1 LAKE WILSON - AUGUST 14, 2013 - 6:00 P.M.

2 SCOPING AND INFORMATION MEETING

3 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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

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

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17 American Legion
Lake Wilson, Minnesota

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19 August 14, 2013

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25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We work through all phases of the

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

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

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

of branch out throughout the whole country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED: And where is that?

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

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

Again, the reason we've called this

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You need me louder?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So, again, we'll be taking a lot of that same information that we gather from out here, from the applications, from the comments we get from you, and we'll be looking at what are the specific issues 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 then
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

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

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

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

available there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So I will move right into public comments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: You can answer.

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

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

So these are just preliminary to show one of the potential layouts. In the application we have four layouts in there that are all preliminary based on which turbine type that we're looking at. 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 micrositing, 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.

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

MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Your name, sir?

MR. ROGER VANDERSCHOAN: Roger Vanderschoan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Any questions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: You can.

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

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

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

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

MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Well, only that this -- if and when this project is permitted, there 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

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

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

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

MS. MELISSA PETERSON: Yep.

MR. HARRY VANDAM: Are you publicly traded?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What was the last piece of the questions?

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?

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

MR. HARRY VANDAM: I feel put off.

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

MR. HARRY VANDAM: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much.

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