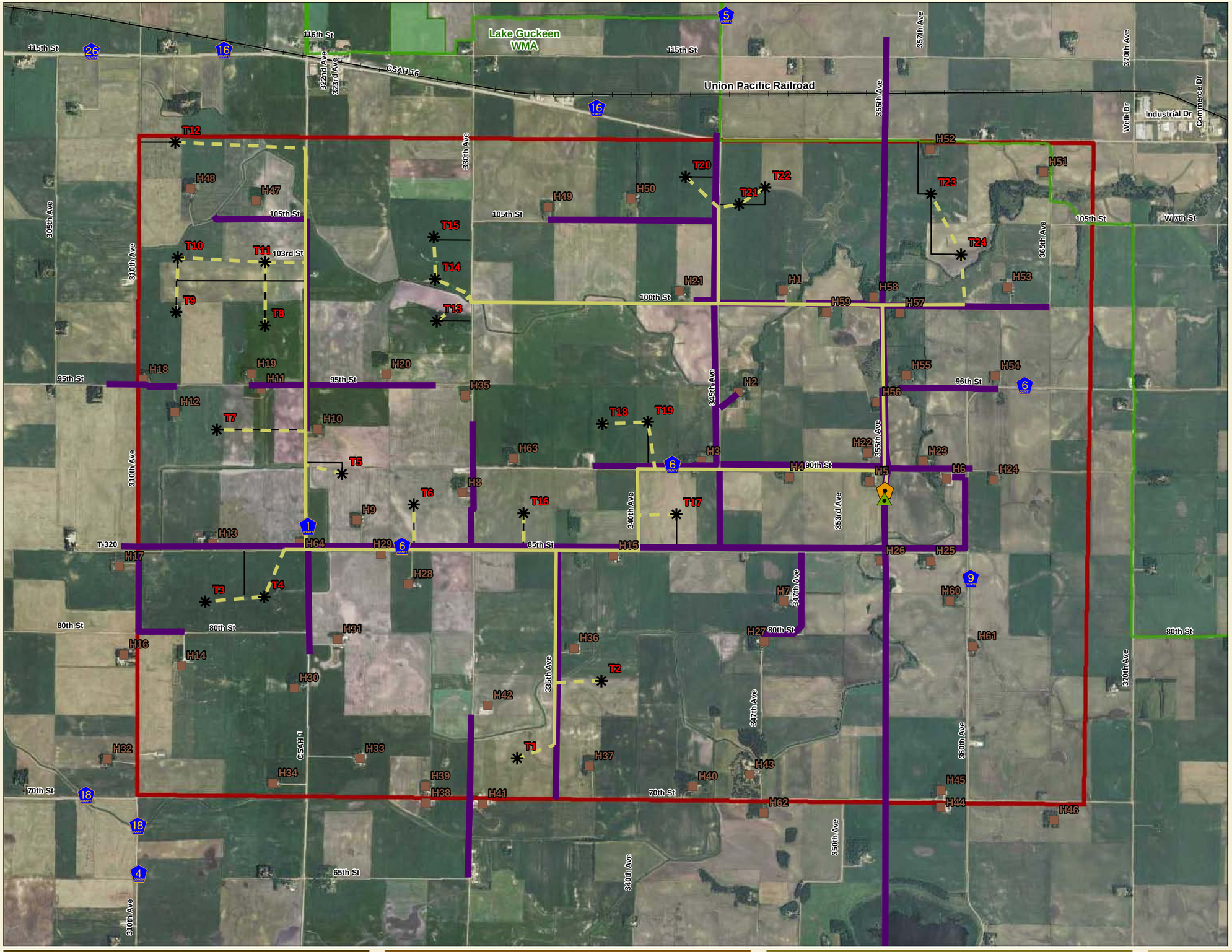
The cost of installing underground lines is a chief concern for Exergy. Approximate costs for overhead lines are $150,000 per mile, while underground is $500,000 per mile. In the application, about 15 miles of overhead lines were anticipated. If these lines were required to be underground, an additional $5.25 million of costs would be incurred. That is simply not a cost that a small project like this can bear. If the commission requires all lines to be underground, it is unlikely that the project will be viable.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Exergy is sensitive to the concerns of the community and local utilities. We believe that we can keep impacts to a minimum if collector lines are buried up to the road rights of way, and overhead paralleling these roads.

Sincerely,

Collin Rudeen
Lead Project Engineer
crudeen@exergydevelopment.com

Overhead Collector Lines
24 - 1.5 MW WTG Option



Legend

- Existing Overhead Lines
- New Overhead Collector Line
- New Underground Collector Line
- Housing Units
- Preliminary SCADA Building
- Preliminary Substation Site
- Preliminary WTG Tower Locations
- WTG Access Roads
- Snowmobile Trail
- WMA Boundaries
- Project Boundary
- Railroad

Source:
USGS, MnDNR, LMIC, 2008 FSA Photography

New Power Lines Where Existing Lines Are Not Located	
Location	Miles
100th St	1.25
340st St	0.50
CSAH 1 (Between CSAH 6 & 95th)	0.75
CSAH 1 (Between 105th St & CSAH 16)	0.50
Total	3.00

0 3,000 Feet

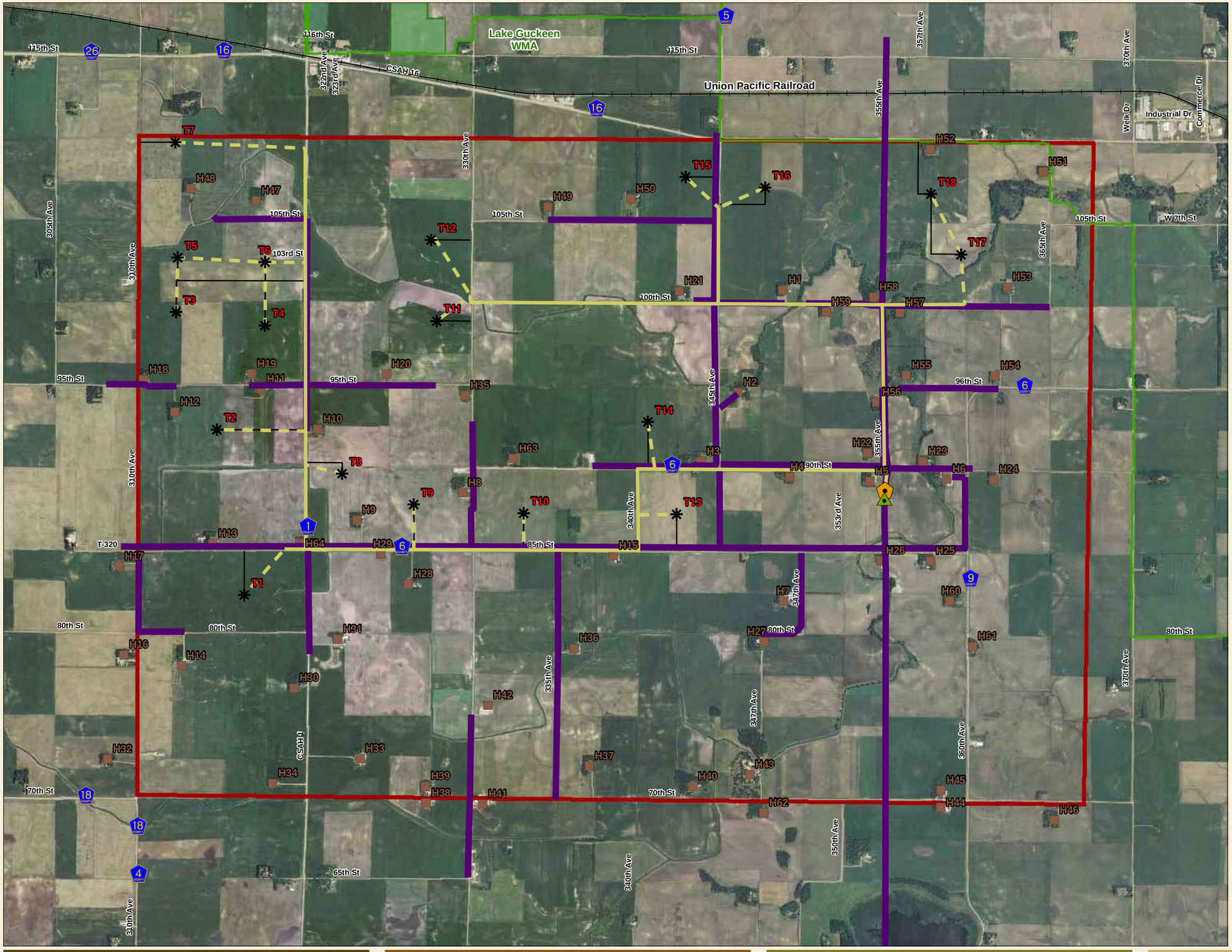
LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM
Big Blue Wind Farm
Faribault County, Mn

exergy DEVELOPMENT GROUP

BOLTON & MENK Engineers & Surveyors www.bolton-menk.com

April, 2011

Map Document: (\\arcserver1\gis\PRIV\M32\101673\ESRI\Maps\24-2MW WTG Option\101673 Overhead Collector Lines 11x17.mxd)
4/22/2011 -- 10:51:25 AM



Overhead Collector Lines
18 - 2 MW WTG Option

Legend

- Existing Overhead Lines
- New Overhead Collector Line
- New Underground Collector Line
- Housing Units
- Preliminary SCADA Building
- Preliminary Substation Site
- Preliminary WTG Tower Locations
- WTG Access Roads
- Snowmobile Trail
- WMA Boundaries
- Project Boundary
- Railroad

Source:
USGS, MnDNR, LMIC, 2008 FSA Photography

New Power Lines Where Existing Lines Are Not Located	
Location	Miles
100th St	1.25
340st St	0.50
CSAH 1 (Between CSAH 6 & 95th)	0.75
CSAH 1 (Between 105th St & CSAH 16)	0.50
Total	3.00

0 3,000 Feet

LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM
Big Blue Wind Farm
Faribault County, Mn

exergy DEVELOPMENT GROUP

BOLTON & MENK Engineers & Surveyors www.bolton-menk.com

April, 2011

Map Document: (\\arcserver1\gis\PRIV\M32\101673\ESRI\Maps\18-2MW WTG Option\101673 Overhead Collector Lines 11x17.mxd)
4/22/2011 -- 11:03:56 AM

27 April 2011

Dr. Burl A. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Wind Turbine Update

Dear Dr. Haar,

Big Blue Wind Farm would like to inform the Commission of updates in the turbines being considered for the Project. Currently, there are three turbines: the GE1.6-82.5, Nordex N100/2500 and Gamesa G97-2.0. The REpower MM92 is no longer being considered. Please note that the GE1.6-82.5 turbine is already in the application (sometimes called the GE xle). The technical information for each turbine is summarized below.

	GE 1.6-82.5	N100/2500	G97-2.0
Nameplate Capacity	1.5 to 1.6 MW	2.5 MW	2.0 MW
Hub Height	80 m (262 ft)	100 m (328 ft)	90 m (295 ft)
Rotor Diameter	82 m (269 ft)	100 m (328 ft)	97 m (318 ft)
Total Height	121 m (397 ft)	150 m (492 ft)	138.5 m (454 ft)
Swept Area	5,281 m^2 (56,832 ft^2)	7,854 m^2 (84,540 ft^2)	7,389 m^2 (79,534 ft^2)
Cut-in Wind Speed	3.5 m/s (7.8 mph)	3.0 m/s (6.7 mph)	3.0 m/s (6.7 mph)
Cut-out Wind Speed	20 m/s (44.7 mph)	25 m/s (56.0 mph)	25 m/s (56.0 mph)
Rated Wind Speed	12.5 m/s (28.0 mph)	12.5 m/s (28.0 mph)	14.0 m/s (31.3 mph)
Rotor Speed	10.1 – 18.7 rpm	10.8 – 18.9 rpm	9 – 19 rpm

Exergy Development Group 802 W Bannock, 12th Floor Boise, ID 83702 **P** 208.336.9793 **F** 208.336.9431

A new layout will forthcoming, similar to the submission to the Commission on 3/24/2011. The Nordex turbine is a 2.5 MW turbine and would only require 15 turbines. Similar to the REpower previously under consideration, a layout using the Gamesa turbine would require 18 turbines. The GE turbine would require 23 or 24 turbines.

Other technical details outlined in section 5 of the Application, such as tower materials, turbine safety and electrical system would remain the same.

Sincerely,

Collin Rudeen
Lead Project Engineer
crudeen@exergydevelopment.com

From:	Lori Rietze
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Cc:	Elizabeth Woolstenhulme
Subject:	Big Blue Wind Farm
Date:	Friday, May 06, 2011 3:53:02 PM
Attachments:	Big Blue_OH.PDF

Hi Ingrid:

Here is a letter from our construction company regarding the overhead/underground line decision. We would like this to be included in the record.

Thanks!

Lori Rietze
802 W Bannock, 12th Floor Boise, ID 83702
Office: 208.336.9793 | Mobile: 208.412.9283
www.exergydevelopment.com

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FAGEN INC.

501 West Highway 212 – P.O. Box 159
Granite Falls MN 56241
(320) 564-3324
(320) 564-3278 FAX

May 6, 2011

Elizabeth Woolstenhulme
802 W Bannock, 12th Floor
Boise, ID 83702

Re: High Voltage Underground Installation versus Overhead Installation

Dear Liz,

To help you in your support of explaining the industry standard for installing transmission lines overhead instead of underground, we are including information from both Fagen, Inc. on the construction cost, engineering on the safety issue, and reliability. From a wind energy standard of practice transmission lines have always been installed overhead versus underground.

Most overhead lines installed are made of aluminum conductors with a steel reinforcement and are non-insulated since they are in free air installation. When installing transmission lines underground, factors come into play and we are then forced to measure the thermal resistivity of the soil for heat dissipation, size the cable accordingly and mitigate environmental constraints such as wetland delineation. This would also require the cable to be insulated and with larger conductors. With the additional cable material and installation obstacles this is the leading reason for the increased costs. The approximate cost for overhead is $145,000 per mile compared to an additional $400 ~ $500,000 per mile for underground installation.

When placing the cable underground there is always a hazard of dealing with existing underground utilities that follow the ROW along county roads. To place this higher voltage cable among these phone lines, gas lines or other lower voltage cables that sometimes are in need of maintenance, this can cause hazards to the technicians who have to dig and expose these other the utilities.

Reliability and maintenance is always an important factor when it comes to dealing with the end users and utilities. Once a wind farm is complete and commercial the utility company then depends on its availability when additional power is required on the grid to compensate for unplanned power plant outages or demands. With this understanding if there were issues with the transmission line it is far easier to fix or replace the lines when overhead compared to underground. Keep in mind that in Minnesota during the winter and the frozen ground this can be quite a challenge.

This has been the installation practice that has been design by some of the most respected engineering firms in the country, reviewed by third party engineering firms for banks and financers and excepted by the utility companies who would be ultimately be purchasing the power. In Minnesota more than 90% of the substation connected wind farms are installed using this overhead installation practice.

Sincerely,

Samuel Ewald
Lead Estimator
FAGEN, INC.
501 W. Highway 212
Granite Falls, MN 56241
320-564-5126 Office

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

May 6, 2011

Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Draft Site Permit for the Big Blue Wind Farm in Faribault County
[PUC Docket Number: IP-6851/WS-10-1238]

Dear Ms. Bjorklund:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Draft Site Permit and application materials for the Big Blue Wind Farm in Faribault County. The following comments are provided for your consideration.

The DNR Nongame Specialist in the project area has received reports of a pair of state-listed threatened trumpeter swans nesting about one half mile south of the Big Blue Project boundary. If any trumpeter swans are observed during site assessments or if any fatalities are observed, these should immediately be reported to Lisa Joyal and Richard Baker with the DNR.

The DNR has also reviewed the enclosed March 22, 2011 Exergy response letter to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) comments. This letter explains survey plans for the Big Blue Wind Project. The DNR appreciates voluntary efforts to conduct avian surveys for this project area and is interested in reviewing survey results when they are available. Currently the DNR is working on draft survey protocol to assist with the development of the most effective and consistent survey methods for wind projects. DNR staff are available to assist the applicant with any survey method development for remaining pre-construction or post-construction surveys.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Big Blue Wind Farm. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jamie Schrenzel

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

Enclosure: 1

C: Richard Davis
Kevin Mixon
Collin Rudeen

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22 March, 2011

Dr. Burl A. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: US Fish and Wildlife Service Response

Dear Dr. Haar,

This letter is in response to comments and questions by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on Exergy's Big Blue wind project in Faribault County, MN. The US FWS sent comments to the PUC concerning the avian/bat surveys.

Exergy would also like to stress that conducting avian and bat surveys is not required by the state of Minnesota. Exergy is performing these studies on a voluntary basis. Exergy believes that performing proper environmental studies is in keeping with being a responsible company and good steward of the land.

Pre-construction Avian and Bat recommendation

The USFWS commented that Exergy has indicated that the preconstruction avian use, raptor, and bat surveys will be completed in 2011. The Service would like to be provided with any survey protocol and monitoring results.

Exergy will provide the USFWS and Commission with an interim and final study with the results of the avian and bat surveys. An interim study will be made available before final permit issuance – likely in the end of May, 2011. A final study will be prepared prior to December, 2011. The avian surveys provide information that is used to predict potential impacts and identify methods of avoiding and/or mitigating impacts by estimating temporal and spatial use of the general project area by raptors as well as other birds (e.g., waterfowl).

The avian use surveys consist of counts of birds within circular plots. Eight fixed points (circular plots) are being utilized within the project focusing on the proposed turbine locations) of the 36-MW project. The plot locations are indicated in the attached figure. The plots are along public roads and accessible trails so that data collected on avian use is well representative of the project

area near proposed turbine locations. The survey radius of the circular plots is 800 meters, except for "small" birds which will only be analyzed within the initial 100 meters. The plots are surveyed for 20 minutes each and the estimated distance to each bird observed is recorded.

A raptor nest structure survey is being conducted during leaf-off conditions in the winter of 2010/2011 from public roads in the project area. Both avian use and raptor nest surveys will help determine the kind and quantity of all birds but especially those under federal protection (i.e. Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Act) that are using the project area during the pre-construction period.

Sampling will be conducted throughout the spring migration period providing, data for an interim report. This interim report will assist in micrositing turbines and will be completed before final permit issuance. The resulting avian use interim and final data will be compared to data collected at numerous other wind resource areas using similar protocols. Many of these wind resource areas also have post-construction fatality data, which will allow Exergy to predict levels of avian mortality based on raptor and other bird use at the proposed project area.

No Anabat units were deployed last fall. Two Anabat units are scheduled to be deployed in May 2011 and left in the field until October 2011. Units may be placed at the met towers and/or near wetlands or tree areas (areas of likely higher bat use). This will allow data to be collected at varying heights, allowing for comparisons between call data. Bimonthly visits are proposed to occur during the monitoring period.

The total number of bat passes, regardless of species, is used as an index to bat use of the project area. To predict potential for bat mortality (i.e., low, moderate, high), the mean number of bat passes per detector-night will be compared to existing data at other wind plants where both bat activity and mortality levels have been measured. The estimate of bat passes, species composition, comparison to other studies, and other relevant information will be included in the monitoring report prepared after the field data collection. Although this data will be collected primarily during the construction activities, the data can be compared to other bat data from similar projects in the area.

The USFWS commented that the Site Permit Application contradicts itself, as it states that pre-construction avian and bat surveys will be completed throughout 2011, but the proposed project schedule indicates commercial operation to begin in September 2011. When the avian and bat surveys were discussed, contracted and started, the construction activities were scheduled for a later time period. However, the construction schedule has since been moved up. Currently, bi-weekly avian surveys are being conducted during the winter of 2010/2011. A raptor nest survey is also being conducted at this time. Weekly avian surveys are scheduled for the spring migration period. The full spring survey period will be available as a pre-construction survey to assist in micro-siting. Bi-weekly surveys are scheduled for the summer months and weekly surveys are scheduled

for the fall migration. The preliminary data will be compared to existing data from other projects to aid in turbine micro-siting. Post construction surveys may be discussed with the Service after the interim report has been prepared.

Post-Construction Survey Recommendations

The USFWS recommended that the Project be monitored post-construction to determine impacts to migratory birds and bats, as well as provided recommended protocols. They also requested that The Developer or its contractor should provide each year, no later than December 31, copies of annual bird/bat mortality monitoring reports.

Western EcoSystems Technology (West) is currently conducting the avian and bat surveys for Exergy and would likely be the third party consultant conducting the post-construction avian and bat surveys. They have a great deal of experience and expertise doing these surveys in southwest Minnesota and the region. Sampling protocols will be discussed with Exergy, West and the USFWS and other interested agencies prior to implementation to determine an appropriate sampling method. Annual reports will be made available to the Service and other interested parties prior to December 31.

Conservation Lands and Service Owned Lands

The USFWS recommends that no turbines be located within 1 mile of Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, or other similar federally- or state-funded conservation and restoration lands. The Pilot Grove Lake Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) is located approximately 1 mile south of the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm boundary. The USFWS recommends a minimum turbine setback distance of 1/2 mile from WPAs, but a one mile turbine setback from WPAs would be preferred if practical and feasible.

Current turbine locations are proposed to be at least 1 mile from conservation and restoration lands and the Pilot Grove Lake Water Production Area. There are no current plans for turbines to encroach within the 1 mile of these areas.

Turbine Type and Layout Selection

The USFWS recommended that the 18 – 2 MW turbine option be utilized for the project, as it has six less turbines and specifically, places two less turbines in close proximity to the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) lands in the northeast corner of the proposed project boundary.

The avian and bat sampling plots were determined using the project area and the proposed turbine locations. The number of sampling plots was determined to provide adequate sampling within the proposed turbine areas, independent of which turbine was chosen. The post-construction avian and bat surveys will be modified to incorporate sampling locations that maximizes data from the chosen turbine.

Exergy notes the Services' preference for fewer turbines. However, Exergy is not in a position to ensure one turbine will be used over another at this time.

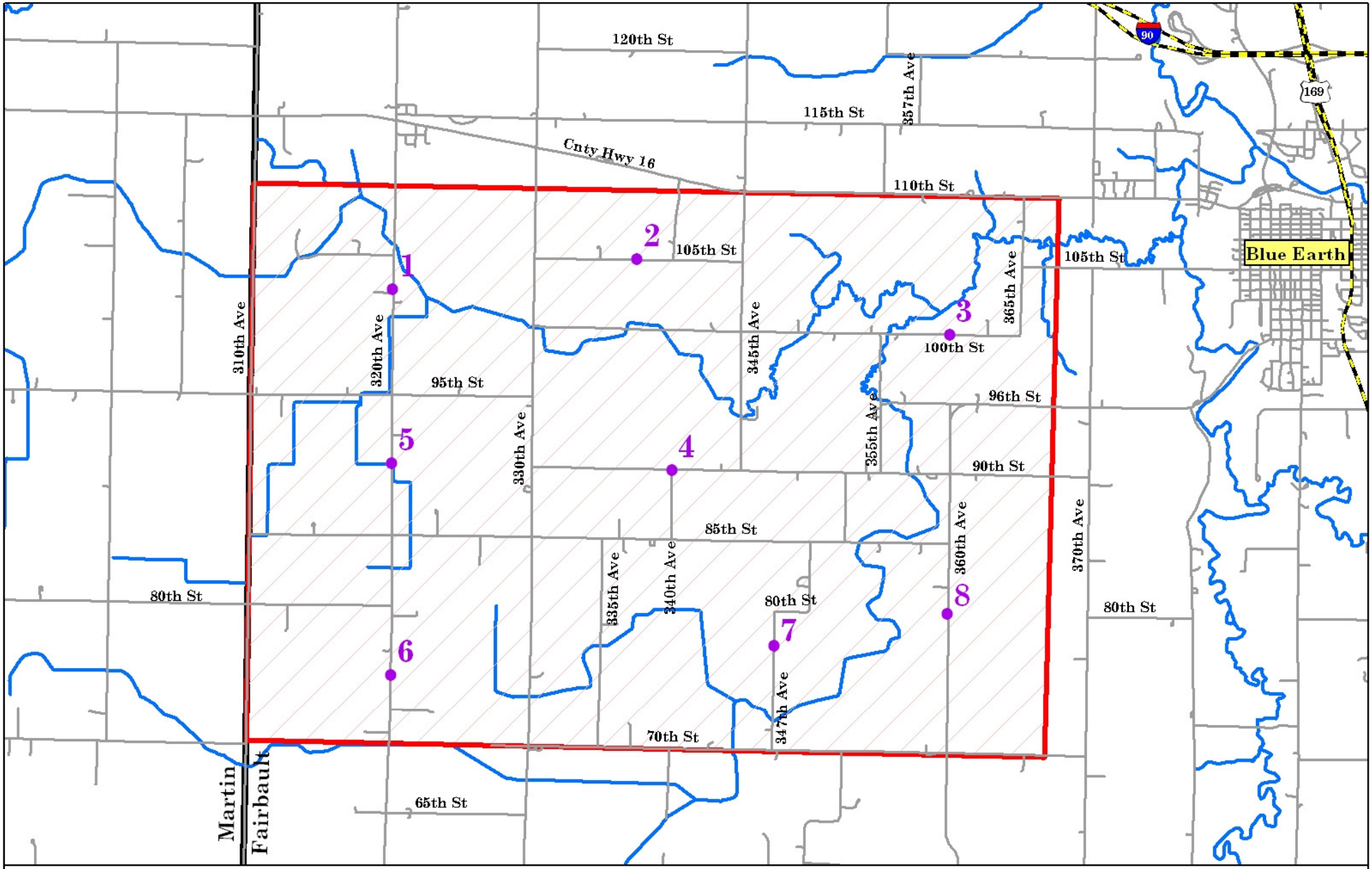
Infrastructure Considerations

The USFWS noted that development of transmission infrastructure associated with wind facilities also poses risks to wildlife. These risks include potential avian mortality, particularly electrocution of raptors (hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls), that could occur when they attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles.

The Project will utilize approximately 15 miles of 34.5 kV electrical power lines to collect power from the turbines and transmit it to the Project substation. Approximately 8 miles will be overhead and 7 miles will be underground. The overhead lines utilize County and Township road rights of way and are parallel to existing roads. No transmission lines will be necessary for the Project, as the new substation will be located on the existing 161 kV Winnebago – WinnCo transmission line. Exergy will review the options for transmission infrastructure to reduce risks to wildlife.

Sincerely,

Collin Rudeen
Lead Project Engineer
crudeen@exergydevelopment.com



Map Features

- Project Area
- Fixed-Point Survey Locations
- Creeks/Streams
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- County Boundary

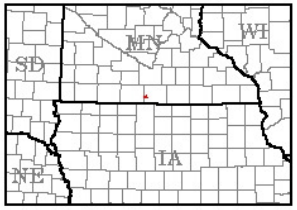
Big Blue Wind Energy Project

Fixed-Point Bird Survey Locations

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

Map Location



From: Feder Prairie Seed
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: Big Blue Wind Farm
Date: Friday, May 06, 2011 3:00:31 PM

My Name is William Olson. I farm in Jo Daviess township in Faribault Cty . I am very excited about the Wind project and would be in favor of it going through. Even though I will not be getting any of the Turbines I am very
positive about having out there and am excited about the financial benefits to the County and to the area. I was not very happy about the County Board wishing to have all wires buried. I understand that the lines from the
road to the turbines will be buried but the additional cost of trying to bury the collector lines back to the substation will be a very large burden on the developer and could most likely be a deal breaker. I would hate to see this
happen. There are already over head wires along the roads in question and new ones will not cause any more problems than the ones already there. Also, the most concern was about tile lines. If they were to bury collector lines along the road, they would cut and have to fix many many tile lines that other wise would not be disturbed.

Please include me in the supporters of this project.

Thanks you,

William S. Olson
1740 industrial drive
Blue Earth, MN. 56013

From:	Patricia Bell
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	Big Blue Wind Farm Public Comment
Date:	Thursday, May 05, 2011 7:44:34 PM

5-5-2011
These comments come after reading the article in Wed. 5-4-11 Fairmont Sentinel "Wind farm letter going to state".
We note that two Faribault County Commissioners were in favor of sending the letter and two voted against sending it with the chairman of the board breaking the tie, voting in favor sending a letter to the state.
It appears the biggest issue is whether the lines should be underground or overhead. It is our understanding that all lines from the turbine to the road would be placed underground. All overhead lines would be along our roadways.
Greg Young, County Commissioner who represents Jo Daviess Township is quoted "JoDaviess Townnship overwhelmingly wants this project and overwhelmingly wants the lines buried" due to appearance, safety and cost.
It is our understanding that there would only be three (3) additional miles of overhead lines than already exist in the area. That alone should address the appearance and safety issues. We are already living with many miles of overhead lines. As for the cost we were all informed at the public meeting held in Blue Earth on 4-19-11 there is a large difference in cost between overhead and underground lines. In order to make the project work we may have to live with an amount of overhead lines, same as we have been living with current overhead lines.
As landowners in JoDaviess Township and also lease holders of this project we believe everyone involved should accept the fact that we are going to end up with both underground and overhead lines. Wind farms have gone up in all directions from us. We have waited a long time to see Big Blue Wind Farm established not only for the people in Jo Daviess Township who have signed leases, but for our entire community. Bringing a project like this into our community means not only progresss, but also increased business to our local area. A fact that our County Commissioners should be in favor of.

As a closing statement:
We are already living with overhead lines in the project area. We don't believe that an additional three miles of overhead lines could or should make that much difference to anyone, whether you be a County Commissioner or a resident of JoDaviess Township.

Raymond and Patricia Bell

From:	Shirley Hannaman
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	Fw[2]: PUC Docket No.IP-6851/ws-10-1238
Date:	Thursday, May 05, 2011 7:18:13 AM

-----Original Message-----
From: "Greg and Shelli" <gsjohan@yourstarnet.net>
To: "Mom" <rshanna@bevcomm.net>
Date: 05/05/11 06:29
Subject: Fw: PUC Docket No.IP-6851/ws-10-1238

we tried to send this two times and it keeps coming back that it is undeliverable?? Sorry

----- Original Message -----
From: Greg and Shelli
To: ingrid.bjorkland@state.mn.us
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2011 9:32 PM
Subject: PUC Docket No.IP-6851/ws-10-1238

Greetings Ingrid: I am a farmer residing in Martin County, and also farm land in Faribault County where some of the proposed wind turbines might be located. I was also at your meeting the other night listening to comments from neighbors for the project, and against the project. As you look around the area, we see more and more wind turbines being built, this to me is a step in the right direction. As our energy needs grow every day, we need to expand our energy infrastructure utilizing this type of energy. We cannot, as a nation rely on fossil fuels, coal, and especially nuclear. We must have alternative sources of energy, and we can have it right here in our own back yard, and as far as polluting the atmosphere, that won't happen with wind turbines. There was also talk about underground vs. overhead power lines. We have had overhead powerlines for many years. Underground powerlines have had issues in the past, and with as many tile lines (both county and private), that could be another issue. I fully support this project.

Thankyou, Greg N Johanson

From: Shirley Hannaman
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: Fw: PUC Docket No. IP-6851/WS-10-1238
Date: Wednesday, May 04, 2011 2:42:57 PM

Ingrid Bjorkland and to Whom it May Concern,

I don't know if this is appropriate or not but this is my second comment to you on this project. I was having trouble with my computer at the time I sent the first one and don't know for certain if you got it. Something else has come up that we wanted to voice our opinion on.

We attended the Public Meeting in Blue Earth, MN on April 19th. Thank you for conducting the meeting in such an orderly way.

I'm the lady that stood up and had a show of hands that were in favor of this project and as you could see the majority of people that this would affect were there and raised their hands overwhelmingly. Now in the Sentinel this morning there is an anticle stating that we are overwhelmingly in favor of all cables to be buried underground. I think if you had another show of hands this would be false. We want this project to succeed very much no matter if they are above ground or underground. We all have land that this would affect, pay taxes on it, will farm the land around the purposed turbines and don't have a problem with this.

Wind farms are popping up all around us. It will bring jobs, business and revenue for our county. Why should we let the surrounding county's move forward and we sit at a standstill?

I said this before....we realize that everyone isn't going to support this and that is okay....it's the world we live in. We can be greatful that we live in a country like this....where we have meetings like this and where we can voice our opinions and listen to other opinions. We just want it on record that we are 100% in favor of this project.

Again, thank you so much for such an informative meeting. A job well done!!!

Rusty and Shirley Hannaman
31029 95th St.
Blue Earth, MN 56013

From:	Shirley Hannaman
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	PUC Docket No. IP-6851/WS-10-1238
Date:	Thursday, April 21, 2011 12:21:05 PM

Ingrid Bjorklund,

My husband and I attended the Public Meeting held at Hamilton Hall in Blue Earth, MN on April 19th. (Big Blue) It was the first such meeting either of us had attended. Thank you for conducting the meeting in such an orderly way.

My husband was born and raised in JoDavis Township and we have lived our married life in the area for over 40 years. We have been on board since Dan Moore started Windfinity in 2,003.

We realize that wind power isn't the cheapest alternative source of power. But until some other source is found, we believe it to be the best. After what happened in Japan it makes a person take note that this could very easily happen in the United States. We would much rather have a wind turbine placed in our front yard than have a nuclear plant built 500 miles away.

I apoligize for having a show of hands during the meeting. I was getting frustrated with a handful of people trying to "kill" the project when the room was full of people very much in support of the project. There seems to be a few that have been opposed to this for eight years. Wind farms are popping up all around us. Don't these people realize what this will do for Jo Davis Township and Faribault County? It will bring in jobs, business and revenue for us!! Why should we let the surrounding countys move forward and we sit at a standstill?

We realize that everyone isn't going to support this and that is okay....it's the world we live in. We can be greatful that we live in a country like this....where we have meetings like this...and where we can voice our opinions and listen to different views.

I just want to tell how much we are in favor of this project. Our son and son-in-law rent our land and they are 100% in favor of this project also.

Again, thank you so much for such an informative meeting. A job well done and appreciated.

Respectfully,

Roscoe and Shirley Hannaman
31029 95th St.
Blue Earth, MN 56013

From: noreenhannaman@charter.net
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: Big Blue Wind Farm Public comment
Date: Thursday, May 05, 2011 1:44:29 PM

Ingrid,
Big Blue Wind Farm transforms farmland into clean power and employment opportunities in the Blue Earth area. Both tempory and permanent jobs will be created. Big Blue Wind Farm has covered all areas of concern in open public information meetings. The concern that evoled was that all lines be underground. We, as landowners, feel that all underground wires cause more problems because more energy is lost underground, during maintenance there is more danger to the already present underground wire damage and also to the construction worker.

If Big Blue Wind Farm (one of the major independant renewable energy developers in the Unied States) aborts this project due to the requirement of underground wiring, Blue Earth area will lose the potential of the creation of many jobs , both temporary and permanent which affects the day-to-day busiiness and charities in the Blue Earth area . Ingrid, as you drove around Blue Earth, I'm sure you noted all the empty buildings and past business which are no longer functioning. It is very imnprtant that you consider what will be lost if all underground wiring is required.

Please consider the impact underground wiring would do to this area. Thank you for your consideration.

Noreen and DeWayne Hannaman
Phone number 507-388-4268

From: aaron johnson
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: big blue wind farm
Date: Monday, May 02, 2011 7:40:44 AM

Dear Ingrid,

My husband and I would like to voice our concerns about the incoming windmills. Our objection is not about the windmills themselves but about having overhead lines running along our property. If they do not bury the lines we will have the lines along 2 sides of our property. We moved here 2 years ago because of the beauty of the country. If we wanted all the wires and sub stations (like the one that will be across the road from us) we would have stayed in town. Why can't they build this stuff along the highway where the view is already destroyed? No one who moves into the country does it for the convenience of it. It is for the environment. I don't care what the studies show. If there are wires on 2 sides of our property, believe me it will drop our home's value. So we implore you, please set the standard that the wires must be buried.

Thank you,
Aaron and Jenna Johnson

From:	apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	Mittelstadt M.D. Tue Apr 26 13:34:30 2011 IP6851/WS-10-1238
Date:	Tuesday, April 26, 2011 1:36:00 PM

This public comment has been sent via the form at:
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Big Blue Wind Farm

Docket number: IP6851/WS-10-1238

User Name: Paul Mittelstadt M.D.

County: Hennepin County

City: Minneapolis

Email: paultadt@gmail.com

Phone: 612-239-0711

Impact: I own property that the Big Blue Wind Farm may be built on. I am sure there have been many statements already made about the positive impact the wind mill farm will have for the local economy of southern Minnesota. I agree this will be an overall positive impact. It will also start to diversify the income for that part of agricultural Minnesota. And after the very recent Japanese nuclear accident, nuclear power has to be very carefully rethought. Wind energy is free except for the cost of catching it, has minimal enviromental impact, "renewable", and easily placed into the electicity grid system that currently exists. Sincerely Paul Mittelstadt M.D.

Mitigation: The one vocal concern about shadow flicker can be remedied by plaing the towers away from that persons home place. The noise concerns are taken care of by the towers being away from farm sites.

Submission date: Tue Apr 26 13:34:30 2011

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for
future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us

From:	apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	Moore Wed Apr 20 09:43:03 2011 IP6851/WS-10-1238
Date:	Wednesday, April 20, 2011 9:43:13 AM

This public comment has been sent via the form at:
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Big Blue Wind Farm

Docket number: IP6851/WS-10-1238

User Name: Dan Moore

County: Faribault County

City: Blue Earth

Email:

Phone:

Impact: Windfinity LLC is the original Developer of this project and we welcome Exergy into our community to complete the project.

There will be revenue generated by the project to Jo Daviess township for crushed rock, snow removal and road maintanence.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed Apr 20 09:43:03 2011

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us

From: apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: Murphy Fri May 6 16:25:14 2011 IP6851/WS-10-1238
Date: Friday, May 06, 2011 4:25:20 PM

This public comment has been sent via the form at:
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Big Blue Wind Farm

Docket number: IP6851/WS-10-1238

User Name: Debra Murphy

County:

City: Blue Earth

Email:

Phone:

Impact: I am in support of the Big Blue Wind Farm as I feel it will make a positive economic impact on our county. In the face of declining population we need to support industry that will bring income to county government. As far as environmental impact, I feel supporting clean energy is very important and feel Exergy is working to bring this project to construction with the least amount of negative

environmental impact possible.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Fri May 6 16:25:14 2011

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us

From:	apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	Murphy Wed May 4 21:28:19 2011 IP6851/WS-10-1238
Date:	Wednesday, May 04, 2011 9:29:06 PM

This public comment has been sent via the form at:
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Big Blue Wind Farm

Docket number: IP6851/WS-10-1238

User Name: Richard Murphy

County: Faribault County

City: Blue Earth

Email: rmurph6583@bevcomm.net

Phone: 507-525-3107

Impact: I recently had the opportunity to attend the public hearing on April 19 2011 concerning the Big Blue Wind Farm. One of the concerns that came up was the wish to have all the power lines be underground. While this may be feasable with a small project like Blue Breezes (city of Blue Earth) it is unreasonable to do with a project the size and comlexity of Big Blue. All of the farmers and landowners I have talked to want this project to move forward in a timely manner and do not have a problem with the feeder lines being overhead.I recently took a drive through 2 other wind farms Elm Creek (trimont) and Mcnelius (dodge center) and observed they both have overhead feeder lines along the road rightaways, much as Big Blue has been designed. I honestly feel that Exergy Development has done a very professional and environmentally sound job of engineering this project. The propossed placement of the turbines maximizes their efficiency and minimizes the impact on the nearby residences. I realize the overhead power lines may seem like a nusiance to some, but they are a necessary ingredient to any successful large scale wind farm. It is my hope that this wind farm is not subject to any unreasonable constraints, which will potentially deny the local landowners, and community of the finincial rewards that this county so desperately needs.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed May 4 21:28:19 2011

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for
future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us

From:	apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	Oltman Fri May 6 16:56:10 2011 IP6851/WS-10-1238
Date:	Friday, May 06, 2011 4:56:15 PM

This public comment has been sent via the form at:
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Big Blue Wind Farm

Docket number: IP6851/WS-10-1238

User Name: Jim Oltman

County: Martin County

City: Granada

Email: jkman@bevcomm.net

Phone: 507-464-3479

Impact: Wind energy is clean, but not as reliable as coal generated electricity, we need coal generated base load electricity as well as we need wind. Hopefully some day soon, wind energy can be better utilized to get the full value of it being clean. This will make this wind farm very valuable. This wind farm will be of good economic value to this area.

Mitigation:

Submission date: Fri May 6 16:56:10 2011

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us

From:	Blue Earth 2U
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	PUC Docket IP-6851/ws-10-1238
Date:	Friday, May 06, 2011 10:57:01 AM

Hello Ingrid,
I attended the public meeting regarding the wind tower project in Faribault county.:PUC Docket IP-6851/ws-10-1238

I was disappointed that the project leaders could not answer what seem to be very routine questions for a project of this type. I want my concerns known that the lines should be underground and NOT above ground. I am not in favor of this project because of my proximity to many towers and the potential real estate value decrease I may incur.

I don't think the project leaders are being straight forward with the community and their expansion plans. I don't see the revenue potential for our small county and township. It calculates to about $43000 per year of which we don't know WHO gets to share in this rather small piece of the pie. It hardly sounds worth the effort for one townships residence to live with. We have to look at these towers, hear them, and endure the disruption to our fields, roads, and the enjoyment of living in the country.

Sincerely,
Alex Sucher

From:	Shirley Hannaman
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	PUC Docket No, IP-6851-WS-10-1238
Date:	Wednesday, May 04, 2011 2:53:08 PM

I farm my parents land in JoDavis Township, Faribault County, Minnesota.

It makes no difference to me whether the lines are buried or overhead were they to get a turbine on their land. I am in favor of this wind farm being built.

Michael Hannaman
2991 60th St.
Blue Earth, MN 56013

From:	mary rosenau
To:	Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject:	docket no. IP-6851/WS-10-1238
Date:	Friday, April 22, 2011 1:28:19 PM

I have a number of concerns regarding the proposed Blg Blue Wind Farm in JoDaviess township of Faribault County.

First of all: Roads

The roads in our township are poor at best and heavy truck traffic relating to the installation and upkeep of the proposed wind turbines would make them worse. I am concerned that the township would have to spend extra money grading the roads than they would normally. It was mentioned at the meeting that the company would be required to leave the roads in the condition in which they were found, but I wonder if that would really happen.

Secondly: Underground vs: Overhead lines

The township and the county are on record requesting underground lines. I would hope that this would be a requirement. Overhead lines require more upkeep which means more truck traffic. It was also mentioned that some aerial spraying companies would not spray in this township. This might adversely affect people living within the twonship that will not have turbines on their land.

Thirdly: Turbine Sites

The sites of some of the turbines is not determined at this time. I may be affected by shadow flicker if some of my neighbors decide to allow a turbine close to my property. The proposed turbines are so tall that everyone in the area will see them all the time.

There are too many things as yet unclear about this entire project. Once they are built, it will be too late to clear up problems.

It was pretty clear from what was said at the meeting that there is not an effective plan for turbine removal if Big Blue files for bankruptcy or decides to abandon the project. There needs to be a bond or escrow fund of a sufficient amount to take down the turbines. Stating that the scrape metal would be worth the cost of removal is ludicrous.

Lastly, I have driven past several wind farms in eastern MN and in IA and from what I could see from the road, most of the farms were not located as close to farm sites as the wind farm proposes. Many of the proposed locations are owned by people that do not live in the township or if they do, they are not close to their buildings. Many of the proposed sites are close to non-participating neighbors buildings.

Mary Rosenau
33737 70th St.
Blue Earth, MN 56013

From: Jim Wagner
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM)
Subject: Wind
Date: Friday, May 06, 2011 10:52:29 AM

Dear Ingrid,

I felt that I should send my comments about the Wind project that might be happening here in JoDaviess Township of Faribault Co. MN. Not to go into great detail, I was born and raised here. I know live on a building site 1 mile from where I was raised. Along with my wife and family we own land where the proposed wind generators are supposed to go up. Not only the obvious things about them that I DO NOT care for like the huge structure (very unsightly), the shadow flicker and the noise just to name a few. Now they want to put the lines above ground just to save themselves some money. It took years to get all the power, telephone, cable lines underground and now they want to put their power lines up again just to save a little money. But what really are we going to benefit from them? From what is told the County will only gain maybe $43,000.00 a year.? Is that worth all the hard feelings that it is going to bring with the neighbors possibly? We as residents that live here, not in town or some other place have to look at them everyday, hear them everyday, and the farmers have to farm around them even though it will only take a "small part" (as they say) of land to house one wind generator. I think we need to really sit and think about what is happening here. Don't let it be just about the money. We all have worked hard to get what we have, this is FARM country lets keep the beauty of it where it belongs.

Concerned citizen of Faribault Co.

--
Jim Wagner

Faribault County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
415 North Main Street, P.O. Box 130
Blue Earth, Minnesota 56013-0130
Telephone: (507) 526-6228
Fax: (507) 526-6227
Web Site: www.co.faribault.mn.us

JOHN ROPER
1ST DISTRICT

GREG YOUNG
2ND DISTRICT

BILL GROSKREUTZ, JR.
3RD DISTRICT

TOM LOVEALL
4TH DISTRICT

TOM WARMKA
5TH DISTRICT

May 3, 2011

RECEIVED
MAY 5 2011
MAIL ROOM

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

RE: Project docket number (IP-6851/WS-10-1238)

Dear Ms. Bjorklund,

Faribault County would like to make the following comments in regard to the Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC (Big Blue Wind) Large Wind Energy Conversion System Draft Site Permit for the 36 Megawatt project located in Faribault County. Faribault County continues to support this proposed project however, for the public comment purposes we would note the following.

1. Our current WECS ordinance, which permits less than 5 megawatt projects, requires that all Feeder Lines (where feasible) be buried. At this point we would prefer that the feeder lines associated with this project be buried for consistency throughout the county.

2. Should Exergy intend to conduct operations in the Highway Right of Way it will be required to obtain the necessary permits, including a utility permit. These permits may impose additional restrictions on said operations.

3. The project will also be required to enter into a Development Agreement, and other pertinent agreements, with the County for the proposed project.

All comments are based on the information currently available to Faribault County and are subject to change should additional or different information become available.

If you have any questions or comments or need additional information, please feel free to contact the Troy Timmerman, County Attorney at (507)526-6222, John McDonald, Highway Engineer at (507)526-3291, or Michele Stindtman at the Planning and Zoning office at (507)526-2388/2300.

Sincerely,

Tom Warmka

Tom Warmka, Board Chair
Faribault County Board of Commissioners

Faribault County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin,
Sex, sexual orientation, religion, age and handicapped status in employment or the provision of services.

April 13, 2011

State of Minnesota
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC
For a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 36 Megawatt Big Blue Wind Farm in Faribault County

PUC Docket Number: IP-6851/WS-10-1238

Dear Minnesota Office of Energy Security:

We are the Township Supervisors for JoDaviess Township in Faribault County, Minnesota.

Our position is that any power lines that are built with regard to this project be constructed underground and not overhead.

The reasons for our position are as follows:

1. Faribault County has an ordinance that these power lines be constructed underground from windmills.
2. Following precedence, we have currently two windmills which have been built and have underground power lines.
3. The appearance and safety issues surrounding overhead power lines.
4. It is our understanding that a local farm co-op would charge more per acre for applying chemicals by airplanes near these windmills and power lines. This increased cost for the local farmers for aerial application would be detrimental.

Thank you in advance for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely yours,

JODAVIESS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Greg Mastin Mike Jacobson Brian Wenthold

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
COMMENT FORM

BIG BLUE WIND FARM
PUC Docket No. IP-6851/WS-10-1238

Name: Sharon K. Hannaman

Address: 31749 105th St.

City: Blue Earth State: MN ZIP: 56013

Please share your comments on the draft site permit for the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm.

Turn this form in at the meeting or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager at: ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us with the docket number (listed above) in the subject line. **Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., May 6, 2011.**

My husband, Edward, and I are very much in favor of the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm and have signed a lease with Exergy. We have been involved in this project since its commencement 10 years ago and would like to see it be completed.

I was very surprised when one of the Superviors for Jo Daviess Township spoke and said that the Town Board desired that all the lines be put under ground. The Board did not get the opionions of their constituents.

As far as we are concerned, it does not make any difference to us if the lines are under or above ground as long as this wind farm proceeds and is completed.

It is my opinion that the Jo Daviess Township Board is not in favor of this project but the majority of the people are for it.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
COMMENT FORM

BIG BLUE WIND FARM
PUC Docket No. IP-6851/WS-10-1238

Name: JASON LARSEN

Address: 9370 - 345TH AVE

City: BLUE EARTH State: MN ZIP: 56013

Please share your comments on the draft site permit for the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm.

Turn this form in at the meeting or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager at: ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us with the docket number (listed above) in the subject line. **Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., May 6, 2011.**

RECEIVED
MAY 6 2011
MAILROOM

Signature: Date: 5-4-11

This is our last opportunity to voice our concerns about the Big Blue Wind project in Jo Daviess township. My wife, Laura, and I have expressed our concerns and it is our hope that we get a better response from this commission than we received at the public meeting in April.

Ingrid presented us with many more questions than answers to our specific concerns. Her answer to our concern of not wanting to look at the wind turbines was to PULL THE SHADES AND PLANT TREES. This was her way of minimizing Shadow Flicker and eliminating having to look at the turbines. This, of course, would require us to remain inside our house OR wait 30 or more years for the trees to grow tall enough to block any flicker. We spend the majority of daylight hours outside and it clearly would take longer for trees to grow than we will live to benefit from it.

Exergy's rep, Collin Rudeen, stated that, "He has done his best to try an limit our exposure", referring to mine and my wife's. Collin also admitted that Laura and I will be impacted the most by tower placement. I have a simple solution. Don't put the turbine(s) in those locations.

I would love to understand how the State of Minnesota, or whoever set the guidelines and rules, figured out how much noise or flicker should be tolerated by the residents of a community.

There have been studies and, no doubt, countless dollars spent measuring noise and shadow flicker. I have a two inch book of documentation to prove it. Guess what? I don't need that to tell me every time a shadow passes by the windows of our dog kennel, it alerts/disrupts the dogs and they bark. The animals in our care are nervous to start with and don't need the extra agitation. Believe me when I say nervous dogs are not happy dogs and Laura and I have cleaned up enough after nervous dogs and their messes to know it!

As far as noise goes, I have been close and as far away as the state says is a 'tolerable noise level'. The nosie level is not tolerable to me. Exergy would have us all believe it is close to the sound of a washing machine or a whisper, as quoted by Ingrid.

I read the letters back and forth from the DNR, the Historical Record, and all other agencies that could be negatively impacted.

Here's the deal in my humble opinion. If a bird or a fish or any other type of wildlife or vegetation could be negatively impacted, or maybe some historical site or body of water could be adversely compromised, setbacks would be increased or the site location would be eliminated.

My home, my family, my ranch, and our business will be negatively impacted .

Shadow Flicker and noise level are thrown around like 'hi' and 'bye', and it seems the decisions are made by people that do not have to see it, hear it, or live with it. But there will be a real impact on everyone that does reside in our town ship and county.

Property values were brought up at the meeting, as well. A windmill next to or in front of our ranch won't make it worth more. It's kind of like a hog barn - is your home worth more or less when it's right there next to or in front of you? I don't believe it takes a lot of studies or education to figure out , at best, it's worth less. In fact, people living adjacent to our ranch were asked to give permission to another property owner to build a second home on the same site as their current home. Another family would be living in that 2nd home. Something so simple was asked of us. It was easy. We were given the choice in our community. But this proposed wind turbine project impacts everyone and benefits VERY FEW actually living here. We are only allowed to comment.

At the meeting the discussion of overhead versus underground wires was brought up. Faribault County and Jo Daviess Township board members, along with a BENCO ELECTRIC Representative all AGREED that this project should be underground. Even in the beginning of this dream eight years ago, that was the stance of the investors in this project. Collin from Exergy stated that it would cost the project six million dollars

extra. He then added it could make the project not as likely to go forward from the extra expense. It was also commented by Exergy that the increased maintenance costs from underground was not viable. I myself worked in the electrical industry as an underground maintenance technician and a lineman. Once the lines are placed underground, the conductor doesn't care if the wind blows, it snows or if we have freezing rain and ice. Overhead, on the other hand, is negatively affected by the weather. There is increased danger of poles and guidewires to motorists, snowmobilers, farmers, not to mention the aerial activities (spray planes) that are so vital to the farmers in this community. Regarding the increased costs that were stated by Collin: I contacted a professional in the power industry and I was told on a 3-phase line that they generally figure increased costs at about $20,000 a mile more than overhead. I don't know, nor has anyone stated what the makeup of lines would consist of , but at Exergy's 12 miles, that comes to $240,000. That's a far cry from Collin's 6 million.

This makes me wonder what else has not been revealed or stated clearly or honestly to everyone in what has been referred to as the FOOTPRINT. Hmmmmm - clever words that most likely mean stepped on or tread upon. I, for one, already feel this way. I pray it doesn't happen to everyone else in my community.

It is my hope this commission addresses these issues and others so this does not negatively impact our ranch, our business, and the surrounding community.

Sincerely

Jason Larsen
9370 345th Ave
Blue Earth, MN 56013
612 716 0612

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
COMMENT FORM

BIG BLUE WIND FARM

PUC Docket No. IP-6851/WS-10-1238

Name: JAMES J. WELCHLIN

Address: 3077-95TH STREET

City: BLUE EARTH, State: MN ZIP: 56013

Please share your comments on the draft site permit for the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm.

Turn this form in at the meeting or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager at: ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us with the docket number (listed above) in the subject line. **Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., May 6, 2011.**

AFTER ATTENDING THE MEETING AT HAMILTON HALL IN BLUE EARTH, MINNESOTA ON TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2011, I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THIS COMMENT.

IF THIS PROJECT IS APPROVED NOW IN THE EVENING LOOKING TO THE EAST ON THE HORIZON WAITING FOR THE MOON TO RISE, WHILE ENJOYING THE STARS OVERHEAD ON A CLEAR NIGHT. THIS SCENE WILL BE DIMINISHED BY 18-24 FLASHING RED LIGHTS WHICH TO MY WAY OF THINKING DESTROYS THE SERENITY OF ONE OF THE REASONS OF MY LIVING IN THE COUNTRY.

YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT I DO NOT LIVE IN JO DAVIESS TOWNSHIP BUT IN PLEASANT PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP, MARTIN COUNTY, WHICH ADJOINS IT TO THE WEST. I ALSO ASKED TO BE INCLUDED ON THE MAILING LIST WHICH AS OF TODAYS DATE, TWO WEEKS LATER I HAVE RECEIVED NO CONFORMATION OF.

Signature: James J. Welchlin Date: 05/03/2011

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
COMMENT FORM

BIG BLUE WIND FARM
PUC Docket No. IP-6851/WS-10-1238

Name: WALTER KROSCH

Address: 3049 95TH ST

City: BLUE EARTH State: MN ZIP: 56013

Please share your comments on the draft site permit for the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm.

Turn this form in at the meeting or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager at: ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us with the docket number (listed above) in the subject line. **Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., May 6, 2011.**

As an adjoining landowner/user, I feel this project may not be directly affecting me. However, as I was told the same thing concerning a hog facility project, I have found that I can no longer stay out doors to even work at times.

I think the problem of "shadow flicker" may be more an issue for livestock and those with certain mental issues.

As an adjoining farmer, my issues are aesthetics, drainage problems and chemical application. The road issues and prospects of an additional project are my concern.

(1) Personally, I don't really like looking over the horizon and see the 5 I now have within 7 miles. There is a reason I live where I do and don't appreciate having wind turbines in my area, "but get a "lot of not in my back yard" ~~[illegible]~~" when these are proposed near cities.

(2) Drainage damage. It won't be limited to immediate tower location. I have had a drain line crushed by road construction trucks, using side roads that were not in the project area, but since they had destroyed other roads, they moved to that one. It didn't show up for 3 years hence. The end result was the county (taxpayers and ditch system, i.e. me) had to pay for it

Signature: _____ Date: _____

You get to leave town. We have to live with this for 30 + years.

PLACE POSTAGE HERE

Ingrid Bjorklund
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

The heavy repetitive loads plus cable trenching or line stringing has potential to damage a great amount.

(3) I am concerned with wind ~~on~~ Wartep effects on not only aerial spraying but also ground equipment.

(4) As an engineer, I feel that wind turbines may be effective but not economically feasable.

(5) After aforementioned road construction of Co Highway #1, we've had soft roads for years since they were in poor shape and consequently, we've again either paid for repair or suffered with it.

(6) These wind projects seem to be like invasive weeds. Once you get one, they seem to keep adding more of them around the original area. I don't feel that there is much financial ~~benefit~~ benefit to owners and even less to power users.

(7) Decommissioning. Nothing says that at the end of use and life, that the company will be in existence, 2½ feet will not remediate soil conditions (Dry out). Removal of Basement concrete is required of a home and that is greater than 6 feet, Scrap is property of the entity and not accessible to the owners, Township, etc.

Walter Koal

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
COMMENT FORM

BIG BLUE WIND FARM
PUC Docket No. IP-6851/WS-10-1238

Name: Michael Hannaman
Address: 2991 60th St.
City: Blue Earth State: MN ZIP: 56013

Please share your comments on the draft site permit for the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm.

Turn this form in at the meeting or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager at: ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us with the docket number (listed above) in the subject line. **Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., May 6, 2011.**

I attended the Public Meeting in Blue Earth in April 19.

We rent my parents land in Jo Davis Twp. and are positively in favor of this project.

The land used for a turbine is approximately 1/2 acre. We can farm all around it.

Turbines don't dispurse harmful radiation at any point of process. If it malfunctions nobody dies and it doesn't make the land obsolete. There are no harmful byproducts to dispose of. They won't affect the air my family breathes or the water we drink.

This project would greatly benefit Jo Davis Township, Faribault Co. and the State of Minnesota!

Thank you!

Signature: Michael Hannaman Date: 4-23-11

BEVCOMM®

123 West 7th Street • Blue Earth, MN 56013
507-526-5156 • 1-877-864-5156 • Fax: 507-526-4963
www.bevcomm.net

RECEIVED
APR 29 2011
MAILROOM

April 28, 2011

Ingrid Bjorklund
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Written Comments In the Matter of the Application of Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC for a large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 36 Megawatt Big Blue Wind Farm in Faribault County

PUC Docket Number: IP-6851/WS-10-1238

Dear Ms Bjorklund:

My name is William Eckles. I am the President and CEO of Rural Communications Holding Corporation. I am submitting the enclosed comments on the above matter on behalf Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company d/b/a BEVCOMM, a wholly owned subsidiary of Rural Communications Holding Corporation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (507) 526-3252 or by email at beckles@bevcomm.com.

Best Regards,

William V. Eckles
President and Chief Executive Officer

WVE: jlb

Enclosures

In the Matter of the Application of Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 36 Megawatt Big Blue Wind Farm in Faribault County.

PUC Docket Number: IP-6851/WS-10-1238

I, William V. Eckles, President and Chief Executive Officer of Rural Communications Holding Corporation, submit these written comments on behalf of Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company d/b/a BEVCOMM, a subsidiary of Rural Communications Holding Corporation.

Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company d/b/a BEVCOMM is a rural telephone company providing telecommunication services in Faribault County since 1895. In order to provide these services, Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company has buried copper cables and fiber optic cables in the right of ways of Faribault County roads. This was done with the permission of the county through its' permitting process. These cables were manufactured according to IEEE standards and placed underground according to Rural Utility Service specifications.

Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company is concerned that there is a possibility that the transmission lines carrying the 36 Megawatt wind generated electricity may induce electrical interference into the underground copper telephone cables presently in place, rendering them unusable. This has happened in other parts of the Midwest. In 2005, this problem was discovered by Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., in their facilities near Lake Benton Minnesota on what is known as the Buffalo Ridge. This is the site of numerous wind generators. Tests performed at several customer premises in the Lake Benton area by Mr. Barry Dardis of Dardis.com concluded that where copper telephone lines parallel the transmission lines for than ½ mile, the magnetic fields couple to the telephone circuits and longitudinal currents are induced into the cable pairs. Some of this current is converted to telephone circuit noise. I have attached copy of Mr. Dardis' test information and conclusions to these comments as **Appendix A.** The affected copper cables had to be replaced with fiber optic cables and the necessary electronics to make them work.

The wind generation project proposed by Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC in Faribault County is going to cover a large part of the same area served by Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company. Because of this, Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company is concerned that there will be many areas where the transmission lines carrying the 36 Megawatt electricity from wind generators to the substations will parallel our cable routes for more than ½ mile, increasing the possibility of this noise problem. Since Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company has constructed its cable routes in Faribault County road right of ways with Faribalut County's permission, in accordance with the County's permitting process, and in accordance with Rural Utility Service specifications, it is Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company's contention that any costs to mitigate or eliminate noise problems on the company's cable plant proven to be caused by the wind generation transmission lines be the full responsibility of the wind farm and transmission line developers and owners. This would include any costs to re-route the copper cables or replacement of the copper cables with fiber optic cables and the necessary electronics.

I have included the following information for your reference.

Appendix A: Dardis.com Inductive Interference Report, Lake Benton Minnesota.

Appendix B: The minutes of the January 26, 2010, Brookings County, South Dakota, Commissioners meeting containing Resolution #09-52 which refers to this issue.

Appendix C:
An excerpt from, and a link to the final order and terms and conditions from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission dated April 23, 2009 relating to construction of the Buffalo Ridge II project.

An excerpt from, and a link to the 2008 Buffalo Ridge II application to the South Dakota Public Service Commission referring to electrical interference.

In conclusion, Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company does not oppose the development of wind generation facilities. However, if the proposed facilities will interfere with our commitment to provide the best telecommunication services to our customers, then the electrical noise and interference issue and potential remedies needs to be addressed in the final order issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. We are willing to cooperate with the Commission and Exergy Development Group in addressing this issue and our concerns.

I am available for any questions you may have pertaining to these comments.

Sincerely,

William V. Eckles
President and Chief Executive Officer
Rural Communications Holding Corporation

APPENDIX A

Dardis.com
Barry Dardis
220 29th Ave NE
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-868-0697 cell
406-453-6995
dardis@dardis.com

7/29/2010

DARDIS.COM

Inductive Interference Report

Lake Benton MN

Some of the telephone facilities in the Lake Benton telephone exchange area are exposed to inductive interference from 34.5 Kv wind generation transmission lines. Where the telephone lines parallel the transmission lines, the magnetic fields couple to the telephone circuits and longitudinal currents are induced into the cable pairs. Some of this current is converted to telephone circuit noise.

This will happen to some extent on all telephone circuits that parallel power facilities, transmission or distribution. **It is the intensity of the magnetic field that determines the amount of interference.** It is common for telephone and power companies to work together to mitigate these problems.

Definitions:

Power Influence	Harmonic currents induced into the telephone circuit. Measurements are in dBrnc.
Circuit Noise	Power influence, which has been converted to noise by imperfections in the telephone circuit. Measurements are in dBrnc.

Circuit balances	a number representing the quality of the telephone pair. A balance of 60 dB is the industry standard.
Power exposure	a uniform section of power where the power and telephone remain about the same distance from each other.
Ground Return IT	Current Tif, telephone influence factor, weighted, returning to the sub-station in the earth. If currents return in the earth there is no cancellation in the phase wires. Ground Return IT measurement indicators. 0 to 500 - minimal interference 500 to 1000 – some interference Over 1000 – major interference Over 2000 - severe interference

Test Equipment;

Triplett Mitigator Noise Test set and spectrum analyzer

CMC PairChek noise and telephone line test set

CMC My Helper 8370 remote tester and tone generator

ExTech digital clamp on amp meter

Testing Buffalo Ridge Area 6-14-05

Wind in the Buffalo Ridge area was very high. A set of noise measurements were taken at a customer's NID and Green Window 100' probe wire at location 200 yds North of the test residence on 160th Ave. This customer's telephone cable had a 2 mile exposure to a 34.5Kv wind generator transmission line

Test from customer's NID

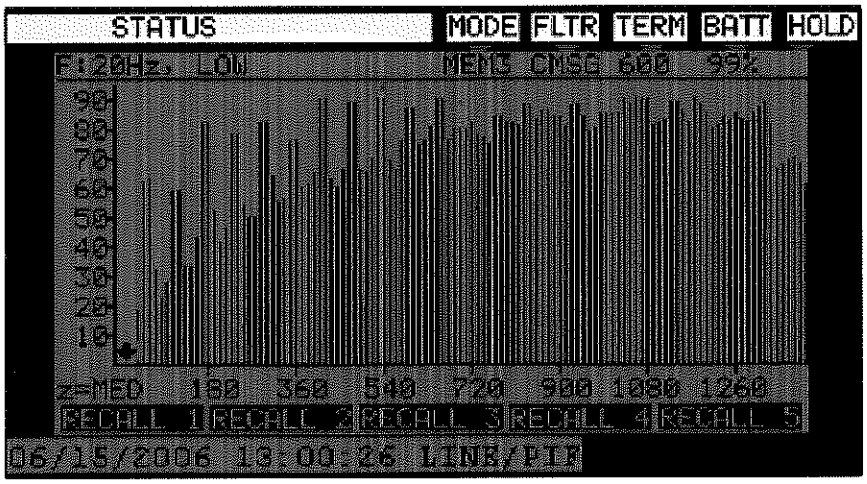
Power Influence	**105 dBrnc**	
Circuit Noise	**45 dBrnc**	this is an out of service level.
Balance	60 dB	Telephone pair quality is good

Green Window Test

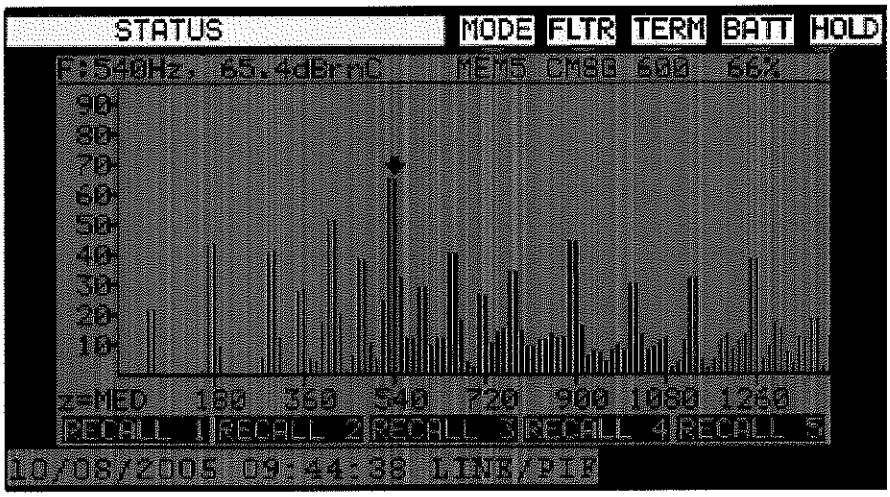
Green Window 100' probe test

Ground return IT	**7150**	**<u>this will cause severe induction</u>.**
60 Hz volt per mile	13.9 volts	
Cmsg noise per mile	**100 dBrnc**	

Phone line Lake Benton MN
6-15-05



Usual PI Frequencies
Redwood MN.



Note: All of the displayed frequencies added together, equals the total power influence.

Conclusion

1 The telephone plant is in good condition indicated by high longitudinal balance.
2 The loop length has been reduced by the installation of Digital Carrier Systems.
3 All loops tested were under 18 Kft.
4 The cable shield is bonded for continuity and ground connections have been made at exposure changes.

5 Induction Neutralizing Transformers are being used in an attempt to cancel low frequency harmonics. They cannot be used in all cases because of distributed cable counts.

6 D" loading is being employed on some loops to improve signal to noise ratios.

7 The power transmission system is changing from day to day. There are multiple resonant conditions creating an extremely high ground return IT.
8 The wind turbines using pulse width modulation create high frequency harmonics. This adds to the high ground return IT numbers. These frequencies cannot always be shielded by the telephone plant because of the availability of shielding conductors on some routes.

9 The Telephone Company has done everything conceivable to mitigate the noise trouble on the existing plant. **The best mitigation techniques will not solve an induction problem this severe.** Ground return IT measurements exceeding 2000 are very difficult. Those exceeding 6000 are next to impossible.

10 I have been in touch with Dr Dave Hartmann a consulting engineer at Portland OR.503-244-0767 and Einar Larson with Control Development at GE, 518-385-1883. I inquired about filtration of the collector ring transmission circuits. It can be done, but the expense would be very high. The equipment for each lead would be in excess of $100,000.00. The engineering study would also be very expensive. Filtration of the high harmonics would not prevent the transmission lines from going resonant at lower frequencies.

11 The expanse of the transmission lines and their changing character makes the reduction of the Ground Return IT most difficult, if not impossible. **The only practical solution would be a fiber to the curb telephone system.** This would reduce the exposure lengths to just a few feet and render the facilities impervious to induced noise.

Barry Dardis

APPENDIX B

MINUTES OF THE

BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 with the following members present: Dennis Falken, Alan Gregg, Donald Larson, Mary Negstad and Deanna Santema.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Falken called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the January 26, 2010 commission meeting was approved as amended without objection from the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was approved without objection from the board.

The consent agenda consisted of the minutes from the January 19, 2010 commission meeting.

Welfare Matters: case #09-128 for Avera McKennan was denied; case #09-155 for Avera McKennan was denied; 09-156 for Avera McKennan was denied; case #10-004 for rent was approved; case #10-008 for rent was approved; case #10-009 for Ramsdell's was approved; case #10-010 for mortgage payment was approved.

Travel/Education Requests: Gary Egeberg & Lawrence Barnett to attend the State Annual Weed & Pest Conference February 16-19, 2010 in Aberdeen, SD; Gary Heldt & Glen Nachtigal to attend the State Annual Weed & Pest Conference February 17-19, 2010 in Aberdeen, SD; Michael Giegling to attend the South Dakota Retailers Association Alcohol Training January 28, 2010 in Pierre, SD; Larry Jensen to attend the NACE 2010 Conference April 23-30, 2010 in Fort Worth, TX; Joyce Dragseth to attend the SDAAO Executive Board Meeting February 2, 2010 in Pierre, SD.

Cellular Authorization: Bart Sweebe-Extensive Usage and Blackberry for enterprise application at $105/month; Dennis Falken-Basic Usage and Blackberry for enterprise application at $75/month; Deanna Santema-Basic Usage and Blackberry for enterprise application at $75/month.

Commissioner Larson wanted to clarify a Brookings Register headline that it was not Brookings City Attorney Steve Britzman that solely made the decision to open the space needs' subcommittee meetings to the public; it was a full committee decision with legal counsel's advice.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

Motion by Negstad, seconded by Santema to approve the following claims. Roll call vote: Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Larson "aye," Falken "aye." Motion carried.

A&B Business, Copier Maintenance, $764.97, Copier Maintenance, $38.81, Copier Maintenance, $82.49; Alert Magazine, LLC-SD, Ad, $100.00; BAHRA, 2010 Membership, $130.00; Bertsch, Sandy, Sheriff Trust, $476.29; Bobcat of Brookings, Bobcat Skid-Steer Loader, $37,009.14; Broadacre Rentals, COP Rent, $350.00; Brookings Area Chamber, 6A9 Membership Fee, $70.00, 2010 Membership, $70.00; Brookings Area Transit, 2010 Budget Allocation, $9,000.00; Brookings Co Conservation, 2010 Budget Allocation, $15,000.00; Brookings Co Historic Society, 2010 Budget

Allocation, $4,000.00; Brookings County Food Pantry, 2010 Budget Allocation, $5,000.00; Brookings Credit Bureau, Sheriff Trust, $653.10; Brookings Domestic Shelter, 2010 Budget Allocation, $33,000.00; Brookings Engraving, Retirement Recognition Clock, $50.00; Central Business Supply, Binders/Ink Cartridges/Paper, $927.67; Cook's Recycling, Garbage, $137.78, Commercial Service, $90.58, Monthly Contract, $183.72; Den-Wil Inc, January Rent, $835.00; Distad, Rod, COP Rent, $340.00; Egeberg, Gary, Recertification Meetings, $90.00; Faulk County Sheriff, Service of Subpoena, $43.62; First District Association, 2nd Qtly Joint Coop Agreement, $8,282.75; Greentree, COP Mtg Pmt, $188.36; Harold's Printing, Window Envelopes, $287.60; Heartland Collections, Sheriff Trust, $76.06; Hogan, Tim, CAA Cri 09-0555, $908.81; Hy-Vee Pharmacy, Inmate Meds, $1,188.41; Inter-Lakes Comm. Action, Community Service Worker, $2,250.00; JCL Solutions, Misc Supplies for Jail, $228.63; Jeromy J Pankratz, CAA 09-50, $3,000.95, CAA 09-51, $582.20, CAA Juv 09-0066, $754.40; Lewis & Clark Mental Health, BMI Hearing, $142.00; M&T Fire & Safety Inc, First Aid Kit Refills, $111.00; Micro Computer, USB PS2 Adapter, $17.39; Mid-States Organized Crime, Annual Membership Fee, $150.00; Mills Property Management, Parking Space Rental, $270.00, 1921 Building Rental Jan-June, $27,242.04; Mobile Electronic Service, 6A3 Patrol Video Camera, $248.88; Nancy J Nelson, CAA 09M-3569, $319.80; National Sheriff's Association, Membership Fee, $100.00; NDAA Insurance Services, Lawyers Prof Liability Ins, $3,917.00; Office Peeps Inc, Ink Cartridges, $316.00; Oslo Township, Gopher Bounty Program, $664.50; Patricia J Hartsel, Transcripts SA Ordered, $102.00, Transcript Copy SA Ordered, $7.60, Transcripts, $186.20; Quill Corporation, Office Supplies, $968.17; Ramsdell's Fertilizer & Propane, COP Utilities, $317.04; Reliable Office Supplies, Office Supplies, $443.90; Reliance Telephone, Inmate Phone Cards, $2,000.00; Reserve Account, Postage Machine Refill, $10,000.00; SDACO, 2010 Dues for Finance and ROD, $2,500.40; Senior Companion Program, 2010 Budget Allocation, $3,750.00; Swiftel Center, Multiplex Upkeep - January, $3,334.00; Wagner RE Appraisal & Bldg Inspection, Inspections, $300.00; West Payment Center, Information Charges, $799.90, NW Reporter, $177.50.

Deputy Finance Officer Stacy Steffensen presented the Finance Officer's Report.

Be it noted, the Register of Deeds Statement of Fees collected for the month of December 2009 in the amount of $25,516.00 was presented to the board.

Be it noted the 2010 Wage Placements were presented to the board as follows: Anderson, Jeffery G $19.44; Barnett, Lawrence S $13.26; Barron, Bradley R $18.09; Brandt, Carolyn R $14.85; Buseth, Vicki L $57,119.66; Binker, Christopher T $14.46; Brehmer, Jacob E $15.55; Brenden, Jeannie $14.46; Calhoon, Clyde R $103,504.96; Caugherty, Joyce H $15.65; Caylor, Cara L $17.05; Chapman, Beverly K $50,010.74; Chapman, Craig M $12.77; Cofell, Richard P $15.05; Conn, Brenda E $16.83; DeJong, Darren J $18.33; Dinger, Carson D $14.75; Dragseth, Joyce L $54,402.40; Eaton, Valerie A $16.69; Egeberg, Gary L $37,494.34; Erickson, Michael A $16.50; Enz, Gregory J $14.46; Falken, Allen D $12.33; Falken, Dennis A $14,854.32; Friedrich, Clifford A $22.47; Gibson, David A $18.33; Giegling, Martha A $15.34; Giegling, Michael L $18.69; Gregg, Alan $14,854.32; Gross, Linda E $15.65; Gebers, Marci A $18.33; Haider, Darin R $22.47; Hanson, Eric D $14.75; Hanson, Kathryn R $17.16; Hanson, Tammy L $16.50; Haugen, Richard L $15.34; Hill, Robert W $51,794.86; Hostler, Shawn M $20.58; Hougland, Daniel G $20.54; Howell, Abigail A $10.00; Hieb, Jere D $15.55; Holmquest, Cynthia $14.46; Jensen, Larry D $57,119.66; Jensen, Randy J $41,360.80; Jurrens, Arlo D $18.33; Klingbile, Larry J $19.44; Klitzke, Anita L $14.75; Kneebone, Dale L $17.50; Kooima, Bernita A $19.86; Kratochvil, Wm. Mark $89,565.58; Kruse, Belinda L $13.28; Kulwicki, Heather J $14.75; Larsen, Richard A $19.44; Larson, Donald L $14,854.32; Lilla, Christopher L $18.69; Larson, Gavin $14.46; Maher, Rae L $13.54; McKinney, Dawn R $15.34; Meusburger, Jason K $19.70; Mielke, Daniel J $29,692.00; Miller, Dennis W $20.90; Molengraaf, John E $13.81; Moore, Sara L $14.75; Muckey, Wanda L $14.00; Meyer, John K $17.97; Morlock, Amber S $10.00; Negstad, Mary E $14,854.32; Norgaard, Gary W $18.09; Olson, Robert J $18.09; Patterson, Angela R $14.75; Pierce, Irene M $17.50; Pike, Jon R $24.15; Ribstein, Randy G $19.44; Reynolds-Wilson, Tracy $14.46; Rippert, Jacqueline M $13.72; Santema, Deanna L $14,854.32; Schmit, Cindy L $19.15; Schultz, Lori A $19.44; Sebring, Scott N $59,123.48; Stamp, Candace K $18.09; Stanwick, Martin E $72,765.16; Steffensen, Stacy P $17.05; Stoebner, B. Jean $15.65; Stoltenburg, Michael $23.73; Struwe, Todd L $53,661.14; Swartos, Don K $16.28; Sweebe, Bart M $51,273.30; Swisher, David R

$16.82; Salihagic, Bojan $14.46; Squashingroff-Schwartz, Tricia L $14.00; Steen, Peggy J $13.72; Straub, Ronnie W $19.32; Thompson, Ryan J $14.75; Umberger, Charles R $19.06; Van Duyn, Keith A $13.02; VanderWal, Susan C $17.16; Vilhauer, Mitchell A $14.75; Vogel, Stephanie R $62,938.72; Witchey, Kristen L $15.86; Wenz, Ashton L $14.46; Ysker, Fabian T $15.34; Zimmerman, Toby C $16.17.

Motion by Gregg, seconded by Negstad to automatically supplement for unanticipated expenses incurred and reimbursement made to Brookings County: to the County Jail in the amount of $3,878.00 for reimbursement received from the Courtroom Security Grant from line 101-3-342-1900 to line 101-4-212-4260. Roll Call Vote: Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Larson "aye," Gregg "aye," Falken "aye." Motion carried.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Motion by Larson, seconded by Santema to approve Abatement #10-02: parcel #19000-11148-251-00 in the amount of $7,805.24. Background information was provided by Director of Equalization Joyce Dragseth. Roll call vote: Santema "aye," Larson "aye," Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Falken "aye." Motion carried.

Motion by Santema, seconded by Negstad to approve Abatement #10-03: parcel #19000-11148-254-00 in the amount of $3,751.16. Roll call vote: Larson "aye," Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Falken "aye." Motion carried.

Motion by Gregg, seconded by Negstad to approve and authorize Chairperson Falken to sign Agreement #10-05: an application for occupancy of right of way of county highways made by Sioux Valley Energy. Roll call vote: Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Larson "aye," Falken "aye." Motion carried.

Commission Assistant/Human Resources Director Stephanie Vogel presented the Commission/HR report.

Vogel provided the board with a legislative update and discussed upcoming interviews.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

Motion by Gregg, seconded by Negstad to remove Resolution #09-52 from the table. Roll call vote: Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Larson "aye," Gregg "aye," Falken "aye." Motion carried.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Santema to approve and authorize Chairperson Falken to sign Resolution #09-52: a resolution granting Buffalo Ridge II LLC, an Oregon limited liability company, the right to construct, maintain, and operate poles and wires for the purpose of transmitting electricity and electric energy for lighting, heating, and power purposes over, upon, along and across the public highways hereinbefore described in said County of Brookings for a period of twenty years.

Deputy State's Attorney Mark Kratochvil said that he had received correspondence from Todd Boyd, the attorney representing ITC, and that they are now agreeable to the changes that have been made to the resolution and wanted to thank the board for their consideration. Planning and Zoning Director Robert Hill also provided additional background information.

Roll call vote: Santema "aye," Larson "aye," Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Falken "aye." Motion carried.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Buffalo Ridge II LLC, an Oregon limited liability company, on the 29th day of December 2009, filed with the County Auditor of the County of Brookings, South Dakota, its duly verified petition for franchise for a grant of the right to construct, maintain, and operate poles and wires for the purpose of

transmitting electricity and electric energy for lighting, heating, and power purposes over, upon, along, and across the following public highways in said County of Brookings,

to-wit: See Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein.

WHEREAS, said application was heard by the Board of County Commissioners of said County of Brookings, on the 29th day of December, 2009, at the hour of 9:00 o'clock A.M. at the office of said board in the Court House in the City of Brookings, Brookings County, South Dakota, due notice of said hearing having been given by mail, in strict compliance with the requirements of law, to all persons, firms or corporations owning or operating transmission, telegraph, or telephone lines on or along any part of the highways hereinbefore described which the proposed transmission or distribution line of the applicant is to occupy, all in accordance with the terms and provisions in SDCL Chapter 31-26 and all acts amendatory thereto.

WHEREAS, Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. and Sioux Valley Energy expressed concerns that the construction and operation of an electrical transmission line by Buffalo Ridge II LLC be done in a manner so as not to interfere with the maintenance and operation of other utility and telecommunication lines existing in such public highway right of ways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Brookings and State of South Dakota that Buffalo Ridge II LLC, is hereby granted, in addition to any other rights previously granted to it, the right to construct, maintain, and operate poles and wires for the purpose of transmitting electricity and electric energy for lighting, heating, and power purposes over, upon, along, and across the public highways hereinbefore described in said County of Brookings for a period of twenty years from and after the date hereof be, subject to the terms and conditions of SDCL Chapter 31-26 and all acts amendatory thereto, and subject to the further conditions that Buffalo Ridge II LLC comply with the requirements of SDCL 49-32-3.1 and that Buffalo Ridge II LLC construct, maintain and operate such poles and wires so as to not unreasonably interfere with the maintenance and operation of existing utility and telecommunication lines in such public highway right of ways, or that Buffalo Ridge II LLC promptly take such steps as may be necessary to resolve or mitigate any such interference. The determination of whether any interference with existing utility and communication lines has occurred as a result of Buffalo Ridge II LLC's poles and wires, whether such interference is unreasonable, and what steps may be necessary to resolve or mitigate any such interference, may be resolved by agreement between Buffalo Ridge II LLC and the owner or operator of any such utility and/or communication lines, and the terms of any such agreement shall govern as to Buffalo Ridge II LLC's compliance with this Resolution as to such lines.

Dated this 26th day of January, 2010.

Dennis Falken
Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Brookings, State of South Dakota

ATTEST:

Vicki Buseth
County Finance Officer

EXHIBIT A

A. 115 kV transmission line - Right of Way crossings.

Section 6/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [196th St.]

Sections 6 and 7/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [197th St.]

Sections 7 and 18/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [198th St]

Sections 18 and 19/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [199th St] (TC-1)

Sections 19 and 20/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [479th Ave] (TC-2)

Sections 20 and 21/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [480th Ave] (TC-4)

Sections 21 and 28/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [200th Street] (TC-5)

Sections 21 and 27/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW in corner [200th Street and 481st Ave] (TC-6)

Sections 27 and 34/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [201st Street] (TC-7)

Section 34/T112N/R48W and Section 3/T111N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [202nd Street]

Sections 2 and 3/T111N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [482nd Ave]

Sections 2, 11 and 12/T111N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW in corner [Highway 30 and 483rd Ave] and crosses Lot H-1 in Section 12/T111N/R48W which is owned in fee by Brookings County (TC-11)

Section 12/T111N/R48W, East border, and Section 7/T111N/R47W, West border - overhead line crosses ROW [204th Street] (TC-12)

Sections 13 and 24/T111N/R48W - overhead lines cross ROW [205th Street] (TC-14)

Sections 24/T111N/R48W and 19/T111N/R47W - overhead lines cross ROW [484th Ave]'

Section 25/T111N/R48W and Section 30/T111N/R47W - overhead lines cross ROW [484th Ave] (TC-16)

Sections 19 and 30/T111N/R47W - overhead lines cross ROW [206th Street] (TC-15)

B. 115 kV transmission line - Located in Right of Way

Section 12/T111N/R48W, East border, and Section 7/T111N/R47W, West border - overhead line located in unimproved Right of Way (TC-13)

Section 13/T111N/R48W, East border, and Section 18/T111N/R47W, West border - overhead line located in unimproved Right of Way

C. Underground 34.5 kV collector lines - Right of Way crossings.

Sections 1 and 2/T112N/R49W - underground line crosses ROW [477th Ave] (UC-2)

Sections 2 and 3/T112N/R49W - underground line crosses ROW [476th Ave] (UC-1)

Section 6/T112N/R48W and Section 1/T112N/R49W- underground line crosses ROW [478th Ave] and crosses Outlot A in Section 1/T112N/R49W, which is owned in fee by Brookings County (UC-3)

Sections 11 and 12/T112N/R49W - underground line crosses ROW [477th Ave] (UC-4)

Sections 5 and 6/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [479th Ave] (UC-6)

Sections 9 and 8/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [480th Ave] (UC-7)

Sections 4 and 9/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [197th Street / County Highway 40] (UC-8)

Sections 3 and 4/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [481st Ave] (UC-9)

Sections 3 and 10/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [197th St.]

Sections 7 and 8/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [479th Ave] (UC-5)

Sections 9 and 16/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [198th Street] (UC-10)

Sections 9 and 10/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [481st Ave.] (UC-11)

Section 13/T112N/R49W and Section 18/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [478th Ave] (UC-13)

Sections 18 and 17/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [479th Ave] (UC-14)

Section 24/T112N/R49W and Section 19/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [478th Ave] (UC-15)

Sections 18 and 19/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [199th St.]

Sections 19 and 20/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [479th Ave]

Sections 20 and 21/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses or enters into ROW [480th Ave] (UC-18)

Sections 21 and 22/T112N/R48W - underground line crosses ROW [481st Ave] (UC-19)

D. 34.5 kV underground lines - located in Right of Way.

Section 12/T111N/R48W, East border, and Section 7/T111N/R47W, West border - overhead line located in unimproved Right of Way; could be converted to overhead

Section 13/T111N/R48W, East border, and Section 18/T111N/R47W, West border - underground line located in unimproved Right of Way; could be converted to overhead

E. 34.5 kV overhead lines (could be converted to 115 kV) - Right of Way Crossings.

West side of Sections 6 and 7/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [197th Street] (OC-1)

West side of Sections 7/T112N/R48W and 13/T112N/R49W - overhead line crosses ROW in corner [198th Street and 478th Ave] (OC-2)

East side of Sections 7 and 18/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [198th St.]

Sections 7 and 8/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [479th Ave]

Sections 8 and 9/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [480th Ave]

Section 13/T112N/R49W and Section 18/T112N/R48W - overhead line crosses ROW [478th Ave] (OC-3)

OVERHANG/CABLE SWING AREAS

W edge of Sections 6 and 7/T112N/R48W [478th Ave.] - 34.5 kV

E edge of Sections 1 and 12/T112N/R49W [478th Ave.] - 34.5 kV

E edge of Section 13/T112N/R49W [478th Ave.] - 34.5 kV

W edge and S edge of Section 18/T112N/R48W [478th Ave. and 199th St.] - 34.5 kV

E edge of Sections 7 and 18/T112N/R48W [479th Ave] - 34kV

N edge of Section 19/T112N/R48W [199th St.] - 34.5 kV

E edge of Section 19/T112N/R48W [479th Ave.] - 115 kV

W edge of Section 20/T112N/R48W [479th Ave.] - 115 kV

S edge of Section 20/T112N/R48W [200th St.] – 115 kV

N edge of Section 29/T112N/R48W [200th St.] - 115 kV

N edge of Section 28/T112N/R48W [200th St.] - 115 kV

S edge of Section 21/T112N/R48W [200th St] - 115 kV

W edge of Section 27/T112N/R48W [481st Ave.] - 115 kV

E edge of Section 28/T112N/R48W [481st Ave.] - 115 kV

S edge of Section 27/T112N/R48W [201st St.] - 115 kV

N edge of Section 34/T112N/R48W [201st St.] - 115 kV

E edge of Section 34/T112N/R48W [482nd Ave.] - 115 kV

W edge of Section 35/T112N/R48W [482nd Ave.] - 115 kV

W edge of Section 2/T111N/R48W [482nd Ave.] - 115 kV

E edge of Section 3/T111N/R48W [482nd Ave.] - 115 kV

S edge of Section 2/T111N/R48W [Hwy 30] - 115 kV

N edge of Section 11/T111N/R48W [Hwy 30] - 115 kV

S edge of Section 1/T111N/R48W [Hwy 30] - 115 kV

N edge of Section 12/T111N/R48W [Hwy 30] - 115 kV

E edge of Section 12/T111N/R48W [unimproved] - 115 kV

W edge of Section 7/T111N/R47W [unimproved] - 115 kV

E edge of Section 13/T111N/R48W [484th Ave.] - 115 kV

W edge of Section 18/T111N/R47W [484th Ave.] - 115 kV

E edge of Section 24/T111N/R48W [484th Ave.] - 115 kV

W edge of Section 19/T111N/R47W [484th Ave.] - 115 kV

E edge of Section 25/T111N/R48W [484th Ave.] - 115 kV

W edge of Section 30/T111N/R47W [484th Ave.] - 115 kV

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Commissioner Gregg reported on the Swiftel Center Board Meeting, the subcommittee meeting on the joint administrative facility and the 911 Meeting.

Commissioner Negstad reported on the subcommittee meeting on the joint administrative facility.

Commissioner Santema reported on the Transportation Board Meeting and the BATA Meeting.

Commissioner Larson reported on the Census Committee Meetings, an upcoming conference on reinventing environmentalism, and legislative updates.

Commissioner Falken reported on the 911 Meeting.

The board discussed the Swiftel Center presentation on their proposed expansion.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Motion by Gregg, seconded by Santema to table the request by South Dakota State University Foundation for Brookings County to act as a Conduit Bond Issuer for Economic Development Revenue Bonds on behalf of the SDSU Foundation until the February 2, 2010 meeting. Roll call vote: Larson "aye," Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Falken "aye." Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Negstad, seconded by Gregg to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 a.m. for personnel reasons. Roll call vote: Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Larson "aye," Falken "aye." Motion carried.

At 9:50 a.m., the board recessed until 2:00 p.m.

The board reconvened at 2:00 p.m. in Executive Session for personnel reasons. The board came out of Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Falken declared the meeting adjourned until 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

It is the policy of Brookings County, South Dakota, not to discriminate against the Handicapped in Employment or the Provision of Service. The County of Brookings is responsive to requests for communication aids and the need to provide appropriate access, and will provide alternative formats and accessible locations consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

_____
Stacy Steffensen
Deputy Finance Officer
Brookings County Finance Office

Published once at the total approximate cost of _____.

Appendix C

From the Final Order (http://puc.sd.gov/commission/orders/electric/2009/el08-031d.pdf)
Terms and Conditions (Page 26)
15. If the presence of operation of the Project causes inference with radio, television or any legal communication device, the Applicant shall take all appropriate action to minimize any such interference and make a good faith effort to restore or provide reception levels equivalent to reception levels in the immediate areas just prior to construction of the project. This mitigation requirement shall apply to home or other structures in place at the time of construction but shall not apply to any dwellings or other structures built after the construction of the Project approved in this permit has been completed.

From the BRII Application
(http://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2008/el08-031/hearing/i-e.pdf)
Section 12.4.5 ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE (Page 79)
"There are a number of underground and overhead telecommunications lines in the Project area. Telecommunications firms located in areas with wind development have sometimes experienced disturbances to their communications infrastructure from electric feeder and communications lines associated with wind farms. The Applicant is actively coordinating with Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC), the telecommunications provider in the Project area, in order to minimize the potential for any interference problems. If, after construction, any interference with communications infrastructure is detected, the Applicant will work with ITC in order to alleviate the problem."