



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Commerce



Issued: December 9, 2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE AND COMMENT PERIOD

**In the Matter of the Site Permit Application of Ellerth Wind LLC
for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Marshall County**

PUC Docket Number: IP-6855/WS-11-608

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Ellerth Wind LLC (EW) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a site permit to build and operate Ellerth Windpark, a 98.9 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Marshall County. The Commission issued an order accepting the site permit application on December 7, 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 Ellerth Windpark 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, January 13, 2012.** Please include the PUC Docket No. IP-6855/WS-11-608 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Larry B. Hartman
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-296-7588
larry.hartman@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.

Project Description. The proposed Ellerth Windpark project site (see map below) is comprised of approximately 33,709 acres of mostly agricultural land in the townships of Wright (Sections E½ SE¼ 36), West Valley (S1/2 30, 31-35), Foldahl (1, 2, 11-13, 24, 25, 36), Marsh Grove (1-13, 19-23, 26-35), Comstock (1), and Viking (2-6) in Marshall County. Ellerth Wind is considering use of one of three different wind turbines that vary from 1.6 to 2.3 MW in size and has identified preliminary site layouts for the General Electric 1.6 MW, Vestas 1.8 MW V90, and Siemens 2.3 MW SWT – 101 wind turbines in its site permit application.

The application provides maps illustrating preliminary turbine layouts, sound contour profiles and shadow flicker analysis for these three turbine models. However, Ellerth also indicates that they may also select a different turbine model than those specified. Regardless of the turbine model selected, the hub heights would range from 80 to 100 meters (262.5 to 328.1 feet) and the rotor diameter from 90 to 101 meters (295.3 to 331 feet).

The turbines will be connected by a series of 34.5 kV underground electrical collection cables and communication fiber-optic lines. Overhead or underground 34.5 kV feeder lines will carry electrical energy from interconnection points to the project substation, where the power will be transformed from 34.5 kV to 115 kV via a new transformer that will deliver electrical energy to the grid on an Otter Tail Power Company 115 kV transmission line.

Other associated facilities will include pad mounted transformers, all weather gravel access roads to the turbines, one to three permanent free standing meteorological towers and an operations and maintenance facility.

Eminent Domain. Ellerth 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 Ellerth 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=32308> and on the Commission’s eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year “11” and the number “608”).

The site permit application is also available for review at the locations noted below:

<p>Godel Memorial Library 314 East Johnson Warren, MN 56762</p>	<p>Newfolden Community Center 145 East First Street Newfolden, MN 56738</p>
<p>Marshall County Auditor’s Office 208 East Colvin Warren, MN 56762</p>	<p>Clerks in Wright, West Valley, Foldahl, Marsh Grove, Comstock, and Viking Townships</p>
<p>Thief River Falls Public Library 102 Main Avenue South Thief River Falls 56701</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>.

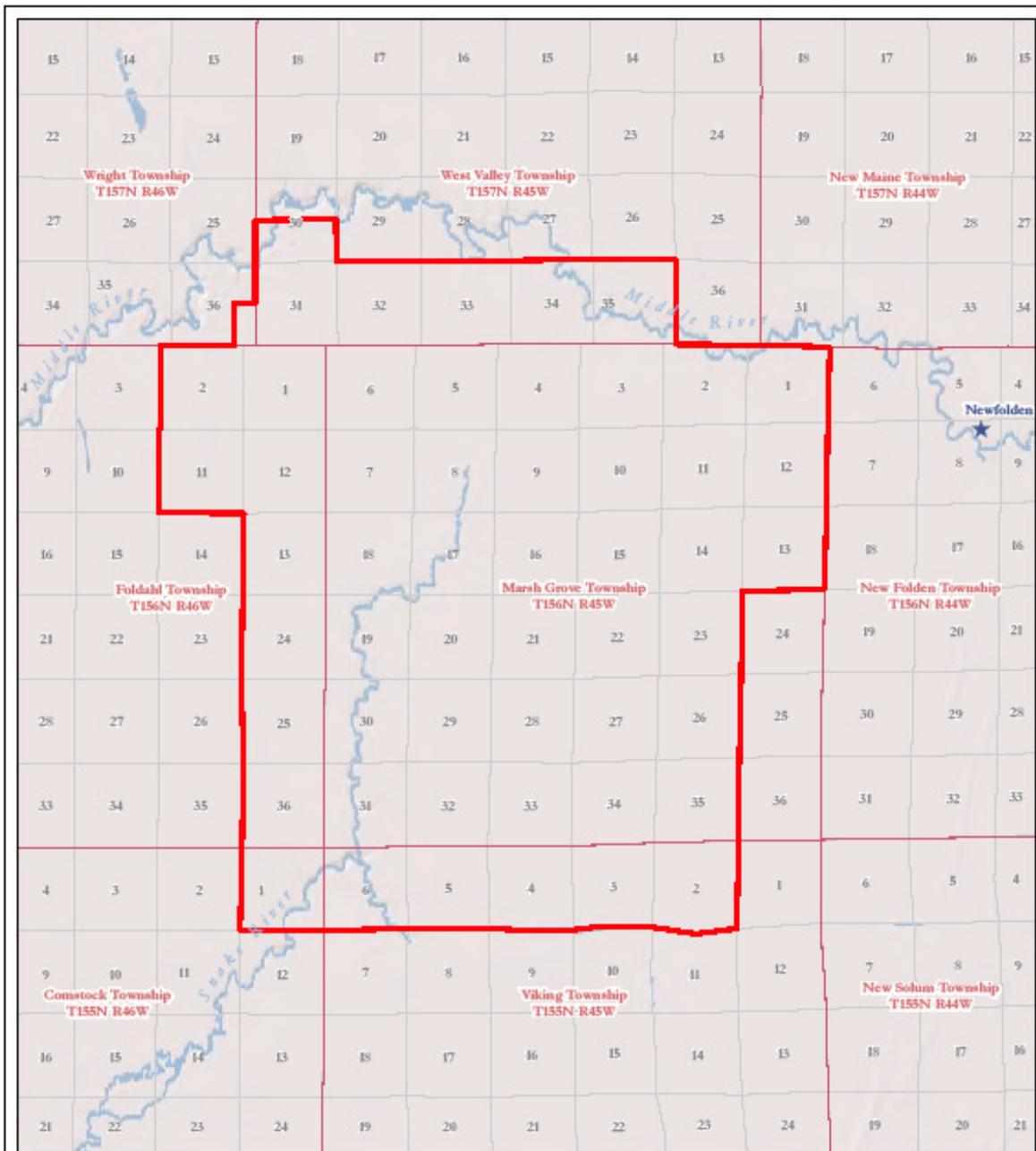
Project Contacts and Information. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project please contact:

Larry Hartman, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-5089
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larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Jamie MacAlister, Public Advisor
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 297-1335
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Questions about the project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Rory Cantwell, at 514-842-1923 or rory.cantwell@tcir.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.



- ▣ Project Boundary
- Township Boundary



Project Boundary
 Ellerth Windpark
 Ellerth Wind LLC
 Marshall County, Minnesota



2020/02/05



Source: Public Land System, MN PUC Electrical Transmission Lines, MNDNR Public Waters Inventory, ESRI USA Base Map and Shaded Relief, and Project data provided by TCL Resources (12/14/2019).