

**Notice of Public Information Meeting and
Public Comment Period**

**May 9, 2006, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Midwest Center for Wind Energy
Hendricks, Minnesota 56136**

**In the Matter of a Site Permit Application and Draft Site Permit
for the MinnDakota Wind Project in Lincoln County, MN
PUC Docket Number: PT 6530/WS-06-157**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public information meeting will be held on the application by MinnDakota Wind, LLC, an affiliate of PPM Energy, Inc, to build a 100 megawatt (MW) Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) in Lincoln County.

Staff of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct the public information meeting, and will review the state's wind energy site permitting process and Public Utilities Commission (PUC) draft site permit. A brief presentation about the process and project will begin at 7:00 pm. Representatives of the MinnDakota Wind, LLC, will be at the meeting to describe the proposed project and answer questions. Authority for LWECS site permits was transferred to the PUC from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board on July 1, 2005, and responsibility for conducting the public review process was assigned to the DOC.

Project Description

The MinnDakota Wind project is a LWECS of up to 100 MW and will consist of up to 66 wind turbines. The turbines will be either the GE 1.5 MW or a similar wind turbine in the 1.5 -3.0 MW size range mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The towers will be between 70 meters (230 feet) and 90 meters (295 feet) in height. The Project will also require a 34.5 kilovolt (kV) electrical collection and feeder system to deliver power from each turbine to the new Yankee Substation, located in section 5 of Verdi Township. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers for each wind turbine, gravel access roads and possibly an operation and maintenance facility. The Applicant expects to begin construction of the MinnDakota Wind project as early as 2006 and be in-service by the end of 2007.

Proposed Site Location

The proposed project site is located in western Lincoln County, northwest of Lake Benton including portions of Drammen, Verdi, Shakotan, and Hendricks townships.

PUC Site Permit Review Process

PPM Energy filed a site permit application on behalf of MinnDakota Wind, LLC, with the PUC on February 21, 2006, and the PUC accepted the Application on March 20. A draft site permit has been issued and is available for public review and comment. The DOC is now reviewing the MinnDakota Wind site permit application under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, sections 116C.691 - 116C.697) and the Wind Permitting

Rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4401). Upon completion of the public review requirements, the DOC will present the record of this matter to the PUC for a final permitting decision. The PUC will hold a public hearing on the matter as early as June 2006.

Public Comment Period

Interested persons may comment on the site permit application and the draft site permit at the public meeting or may submit written comments starting April 24 and no later than **May 25, 2006**. Written comments should be directed to the Minnesota Department of Commerce at the address below and should include a heading referring to docket number PT 6530/WS-06-157.

Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter as described in Minnesota Rule 4401.0550, subp. 5 (A). All contested case hearing requests must be filed with the DOC (address above) in writing by **May 25, 2006**.

The site permit application, draft site permit and the agency rules guiding the review process are available on the PUC website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=4967>

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Questions about the project and the PUC permitting process may be directed to Mr. Birkholz or Mr. Sokolski with the DOC staff. Mr. Sokolski has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process.

Additional Information

Copies of the site permit application for the MinnDakota Wind Project have been distributed to affected landowners, and township, county and state officials. Copies of the application as well as the draft site permit are available for review at the Lincoln County Auditor's in Ivanhoe, MN. All project documents are available on the PUC Web above.