MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

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March 31, 2006

Robert Crowell
High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC
808 Travis St, Suite 700
Houston, TX 77002

Daryl W. Franklin
Director, Mower County Environmental Services
1105 ½ 8th Ave. NE
Austin, MN 55912

RE: 161 kV Substation and 161 kV Transmission Line,
Docket No. PT 6557, 6528, 6556/LR-06-478

Dear Sirs:

This letter confirms that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has received notification that High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC, High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC, and FPL Energy Mower County, LLC (the Applicants) propose to seek local review for the construction of a new 161 kV substation and 161 kV transmission line in Mower County, Minnesota. The project would be constructed near the town of Adams in Mower County.

This project falls under the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes § 116C.51-69 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400, which requires a permit from the PUC for most transmission line projects over 100 kV. However, for eligible projects, an applicant may apply to those local units of government that have jurisdiction over the route for approval to build the project instead of applying to the PUC. The proposed 161 kV substation and 161 kV transmission line projects are eligible for local review. [Minnesota Statutes § 116C.576 and Minnesota Rules 4400.5000 Subps. 2. C., D.]

The Applicants indicated that a Conditional Use Permit application and Draft Environmental Assessment were submitted to Mower County on March 10, 2006. Mower County is the only local unit of government with jurisdiction in permitting the project. A local unit of government may relinquish its jurisdiction by requesting the PUC to assume jurisdiction within 60 days of the filing of an application with the local unit of government. [Minnesota Rules 4400.5000 Subp. 4.]

An environmental assessment must be prepared by the local unit of government with jurisdiction over the project. I acknowledge that Mower County is the Responsibly Governmental Unit for the 161 kV substation and 161 kV transmission line projects.

Specific requirements with regard to the environmental review process include providing an opportunity for the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental assessment before it is prepared; publishing notice in the EQB Monitor of when the assessment is available for review and of the procedure for commenting on the assessment; and withholding a final decision on the project until at least ten days after the notice appears in the EQB Monitor. Mower County also must provide a copy of the environmental assessment to the PUC when it is completed. [Minnesota Rules 4400.5000 Subp. 5.]

The Applicants have sent the required notice to those persons on the PUC facilities permitting general notification list that a permit has been applied for from the local unit of government. [Minnesota Rules 4400.5000 Subp. 3.]

If there are any other questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

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