



Burl Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: May 11, 2012

**In the Matter of the Certificate of Need Application for the Black Oak and Getty Wind
Projects / PUC Docket Numbers: CN-11-471, WS-10-1240, WS-11-831
OAH Docket Number 15-2500-22816-2**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the applications of Black Oak Wind, LLC and the Getty Wind Company, LLC Projects (Applicants), for a certificate of need for the proposed Black Oak and Getty Wind projects (Docket CN-11-471). Two associated Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit dockets are also before the Commission for this project, the Black Oak Wind Project (Docket WS-10-1240) and Getty Wind Project (WS-11-831). As a general practice, the Commission expands the scope of Certificate of Need public hearings to encompass issues relating to siting.

The hearing will address: (1) whether the proposed project is needed and in the public interest, and (2) issues related to the proposed siting of the project.

HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

Tuesday, May 29, 2012	6 p.m.	Sauk Centre City Hall 320 Oak Street South Sauk Centre, MN 56378
------------------------------	---------------	---

The hearing will conclude when all members of the public have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, but no later than 9:00 p.m.

Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Beverly Jones Heydinger from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the need for the project or the proposed siting can do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Heydinger:

Judge Beverly Jones Heydinger, Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620
(fax) 651-361-7936; email: Beverly.heydinger@state.mn.us

Comments will be accepted through Tuesday, June 12, 2012. Mailed comments must be postmarked by this date. Faxed and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on this date. Please include the docket number on your comments.

www.puc.state.mn.us

Purpose and Conduct of the Hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input about the project from members of the local community and general public. Members of the public may offer either oral or written testimony, offer exhibits for inclusion in the public hearing record, and ask questions of the applicants and agency representatives. Any person who wishes to ask questions, but does not want to ask the questions personally, may submit them in writing to the ALJ who will then ask the question during the hearing.

Interested persons may comment on the certificate of need and site permit applications, environmental report or on the project generally. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If needed, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ. At the close of the written comment period, Judge Heydinger will prepare a written summary of the comments received at the hearing and file it with the Commission which will consider them in its deliberations of the certificate of need and site permit applications.

Environmental Report. The Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting unit, has completed and issued an environmental report for the proposed Black Oak and Getty Wind Projects (see “Project Contacts and Information” below). The environmental report (ER) addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives. Electronic versions of the ER and selected other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing on the Department’s energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32459>. The full record is accessible in the Commission’s eDocket system available at www.puc.state.mn.us; click ‘Search eDockets’ and enter the associated docket number (ex. 11-471).

Project Description. The proposed Project is comprised of two adjacent large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) projects located in Stearns County, approximately two miles southwest of Sauk Centre. Black Oak Wind, LLC proposes to construct the Black Oak Wind Farm on a site comprised of approximately 7,100 acres of agricultural land in Ashley and Raymond townships. Getty Wind Company, LLC proposes to construct the Getty Wind Project on a site comprised of approximately 7,600 acres in Sauk Centre and Getty townships.

Applicants have not selected a turbine for the Project. Depending upon the turbine selected Applicants plan to install between 27 and 32 turbines with tower heights ranging from 262 to 328 feet (80 to 100 meters), with rotor diameters of 270 to 367 feet (82.5 to 112 meters), for a total height of 397 to 492 feet (121 to 150 meters). The Project would also include installation of electric feeder and collection lines, an operations and maintenance facility, permanent meteorological towers, and a substation. Applicants intend to seek a permit from Stearns County for a 69 kV transmission line to connect the Project substation with Xcel Energy's Black Oak Substation.

Eminent Domain. The applicants do 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 facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the applicants.

Authority and Statement of Issues to Be Decided. In order to proceed with this project, the applicants must obtain a certificate of need and site permits from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes, § 216B.243, to issue a certificate of need for a large energy facility if the applicant can demonstrate that there is a need for the project and the project is in the public interest.

www.puc.state.mn.us

Project Contacts and Information

Public Utilities Commission – Certificate of Need Process

Tricia DeBleeckere
 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
 121 7th Place East
 St. Paul, MN 55101
 (651)201-2254,
tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us

Department of Commerce – Environmental Review

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

Ray Kirsch, Public Advisor
 Minnesota Department of Commerce
 85 7th Place East, Suite 500
 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
 (651) 296-7588
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Applicants

Patrick Smith
 Black Oak Wind, LLC/
 Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC
 7650 Edinborough Way, STE 725
 Edina, Minnesota 55435
 (952) 988-9000

Roland Jurgens
 Getty Wind Company, LLC
 P.O. Box 321
 Chokio, MN 56221
 (320) 324-7122

Christina K. Brusven
 Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
 200 South 6th St., STE 4000
 Minneapolis, MN 55402
 (612) 492-7412

Request for Accommodation. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice), 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service) or by dialing 711.