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Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

*Issued: June 20, 2014*

**In the Matter of** the Odell Wind Farm, LLC's Route Permit Application for the Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Martin Counties

**Office of Administrative Hearings Docket Number:** 48-2500-31501

**Public Utilities Commission Docket Number:** IP-6914/TL-13-591

**Date:** July 9, 2014

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**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 [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)

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| <b>Project Description</b> |
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Odell proposes to construct the Odell Wind Farm High-Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) Project to transmit energy generated at the planned 200 megawatt (MW) Odell Wind Farm to the Woad Hill substation. As part of the Project, Odell proposes to construct approximately 9.5 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) HVTL and construct the Woad Hill substation. Odell has a pending site permit application with the Public Utilities Commission for the Odell Wind Farm (PUC Docket Number: 13-843, OAH Docket Number: 11-2500-31120).

Odell has proposed the project utilize a variable 150 to 600 foot route width for the 115 kV HVTL. The majority of the proposed route will be 150 feet wide extending from the road centerline. Odell is requesting that the proposed route width in sections 1 and 12 of Kimball Township in Jackson County be 300 feet, extending 150 feet on both sides of the road centerline. The proposed 300 foot route width in this area will allow additional flexibility to accommodate distances from homes.

Odell is requesting a 600 foot route width in section 6 and 7 of Cedar Township in Martin County. In this area, the additional route width will allow flexibility to work around a known easement title issue.

On June 6, 2014, Odell filed a request to change the route width in the area of the proposed Woad Hill substation in response to new substation design information provided by Xcel Energy. Odell has requested that the environmental assessment for the project include an analysis of this information.

### **Public Hearing Information**

- Staff from the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Odell Wind Farm will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- Citizens will be able to offer oral comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Citizens who do not wish to speak may submit questions or comments in writing to the administrative law judge.
- The hearing will last until everyone has the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions, or until the scheduled end time, whichever comes first.

### **Submit Comments**

**Public Comment Period:** The comment period continues after the public hearing through **Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Submit Public Comments:** Steve M. Mihalchick, Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
P.O. Box 64620  
600 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55164  
Fax: 651-539-0300  
Email: [routecomments.oah@state.mn.us](mailto:routecomments.oah@state.mn.us)

The Office of Administrative Hearings docket number (48-2500-31501) should be included in all communications.

**Important** – Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission’s website except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

### **Process Information**

Before the project can be built, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a route permit. The Commission’s decision-making process takes about six months with the option to extend for three months with good cause.

The Department of Commerce is preparing an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment reviews the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts. The environmental assessment will be issued on June 30, 2014. Odell has requested that the original route width be widened in the area of the substation and has provided three potential configurations for the route.

Judge Mihalchik 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.

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules:** This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statute Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov>.

## How to Learn More

### **Department of Commerce Project Website:**

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33682>

**Project Mailing List:** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (13-591), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Subscribe to the Docket:** Receive email notification when new documents are filed. Note – subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)
2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
3. Enter your email address
4. For *Type of Subscription* select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number* select (13) in the first box, type (591) in the second box.
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

**Full Case Record:** All documents filed in these matters are available on the Commission's eDockets website at: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (13) and the docket number (591), select *Search*.

**Community Locations:** A printed copy of the route permit application is available for review at the following locations:

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

- Township Clerks: Cedar, Kimball, and Mountain Lake townships

A copy of the route 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](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us), 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

### **Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner**

Michael Kaluzniak at [mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us), 651-201-2257

### **Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**

Richard Davis at [Richard.Davis@state.mn.us](mailto:Richard.Davis@state.mn.us), 651-539-1846 or 1-800-657-3794

### **Odell Project Contact:**

Patrick Smith or Jordan Burmeister, [Jordan@geronimoenergy.com](mailto:Jordan@geronimoenergy.com) or at  
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 651-361-7000 (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.