



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Commerce



Issued: April 27, 2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE

**In the Matter of the Site Permit Application of Shell Rock Wind Farm, LLC
for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Freeborn County**

PUC Docket Number: IP-6858/WS-11-195

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Shell Rock Wind Farm, LLC (Shell Rock 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 44 megawatts (MW) in Freeborn County. The Commission issued an order accepting the site permit application on April 15, 2011.

Project Description. The proposed Shell Rock Wind Farm (Project) site encompasses 7,433 acres and is located in Freeborn County in the township of Pickerel Lake, located approximately three miles west of Albert Lea. Depending on the turbine model selected, the Project would consist of 24 to 29 wind turbine generators. Turbines under consideration are General Electric 1.5 xle turbines, which have a rotor diameter of 271 feet (82.5 meters) and total height of 397 feet (121 meters), and Vestas V90 1.8 MW turbines, which have a rotor diameter of 295 feet (90 meters) and total height of 410.1 feet (125 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, a substation, and a permanent meteorological tower. Shell Rock Wind's goal is to achieve commercial operation by December 31, 2012.

Site Permit Review Process. The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting unit (EFP), 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 EFP will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision.

The EFP is currently soliciting comments on issues that should be considered in developing the draft site permit for the Project. Based on comments received, EFP 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 EFP mailing list for the 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=31974> and on the Department of

Commerce's eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 11-195).

Copies of the application are also available for review at the Albert Lea Public Library, the auditor's office in Freeborn County, city offices in Conger, Albert Lea and Alden, and the township clerk of Pickerel Lake.

Mailing List. Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP 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 EFP 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 **May13, 2011**. Please include the Project docket number (IP-6858/WS-11-195) on all 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> under the heading Public Participation.

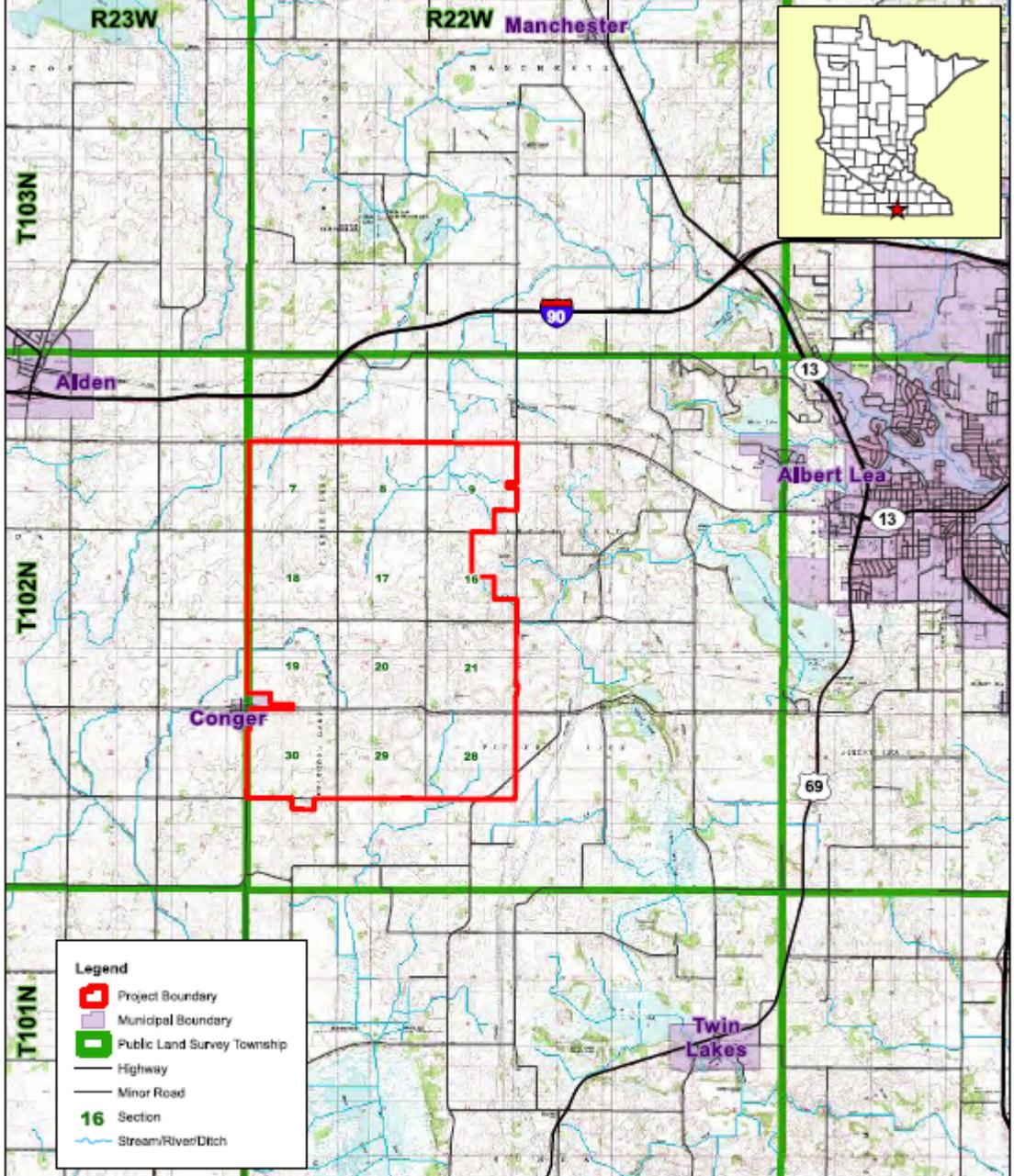
Project Contacts and Information. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this Project please contact:

Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 297-7039
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Larry Hartman, Public Advisor
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85 7th Place East, Suite 500
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Questions about the Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Bruce Freeman, Senior Project Executive, Avant Energy, Inc., agent for the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, at 612-349-6868 or Bruce.Freeman@AvantEnergy.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.



Data Sources: USGS Topographic Map (2002); MnDOT Roads, Municipalities, Railroads and Townships (2006, 2009); USGS EPA National Hydrography Dataset (2005); USFWS statewide wetlands (1979, 2005); MNPA (2011); Westwood (2011).

Shell Rock Wind Farm

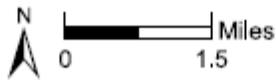
Freeborn County, Minnesota

Project Location Map

Map 1b



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