



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Department of Commerce



Issued: November 22, 2011

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE AND COMMENT PERIOD**

**In the Matter of the Application for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit  
for the 40 MW Getty Wind Project in Stearns County**

**PUC Docket Number: IP6866/WS-11-831**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Getty Wind Company, LLC (Getty Wind) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a site permit to build and operate the Getty Wind Project, a 40 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Stearns County. The Commission issued an order accepting the site permit application on November 14, 2011.

**Site Permit Review Process.** Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff, on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the permit review process for the Getty Wind 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 staff will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision.

**Comment Period.** EFP staff 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. **EFP staff will accept written comments on issues to consider in developing a draft site permit until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 30, 2011.** Please include the PUC Docket No. IP6866/WS-11-831 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-2888 or 1-800-657-3794  
[suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)

Comments can also be entered on the Commission's energy facility permitting website,  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>.

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 (see below).

**Project Description.** The proposed Getty Wind Project site is located approximately five miles southwest of Sauk Centre and comprises approximately 7,360 acres of agricultural land in Sauk Centre (Section 29-33) and Getty (Sections 4-9, 16-21) townships in Stearns County (see accompanying map). Depending upon final layout, approximately 18 to 32 acres of agricultural land would be permanently converted to turbines and associated infrastructure.

Depending upon turbine models selected, the Project would install between 13 and 26 turbines. Turbine towers would range from 262 to 328 feet (80 to 100 meters), with rotor diameters of 286 to 367 feet (87 to 112 meters), for a total height of 423 to 492 feet (129 to 150 meters). The project would also require the following associated facilities as identified in the permit application: electric feeder and collection lines, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) communication lines, a project substation, access roads, and up to two permanent meteorological towers.

The Project would interconnect with the electrical grid at Xcel Energy's Black Oak Substation. Getty intends to seek a permit from Stearns County for a 69 kV transmission line to connect the Project Substation with Xcel's Black Oak Substation and an operations and maintenance building for the Project.

The applicant's goal is to achieve commercial operation by December 31, 2012.

**Eminent Domain.** Getty Wind 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 project must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and Getty Wind.

**Project Documents.** Electronic versions of the site permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed Project are available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32297> and on the Commission's eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "831").

The site permit application has been provided to landowners within the project boundary and the township clerks for Sauk Centre and Getty Townships. The application is also available for review at the locations noted below:

<p><b>Great River Regional Library</b>          Bryant Library          430 Main Street South Unit 1          Sauk Centre, MN 56378</p>	<p><b>City Office in Sauk Centre</b>          City Hall          320 Oak Street South          Sauk Centre, MN 56378</p>
<p><b>Stearns County Auditor's Office</b>          705 Courthouse Square Room 148          St. Cloud, MN 56303-4701</p>	

**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>.

**Project Contacts and Information.** If you have questions, you would like further information about this project, or would like a copy of the application please contact:

Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager  
 Energy Facility Permitting  
 Department of Commerce  
 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
 (651) 296-2888 or 1-800-657-3794  
 suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

Raymond Kirsch, Public Advisor  
 Energy Facility Permitting  
 Department of Commerce  
 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
 (651) 296-2878  
 raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Requests for copies of the site permit application or questions about the project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Roland Jurgens, at 320-324-7122 or [rjurgens@mnioka.com](mailto:rjurgens@mnioka.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.

