



## Power Plant Siting Act 2013 Year in Review

### PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES, SUMMARY

In 2013, Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff assisted the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in permitting five energy facilities, prepared seven environmental review documents and conducted numerous compliance reviews of pre-construction, pre-operation and in-service projects.

- 2 transmission lines with issued route permits and 1 pending order for route permit issuance
- 1 transmission line route permit amendment and 5 minor alterations
- 2 wind farms with issued site permits and 6 wind farm site permit amendments
- 7 environmental review documents (5 Environmental Assessments and 2 Environmental Reports)
- 38 annual compliance reviews

### PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES

- Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Transmission Line Project (TL-11-795)
- Southwest Twin Cities Chaska Area 69 kV to 115 kV Transmission Line Project (TL-12-401; CN- 11-826)
- Scott County Substation to Westgate 115 kV Transmission Line Project (TL-11-948; CN-11-332); order pending
- Black Oak Wind Farm Project (WS-10-1240; CN-11-471)
- Getty Wind Project (WS-11-831; CN-11-471)

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS RELEASED IN 2013

- Scott County Substation to Westgate 115 kV Transmission Line Project (TL-11-948; CN-11-332); EA released February 2013
- Southwest Twin Cities Chaska Area 69 kV to 115 kV Transmission Line Project (TL-12-401; CN- 11-826); EA released March 2013
- Line 39 115 kV Transmission Line Project (TL-12-1123); EA released July 2013
- Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Project (TL-12-1151); EA released August 2013
- Deer River Transmission Project (TL-13-68); EA released November 2013

### ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS RELEASED IN 2013

- Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Line Project Certificate of Need (CN- 12-113); ER released February 2013
- Xcel Energy Competitive Resource Acquisition (CN-12-1240); ER released in October 2013 (note: this is not a permitting process)

### ENERGY PROJECTS IN THE PERMITTING PROCESS

- Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Route Permit Project (TL-12-1151); final decision December 2013
- Line 39 115 kV Transmission Line Route Permit Project (TL-12-1123); final decision December 2013
- Deer River Transmission Project (TL-13-68); hearing January 2014
- Stoneray 105 MW Wind Project (WS-13-216; CN-13-193); ER Scoping Decision, September 2013
- ITC Midwest Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line Project (TL-12-1337; CN-12-1053) EIS Scoping Decision, October 2013

- Elko to New Market 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project (TL-12-1245; CN-12-1235); EA Scoping Decision, December 2013
- Canisteo Transmission Line Project (TL-13-805); Application accepted November 2013
- Odell 200 MW Wind Project (WS-13-843); Application accepted November 2013
- Great Northern Transmission Line Project (CN-12-1163); Application filed October 2013
- Laskin Energy Center (GP-13-978); Application filed November 2013
- Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline Project (PPL-13-474; CN-13-473); Application filed November 2013
- Pleasant Valley 301 MW Wind Project amendment (WS-09-1197); petition for Amendment, November 2013
- Odell 115 kV Transmission Line Project (TL-13-591); Application filed December 2013

#### **PERMIT AMENDMENTS APPROVED**

- Paynesville Wind Project, amendment approved February 2013 (WS-10-49; CN-09-1110)
- Pleasant Valley Wind Project, amendment approved February 2013 (WS-09-1197; CN-09-937)
- EcoHarmony Wind Project, amendment approved April 2013 (WS-08-973; CN-08-961)
- Comfrey Wind Project, amendment approved May 2013 (WS-07-318)
- Lake Country Wind Project, amendment approved June 2013 (WS-10-798)
- Flat Hill 230 kV Transmission Line Project, amendment approved August 2013 (TL-08-988; CN-08-951)
- Flat Hill Windpark I Wind Project, amendment approved August 2013 (WS-08-1134; CN-08-951)

#### **POST-PERMIT ISSUANCE ACTIVITY**

In 2013, Department of Commerce EERA staff provided numerous pre-construction and post-construction compliance reviews for projects, coordinated as needed with other government agencies, including those listed below as examples, among others.

##### ***Pre-Construction Compliance Filing Reviews***

- Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project
- Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project
- Hampton to Rochester to La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Line Project
- Savanna 115 kV transmission Line rebuild Project
- Orono Substation and 115 kV Transmission Line Project
- Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Transmission Line Project
- Parkers Prairie 115 kV Transmission Line Project
- Southwest Twin Cities Chaska Area 69kV to 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project

##### ***Pre- and Post-Construction Annual Compliance Review Activity in 2013:***

- 33 LWECS compliance reviews in 2013 and associated reminders and recommendations
- Reminders and recommendations related to prior 20 LWECS 2012 compliance reviews
- 2 transmission line route permit compliance reviews in 2013
- 2 petroleum pipeline routing permit compliance reviews in 2013
- 1 generating plant site permit compliance review in 2013



## Energy Environmental Review and Analysis 2013 Transmission Line Projects and Commission Actions

Docket Number	Project Name	Project Description	Commission Decision and Date of Order
<b>Transmission Line Projects in Process: Applications Accepted</b>			
12-1123	39 Line 115 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project (Minnesota Power)	Construction of approximately 3 miles of 115 kV transmission line in St. Louis County, with the removal of a 1.9 mile section of existing line.  Environmental Assessment was released on July 19, 2013	Application Accepted January 16, 2013
12-1151	Kohlman Lake to Goose Lake 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project (Xcel Energy)	Construction of approximately 2.8 miles of 115 kV transmission line in Ramsey County. The proposed project will replace an existing single circuit 115 kV transmission line with a new double circuit 115 kV line, with associated modifications to the Kohlman Lake and Goose Lake substations.  Environmental Assessment was released on August 30, 2013.	Application Accepted March 15, 2013
12-1337	ITC Midwest Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line Project (ITC Midwest LLC)	Construction of approximately 75 miles of 345 kV transmission line from the Lakefield Junction substation in Jackson County, through Martin County, to a new Huntley substation in Faribault County.  Referred to Office of Administrative Hearing for contested case proceedings.	Application Accepted June 27, 2013  Referred, June 27, 2013
13-68	Deer River 115 kV Transmission Line Project (Minnesota Power)	Construction of a one mile 115 kV transmission line running along U.S. Highway 2 between Deer River and Cohasset in Itasca county.  Environmental Assessment was released on November 22, 2013.	Application Accepted June 27, 2013

<b>Docket Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Commission Decision and Date of Order</b>
12-1245	Elko, New Market and Cleary Areas 115 kV Transmission Line Project (Great River Energy)	Construction of a 5.4 mile new double circuit 115 kV transmission line and the rebuilding of approximately 11.3 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV in Scott and Rice counties.	Application Accepted September 9, 2013
13-805	Canisteo Transmission Line Project (Minnesota Power)	Construction of two approximately 5.2 mile 115 kV transmission lines parallel to one another with an overlapping right-of-way.	Application Acceptance Order pending
<b>Transmission Line Projects Permitted</b>			
11-795	Black Dog to Savage 115 kV Transmission Line Project (Xcel Energy)	Replacement of 3.8 miles of existing line with new 115 kV cables strung together on double-circuit structures between the Black Dog Generating Plant substation in Burnsville and the Savage substation four miles to the west.  Environmental Assessment was released in 2012.	Route Permit Issued, May 3, 2013
12-401	Southwest Twin Cities Chaska Area 69 kV to 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade	Construction of approximately 11.4 miles of 115 kV transmission line upgrade and the modification of 4 substations in Carver and Scott counties.  Environmental Assessment was released on March 25, 2013.	Route Permit Issued, October 15, 2013  Erratum Notice, November 13, 2013
11-948	Southwest Twin Cities Scott County to Westgate 115 kV Transmission Line Project	Construct approximately 20 miles of 115 kV transmission line from the Scott county substation to the Westgate substation in Eden Prairie, including several upgrades and modifications.  Environmental Assessment was released on February 25, 2013.	Order Pending

Docket Number	Project Name	Project Description	Commission Decision and Date of Order
<b>Transmission Line Route Permit Amendments and Minor Alterations</b>			
08-1474	Brookings County to Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line Project (Great River Energy)	Request for a change to the approved alignment and right-of-way.	February 5, 2013, Order Holding Plan and Profile in Abeyance and Requesting Commerce Staff to Take Other Action
		Request for a change to the approved route permit alignment north of County Road 62.	Approved, April 22, 2013
		Request for reconsideration to the approved route permit alignment change north of County Road 62.	Denied, June 7, 2013
		Request for minor alteration within segment 6 between Chub Lake substation and Hampton Lake substation.	Approved, July 18, 2013
09-1056	Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project (Xcel Energy)	Request for four minor alterations of the permitted route for the Fargo to Alexandria portion of the project.	Approved, July 18, 2013
		Request for a minor alteration for a route width variation for poles 315 to 319.	Approved, September 30, 2013
08-988	Flat Hill 230 kV Transmission Line Project (Flat Hill Windpark I, LLC)	Request to extend the timeframe to begin construction of 11.4 miles of 230 kV transmission line in Clay county.	Approved, August 27, 2013



## Energy Environmental Review and Analysis 2013 Wind Projects And Commission Actions

Docket Number	Project Name	Project Description	Commission Decision and Date of Order
<b>Wind Project Applications Accepted</b>			
13-216	Stoneray Wind Project (Stoneray Power Partners, LLC)	A 105 MW wind project in Pipestone and Murray counties.	Application Accepted July 24, 2013
13-843	Odell Wind Project (Odell Wind Farm, LLC)	A 200 MW wind project in Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin and Watonwan counties.	Application Accepted November 7, 2013
<b>Wind Projects Permitted</b>			
10-1240	Black Oak Wind Farm Project (Black Oak Wind, LLC)	A 42 MW wind project in Stearns County. Environmental Report (combined with Getty Wind Project) released in 2012.	Site permit issued January 28, 2013; errata issued February 4 and 25, 2013
11-831	Getty Wind Project (Getty Wind Company, LLC)	A 40 MW wind project in Stearns County. Environment Report (combined with Black Oak Wind Project) released in 2012.	Site permit issued January 28, 2013; errata issued February 4 and 25, 2013
<b>Wind Site Permit Amendments and Other Commission Actions</b>			
10-49	Paynesville Wind Project (Paynesville Wind, LLC)	Request to extend the timeframe for obtaining a power purchase agreement and to begin construction of a 95 MW wind project in Stearns county.	Extension Approved, February 7, 2013
09-1197	Pleasant Valley Wind Project (Pleasant Valley Wind LLC)	Request to extend the timeframe for obtaining a power purchase agreement and to begin construction of a 301 MW wind project in Dodge and Mower counties.	Extension Approved, February 20, 2013

<b>Docket Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Commission Decision and Date of Order</b>
08-1233	Goodhue Wind Project (AWA Goodhue, LLC; New Era Wind Farm, LLC)	Consideration of whether a site permit transfer is required and consideration of the Avian and Bat Protection Plan for a 78 MW wind project in Goodhue County.	Tabled, March 20, 2013
		Notice of intent to revoke site permit if construction not begun by permit-required date.	Provided, July 26, 2013
		Revocation of site permit.	Permit Revoked, October 23, 2013
08-973	EcoHarmony West Wind Project (EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC)	Request to extend the timeframe for obtaining a power purchase agreement and to begin construction of a now 116 MW project in Fillmore County	Extension Approved, April 22, 2013
10-119	Oak Glen Wind Project (Oak Glen Wind Farm, LLC)	Request for approval of a post-construction noise study proposal.	Proposal Approved, April 30, 2013
10-425	Prairie Rose Wind Farm (Prairie Rose Wind, LLC)	Request for approval of a post-construction noise study proposal.	Proposal Approved, April 30, 2013
08-1448	Bitter Root Wind Project (Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC)	Request for permit revocation.	Permit Revoked, May 1, 2013
07-318	Comfrey Wind Project (Comfrey Wind Energy, LLC)	Request to extend the timeframe for obtaining a power purchase agreement and to begin construction of a 31.5 MW wind project in Brown and Cottonwood counties.	Extension Approved, May 9, 2013
10-798	Lake Country Wind Project (Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC)	Request to extend the timeframe for obtaining a power purchase agreement and to begin construction of a 41 MW wind project in Kandiyohi and Meeker counties.	Extension Approved, June 3, 2013
08-1134	Flat Hill Windpark I Wind Project (Flat Hill Windpark I, LLC)	Request to extend the timeframe for obtaining a power purchase agreement and to begin construction of a 201 MW wind project in Clay County.	Extension Approved, August 27, 2013
11-195	Shell Rock Wind Farm (Shell Rock Wind Farm, LLC)	Request for permit revocation.	Permit Revoked, November 12, 2013
13-483	G.McNeilus Wind Project (G.McNeilus Wind, LLC)	Revocation of site permit.	Permit Revoked, November 12, 2013



## Energy Environmental Review and Analysis 2013 Annual Compliance Review and Resolution of 2012 Reviews

Project Name	Docket Number	Annual Review Letter E-Filed	Requested Items Resolved or Pending
<b>Compliance Reviews for Wind Projects</b>			
Bitter Root Wind Farm Project	08-1448	10/8/2012	Resolved with a filing that the project was amenable to revocation. Order issued 5/1/2013.
		3/28/2012	
Pleasant Valley Wind Project	09-1197	10/8/2012	Resolved by petition to extend and 2/20/2013 permit amendment order. Missing filing e-filed.
		3/30/2012	
Comfrey Wind Project	07-318	10/29/2012	Resolved by petition to extend and 5/9/2013 permit amendment order. Missing filing e-filed.
Paynesville Wind Project	10-49	10/29/2012	Resolved by petition to extend and 2/7/2013 permit amendment order. Missing filing e-filed.
Grand Meadow Wind Project	07-839	10/31/2012	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
Wapsipinicon Wind Project	07-839	10/31/2012	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
Lake Country Wind Project	10-798	11/5/2012	Resolved by petition for amendment to extend and 6/3/2013 permit amendment order. Missing filing e-filed.
		3/26/2012	Resolved; missing filing e-filed.
West Stevens Wind Project	09-830	11/19/2012	Resolved by petition for amendment to extend and 2/29/2012 permit amendment order. Missing filing e-filed.
		3/29/2012	
EcoHarmony West Wind Project	08-973	11/19/2012	Resolved by petition to extend and 4/22/2013 permit amendment order. Missing filing e-filed.
Elm Creek I Wind Project	07-388	11/19/2012	Resolved; missing filings e-filed. Filings made in fall 2013 being reviewed.
Ridgewind Power Partners Wind Project	06-1327	12/4/2012	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
Elm Creek II Wind Project	09-553	12/12/2012	Resolved; missing filings e-filed. Filings made in fall 2013 being reviewed.
Prairie Wind Project	10-438	12/21/2012	Compliance filings required prior to date of review had been e-filed.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Docket Number</b>	<b>Annual Review Letter E-Filed</b>	<b>Requested Items Resolved or Pending</b>
01-19-LWECS-ENXCO Chanarambie Wind Power Plant (EQB Issued Permit)	13-11	1/8/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
Glacial Ridge Wind Project	07-1073	1/14/2013	Pending resolution. Petition to amend. Missing filing and decision pending. Recommendation made.
		3/30/2012	
Community Wind North Wind Project	08-1494	1/24/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
Fenton Wind Project	05-1707	2/6/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
High Prairie Wind II (AKA Prairie Star)	06-1520	2/6/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
Bear Creek Wind Project	07-297	2/15/2013	Unresolved. Commission decision pending. Recommendation made.
Flat Hill Windpark I Wind Project	08-1134	2/15/2013	Compliance filings required prior to date of review had been e-filed.
		3/23/2012	Compliance filings required prior to date of review had been e-filed.
Community Wind South (CWS)	11-863	2/21/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
Moraine Wind I, 01-10-LWECS NE (EQB Issued Permit)	13-142	2/28/2013	Pending resolution. Filings made in response are being reviewed.
Taconite Ridge I Wind Project	07-676	3/21/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
NSP Phase III/Lake Benton II Wind Project, NSP&LBPP-LWECS-1-1998	13-205	3/22/2013	Pending resolution; most missing filings have been e-filed. Recommendation made.
Stone Ray Power Partners, LLC Wind Project	05-1301	3/27/2013	Pending resolution; new permit application is in docket 13-216.
Shaokatan Hills Wind Project (EQB Issued Permit)	13-243	4/1/2013	Pending resolution; some missing filings have been e-filed and some remain unfiled. Recommendation made.
Trimont Wind Project (EQB Issued Permit)	13-258	4/4/2013 4/8/2013 revised review	Pending resolution. Filings made in response are being reviewed.
NSPWGR-1-95, NSP Phase II /Lake Benton I Wind (EQB Permit)	13-294	4/18/2013	Pending resolution; some missing filings have been e-filed and some remain unfiled. Recommendation made.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Docket Number</b>	<b>Annual Review Letter E-Filed</b>	<b>Requested Items Resolved or Pending</b>
Lakota Ridge Wind Project	13-256	4/26/2013	Pending resolution; some missing filings have been e-filed and some remain unfiled. Recommendation made.
Lakeswind Wind Project	08-1449	5/6/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
MinnDakota Wind Project	06-157	5/9/2013	Pending resolution. Filings made in response are being reviewed.
Sibley Wind Project	08-208	5/14/2013	Compliance filings required prior to date of review had been e-filed.
Shell Rock Wind Project	11-195	5/17/2013	Compliance filings required prior to date of review had been e-filed. Permittee requested revocation. Order issued on 11/12/2013.
Morgan Wind Project	09-360	5/23/2013	Compliance filings required prior to date of review had been e-filed.
		3/26/2012	Resolved by petition to extend and 7/26/2012 permit amendment order. Missing filing e-filed.
G.McNeilus Wind, LLC (EQB Issued Permit)	13-483	6/12/2013	Resolved by Commission order to revoke on 11/12/2013.
Moraine Wind II	07-389	6/20/2013	Pending resolution. Filings made in response are being reviewed.
Mower County Wind Energy Center (Was High Prairie Wind I)	06-91	6/26/2013	Pending resolution; most missing filings have been e-filed. Recommendation made.
Woodstock Wind Project (EQB Issued Permit)	13-589	7/8/2013	Pending resolution. Recommendation made.
Jeffers Wind 20	05-1220	07/24/2013	Pending resolution. Filings made in response are being reviewed.
Grant County Wind Project	09-341	7/26/2013	Pending resolution. Filings made in response are being reviewed.
Big Blue Wind Project	10-1238	8/6/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
Prairie Rose Wind Project	10-425	9/4/2013	Compliance filings required prior to date of review had been e-filed.
Oak Glen Wind Project	10-119	9/4/2013	Compliance filings required prior to date of review had been e-filed.
Lakefield Wind Project	09-1239	10/4/2013	Pending resolution. Filings made in response are being reviewed.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Docket Number</b>	<b>Annual Review Letter E-Filed</b>	<b>Requested Items Resolved or Pending</b>
Nobles Wind Project	09-584	11/14/2013	Pending reply. Filings were provided for all filings required at time of the review. Clarifications or e-filings requested.
Bent Tree Wind Project	08-573	11/20/2013	Pending reply.
<b>Other Compliance Reviews</b>			
Mesaba Energy GS Project	06-668	1/14/2013	Resolved. Construction had not started at time of the review and no filings were due at that time.
Hiawatha 115 kV Transmission Line Project	09-38	2/6/2013	Compliance filings required prior to date of review had been e-filed.
MinnCan Pipeline Project	05-2003	2/15/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed. One filing requested to be e-filed had been provided but has not yet been added to the docket.
Bemidji to Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Line Project	07-1327	3/6/2013	Resolved; missing filings e-filed.
Alberta Clipper Petroleum and Southern Lights Diluent Pipelines	07-361	3/22/2013	Pending resolution; some requested filings are being reviewed.