LIST OF
COMMENTS RECEIVED
THROUGH FEBRUARY 18, 2011

BY THE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING

REGARDING THE
BIG BLUE WIND FARM
IN
FARIBAULT COUNTY

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

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1. Minnesota Department of Transportation
2. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
3. United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
4. Faribault County
5. Laura Larsen
6. James Meyer
7. Helen Lee Murphy

Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Mailstop 678

Phone: 651-366-4635
Fax: 651-366-4769
stacy.kotch@state.mn.us

February 17, 2011

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

RE: In the Matter of Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC. 36 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System
PUC Docket Number: IP6851/WS-10-1238

Dear Ms. Bjorklund:

On January 26th, 2011, the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) issued a Notice of Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit Application Acceptance, which includes a public comment period regarding the development of the Draft Site Permit with respect to the application by Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC and Exergy Development Group of Idaho, LLC for a site permit for a 36 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) located in Faribault County. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has reviewed the Permit Application regarding the proposed project and submits the following comments in response to the Notice.

Based on the information provided in the Big Blue Wind Farm Permit Application, it does not appear that the proposed wind farm project area or associated substation directly abut a state trunk highway. Therefore, the project's impact on the trunk highway system appears to be limited to the temporary activities associated with the construction process and the transport of materials to the constructions site.

Any HVTL construction work, including delivery or storage of structures, materials or equipment that may affect Mn/DOT right-of-way is of concern such that Mn/DOT should be involved in planning and coordinating such activities. There are currently no Mn/DOT highway projects planned or programmed for this area. Please note that if work is required within Mn/DOT right of way for temporary or permanent access, such work should be coordinated with Steve Schoeb in Mn/DOT's District 7A Utility Permits Office at 507-304-6180 or Steve.Schoeb@state.mn.us. The site permit should include language specifying that the Permittee shall obtain all relevant permits from road authorities relating to the transport of materials and equipment related to the project over public roads, such as oversize or overweight vehicles. To find out more information on applying for oversize/overweight permits, please contact Mn/DOT's

Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-296-6000 or ofcvopermits.dot@state.mn.us.

Mn/DOT appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kotch

Utility Transmission Route Coordinator

Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd., Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN 55155

cc: Collin Rudeen – Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC
Steve Schoeb – District 7A
Mark Scheidel – District 7

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300 | 800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us

February 16, 2011

Ms. Ingrid Bjorklund
Project Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: Big Blue Wind Farm
PUC Docket Number: IP-6851/WS-10-1238

Dear Ms. Bjorklund:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the site permit application for the Big Blue Wind Farm project, a 36 megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System located in Faribault County, Minnesota. Regarding matters for which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has regulatory responsibility and other interests, MPCA staff has the following comments for your consideration.

- The Construction Stormwater Permit requires permanent treatment best management practices (BMPs) to be provided to treat post construction runoff when there is an addition of one or more acres of new impervious surface. The permit defines impervious surface as a constructed hard surface that either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil and causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities and at an increased rate of flow than prior to development. Examples include rooftops, sidewalks, patios, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, and concrete, asphalt, or gravel roads. The document did not provide a cumulative measurement of new impervious surface but it appears from the number of buildings, pads, gravel roads, parking areas, and other hard surfaces there may be more than one acre total over the entire project site. We recognize that for projects such as this, there may be no practical method of providing permanent treatment adjacent to the numerous scattered impervious surfaces. Therefore, we recommend that the document investigate bunching the permanent treatment sizing requirements needed to satisfy the total impervious surface and locate your BMPs at those sites that may produce the most runoff. This will provide the most likely protections to any receiving waters.

Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this project, please contact Karen Kromar of my staff by e-mail at karen.kromar@state.mn.us or by telephone at 651-757-2508.

Sincerely,

Craig Affeldt
Supervisor
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division

CA/KK:mbo
cc: Collin Rudeen, Exergy Development Group of Idaho, Boise, Idaho
Karen Kromar, MPCA, St. Paul
Larry Zdon, MPCA, St. Paul
Bob Finley, MPCA, Mankato

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

February 18, 2011

Ingrid Bjorklund
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security
85 7th Pl E, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Big Blue Wind Farm Site Permit Application Review
Faribault County, Minnesota
PUC Docket: IP6851/WS-10-1238
FWS TAILS #32410-2011-CPA-0040

Dear Ms. Bjorklund:

This is in response to the Office of Energy Security request for comments on the Site Permit Application for the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm in Faribault County, Minnesota. The proposed project includes the installation of wind turbines, and associated infrastructure including roads, transmission lines, and staging areas.

Pre-construction Avian and Bat Survey Recommendations

The Project Proponent has indicated that pre-construction avian use, raptor nest, and bat surveys will be completed in 2011. The Service would like to be provided with any survey protocol and survey monitoring results. 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. Pre-construction surveys are intended to assist project proponents with micro-siting turbines and in part determining the need for post-construction mortality surveys.

Post-Construction Survey Recommendations

The Service recommends the project be monitored post-construction to determine impacts to migratory birds and bats. A specific post-construction monitoring plan should be prepared and reviewed by the Service and should include a scientifically robust, peer reviewed methodology of mortality surveys. Generally the Service recommends that surveys be conducted for one to three years following construction to assess impacts to birds and bats. The duration of post-construction surveys is project specific and will be determined based upon pre-construction survey results. We also recommend that the post-construction mortality studies be conducted by

an independent third party contractor with expertise in bird/bat mortality monitoring. Results of mortality surveys and other forms of monitoring should be used to adjust operations to reduce mortality if necessary and feasible, as well as improve design and siting of future wind generation facilities. **The Developer or its contractor should provide to this office each year, no later than December 31, copies of annual bird/bat mortality monitoring reports.**

Conservation Lands and Service Owned Lands

We recommend that no turbines be located within ¼ 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 a ½ mile south of the proposed Big Blue Wind Farm boundary. The Service recommends a minimum turbine setback distance of a ½ mile from WPAs, but a one mile turbine setback from WPAs would be preferred if practical and feasible.

Turbine Type and Layout Selection

The project proponent of the Big Blue Wind Farm provided two potential turbine types and layouts in the Site Permit Application. The Service recommends that the 18 - 2 MW turbine option be utilized for the proposed project. This option 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.

Infrastructure Considerations

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. Recently published information about which types of power line poles and associated hardware (e.g., wires, transformers and conductors) pose the greatest danger of electrocution to raptors and what modifications can be made to reduce this threat can be found on the internet at http://www.aplic.org/

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this proposed project. Please contact Rich Davis, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at (612) 725-3548, ext. 2214, or Pete Fasbender, Deputy Field Supervisor, at (612) 725-3548, ext. 2207 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tony Sullins

Tony Sullins
Field Supervisor

cc: Barry Christiansen, USFWS - Windom WMD
Kevin Mixon, MN DNR
Jamie Schrenzel, MN DNR

FARIBAULT COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT & PLANNING & ZONING

Faribault County Ag Center
415 South Grove Street, Suite 8
Blue Earth, Minnesota 56013
Phone (507) 526-2388
Fax (507) 526-2508
www.faribaultcountyswcd.com

February 18, 2011

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)

Ms. Bjorklund,

Faribault County Planning and Zoning Department, on behalf of 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 Site Permit for the 36 Megawatt project located in Faribault County.

1. On February 15, 2011, the Faribault County Board of Commissioners passed resolution #11-PZ02-4 adopting the Development Agreement, Public Drainage System Protection Agreement, and the Road Use and Repair Agreements. These documents will be required for all large wind projects within the county. On February 17, 2011, Exergy received the final agreement package that will need to be submitted before construction begins.

2. Faribault County adopted a Wind Energy Conversion System Ordinance on October 19, 2010. This ordinance was intended to address only those project that were not otherwise subject to siting and oversight by the State of Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216F, specifically those projects under five (5) Megawatts. Additionally, Faribault County has not yet examined the implications of this ordinance on projects more than five (5) Megawatts.

3. Additional comments will be reserved until Faribault County has had an opportunity to review the site permit for the Big Blue Wind Farm, LLC project.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact myself at 507-526-2388, or Faribault County Attorney Timmerman at 507-526-6222.

Sincerely,

Michele Stindtman

Michele Stindtman, Program Administrator
Faribault County Planning and Zoning

From: apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To: Bjorklund, Ingrid (COMM);
Subject: LARSEN Tue Feb 15 11:53:07 2011 IP6851/WS-10-1238
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 11:53:15 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 36 MW LWECS

Docket number: IP6851/WS-10-1238

User Name: LAURA LARSEN

County: Faribault County

City: BLUE EARTH

Email: BOXL@BEVCOMM.NET

Phone: 612 716 0612

Impact: DISTANCE FROM THE TURBINES WILL DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY CAUSE CUSTOMERS TO AVOID DOING BUSINESS WITH ME. TRAFFIC ON MY ROAD WILL BE SEVERELY LIMITED BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE YOUR TRUCKS AND OTHER HEAVY EQUIPMENT WILL CAUSE TO THE ROAD THAT CANNOT BE REMEDIED DAILY. I OWN AND OPERATE A BOARDING KENNEL BUSINESS AND I TEACH AND TRAIN DOGS FOR OBEDIENCE. I TRAIN HORSES SEVERAL HOURS A DAY AND SPEND A MINIMUM OF 9 HOURS A DAY OUTSIDE DIRECTLY EAST OF THE PROPOSED WIND TURBINES. THAT SAID, THE 'FLICKER' EFFECT AND THE NOISE FROM THE TURBINES IS GOING TO NOT ONLY AFFECT MY ABILITY TO CONCENTRATE, IT WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT THE ABILITY OF THE DOGS TO RELAX AS WELL AS THE HORSES DISTRACTION BY THE CONSTANT FLICKERING. THE HORSES LIVE IN THE PASTURE DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE TURBINES AND I RIDE ALONGSIDE THAT PASTURE AND ON THE ROAD THAT ADJOINS THE LAND THE TURBINES WILL BE ON. PART OF THE REGIMENT OF TRAINING INCLUDES RIDIND THE TRAINING HORSES IN THE DITCHES AND ON THE ROADS THAT ARE ALONGSIDE MY PROPERTY AND THE PROPERTY OF THE WIND TURBINES. THE DOG TRAINING I DO IS OUTSIDE AND THE DOGS AND HUMANS INVOLVED IN TRAINING WILL CLEARLY BE AFFECTED BY THE FLICKER. I AM CLEARLY NOT INTERESTED IN THE TURBINES BEING THIS CLOSE TO MY PROPERTY. THEY POSE A VERY REAL

DETRIMENT TO MY BUSINESSES AND TO THE WELFARE AND HEALTH OF MY DOGS, MY HORSES, MY CUSTOMERS DOGS, AND THE CUSTOMERS THEMSELVES. THE PEOPLE WHO OWN THE LAND FOR THE PROPOSED TURBINES DON'T LIVE ON THE PROPERTY. THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY THE CURRENT PLACEMENT OF THE TURBINES. I HAVE A LOT TO LOSE. I PROPOSE THE TURBINES BE PLACED ON THEIR LAND AWAY FROM ANY POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECT TO ME. THEY HAVE OTHER LAND THE TURBINES COULD BE PLACED THAT WOULD NOT AFFECT ME OR MY CUSTOMERS OR MY ANIMALS. YOUR CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER IS APPRECIATED.

Mitigation: THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND TRUCKS SHOULD BE ROUTED ALONG 90TH STREET (A COUNTY ROAD), NOT ON THE TOWNSHIP ROAD, 345TH AVE. OUR ROAD ALREADY SUFFERS FROM TOO MUCH HEAVY TRAFFIC AND IT WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR MY CUSTOMERS TO TRAVEL SAFELY TO MY FACILITY.

Submission date: Tue Feb 15 11:53:07 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: Meyer Wed Feb 16 16:44:44 2011 IP6851/WS-10-1238
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 4:44:47 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 36 MW LWECS

Docket number: IP6851/WS-10-1238

User Name: James E. Meyer

County: Faribault County

City: Blue Earth

Email: jimmymeyer@hotmail.com

Phone: 1-507-525-3004

Impact: Interested on more info on the project. Have land in section 35 of the proposed site area.Am also an electrical contractor out of Blue Earth.Would be interested in any potential job we can help with on this end of the project(sub station etc.)Thank You, Jim Meyer

Mitigation:

Submission date: Wed Feb 16 16:44:44 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

RECEIVED
FEB 17 2011
MAILROOM

P.O. Box 614
Sherburn, Mn 56171
February 14, 2011

Ingrid Björklund, State Permit Manager
Ray Kirsch Public Advisor
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Mn 55101

Dear State Officers:

As a landowner in the Big Blue Wind Farm Project, docket number IP-6851/WS-10-1238, Phase 1, in Jo Daviess Township, Faribault County, I have the following concerns in the thirty-year lease term (with a possible extension of two successive, ten-year periods):

1. The lease does not give a cost of living increase over time and an adjustment to inflation.
2. When the landowner has no tiling map, the lease puts the burden on the landowner to fix the tile if the contractor took "commercially reasonable steps to avoid damaging such drainage tiles and waterways."

3. In a dispute the lease does not allow a trial by a judge or a jury. Arbitrators are not required to include factual findings, and the losing party pays the attorney's fees and costs of the prevailing party. Decisions should be made by a panel and not by one arbitrator.
4. The lease does not allow negotiation on any matter, and must be accepted as is. We have no options.

I have already discussed these concerns with Epergy (Lori).

Within fifty years the technology of wind turbines will be changing and be upgraded. Then, the equipment will be outdated.

At this time I am undecided to participate in this project. Please put me on the OES mailing list for this project. I request any information you can send me, and the notices of all public meetings. I hope your agency allows a local informative public meeting here, as stated in your Notice of Application Acceptance.

I called Epergy's office in Idaho (Lori) to note the following errors in their Site Permit Application:

'Twenty years' (Should be thirty years):
p. 17 (7) Wind Rights

p. 80 (10.10) Decommissioning and Restoration
(10.10.1) Anticipated Project Life
(10.10.2) Estimated Decommissioning Cost
p. 81 (10.10.3) Updating Decommissioning Costs
'Third Decade' (Should be fourth decade if renewed)
p. 80 (10.10.1) Anticipated Project Life
'2009' dollars (Out of date)
p. 81 (10.10.2) Estimated Decommissioning Cost
'Southeastern Minnesota' (Should be southwestern Minnesota)
p. 45 (8.12.2) Tapes

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Helen Lee Murphy