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LAKE WILSON - AUGUST 14, 2013 - 6:00 P.M.  
SCOPING AND INFORMATION MEETING  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In the Matter of the Application of Stoneray Power Partners, LLC for a Certificate of Need for a 105 MW Wind Project in Pipestone and Murray Counties

MPUC DOCKET NO. IP-6646/CN-13-193

American Legion  
Lake Wilson, Minnesota

August 14, 2013

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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1 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Welcome. My name is  
2 David Birkholz, and this is a Department of Commerce  
3 meeting over the Stoneray Wind Farm.

4 We have a diverse cast of characters  
5 along with us today and I'll go about explaining why  
6 each of us is here and what we're trying to share  
7 with you. And the most important thing is that  
8 we're here to hear input back from all of you and  
9 take some of your questions and see what we can  
10 answer and see what we can look into.

11 Again, I'm David Birkholz, I'm actually  
12 with the Department of Commerce. We're doing a  
13 couple different pieces of the puzzle for the  
14 permit. The permit is actually done by the Public  
15 Utilities Commission, but we'll explain that in a  
16 little bit.

17 So let me introduce who is with me. In  
18 the back today is Rich Davis, he's also with the  
19 Environmental Review Division of the Department of  
20 Commerce. We have a representative from the Public  
21 Utilities Commission, again, the final  
22 decision-makers, and that's Tricia DeBleeckere.  
23 She's standing in the back by the table if you  
24 haven't met her. So any of us, of course, are able  
25 to answer specific questions or chat with you

1 afterwards. Of course, we also have with us the  
2 developer of the wind project, EDF Renewables, and  
3 that's Melissa Peterson, and many of you have  
4 probably met her.

5 And we also have tonight, and I'll  
6 explain her role as we go along, but we also have  
7 tonight with us a court reporter, Janet Elling. And  
8 she's here to make sure that we get down your  
9 comments correctly. So as we go along, when we have  
10 comments, we're going to ask you to come up and  
11 speak so that she can hear them and we can come back  
12 and get everything down so you're not making public  
13 comments for us and trying to give us some input and  
14 I'm going home and, what was that that was said? So  
15 we're going to get that down for you with Janet,  
16 she'll be there for us.

17 So the first thing we're going to do  
18 tonight, before I go into the steps that I'm going  
19 to talk about about the process that's going to go  
20 forward now for the next few months, is for those of  
21 you who aren't familiar, and maybe those of you who  
22 are, to fill in some details. Melissa is going to  
23 give a brief overview of the project itself, the  
24 wind farm project that we're here to talk about  
25 tonight, so.

1 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Actually, I'll dim  
2 these lights so you can see the screen. Okay. I'm  
3 going to -- I'm going to stand over here so I can  
4 change my slides here.

5 As Dave mentioned, I'm Melissa Peterson,  
6 I work for EDF Renewable Energy, we used to be  
7 called EnXco. Many of you I've met before at  
8 landowner meetings and other meetings down here.  
9 But I'm just here to give a quick overview of the  
10 Stoneray Wind Project and just kind of talk about  
11 where we're at in the various steps and what are the  
12 next steps to come.

13 So I'm just going to talk a little bit  
14 about the company, give you a project update, and  
15 then have a brief question and answer, but I think  
16 probably hold questions until after Dave's  
17 presentation so that we can have the public  
18 discussion at one point.

19 EDF, we're a very big company, we've been  
20 around for a long time. As I said, we used to be  
21 called enXco. We've done a lot of work here in the  
22 state of Minnesota. Really close to us is the  
23 Chanarambie Wind Project, which is owned and  
24 operated by EDF Renewable Energy.

25 We work through all phases of the

1 project, so we do the origination development, which  
2 is kind of what this stage is, building new  
3 projects, all the way through the long-term  
4 operations and maintenance of the project, which is  
5 what we'll be doing on the Stoneray Wind Project as  
6 well. So we'll be here working in the community and  
7 O&M building for the life of the project.

8 This basically just says that we're a  
9 multi-segmented player, we cover multiple different  
10 energy technologies, wind, solar, across the board,  
11 throughout Europe and throughout North America. So  
12 we've got a really big footprint and a really long  
13 history. We've got over 1800 wind turbines  
14 installed here in the US. We're also the third  
15 largest O&M operator of wind turbines in the country  
16 so we've got a lot of breadth of experience in the  
17 wind energy space.

18 A brief map just to show you guys.  
19 Sorry, the numbers are kind of hard to read, but I  
20 believe this presentation will ultimately get put up  
21 on the Internet, on the eDockets site, so people  
22 will be able to look more closely in detail. But  
23 you can see, you know, we've worked across the whole  
24 country, a lot of stuff in Minnesota and Iowa, the  
25 Dakotas, Texas, Oklahoma, you know, we really kind

1 of branch out throughout the whole country.

2 This is the slide showing all the  
3 different wind projects we've worked on here in  
4 Minnesota. Up in Minneapolis is our regional  
5 office, that's where I'm from. We've done all these  
6 projects here and, like I said, Chanarambie, which  
7 is really close to here.

8 Actually, the Stoneray project is going  
9 to interconnect at the exact same substation as the  
10 Chanarambie project, it's called the Chanarambie  
11 substation, it's in Murray County.

12 We've done the Moulton project and the  
13 Viking, which were some of the original projects in  
14 the late '90s. Fenton was probably about 2005.  
15 Nobles, Lakefield, Wapsipinicon, and Grand Meadow  
16 were '07, '08, '09, and '10. So we've been down in  
17 this area working for a long time building a lot of  
18 different wind projects.

19 We are happy to be doing this Stoneray  
20 Wind Project. This project has been around for  
21 quite a long time. I would say about 10 years we've  
22 had some iteration of the project, so we're really,  
23 really excited at this point to get it moving  
24 forward and to be moving down the permitting path  
25 with the state.

1           This is a development update, just kind  
2 of conceptually. What I would call for us is bucket  
3 number 2, which is site development. We're, you  
4 know, continuing with the permit acquisition, which  
5 is why we're all here tonight. We've secured our  
6 transmission, we've done lots and lots of field  
7 studies, we're starting to wrap those up. We're  
8 working on the turbine equipment procurement.

9           So many of you, if you had a chance to  
10 look at the CD that was sent out or saw any of the  
11 information, we're looking at multiple different  
12 iterations of layouts that are dependent on which  
13 turbine we ultimately select. We are in the process  
14 of that selection right now, we should have a  
15 decision towards the end of the year.

16           So we're moving forward fairly quickly to  
17 kind of get everything in place so that, hopefully,  
18 once the project gets permitted and once we get our  
19 contractors on board we can move into construction  
20 of the project.

21           So details about the project. It's  
22 located in Pipestone and Murray County. The  
23 majority of it is in Pipestone, just a little teeny  
24 piece of it in Murray County, specifically where it  
25 primarily interconnects with the Chanarambie

1           substation. That covers Rock, Burke, and  
2           Chanarambie Townships.

3                     The project is going to be up to 105  
4           megawatts, so depending on which turbine type we  
5           select, that will depend on how many individual  
6           towers will get installed.

7                     The total acreage is about 29,500. That  
8           does not mean that all those acres are signed under  
9           leases, that's what's in that red boundary there.  
10          Some of those landowners are participating, some are  
11          not. We've got about 67 participating landowners,  
12          and with those landowners we'll be able to put up  
13          the turbines.

14                    The turbine selection, there's a list of  
15          four different manufacturers that we're currently  
16          working with and looking at. Like I said, one of  
17          those will get selected and that's what will dictate  
18          exactly the final turbine layout, which we don't  
19          have at this point, and how many individual turbines  
20          will get installed.

21                    And then if anybody is out traveling  
22          around in the area, right now we have four temporary  
23          met towers installed. We've had many towers up over  
24          the years collecting met data and they're still up  
25          currently collecting data. So if anyone is

1 interested in finding out where those are I can pass  
2 that information along.

3 And then, you know, just kind of  
4 reiterating, and I apologize for some folks who have  
5 been at our meetings, this might be redundant. But  
6 our activity this year, we're working with the state  
7 to start permitting the project. We are continuing  
8 to actively market and find an off-take strategy for  
9 the project. We're finalizing the site design and,  
10 as I mentioned, that includes procuring the final  
11 turbine type. We're completing title issues, we're  
12 wrapping up our field studies and we're funding the  
13 interconnection upgrades for the project.

14 So we're moving full steam ahead on the  
15 project and we're really excited to be here and have  
16 this meeting tonight. We encourage people to ask  
17 questions and give comments.

18 This is my contact information. I also  
19 have business cards down on the table here. One  
20 thing I wanted to mention, I've heard a couple  
21 people say that they couldn't get their CD to work,  
22 or they weren't able to. If anybody wants they can  
23 grab me after the meeting, grab my business card,  
24 give me a call, send me an e-mail, and I can print  
25 out hard copies and mail them to you. So I

1 apologize if you couldn't get the CD to work, but if  
2 anyone had that problem and they'd like to see the  
3 documents, just let me know and I can very easily  
4 get you a hard copy of the application.

5 So that's all I had. I'm going to pass  
6 it back to Dave.

7 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: You also have the  
8 hard copy at the library, right? Which library?

9 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: The one --  
10 Meinders Library.

11 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Okay.

12 UNIDENTIFIED: And where is that?

13 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Where is that?  
14 Pipestone. But, like I said, we can easily print  
15 you off a hard copy, that's no trouble, just let me  
16 know after the meeting.

17 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: There's hard copies  
18 there, and there are CD copies, which the  
19 application has already been submitted to the state  
20 and that's the official permit that has been  
21 accepted by the state as the starting point of the  
22 process. So, again, that's on your CD. It's also  
23 on our website, which I will give you in a little  
24 bit.

25 Again, the reason we've called this

1 meeting together is that after several years of  
2 developing a project, the companies actually come in  
3 with applications for two things. And so we're here  
4 to talk to you tonight about what that process is.

5 We've already heard from Melissa about  
6 the basic piece of the project and we can -- during  
7 the comment period you can ask some more questions  
8 about that.

9 What we want to do is spend a little time  
10 talking about the process. What are the pieces of  
11 the puzzle that's going to lead to making a good  
12 decision about how this permit would be accepted or  
13 implemented. So I will spend some time tonight  
14 doing that and hopefully we'll have the better part  
15 of the evening spent getting input from you on a  
16 number of subjects that will help us understand the  
17 issues around the area and the issues around the  
18 wind farm that can help make a good permit for the  
19 wind farm.

20 Melissa has already talked about the  
21 project, this -- you can pass this. Let me mention  
22 that I have at the back table the slide  
23 presentation. And if you haven't collected that  
24 yet, go ahead and get one. And the main reason to  
25 do that is that I have all these contact numbers in

1 here and so you don't have to write them down or  
2 remember them. I have Melissa's and ours as well  
3 later on down the line.

4 There are two applications, actually,  
5 that came in. And there are two reasons why we here  
6 in the environmental review have come to the  
7 state -- to the -- to town to share with you.

8 When there's a large energy producing  
9 facility greater than 50 megawatts, which this wind  
10 farm is, it's for up to 105 megawatts, there's a  
11 state process to determine whether there's actually  
12 a need for that type of energy, whether there's a  
13 need for the amount and the type of energy, what  
14 type it should be. And that's --

15 You need me louder?

16 MR. RICH DAVIS: They're saying they  
17 can't hear you in the back.

18 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Okay, I'll talk  
19 louder.

20 The certificate of need is, again, the  
21 determination of what is actually needed for  
22 electricity producing and what's the best way to do  
23 that, is that a wind farm or is that another way.  
24 So the company has submitted an application for  
25 that.

1           What we're doing out here tonight in that  
2           regard is the Department of Commerce is responsible  
3           for doing an environmental report whenever there's  
4           an application for a CN, for a transmission line or  
5           a coal plant or a gas plant or a wind farm or  
6           anything. So it's our responsibility to put  
7           together a report that's going to discuss what are  
8           the potential impacts of building a 100 megawatt  
9           wind farm, what are the possible impacts of doing  
10          something alternative to that.

11          And what we do is we come out to a  
12          meeting and do something called scoping. Which is  
13          to get information from the public and any other  
14          source that we can to find out what are the things  
15          we should look at in that report. So are there  
16          other things that the state should be looking at  
17          besides a wind farm. Is this -- is this particular  
18          project needed, are there questions about this  
19          project.

20          So we will be doing a full environmental  
21          analysis of that and we have -- we've come to ask  
22          for your input into that. I've supplied forms for  
23          the purpose of doing that. And I can talk about  
24          this later, but this, by the way, is a sample. You  
25          can use this or you can e-mail or you can fax or you

1 can -- you can send however you want. I just gave  
2 an example of a form that you could use to make  
3 comments. It has my address on it and the comments  
4 will all be coming to me in this form.

5 The schedules are running fairly similar  
6 on the certificate of need and the -- and the site  
7 application. I'm not going into a lot of the  
8 process about the PUC process for determining the  
9 certificate of need because that's really a PUC  
10 issue, but I have included that last slide in your  
11 handout so you can see the steps and how the  
12 environmental report fits into that and how  
13 everything else will eventually end up.

14 Just an idea, which I would assume a lot  
15 of people would wonder at this point in time, how  
16 long is this going to be on the table. And the  
17 applications have come in and been accepted. Again,  
18 that's the first step, the applications being  
19 accepted by the Commission.

20 And I should take a brief moment to  
21 explain what is this commission I'm talking about.  
22 And Tricia can correct me where I go astray.

23 The Commission is actually the  
24 decision-making body that makes all the decisions on  
25 utilities, like electric producing utilities, again,

1 for wind farms, transmission lines, they're the ones  
2 that determine whether it's needed, they're the ones  
3 that determine where it's going to go, what it's  
4 going to look like. So the final decisions, after  
5 we gather all the input through this process that  
6 I'm talking about, will go in the end to the Public  
7 Utilities Commission.

8 The Commission itself is made up of five  
9 appointed members. They're appointed by the  
10 governors. They serve six-year terms. They are  
11 bipartisan. And, actually, bipartisan and  
12 nonpartisan members. So it's always set up that  
13 there's representative members on the Commission.  
14 And, again, they make determinations on these kind  
15 of issues, they make determinations on rate cases  
16 for public utilities, for rate adjustments, and they  
17 make decisions on telecom issues. So those are --  
18 this is where it's going to end up.

19 But on our way there we're starting here  
20 tonight. And this meeting has two pieces. Again,  
21 we're talking about coming out here to do the ER  
22 scoping. We're going to take back your comments and  
23 all the other information that we put together and  
24 that we can gather together when we're out here,  
25 we're going to be looking over the site, we'll be

1 gathering whatever information we can. We'll make a  
2 decision of what's going to go into the report.

3 And I have included for you also at the  
4 back a draft of the environmental scoping decision.  
5 This is essentially an outline and a reasoning of  
6 what goes into the environmental report. And you  
7 may want to grab that as you go out. Again, so that  
8 you can understand where you can fit your comments  
9 in there, if it's answering the questions you have,  
10 if it's not answering the questions you have, you  
11 should submit questions or answers or comments to us  
12 to help us figure out what should be investigated.

13 Eventually we will be back out here with  
14 an administrative law judge from the Office of  
15 Administrative Hearings. There will actually be a  
16 public hearing once the environmental report is  
17 done. And they will come out here and then an  
18 actual judge will hold a meeting and take public  
19 comment on the project, on the CN, and on the site  
20 permitting. So that step is down the line probably  
21 late this winter.

22 Eventually we're looking at, if all  
23 things go at pace, as we would hope, that by  
24 February or March, probably March of next year, the  
25 PUC will meet and make a final determination of will

1           there be a permit issued, what the permit will look  
2           like, and whether there's a clear go ahead for the  
3           project. So that's the essential timeline.

4                     The second piece, again, and I know  
5           you're not going to be able to read this from this,  
6           but that's why I included these pieces in the  
7           handout. This is the steps that we do for a site  
8           permit process.

9                     Now, why are they separate? Several  
10          times you will find a site permit for a wind farm,  
11          and if it's under 50 megawatts it doesn't require a  
12          CN. So it would just go through this process in and  
13          of itself and it wouldn't have an environmental  
14          report.

15                    But what it does have, and the reason  
16          that Rich and I are out here again today from the  
17          Department for the environmental review part, is  
18          it's the Public Utilities Commission is tasked us  
19          with putting together information that will help  
20          find out what should go into an actual site permit.

21                    So, again, we'll be taking a lot of that  
22          same information that we gather from out here, from  
23          the applications, from the comments we get from you,  
24          and we'll be looking at what are the specific issues  
25          about this wind farm, what makes this site permit

1 different. And I did not print out draft site  
2 permits, but the Public Utilities Commission has  
3 issued a draft and that's available on our website.  
4 And I have also included that, I will give you that.  
5 But this shows you the steps that are going through  
6 there.

7 Again, it's essentially fairly soon after  
8 or near the same time that the environmental report  
9 is coming out that the draft site permit will be  
10 coming out. And we'll be looking at both of those  
11 things at the public hearing when the judge comes  
12 out. So there won't be two separate public  
13 hearings, we'll do those as one. So there will be  
14 only one meeting to attend.

15 And then, again, once the judge has made  
16 a report back to the Commission, then the Commission  
17 will again meet and decide. And this, again, this  
18 decision should be at the same time. So we're  
19 hoping as soon as October, probably in November,  
20 we'll have a draft site permit available. We'll  
21 post that online. We'll mail notice of that to  
22 people who are on the project list. And you'll have  
23 a chance to review that and look at that before you  
24 come to the public hearing. So that's the timeline  
25 for that.

1           So this is just step one in the concept  
2 of the public participation. The whole process is  
3 built around public participation. This is your  
4 first ground work. You get in on the two important  
5 documents that lead to filling in the blanks of  
6 information on two processes, the CN and the  
7 permitting. And so your comments will feed into  
8 that.

9           You'll have a chance to make additional  
10 comments when the judge comes out. And then there's  
11 actually a public hearing at the Commission in  
12 St. Paul that may or may not have public input.

13           But those are the places, so you want to  
14 make sure that you note those on your schedules. If  
15 you have comments, these are your chances to be a  
16 part of the process. So don't let them slip by.

17           Okay. I'm going to be more precise than  
18 as I go out, throw a lot of words and a lot of  
19 processes out, and it's a much simpler process than  
20 it sounds when somebody is up here rattling off a  
21 bunch of numbers and dates and processes. Again,  
22 that's why there's a handout.

23           But the idea behind environmental reports  
24 in CN is in Minnesota statute and rule. And the  
25 statute -- and this is the Minnesota rule talking

1 about what we do in scoping, and what we're looking  
2 for is input from the public. In short -- you can  
3 read this, but in short what we're looking for,  
4 again, is are there alternatives, should the state  
5 be looking at doing something else rather than  
6 building this wind farm, or is this the responsible  
7 use of the energy resource available. Those are the  
8 responsibilities of the Commission, to make  
9 decisions about that.

10 But we also want to be talking about what  
11 issues should be in the draft site permit. Because  
12 each wind farm is slightly different, each landscape  
13 is slightly different. And what are the actual  
14 local issues that are important, impact issues that  
15 we should be discussing. Are there special issues  
16 here we should be looking at as conditions. Are  
17 there special ecological issues, are there special  
18 natural environment issues that should be looked at  
19 as making sure that the permit covers those.

20 And the last piece is you've been --  
21 you've been -- it's the state law that a copy go to  
22 everybody once it's been accepted. And Melissa and  
23 the company have done that. And you have an  
24 opportunity to review that and make sure that all  
25 the information that you think we need to have is

1 available there.

2 This, whether you have this in your  
3 handout or not, I want to make a note. This first  
4 stage of public participation, starting when we put  
5 out the notice that we sent to you, or of starting  
6 tonight, when you want to make -- you can make  
7 comments tonight, you can make comments along the  
8 way, and the comments can be either on the  
9 environmental report scoping or it can be on the  
10 draft site permit pieces that would be included.

11 What they both need to be is to me by  
12 August 30th so that we can move the process forward.  
13 At that time we'll take all the information we have  
14 and move forward. We'll develop the scope and we'll  
15 start developing the draft site permit. But this is  
16 a firm deadline. So if it comes to the 30th and you  
17 still haven't made them, you can also fax me. But  
18 we want to make sure we give you enough time to  
19 evaluate and think about it and make sure after  
20 tonight you've had a chance to think.

21 You can make comments tonight. Those  
22 will be on the record, those will mean just as much  
23 as anything that's written and sent in, but if you  
24 want to take your time and think about it and make  
25 your comments separately in writing and send them to

1 me, that's good too. That's just our deadline.

2 You have a pink card in front of you.  
3 And if you don't, grab one at the back. What this  
4 is is a project mailing list. And this is separate  
5 from what the company keeps. This is what the  
6 Public Utilities Commission and the Department of  
7 Commerce keep as a mailing list. So if you're  
8 interested in making sure you get the notices, we  
9 will make a notice when the environmental report is  
10 available, when the draft site permit is available.  
11 We make a notice when the public hearing is going to  
12 be and when the Commission meeting is going to be.

13 So if you want to make sure you're up to  
14 date on all those issues, just simply sign that card  
15 and either give it to myself or Rich or Tricia or  
16 just mail it in, it has a mailing address on the  
17 back. But there's -- go ahead and sign up for that  
18 list. It doesn't get put on any other state list,  
19 it just goes onto this project. So I think that's a  
20 great idea.

21 We can run through these. I just put  
22 these up here so make sure you grab that. We'll  
23 just stop for a second. Tricia is here with the  
24 PUC. We also have what's called a public advisor,  
25 the Commission has named a public advisor. She's

1 available for calls, especially about process issues  
2 or if you have any specific questions about that.  
3 So Tracy is not here tonight, but she is the  
4 official public advisor.

5 And so I'm going to stop speaking and let  
6 you speak. This is just -- I don't anticipate any  
7 concern, but this is just helpful, that we find in  
8 most meetings that we do things a certain way.

9 And so I'm actually going to ask you, I  
10 have a microphone up here. If you're in the back,  
11 you notice that this a small room and you think  
12 everybody can hear you, but as you noticed with my  
13 voice not everybody can hear me all the time. So  
14 the best bet is to come up here and use the  
15 microphone and then make your comments.

16 The second reason for that is, again, we  
17 have with us Janet, a court reporter, and even  
18 though this isn't a court or a hearing, she's taking  
19 down a record of the meeting so we make sure that we  
20 have everything down correctly. So come up, give  
21 your name and spell your name for Janet, and then  
22 ask your questions and give your comments.

23 The other things are self-explanatory.  
24 Again, tonight 's meeting is on two issues. But I  
25 imagine if you have questions, you may have

1 questions about the project that Melissa can help  
2 you with, why not cover that tonight, we can do  
3 that. We're here to make sure that people feel  
4 comfortable that they know what the project is, what  
5 the process is, and what you can do to participate  
6 in it. And so what we can do tonight to help you do  
7 that, that's what we're going to do.

8 So I will move right into public  
9 comments.

10 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: I'll turn the  
11 lights back on.

12 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: So we had a green  
13 card out there to sign in, and a lot of times we'll  
14 have people come in and if we have a really large  
15 audience or something and we'll have people sign in  
16 on a card and hand it in. But I don't know if  
17 anybody has filled that out or not, but we can just  
18 go ahead and people can raise their hands and just  
19 come up and ask a question or speak as we go.  
20 That's perfectly fine, we don't have to be that  
21 formal about the process.

22 So who would like to be the first person  
23 to speak up or ask a question or share some opinion?  
24 And don't worry, we can wait for you. We drove all  
25 this way. We're not going to go away until we hear.

1 You can ask a question about the project, about the  
2 process, if you don't understand what's coming up,  
3 anything about the project. Are most people here  
4 within that black boundary tonight? Any hands? Is  
5 everybody here within the black boundary? Or you  
6 live outside it, or --

7 So it doesn't matter, you don't need to  
8 live in the black boundary to make a comment. You  
9 can make comments as a neighboring landowner or just  
10 if you have a particular interest. But if you're a  
11 participant in the project or if you're a landowner  
12 within the box that's not a participant in the  
13 project, it doesn't matter, everybody has an equal  
14 say.

15 What do I do to incent someone to come up  
16 here? Everybody feels entirely confident that they  
17 know everything? And I can't believe you got that  
18 from my presentation because I know it wasn't that  
19 smooth. But I imagine a lot of you already have got  
20 a lot of information from the company and been to  
21 public meetings here with the company. But, again,  
22 we're stepping into a new phase of the project now,  
23 the official permitting stage. Does everybody feel  
24 confident they know the kinds of things that we're  
25 asking from you?

1 MR. VIRGIL SCHULD: My name is Virgil  
2 Schuld, S-C-H-U-L-D.

3 I would like to know, probably on the  
4 graph out there, whether I'm going to get a turbine  
5 or not, or one that's proposed. Is that on the map?

6 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Do you want me to  
7 answer?

8 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: You can answer.

9 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: So in regards to  
10 the maps that are up, these are just preliminary  
11 layouts. So those turbines are not guaranteed. So  
12 if you have one or do not have one, that's not a  
13 guarantee.

14 What ultimately we need to decide first  
15 is which turbine we select. Because, as I  
16 mentioned, there are four different turbines we're  
17 looking at. So once we have that decision made and  
18 we move further down the process, we'll provide more  
19 information about the final layout as we get closer  
20 to having that decision made.

21 So these are just preliminary to show one  
22 of the potential layouts. In the application we  
23 have four layouts in there that are all preliminary  
24 based on which turbine type that we're looking at.  
25 So we don't have an answer yet for you, but we'll

1 get it to you when we get it.

2 MR. VIRGIL SCHULD: Thank you.

3 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Again, there are  
4 four different sizes that are being considered, so  
5 it can be anything between 1.7 megawatts and 3  
6 megawatts, so that would mean a range of turbines  
7 from something on the order of 30 to 50.

8 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: 62 if we use the  
9 1.7.

10 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Right. So that  
11 makes a big difference. But check with Melissa any  
12 time as far as that goes. But we will try to  
13 determine by permit time --

14 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Oh, yes.

15 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: -- that final thing.  
16 Because what the permit should show in the end, tell  
17 us at the end, we should have locations of the  
18 turbines. And they might change at that point  
19 slightly for micro siting, just for issues, for  
20 geotechnical issues or things like that, or  
21 positions found. But what we're trying to do is  
22 come to the end with a permit telling you exactly  
23 what the conditions are going to be for construction  
24 and exactly what the project is going to look like.  
25 So that's the end result.

1                   MR. ROGER VANDERSCHOAN: Are you going to  
2 need more transmission lines and substations or use  
3 existing ones?

4                   MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Your name, sir?

5                   MR. ROGER VANDERSCHOAN: Roger  
6 Vanderschoan.

7                   MS. MELISSA PETERSON: How do you spell  
8 your last name?

9                   MR. ROGER VANDERSCHOAN: It's  
10 V-A-N-D-E-R-S-C-H-O-A-N.

11                  MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Which explains why  
12 we have to come up here and speak, we have our  
13 limitations as far as receptors.

14                  But I think the question is is there  
15 going to be any new transmission required for this  
16 project. Is that correct, sir?

17                  All right. This project, I can speak for  
18 Melissa or she can answer otherwise. This project  
19 is noted -- you'll note on the map, I mean, you have  
20 Chanarambie substation, and that already exists in  
21 the Chanarambie Wind Farm that the company owns. It  
22 is already using that as their entry point to the  
23 grid for that wind farm. The intention is that the  
24 underground collector system will feed into that  
25 substation. So that transmission interconnection is

1 already made so there's not an application for new  
2 transmission for this project. Is that about it,  
3 Melissa?

4 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Yep. That's  
5 exactly right.

6 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Which is a good  
7 question because a lot of projects will need to  
8 build extra transmission. You need to connect that  
9 power into the grid somehow. So in this situation  
10 that already exists.

11 Any questions?

12 MR. ALLEN BLANKERS: Where does that  
13 power go and does it stay in Minnesota?

14 Allen Blankers, B-L-A-N-K-E-R-S.

15 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Thank you. Where  
16 does the power go, Melissa?

17 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Where does the  
18 power for the project go?

19 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: There are a couple  
20 answers to that. Go ahead.

21 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Do you want me to  
22 talk about it?

23 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: You can.

24 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Specifically, for  
25 the Stoneray project, we don't have a power off-take

1 agreement yet. So that means we don't have a direct  
2 utility that's going to buy the power. So at this  
3 point we're looking at those various options. All  
4 the utilities that we're working on marketing to are  
5 upper midwest based utilities. So Minnesota, North  
6 Dakota, you know, that kind of area.

7 But how the system works is you just put  
8 power onto the grid, the whole grid. There's an  
9 organization called MISO which runs a 14-state  
10 footprint and they run the grid for 14 states. So  
11 you put the power onto the grid, and if you sell it  
12 to a utility they'll pay you for that power, but  
13 that doesn't necessarily mean that that power is  
14 being used by that utility, because everybody who is  
15 in that 14-state footprint just pulls power off the  
16 grid wherever they are.

17 So for this project we don't have an  
18 off-take yet, we're looking at different solutions  
19 and talking to different people still. But  
20 ultimately the power will be generated here and  
21 it'll go out into the public grid here in this area.  
22 I don't know if you want to add to that.

23 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Well, only that  
24 this -- if and when this project is permitted, there  
25 would be a condition in the permit that says before

1 any construction begins there will be a power  
2 purchase agreement or some other enforceable  
3 mechanism for distributing. So a power plant or a  
4 wind farm won't be built that may or may not put  
5 electricity out and just standing there spinning.  
6 So the permit, and the Commission will require that  
7 there be a supportable mechanism in place, and  
8 that's usually a power purchase agreement, as  
9 Melissa said, with an individual utility.

10 Yes, sir.

11 MR. HARRY VANDAM: What is -- Harry  
12 VanDam is the name.

13 Who is Stoneridge, and can you tell us  
14 more about them? Their history as a corporation,  
15 privately held, is it an electric producing company,  
16 is it a development company?

17 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Stoneray Power  
18 Partners, LLC is just the name of the project. We  
19 just incorporate all of our projects in their own  
20 LLC. The project is owned by EDF Renewable Energy.  
21 We're a development company, we were formerly called  
22 enXco Development Corporation.

23 As I went through earlier, you know,  
24 we're an international company, we've got offices  
25 all over. Our regional office is based here in

1 Minneapolis. Our corporate office is in San Diego.  
2 And then we've got a whole bunch of other offices,  
3 Denver, Portland, Austin, Texas. I can't remember.  
4 Philadelphia, Washington, DC.

5 So we're an energy development and  
6 operations and maintenance company. We're not a  
7 utility, we don't have any utility rights such as  
8 eminent domain, we're just a company that develops  
9 renewable projects and then sells the power to  
10 utilities.

11 MR. HARRY VANDAM: So you're an energy  
12 development and production company?

13 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Yep.

14 MR. HARRY VANDAM: Are you publicly  
15 traded?

16 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: So our parent  
17 company is publicly traded on the Euro stock market.  
18 Our parent company is called EDF, which is -- we're  
19 EDF Renewable Energy and our parent company is EDF  
20 and they are based out of France and they are  
21 publicly traded on the Euro and that's called the  
22 Euronext market, but not publicly traded in North  
23 America.

24 MR. HARRY VANDAM: So it's a European  
25 based company?

1 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Yes. They bought  
2 enXco a couple years ago.

3 MR. HARRY VANDAM: Is it true that they  
4 went broke here, enXco?

5 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: No, that is 100  
6 percent not true.

7 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: We've seen movement  
8 among developers a lot over the last 10 years  
9 between different companies. Good questions,  
10 though.

11 Does anybody have any questions about the  
12 timeline or the process? Any more questions about  
13 the project itself? Yes, sir.

14 MR. HARRY VANDAM: I'll ask a question  
15 that most people here are wondering about. What's  
16 the normal lease paid for farmland use on your  
17 various sizes of wind towers? And what is the  
18 projected length of time of these leases? And are  
19 there federal government subsidies or tax credits  
20 for the owner of this project? Three questions.

21 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Three questions, and  
22 two of them are not within the realm of this public  
23 meeting. But one of them I can surely answer.

24 What was the last piece of the questions?

25 MR. HARRY VANDAM: About subsidies or tax

1 credit for --

2 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Yes. The company  
3 will be seeking to arrange to have this project  
4 within the production tax credit that expires at the  
5 end of this year. So they won't be done building or  
6 started building the project by then, but, yes, they  
7 definitely intend to make use of the production tax  
8 credit, if possible. The other tax pieces there is,  
9 there are production taxes that come back to the  
10 local county and township as part of the tax  
11 process.

12 MR. HARRY VANDAM: I didn't follow that  
13 last statement.

14 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: The wind farm --  
15 what's the right word?

16 MS. MELISSA PETERSON: The Minnesota  
17 production tax.

18 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Right. That comes  
19 back to the local governments on the electricity  
20 produced. So there is money coming back in from the  
21 amount of electricity produced that goes back  
22 directly into the coffers of the county and the  
23 township.

24 MR. HARRY VANDAM: Both the county and  
25 township?

1 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Yep. And leases are  
2 outside the purview of what the PUC or the  
3 Department does. And so I don't mean to put you  
4 off, but you'll have to pursue that separately.

5 MR. HARRY VANDAM: I feel put off.

6 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: I understand that.  
7 But there is no standard. Those are private  
8 transactions between the development companies and  
9 personal transactions, so --

10 MR. HARRY VANDAM: Thank you.

11 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Did you have  
12 something that you wanted to mention?

13 MS. TRICIA DEBLEECKERE: Just let me wrap  
14 it up. I saw the comments were dwindling. I'm  
15 Tricia DeBleeckere with the Minnesota Public  
16 Utilities Commission and I was in the back holding  
17 these up, and I just want to make sure that if you  
18 have comments that you don't want to provide  
19 tonight, that you fill out David's either white  
20 sheet or get on the project mailing list, which is  
21 this pink card here.

22 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: And, again, on this  
23 handout, make sure you grab it, because you'll go  
24 back and you'll find our website. You'll be able to  
25 go right on there and it will post everything as it

1 comes up and you'll also be able to link from that  
2 website to what's called eDockets, which is the  
3 information of the whole proceedings, and all the  
4 official documents that lead to the record, and all  
5 the decision-making will be linked there as well.

6 So if you prefer not to make comments in  
7 public, we're very happy to take them privately.  
8 We're also happy to answer them so that everybody  
9 can get the same answers. But we're also here to  
10 stay and chat with you for awhile, if you want to,  
11 we just want to make sure that you make record  
12 comments on the record so we can have them and we  
13 can take them home as we put together the  
14 environmental report and the permit itself.

15 Is everybody satisfied they've had an  
16 opportunity tonight? Well, I want to thank you for  
17 coming. I'm glad to see the house full. And I hope  
18 we answered enough of your questions for this to be  
19 of use to you. And we'll be happy -- we, of course,  
20 Rich and I and, of course, Tracy, as the public  
21 advisor, are available to take and answer questions  
22 as we go along in the next several months. So keep  
23 in touch.

24 Thank you very much.

25 (Meeting concluded at 6:55 p.m.)

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-40\_\_



August 30, 2013

David Birkholz, Environmental Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce,  
Energy Facilities Permitting,  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul MN 55101-2198

Re: Stoneray Power Partners, LLC Application for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System  
Site Permit - (PUC) Docket Number: IP-6646/WS-13-216  
DNR ERDB Number: 20120101-0006

Dear Mr. Birkholz:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Site Permit Application for the Stoneray Wind Project in Pipestone and Murray Counties. The following comments are provided regarding the Site Permit Application and for the development of the project record and draft permit. Also, this letter includes comments regarding the Generic Site Permit distributed as part of the Stoneray record.

## Site Permit Application and Stoneray Draft Site Permit

The Site Permit Application states that no Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are located within the project boundary. Avoiding WMAs may reduce the risk of impacts to wildlife. The DNR wishes to confirm that no temporary or permanent impacts will occur to any publically owned areas including the Casey Jones State Trail or to public waters.

The Casey Jones State Trail crosses the project area. The DNR recommends that no direct impacts occur to the trail. The DNR recommends that turbines not be placed within a 5 x 3 rotor diameter distance from the trail and that access roads avoid bisecting it to reduce recreational impacts and increase safety for trail users. In addition, the DNR plans to extend the trail east of where it currently ends in Murray County to connect to the Lake Wilson segment. The new trail segment would be within the Stoneray project area.

Project developers crossing (over, under, or across) any state land or public water with any utility (power lines, including feeder lines) need to secure a DNR License to Cross Public Lands and Waters (Minnesota Statutes, section 84.415). Information on obtaining a Utility License can be found at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/utility\\_crossing/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/utility_crossing/index.html).

For detailed information on where the Public Waters are located in a project area, visit the following site and click on the Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Maps Download button: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/pwi/maps.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwi/maps.html).

The Site Permit Application discusses the presence of Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance, remnant native prairie, and a calcareous fen. The DNR recommends avoiding any infrastructure impacts to these important habitats and encourages inclusion in the draft permit of a requirement for a native prairie protection and management plan if any native prairie were to be impacted. Any impacts, including hydrologic impacts, to a calcareous fen would require a Fen Management Plan from the DNR. If there is a possibility of impacting a calcareous fen, the project developer should contact Doug Norris at (651) 259- 5125.

The project developer should contact the DNR Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) coordinator Lisa Joyal at (651) 259-5109 regarding either an updated NHIS request or a concurrence letter regarding the project developer's review of NHIS data. Note that this is particularly important due to recent updates to the State of Minnesota Endangered and Threatened Species List. The DNR may have additional comments regarding rare species or native plant communities once this review step is completed.

Page 39 of the Site Permit Application discussed acoustic bat monitoring, but did not include bat passes per detector night. Furthermore, Appendix C-5, Acoustic Bat Survey, stated: "Bat passes per night (bpn) was determined by the total number of recorded passes divided by the total number of nights of the survey." Bpn throughout the entire study (April 9 - October 31) averaged 23.8 bpn." In order to compare the results to other projects the standard is to determine the bat passes per detector night.

The DNR has developed a Blanding's turtle priority map (attached) that includes potential habitat for the state-listed threatened species. The DNR recommends that the PUC Site Permit include a condition that only allows construction from November 1 to April 30 within the priority areas in order to avoid potential impacts to Blanding's turtles or their nests. The Blanding's turtle construction avoidance flyer and poster are also attached as informational items for contractors.

Based on the turbine layout submitted and available information at this time, the DNR concurs with the Site Permit Application estimate of low fatality risk to birds and bats for the Stoneray Project.

### Generic Permit

Section 6.1 states: "The Permittee shall file with the Commission, any biological surveys or studies conducted on this Project, including those not required under this permit." Generally, for various projects, the DNR agrees with this condition for post-construction monitoring, informal monitoring, or company specific surveys/monitoring conducted at any time. However, the DNR recommends that pre-construction (United States Fish and Wildlife Service Tier 3) survey results be submitted with the Site Permit Application if already completed, or at least prior to permit issuance.

Section 6.7 discusses the requirements of the Avian and Bat Protection Plan. Generally, the DNR also recommends that a Draft Avian and Bat Protection Plan should be submitted with the Site Permit Application.

Section 6.7.3(b) states: "one or more dead or injured migratory avian or bat species." This notification requirement would likely be over burdensome on both a permittee and the DNR. Many species that collide with turbines are migratory and notification would be occurring quite often from projects across the state. Other reporting frequency/methods could capture trends in fatalities in a more efficient manner. Please consider the following language: "five or more dead or injured migratory avian or bat species found within one calendar week." Also, considering federal regulations regarding migratory birds, coordination with the USFWS regarding this language is also encouraged.

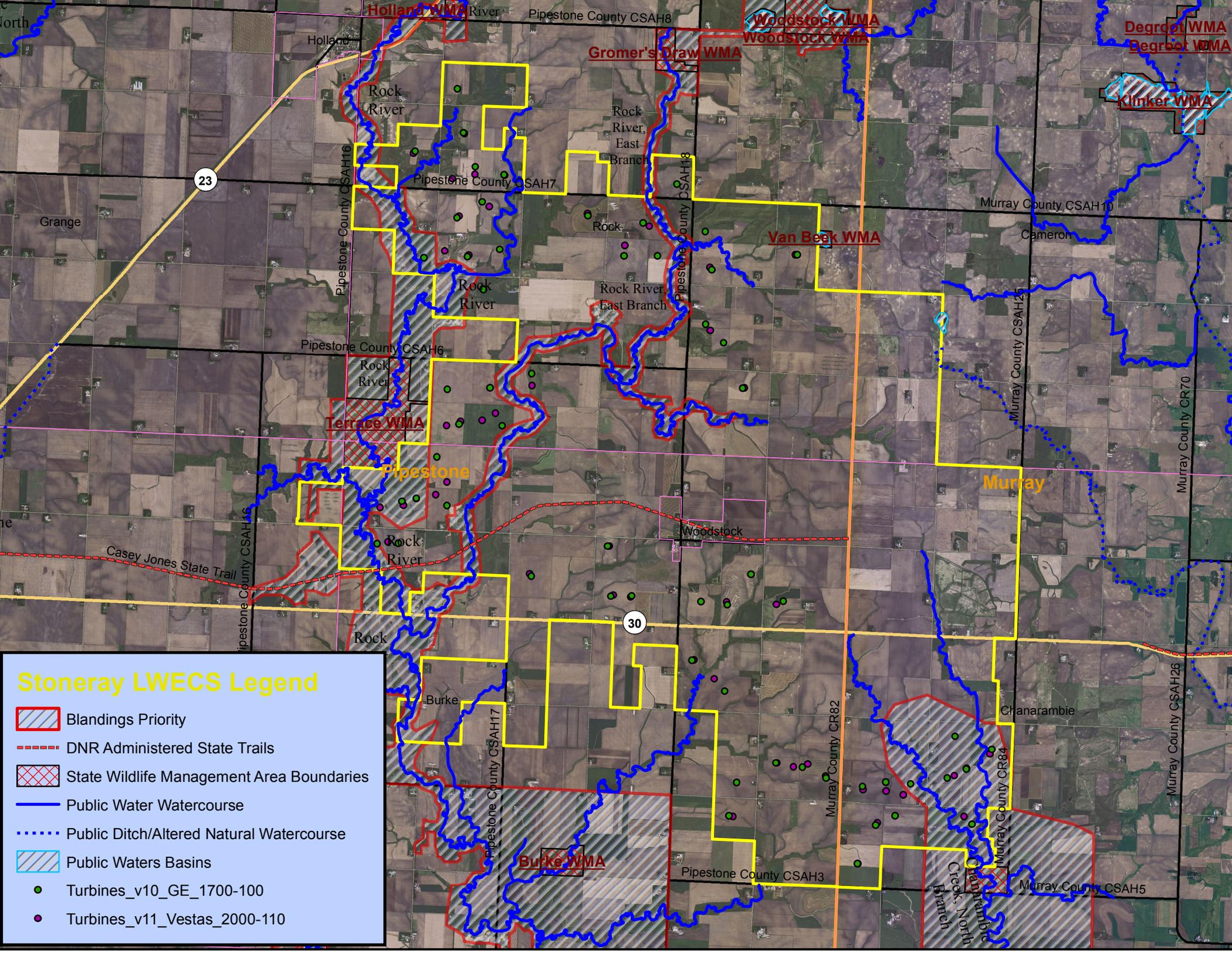
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Schrenzel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jamie" being more prominent than the last name "Schrenzel".

Jamie Schrenzel  
Principal Planner  
Environmental Review Unit  
(651) 259-5115

Enclosures: 3



### Stoneray LWECS Legend

-  Blandings Priority
-  DNR Administered State Trails
-  State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries
-  Public Water Watercourse
-  Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse
-  Public Waters Basins
-  Turbines\_v10\_GE\_1700-100
-  Turbines\_v11\_Vestas\_2000-110



# HAVE YOU SEEN A BLANDING'S TURTLE ?



**Carapace**

**Carapace** (upper shell):  
Round, dome-shaped, very smooth, dull black with specks and streaks of yellow throughout.

**Plastron** (lower shell):  
Yellow with dark splotches on each scute (section); hinged between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> pair of scutes (front closes like a drawbridge) So the Blanding's turtle is sometimes called a "semi-Box Turtle"

The **bright yellow chin and underside of the long neck** is one of the most conspicuous features of this turtle.

Marshes, ponds, rivers & streams, adjacent uplands; Also travel overland & cross roads. May bask on logs, shore



**Yellow neck/chin ; no stripes**



**Plastron**

Male=concave

Female=flat



**Domed Carapace**

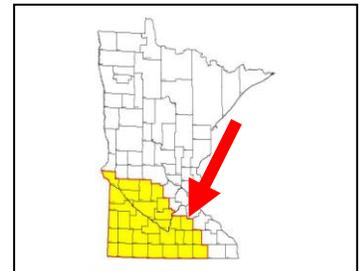
The MNDNR Nongame Wildlife Program (NWP) is seeking reports of **Blanding's turtles** in the counties of southern Minnesota.

If possible, sightings should be verified promptly by either:

1. photographs showing identifying characteristics (top & bottom of shell, jaw) AND/OR
2. a detailed written description specifying identifying characteristics and circumstances of the sighting. (incl. if turtle shell is marked in any way)

Please include:

- Name phone number &/or email address of person reporting sighting
- Date of Sighting
- Number of Blanding's turtles observed
- Specific Location of Sighting  
e.g. GPS coordinates OR Township, Range Section to the nearest 1/4 1/4 section &/OR
- Specific directions (e.g. roads with distance and direction from nearest town or other conspicuous landmark with any other information that may be helpful for locating the site. Details about the habitat & landowner contacts also really help. **Many Thanks !**



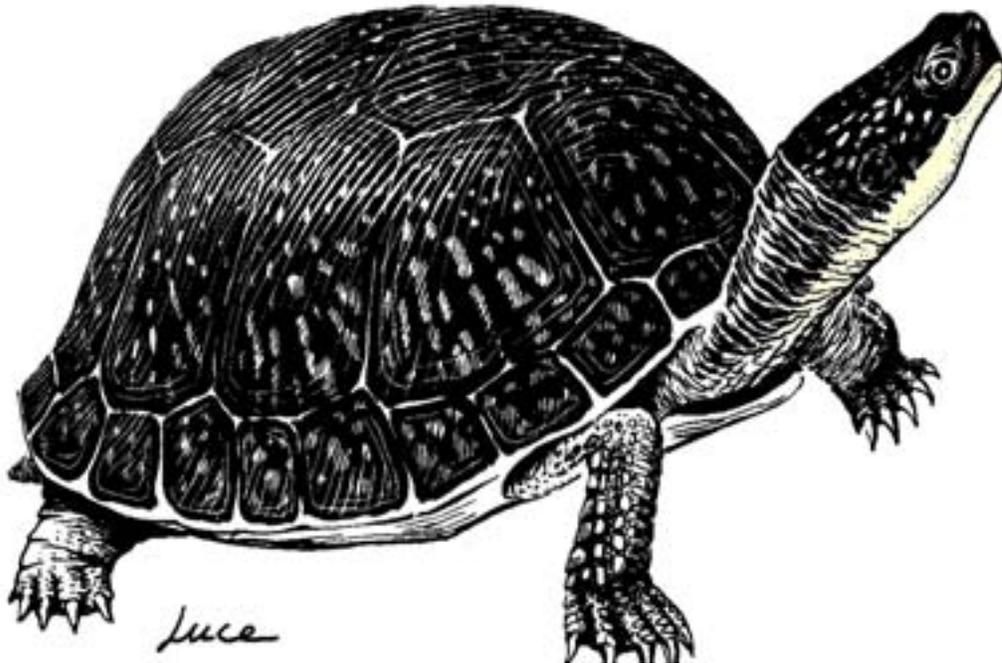
Please Report Sightings as soon as possible to:

Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer, MNDNR Nongame Wildlife Program,  
261 Hwy 15 South; New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-359-6033 Fax: 507-359-6018 Email: [lisa.gelvin-innvaer@state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.gelvin-innvaer@state.mn.us)



# CAUTION



## BLANDING'S TURTLES MAY BE ENCOUNTERED IN THIS AREA

The unique and rare Blanding's turtle has been found in this area. Blanding's turtles are a State Threatened species and are protected under Minnesota Statute 84.095, Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species. Please be careful of turtles on roads and in construction sites. For additional information on turtles, or to report a Blanding's turtle sighting, contact the DNR Nongame Specialist nearest you: Bemidji (218-308-2641); Grand Rapids (218-327-4518); New Ulm (507-359-6033); Rochester (507-280-5070); or St. Paul (651-259-5764).

**DESCRIPTION:** The Blanding's turtle is a medium to large turtle (5 to 10 inches) with a black or dark blue, dome-shaped shell with muted yellow spots and bars. The bottom of the shell is hinged across the front third, enabling the turtle to pull the front edge of the lower shell firmly against the top shell to provide additional protection when threatened. The head, legs, and tail are dark brown or blue-gray with small dots of light brown or yellow. A distinctive field mark is the bright yellow chin and neck.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AVOIDING AND MINIMIZING IMPACTS TO BLANDING'S TURTLE POPULATIONS**

*(see Environmental Review Fact Sheet Series for full recommendations)*

- A flyer with an illustration of an adult Blanding's turtle should be given to all contractors working in the area. Homeowners should also be informed of the presence of Blanding's turtles in the area.
- Turtles which are in imminent danger should be moved, by hand, out of harms way. Turtles which are not in imminent danger should be left undisturbed to continue their travel among wetlands and/or nest sites.
- If a Blanding's turtle nests in your yard, do not disturb the nest, and do not allow pets near the nest.
- Blanding's turtles do not make good pets. It is illegal to keep this threatened species in captivity.
- Silt fencing should be set up to keep turtles out of construction areas. It is critical that silt fencing be removed after the area has been revegetated.
- Small, vegetated temporary wetlands should not be dredged, deepened, or filled.
- All wetlands should be protected from pollution; use of fertilizers and pesticides should be avoided, and run-off from lawns and streets should be controlled. Erosion should be prevented to keep sediment from reaching wetlands and lakes.
- Roads should be kept to minimum standards on widths and lanes.
- Roads should be ditched, not curbed or below grade. If curbs must be used, 4" high curbs at a 3:1 slope are preferred.
- Culverts under roads crossing wetland areas, between wetland areas, or between wetland and nesting areas should be at least 36 in. diameter and flat-bottomed or elliptical.
- Culverts under roads crossing streams should be oversized (at least twice as wide as the normal width of open water) and flat-bottomed or elliptical.
- Utility access and maintenance roads should be kept to a minimum.
- Because trenches can trap turtles, trenches should be checked for turtles prior to being backfilled and the sites should be returned to original grade.
- Terrain should be left with as much natural contour as possible.
- Graded areas should be revegetated with native grasses and forbs.
- Vegetation management in infrequently mowed areas -- such as in ditches, along utility access roads, and under power lines -- should be done mechanically (chemicals should not be used). Work should occur fall through spring (after October 1<sup>st</sup> and before June 1<sup>st</sup>).



# Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300

800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) | Equal Opportunity Employer

August 30, 2013

Mr. David Birkholz  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: EDF Renewable Energy  
Stoneray Wind Farm  
PUC Docket Number: IP-6646/WS-13-216

Dear Mr. Birkholz:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Stoneray Wind Farm project (Project) Site Permit Application, located in Pipestone and Murray counties, Minnesota. Regarding matters for which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has regulatory responsibility and other interests, the MPCA staff has the following comments for your consideration.

- As you are aware, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Construction Stormwater Permit (CSW Permit) is required for this Project. We recommend you utilize the MPCA Special Waters and Impaired Waters Search mapping tool to identify special or impaired waters located near proposed projects. The mapping tool is located on the MPCA website at: <http://pca-gis02.pca.state.mn.us/CSW/index.html>. Please note that the new CSW Permit became official on August 1, 2013. The new permit has significantly more stringent requirements for permanent stormwater treatment than the current permit in situations regulated under Appendix A of the permit (within a mile of special or impaired waters). It also affects projects not regulated under Appendix A (projects outside of the one mile radius from impaired or special waters), for which there will now be required treatment for 1 inch of runoff, as opposed to 0.5 inches, per acre of new impervious surface. Information on the new CSW Permit is available on the MPCA website at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/y3dqf96>. Questions regarding CSW Permit requirements should be directed to Roberta Getman at 507-206-2629.

Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the

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responsibility of the Project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this Project, please contact Karen Kromar of my staff by email at [karen.kromar@state.mn.us](mailto:karen.kromar@state.mn.us) or by telephone at 651-757-2508.

Sincerely,



Craig Affeldt

Supervisor

Environmental Review Unit

Resource and Management and Assistance Division

CA:bt

cc: Melissa Peterson, EDF Renewable Energy  
Karen Kromar, MPCA, St. Paul  
Randy Hukriede, MPCA, Marshall