



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT AND
PUBLIC HEARING**

Issued: March 10, 2014

In the Matter of the Site Permit Application of Odell Wind Farm, LLC for a 200-MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: IP-6914/WS-13-843

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 11-2500-31120

Date: March 31, 2014

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Windom Community Center
1750 Cottonwood Lake Drive
Windom MN 56101

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled – call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit www.puc.state.mn.us.

Hearing Information:

- Staff from the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce (DOC), and Odell Wind Farm, LLC (Odell) will be available to answer questions about the process and the project.
- Citizens will have the opportunity to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Citizens who have questions, but do not want to ask questions orally, may submit questions in writing to the Administrative Law Judge.
- The hearing will last until everyone has the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions.

Topics for Public Comment:

- What are the environmental and human impacts of the proposed project and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there any changes that should be made to the draft site permit?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

- Should the Public Utilities Commission require a contested case hearing about this project?

Comment Period: The comment period continues after the public hearing, through
April 17, 2014 at 4:30pm.

Submit Public Comments: The Honorable Barbara L. Neilson
Office of Administrative Hearings
Email: RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us
Fax: 651-539-0300
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55164-0620

Please include the PUC and OAH Docket Numbers (above) in all communications. Comments must be received at the Office of Administrative Hearings by 4:30 p.m. on April 17, 2014, to be considered.

Project Description

Odell proposes to build a 200 megawatt (MW) Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS).

- The proposed Odell Wind Farm will consist of 100 to 133 turbines, depending on the turbine model selected.
- Currently, 1.5 MW, 1.6 MW, and 2.0 MW turbine models are under consideration.
- Odell's goal is to complete construction and begin operation prior to December 31, 2014.
- The proposed project is located in Lakeside and Mountain Lake Townships in Cottonwood County, Christiania and Kimball Townships in Jackson County, Cedar Township in Martin County, and Odin Township in Watonwan County, near Mountain Lake, Minnesota
- The proposed Odell Wind Farm will require an associated 115 kV transmission line and a 345/115kV substation. Odell filed a separate route plan permit application for the transmission facilities in Docket No. IP6914/TL-13-591.

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a site permit. The Commission accepted Odell's site permit application in November 2013. The Commission's decision-making process takes about six months.

On March 6, 2014, the Commission voted to approve a draft site permit for this project. An electronic copy of the draft site permit can be viewed on the Commission's and DOC's websites as described below. Comments about the draft site permit may be submitted now through April 17, 2014.

Any person may request a contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the Odell Wind Project pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed in writing with the ALJ by 4:30 p.m. on April 17, 2014.

Judge Neilson will use all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings, to write a report for the Commission. The report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations about this project. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will schedule a meeting to make a final decision on this project, expected by May 2014.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854, available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/>.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website: View site permit application, draft site permit and other documents at <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33584>

Project Mailing List: Sign up for the project mailing list to receive notices about this project at docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2204.

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket, including the site permit application and draft site permit, are available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (13) and the docket number (843), select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive email notifications every time new documents are filed. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. www.puc.state.mn.us
2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
3. Type your e-mail address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select 13 in the first box, type 843 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

Community Locations: The site permit application is available at the following locations:

- County Auditors' Offices: Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin and Watonwan counties
- Public Libraries: Jackson, Martin County-Fairmont, Mountain Lake, Trimont, Windom
- Regional Development Commissions: Region Nine Development Commission, Southwest Regional Development Commission

- Township Clerks: Cedar, Christiania, Kimball, Lakeside, Mountain Lake, and Odin townships

A copy of the site permit application can also be requested by contacting the applicant at the address below.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

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

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

Michael Kaluzniak at mike.kaluzniak or 651-201-2257

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Richard Davis at richard.davis@state.mn.us, 651-539-1846 or 1-800-657-3794

Odell Wind Farm, LLC Project Contact

Patrick Smith at patrick@geronimoenergy.com or 952-988-9000

Odell Wind Farm, LLC
c/o Geronimo Energy
7650 Edinborough Way
Suite 725
Edina MN 55435

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7832 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

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