



NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING DECISION

Issued: May 20, 2011

In the Matter of the Application of Prairie Wind Energy, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the 100 MW Prairie Wind Project in Otter Tail County (PUC Docket: IP-6844/CN-10-429)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Department of Commerce Deputy Commissioner has issued the Environmental Report (ER) Scoping Decision for the Prairie Wind Energy Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) proposed for Otter Tail County. The ER is being prepared by the Department's Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) unit for the Certificate of Need (CN) proceeding and will address potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and project alternatives. Copies of the ER Scoping Decision and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=30591>

Additional Certificate of Need documents can be obtained via the Department's "eDockets" electronic filing website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> by searching for **year: 10** and **number: 429**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is located approximately one mile from the community of Parkers Prairie, west of SH 29 and north of SH 235, with most of the Project site in the townships of Parkers Prairie and Elmo in Otter Tail County. Other townships within the Project site include Effington and Folden, also in Otter Tail County. The Project Boundary encompasses 23,921 acres, of which approximately 8,000 acres are under site control.

The CN Application is for an up to 100 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS), including the following:

1. 43 2.3 MW turbines yielding a total nameplate capacity of 98.9 MW. PWE, however, may choose to use 40 2.5 MW turbines for a total nameplate capacity of 100 MW.

2. Associated facilities, including: gravel access roads; a 34.5 kV electrical collection system; permanent meteorological towers; construction of a substation adjacent to an existing Great River Energy 115kV transmission line located in Section 10 of Parkers Prairie Township; installation of a Supervisory, Control And Data Acquisition (“SCADA”) system; and an O&M building.

As proposed, the Project is expected to achieve commercial operation by December 31, 2012.

PUC CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW PROCESS

The Project is a “large energy facility” as defined in Minnesota Statute 216B.2421, subp. 2 and a Certificate of Need from the Public Utilities Commission is required for such a project under Minnesota Statute 216B.243. The Applicant filed its CN Application on November 29, 2010. The Commission accepted the CN Application as complete in its February 11, 2011, Order.

A public hearing on the Certificate of Need will be held shortly after EFP completes preparation of the Environmental Report. Under state law, the PUC proceeding is the only time at which the “no-build” alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility will be considered. These items will not be addressed in the LWECs Permit process.

SCHEDULE

The Environmental Report is scheduled to be completed in July 2011.

PROJECT CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact State Permit Manager David Birkholz (651-296-2878, david.birkholz@state.mn.us), Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198.

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.