

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
COMMENT FORM

SHELL ROCK WIND FARM
PUC Docket No. IP-6858/WS-11-195

Name: Neal Drescher
Address: 72385 197th St.
City: Albert Lea State: MN ZIP: 56007

Please share your comments on the draft site permit for the proposed Shell Rock Wind Farm.

Turn this form in at the meeting or mail to the address provided on the back (use additional sheets as necessary). You may also email comments to Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager at: ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us with the docket number (listed above) in the subject line. **Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., September 12, 2011.**

As a property owner in the project it seems that the GE plan is the better plan. We were sold on the project with the understanding that it would benefit the whole community. The Vestas plan seems to put too many windmills on too few landowners property.

In Section 7 Charles Reindel has 3 windmills bunched on his land. My brother Claire has property adjacent to all 3 and no windmills on his property or on mine in that section. It seems that 1 of the windmills could very easily have been put on our properties.

In Section 8 Roger Pestoniou has quite a few windmills. There is one windmill almost on our property.

The service road runs thru our land yet he gets the benefit of the windmill. My feeling is either move the windmill OR the road.

In my mind the GE plan is better planned and an asset to the whole community.

Signature: Neal Drescher Date: 9/5/11

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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SHELL ROCK WIND FARM
PUC Docket No. IP-6858/WS-11-195

Name: Orville + Carol Ohm
Address: 18779 680th Ave.
City: Alden, MN 57009 State: _____ ZIP: _____

Please share your comments on the draft site permit for the proposed Shell Rock Wind Farm.

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We attended the wind farm meeting held in Albert Lea in August + are strongly opposed to the future wind farm in our area.

Each day we are seeing our good ag land being bought up by city expansion, hog + dairy confinements, government programs, set aside acres, wetlands, ditch areas + now windmills. We need to preserve this farmland for future generations.

My husband was raised on our farm by Conger + we have lived here over thirty years. It has been in his family many years before that. We love the land, peace + quiet + great neighborhood but now have to look at blinking lights from the windmills by Manchester. So us the constant blinking is "pollution."

We wonder what happens to the cement pads in the event a tower is removed? We were told they would remove 4' + leave the rest. If so there is a lot of cement left to deal with that will be there forever.

We do not see that the amount paid to the farmer is a substantial amount when you figure the percent you pay in income tax, the amount of land lost, the increase in our cost of electricity + maybe the value of our land will go down. Not everyone is interested in owning property with a windmill or farming around them.

Signature: Orville and Carol Ohm Date: 9-7-11

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
COMMENT FORM

SHELL ROCK WIND FARM
PUC Docket No. IP-6858/WS-11-195

Name: Clair Drescher
Address: 20535 680th Ave
City: Alden State: MN ZIP: 56004

Please share your comments on the draft site permit for the proposed Shell Rock Wind Farm.

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I support the GE plan but find the Vestas one very unfair. I live in section 7 and in both plans all 3 wind mills are on one owners land. In sec 8 with the vestas plan the access road is all on my land yet a wind mill is right across the fence, do I get paid for the nuisance of a road with no wind mill? In Sec 18 with the Vestas plan all 3 wind mills are just on the north side of the fence from our land. We were told the project was for the good of the community but with the Vestas plan it appears to be to the benefit of a select few.

Signature: Clair Drescher Date: 9-8-11

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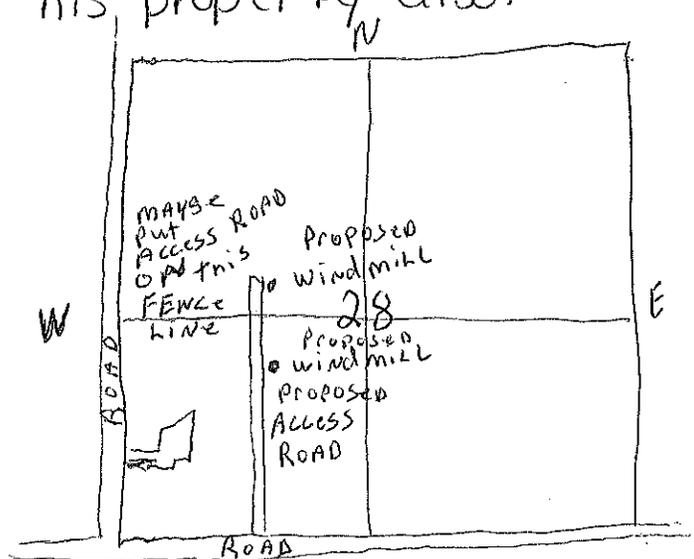
Name: DEAN MATTSON
Address: 66900 140th St.
City: ALDEN State: MN ZIP: 56009

Please share your comments on the draft site permit for the proposed Shell Rock Wind Farm.

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My concern is on the projected access road for my farm. It will split my 94 acre field in half. I was wondering if you would take into consideration putting the access road on the line fence coming in from the west. It would be 1/2 on my property and 1/2 on the property of Gayle Kuethe who has a windmill projected on his property also.

Thanks.



Signature: Dean Mattson Date: 8-31-11

From: apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To: [Bjorklund, Ingrid \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Sorensen Fri Aug 26 10:59:34 2011 11-195
Date: Friday, August 26, 2011 10:59:39 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: Shell Rock Wind Farm

Docket number: 11-195

User Name: Wayne Sorensen

County: Freeborn County

City: Albert Lea

Email: wayne.sorensen@co.freeborn.mn.us

Phone: 507-377-5186

Impact: Impact concern addressed in this comment is concerning protection of existing drainage tile.

Mitigation: Relating to the Commission applying County Standards to this project. Freeborn County has adopted jurisdiction under Minnesota State Statute 216F for applications up to 25MW.

Freeborn County Land Use Ordinance #15, Article 18, "Essential Services" "figure 1", shows a required separation of "12 inches over or under" an existing drainage tile for underground powerlines. We would request this standard be applied on this permit.

We would also request that any and all provisions of Ordinance #15, Article #14, "Wind Energy Conversion Systems".

Thank You for the opportunity to comment,

Wayne Sorensen

Freeborn County Planning and Zoning Administrator

Appointed Building Official

Submission date: Fri Aug 26 10:59:34 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: [Clair Drescher](#)
To: [Bjorklund, Ingrid \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: PUC DocketNo. IP-6858/WS-11-195
Date: Thursday, September 08, 2011 8:21:59 PM

Ingrid, After reviewing the information from the Shell Rock wind farm I would like to give my support to the GE plan. This project was sold as being good for the community but I find the Vestas plan to favor a few individuals. For example in section 18 there are 3 windmills just on the north side of our fence line. We live in section 7 and did not find it fair that 1 individual gets 3 wind mills when the 3 windmills could be placed more fairly. My biggest concern is that in section 8 with the Vestas plan there is a wind mill just a few feet on the north side of our fence line and the road is completely on our land, we think if we have the road on our land we deserve the wind mill. Since everybody is contributing to the success of the project everyone should get an equal share of the rewards. Thank you for your time and effort with this project. Sincerely, Rita Drescher

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-40



September 1, 2011

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

Re: Draft Site Permit for Shell Rock Wind Farm, LLC
[PUC Docket Number: IP-6858/WS-11-195]

Dear Ms. Bjorklund:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Draft Site Permit for the Shell Rock Wind Farm in Freeborn County and provides the following comments.

The DNR concurs with language included in draft site permit in Section 13.2 titled Avian and Bat Protection Plan Special Provision. This section states that post-construction avian and bat fatality surveys shall be conducted for a minimum of one year. DNR reviewers find that due to the location of the project area in a region including wetlands, lakes, and conservation lands such as Wildlife Management Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas, CREP and RIM properties, the project should be estimated to have a moderate risk for avian and bat fatalities (see attached map). DNR draft protocols for fatality surveys currently under review by the EFP and DNR have been sent to the project proposer. These protocols include a level of survey effort considered appropriate for sites classified as moderate risk.

Please note that the DNR normally recommends pre-construction surveys for sites estimated to have a moderate level of risk to natural resources such as birds or bats. One of the primary purposes of these surveys is to assess ways to avoid natural resource impacts. Substantial efforts have been made to date in project development to avoid impacts to wildlife habitat and therefore, for this project boundary, no pre-construction surveys are recommended beyond those customarily required by Permit Condition 6.1 titled Biological and Natural Resource Inventories. The DNR requests coordination with the EFP and Avant Energy during development of the Avian and Bat Protection plan to provide recommendations regarding fatality surveys such as search locations.

Please also see the attached DNR letter sent to Avant Energy prior to this comment period including the above information.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the Shell Rock Wind Farm Draft Site Permit. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Schrenzel".

Jamie Schrenzel
Principal Planner
Environmental Review Unit
(651)259-5115

Enclosures: 2



July 26, 2011

Bruce Freeman, Senior Project Executive
Avant Energy, Inc.
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Re: Shell Rock Wind Farm Estimated Avian and Bat Risk Assessment

Dear Mr. Freeman:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed site permit application materials for the Shell Rock Wind Farm and provided the attached comment letter to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) dated May 13, 2011. This letter recommended further consideration of appropriate post-construction fatality studies and coordination with wildlife agencies during the development of the Avian and Bat Protection Plan. On June 24, 2011, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued an order adopting the recommendations of the EFP for issuance of a draft site permit for distribution and public comment. As the environmental review and site permitting process continues, DNR reviewers wish to provide additional input regarding post-construction fatality studies.

The DNR concurs with language included in draft site permit approved for distribution and public comment in Section 13.2 titled Avian and Bat Protection Plan Special Provision. This section states that post-construction avian and bat fatality surveys shall be conducted for a minimum of one year. DNR reviewers find that due to the location of the project area in a region including wetlands, lakes, and conservation lands such as Wildlife Management Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas, CREP and RIM properties, the project should be estimated to have a moderate risk for avian and bat fatalities (see attached map). DNR draft protocols for fatality surveys currently under review by the EFP and DNR are attached (see Section 1). These protocols include a level of survey effort considered appropriate for sites classified as moderate risk. Please note that the DNR normally recommends pre-construction surveys for sites estimated to have a moderate level of risk to natural resources such as birds or bats. One of the primary purposes of these surveys is to assess ways to avoid natural resource impacts. Substantial efforts have been made to date in project development to avoid impacts to wildlife habitat and therefore, for this project boundary, no pre-construction surveys are recommended beyond those customarily required by Permit Condition 6.1 titled Biological and Natural Resource Inventories. The DNR plans to request coordination with the EFP and Avant Energy during development of the Avian and Bat Protection plan to provide recommendations regarding fatality surveys such as search locations.

This additional review has been provided outside of a PUC and EFP comment period to assist with timely project planning. The DNR will also provide this information and any additional



draft permit comments during the draft site permit public comment period. Thank-you for your coordination and please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jamie Schrenzel
Principal Planner
Environmental Review Unit
(651) 259-5115

Enclosures: 3

C: Ingrid Bjorklund, EFP State Permit Manager
David Weetman, Westwood Professional Services

