



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



ISSUED: MARCH 31, 2011

**NOTICE OF A CN APPLICATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETING**

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 Minnesota Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) will hold an Environmental Report (ER) scoping meeting for the Certificate of Need (CN) application submitted by Prairie Wind Energy, LLC (PWE), a Minnesota limited liability company, to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to build and operate the Prairie Wind Project (Project) in Otter Tail County.

Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

THE PRAIRIE EVENT CENTER

**201 West Main Street
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361**

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information about the proposed Project and to take public comment and input on the scope of the Environmental Report. At the meeting, EFP staff will explain the process for preparation of the environmental report. The public is invited to review the CN Application, ask questions, and make comments, including suggestions about alternatives to the Project and impacts to address in the ER. Representatives from Prairie Wind Energy will be available at the meeting to answer specific questions about the Project.

Project Location

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 (see attached map). The Project Boundary encompasses 23,921 acres, of which approximately 8,000 acres are under site control.

Project Description

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.

Eminent Domain for Prairie Wind Energy, LLC

PWE 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 facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicant.

Commission Review Process

Two separate Commission approvals are required to build an LWECS larger than 50 MW. A project developer must obtain a CN under Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243 and a Site Permit under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F.

The Applicant filed its CN Application on November 29, 2010. The Commission accepted the CN Application as complete in its February 11, 2011, Order. The application is available on the Commission’s website and from the Applicant’s representative listed below. Copies of the Application will also be available for review at the Auditor's Office in Otter Tail County; City Office in Parkers Prairie; and with the Township Clerks of Parkers Prairie, Elmo, Effington and Folden.

A Site Permit Application is pending. Landowners inside the LWECS boundary and local governmental units will receive a copy of the Site Permit Application directly from the Applicant when it is filed.

EFP staff is responsible for conducting a public meeting and environmental review for the CN application under Minnesota Rule 7849.1400. After the public meeting, EFP staff will prepare an ER, which will consider issues related to the CN, such as size, type, timing, and general environmental impacts of the Project. After completion of the ER, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the CN application, presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under Minnesota law, the CN proceeding is the only time at which the “no-build” alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new electrical generating facility can be considered.

Public Comment Period

EFP staff will accept written comments on issues and alternatives to be evaluated in the ER until **May 10, 2011**. Comments can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to David Birkholz (see contact information below); enter comments online at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#comment>.

Project Contacts and Information

The CN 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=30591>, and on the eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 10-429).

Questions about the Environmental Report or the Public Utilities Commission's permitting process may be directed to:

David Birkholz, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Ph (651) 296-2878 | Fax (651) 297-7891
david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Bret Eknes, PUC Public Advisor
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101
Ph (651) 201-2236
bret.eknes@state.mn.us

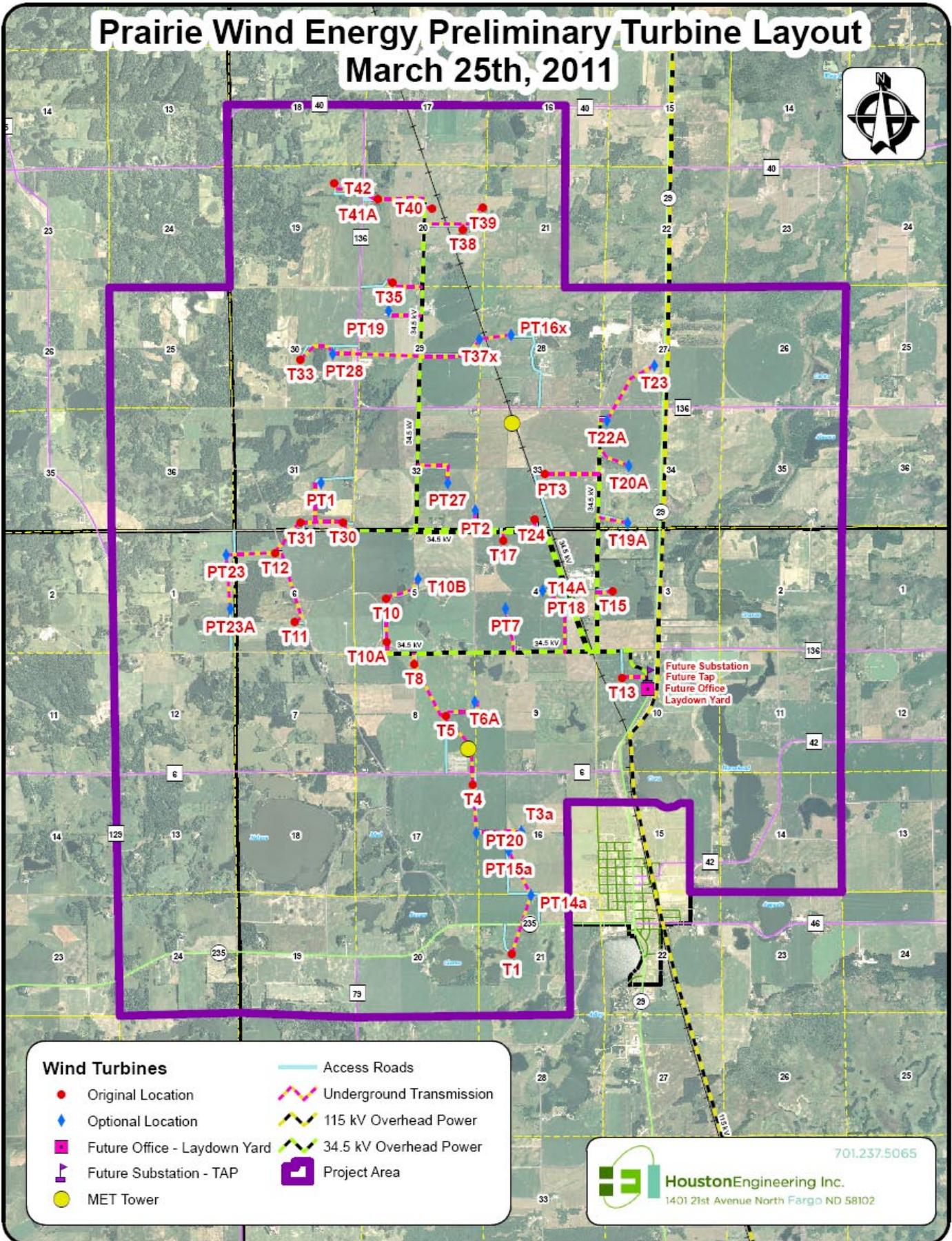
Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP Project Mailing List for this project should contact the project manager or register online at:

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

For questions about the CN Application or the upcoming Prairie Wind Project LWECS Site Permit Application, contact Terry Carlson of Prairie Wind Energy, LLC, (218) 338-4875, or tjabcarl@midwestinfo.net.

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.

Prairie Wind Energy, Preliminary Turbine Layout March 25th, 2011



Wind Turbines

- Original Location
- ◆ Optional Location
- Future Office - Laydown Yard
- Future Substation - TAP
- MET Tower

- Access Roads
- Underground Transmission
- 115 kV Overhead Power
- 34.5 kV Overhead Power
- Project Area

701.237.5065



Houston Engineering Inc.
1401 21st Avenue North Fargo ND 58102