STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security

Issued: March 30, 2011

NOTICE OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT ISSUANCE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

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 Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security will hold a public information meeting on the application of Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC for a site permit to build and operate a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 36 megawatts (MW) in Faribault County.

Tuesday, April 19, 2011
7:00 P.M.

at

Hamilton Hall
209 South Main Street
Blue Earth, MN 56013

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information and solicit public comments regarding the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm and the Draft Site Permit issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). Big Blue Wind, LLC (Big Blue Wind) is a subsidiary of Exergy Development Group of Idaho, LLC. The Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the Draft Site Permit. Representatives of Big Blue Wind will be present to answer questions about the proposed project.

Public Comments. In addition to receiving comments at the public meeting, EFP staff will also accept written comments on the Draft Site Permit until **4:30 P.M., Friday, May 6, 2011**. Please include Docket Number IP-6851/WS-10-1238 on your comments. Comments can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the EFP State Permit Manager identified below. Comments can also be entered on the Commission's website at http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us.

Proposed Site Location. The proposed Big Blue Wind Farm site is located in Faribault County in the township of Jo Daviess, six miles west of the city of Blue Earth and south of Interstate 90. The site encompasses 15,000 acres.

Project Description. Big Blue Wind proposes to install between 18 and 24 wind turbine generators depending on what turbines are ultimately selected. The wind turbine layout would consist of either 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), mounted on towers of 262.5 feet (80 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, 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.

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

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

Big Blue Wind filed an application with the Commission for a site permit to build and operate a LWECS on December 6, 2010. The Commission accepted the site permit application as complete on January 13, 2011. Updated turbine layout maps were filed with the Commission on March 24, 2011. These updated maps replace the maps included in the application.

EFP staff solicited comments on issues to be considered in developing a Draft Site Permit for this project until February 18, 2011. EFP staff prepared a Draft Site Permit for consideration by the Commission. On March 11, 2011, the Commission issued an Order approving the Draft Site Permit for distribution and public comment and authorized EFP staff to implement the public participation process outlined in Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. Upon completion of this process, EFP staff will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision. Under the LWECS siting process, environmental review is incorporated into the development of the site permit application and the site permit itself; there is no separate environmental review document prepared on the project.

Contested Case Hearing Request. Any person may request a contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the Big Blue Wind Farm pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed in writing with the EFP State Permit Manager by **4:30 p.m., Friday, May 6, 2011.**

The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been

raised and that the holding of the contested case hearing will aid the Commission in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

Project Documents. Electronic versions of the site permit application, the draft site permit and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Commission's website: http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=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).

A hard copy of the site permit application and Draft Site Permit 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.

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

Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
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St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 297-7039
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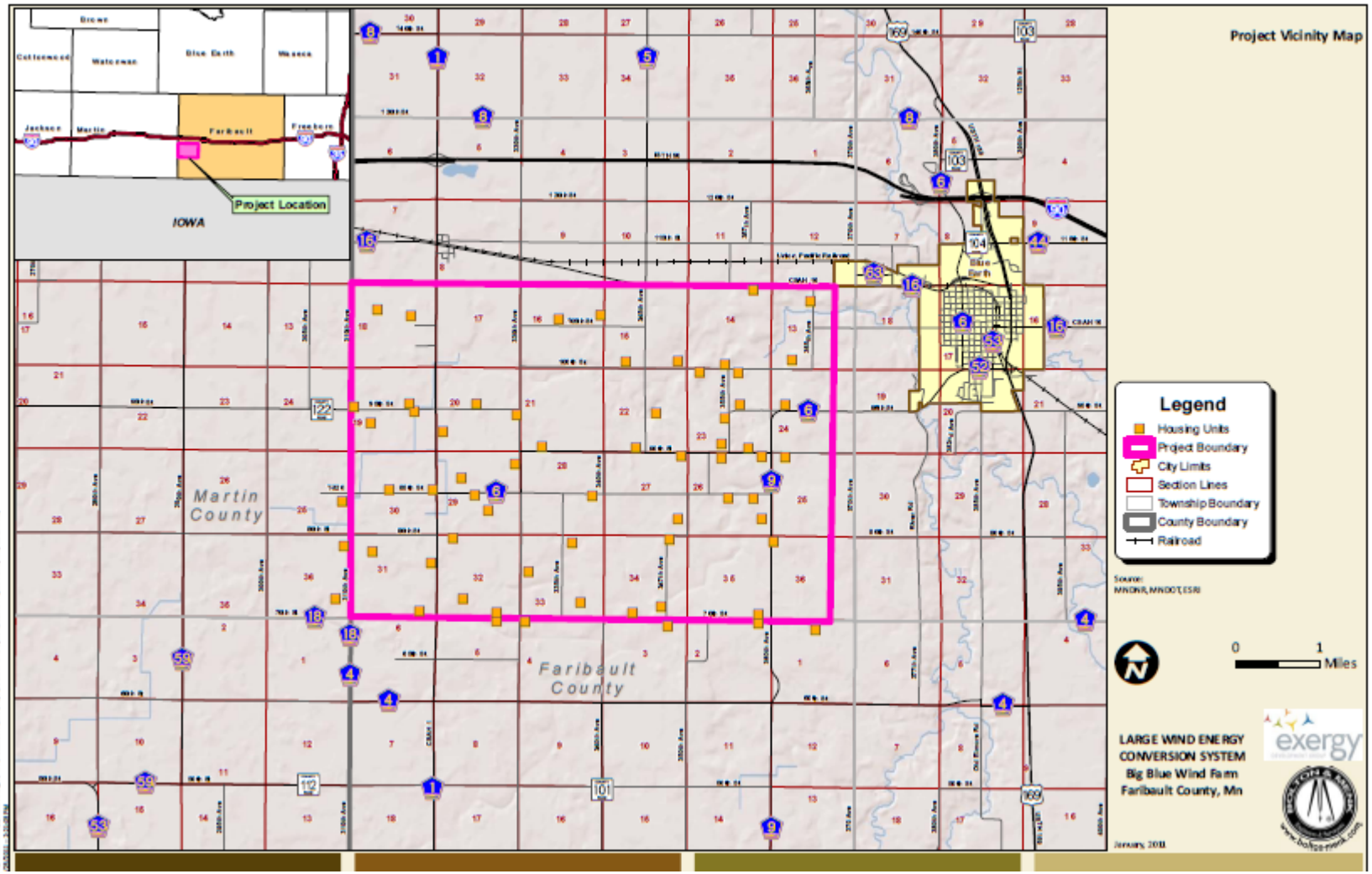
Questions about the project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Collin Rudeen, Lead Project Engineer, Exergy Development Group of Idaho, 802 W. Bannock, Suite 1200, Boise, Idaho 83702, or 208-336-9793 or crudeen@exergydevelopment.com.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.


Project Vicinity Map
Project Location
IOWA
Martin County
Faribault County
Legend
Housing Units
Project Boundary
City Limits
Section Lines
Township Boundary
County Boundary
Railroad
Source:
MNDNR, MNDOT, ESRI
0
1
Miles
LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM
Big Blue Wind Farm
Faribault County, Mn
exergy
January, 2011