



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: January 25, 2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE

**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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC (Big Blue Wind) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a site permit to build and operate a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 36 megawatts (MW) in Faribault County. The Commission issued an order accepting the site permit application on January 13, 2011.

Project Description. The proposed Big Blue Wind Farm (Project) site encompasses 15,000 acres and is located in Faribault County in the township of Jo Daviess, six miles west of the city of Blue Earth. Depending on the turbine model selected, the project would consist of up to 24 wind turbine generators mounted on 80 meter (262.5 foot) towers. Turbines under consideration are 18 REpower 2.05 MW turbines with a rotor diameter of 303.5 feet (92.5 meters) or 24 General Electric 1.5 or 1.6 MW turbines with a rotor diameter of 269 feet (82 meters). Associated facilities include gravel access roads, pad mounted step-up transformers, electrical collector and feeder lines, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) communication lines and building, a substation, a switching station, and two permanent meteorological towers. The Project may have an operations and maintenance building within the Project boundary; and if so, the location will be determined during the site permitting process. Big Blue Wind's goal is to complete construction and achieve commercial operation by September 2011.

Site Permit Review Process. The Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES), on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the permit review process for this Project under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes chapter 216F) and Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules chapter 7854). Upon completion of this process, the OES will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision.

The OES is currently soliciting comments on issues that should be considered in developing the draft site permit for this project. Based on comments received, OES staff will prepare and submit a draft site permit to the Commission for consideration. If the Commission issues a draft site permit for public review and comment, a public meeting will be held in the Project area and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide additional comments. Persons on the OES mailing list for this project will receive notice of all public and Commission meetings.

Project Documents. The site permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed Project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=30587> and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 10-1238).

Copies of the application are also available for review at the Faribault Public Library in Blue Earth, the auditor's office in Faribault County, city office in Blue Earth, and the township clerk of Jo Daviess.

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

Public Comments. The OES is soliciting comments on issues that should be considered in developing a draft site permit for this Project. Such issues include unique characteristics of the proposed site or Project that should be considered and items that may be missing or mischaracterized in the site permit application. Interested persons may comment until **February 18, 2011**. Please include the Project docket number (IP-6851/WS-10-1238) on all comments. Comments can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the OES State Permit Manager identified below. Comments can also be entered on the Commission's website at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us> under the heading Public Participation.

Project Contacts and Information. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this Project please contact:

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Questions about the Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Collin Rudeen, Lead Project Engineer, Exergy Development Group of Idaho, at 208-336-9793 or crudeen@exergydevelopment.com.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.

