



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Department of Commerce



Issued: February 28, 2012

**NOTICE OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT ISSUANCE AND  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

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

**PUC Docket Number: IP-6866/WS-11-831**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will hold a public information meeting on the application of Getty Wind Company, LLC (Getty Wind) 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) near the city of Sauk Centre, in Getty and Sauk Centre townships.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

Tuesday, March 20, 2012  
6:00 p.m.

Sauk Centre City Hall  
320 Oak Street South  
Sauk Centre, Minnesota 56378

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and solicit public comments regarding the site permit application submitted by Getty Wind and the draft site permit issued by the Commission. Getty Wind is wholly owned by 10 Minnesota limited liability companies formed by 18 Minnesota residents for the intent and purpose of owning Getty Wind collectively and developing the Project. EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit. Representatives of Getty Wind will also be present to answer questions about the proposed project.

**EFP staff will accept written comments on the site permit application and draft site permit until 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 4, 2012.** Please include PUC Docket No. **IP-6866/WS-11-831** on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Suzanne Steinhauer  
State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198  
Fax: 651-296-2888  
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

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

**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, Getty Wind 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 Switching Station. Getty Wind intends to seek a permit from Stearns County for a 69 kV transmission line to connect the Project Substation with Xcel Energy's Black Oak Switching Station and an operations and maintenance building for the Project.

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

**Review Process.** EFP staff, on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the permit review process for this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules 7854).

Getty Wind filed a site permit application with the Commission on October 11, 2011. The Commission accepted the site permit application as complete on November 14, 2011.

EFP staff solicited comments on issues to be considered in developing a draft site permit for this project, and prepared a draft site permit for consideration by the Commission. On February 23, 2012, the Commission approved the draft site permit for distribution and public comment (Minn. Rules 7854.0900). Upon completion of the comment period, EFP staff will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision. Under the LWECs siting process, environmental review is incorporated into the development of the site permit application and the site permit itself; there is no separate environmental review document prepared on the project.

**Contested Case Hearing Request.** Any person may request a contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the Getty Wind Project pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed in writing with the EFP state permit manager by **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 4, 2012.**

A person requesting a contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been

raised and that the holding of the contested case hearing will aid the Commission in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

**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, the draft site permit, and other documents relevant to this matter 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 and draft site permit are also available at the locations noted below:

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

**Mailing List.** Persons interested in adding their names to the 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 or if you would like more information about the permitting process or this proposed project 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) 296-7588  
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.

