



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE,
PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD**

Issued: July 24, 2013

In the Matter of the Applications of Stoneray Power Partners, LLC for a Certificate of Need and a Large Wind Energy Conversion (LWECS) Site Permit for a 105 MW Wind Project in Pipestone and Murray Counties

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Numbers: IP-6646/CN-13-193
IP-6646/WS-13-216

Date: August 14, 2013

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Lake Wilson American Legion
Broadway Avenue/Main Street
Lake Wilson MN 56151

Meeting Information:

- Comments received at the meeting and during the comment period will be used by the Department of Commerce to develop the scope of the Environmental Report for this project and develop recommendations for the Commission on the draft site permit.
- Staff from the Department of Commerce and Stoneray Power Partners, LLC (Stoneray) will be available to answer questions about the project and the process.
- The Public will have the opportunity to make oral or written comments.
- The meeting will last until everyone at the meeting has the opportunity to speak.

Topics Open for Comment:

Certificate of Need (CN-13-193)

- What human and environmental impacts of the proposed large wind energy conversion system and facilities should be studied in the environmental report prepared for this project?
- Are there any specific methods to address these impacts that should be studied in the environmental report?

Site Permit (WS-13-216)

- What issues should be considered in the development of a draft site permit for this project?
- Are there unique characteristics of the proposed site or project that should be considered?
- Are there items missing or mischaracterized in the Site Permit Application?

Comment Period:

- The comment period continues after this meeting, through **August 30, 2013, at 4:30 p.m.**

Submit Public Comments: E-mail to david.birkholz@state.mn.us. Persons without e-mail access may send by U.S. mail to David Birkholz, Environmental Manager, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facilities Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul MN 55101-2198. Comments can also be submitted directly on the Department website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Please include the Commission’s docket number(s) in all communications.

Project Description

The proposed Stoneray Power Partners, LLC (Stoneray) project site encompasses 29,500 acres and is located in Pipestone and Murray counties in the townships of Rock, Burke, Chanarambie and Cameron. Stoneray proposes to install up to 62 wind turbines for a nameplate capacity of 105 MW. Four turbines types are under consideration which range from 1.7 to 3.2 MW per turbine.

Associated facilities to the project include transmission lines, a project substation, collector and feeder lines, access roads, meteorological towers and an operations and maintenance building.

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission must approve a Certificate of Need and a Site Permit. At the Commission’s July 11, 2013, Agenda Meeting, the Commission voted to accept the Certificate of Need Application as complete as of June 21, 2013, and the Site Permit Application as complete upon Stoneray filing additional information (filed on July 16, 2013). The Stoneray permitting process is expected to take 9 to 12 months.

The Department of Commerce is holding this Public Meeting to elicit comments on the topics listed above. The Department of Commerce will prepare an Environmental Report for the Certificate of Need process. The Environmental Report will analyze the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives to the project, as well as ways to address impacts.

The Department of Commerce will also make recommendations to the Commission on the issues to include in the draft site permit, based on the application and public comments received.

After the Environmental Report and the draft site permit have been issued, the Office of Administrative Hearings will hold a public hearing. The public will have the opportunity to speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit comments. An Administrative Law Judge will use information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period following the hearing to write a report for the Commission. The report will include a summary of comments regarding the Certificate of Need Application and findings, conclusions, and recommendations about the Site Permit Application. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will make final decisions on this project at a separate meeting, expected early in 2014.

Eminent Domain: Stoneray does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for this 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 the project developer.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Site Permit Project Website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33153>

Full Case Record: All documents filed in these dockets are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (*Ex. 13*) and the docket number (*Ex. 193*) for Certificate of Need or number (*Ex. 216*) for Site Permit, select "Search."

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive email notification when new documents are filed in these dockets at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts.

Site Permit Project Mailing List: Contact the Public Advisor (see below) or visit <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#mailing> to sign up for the Site Permit project mailing list.

Public Libraries: The Certificate of Need and Site Permit applications are available at the following public library:

- **Meinders Community Library**
1401 7th St SW
Pipestone, MN

Project Contacts

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

David Birkholz at david.birkholz@state.mn.us or 651-539-1838 or 1-800-657-3794

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana at consumer.puc@state.mn.us or 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst

Tricia DeBleeckere at tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us or 651-201-2254

Stoneray Project Contact

Melissa Peterson at melissa.peterson@edf-re.com or 612-486-4510

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these public meetings (e.g. sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.