Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Technical Support
Utility Permits Unit
Mail Stop 678, 6th Floor
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

Office Tel: (651) 366-4635
Fax: (651) 366-4769

May 10, 2010

Larry B. Hartman
State Permit Manager
Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: In the Matter of Paynesville Wind Farm
MPUC Docket No. IP-6830/WS-10-49

Dear Mr. Hartman:

On March 18, 2010, the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) issued a Notice of Application Acceptance and Scoping Meeting, which includes a public comment period regarding the scope of the environmental report (ER) with respect to the applications by Paynesville Wind, LLC for a certificate of need and a site permit for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) located near Paynesville in Stearns County. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has reviewed the site permit application regarding the proposed project and submits the following comments in response to the Notice.

Based on the information provided in the Paynesville Wind Farm Site Permit Application, it does not appear that the project area directly abuts a state trunk highway. However, there may be highway-related considerations related to oversize/overweight hauling of wind turbines and equipment. Specifically, these large loads of freight are often transported via interregional corridors such as TH 23. The TH 23 bypass that is now under construction has a new alignment which appears to skirt the southern portion of the project area near the Paynesville electric substation. Because Mn/DOT's highway construction activities could impact the Applicant's plans to haul oversize loads to the proposed site, the Applicant will need to coordinate with Mn/DOT when planning such loads. If the Paynesville Wind Farm or its associated facilities should happen to intersect with the trunk highway system, the Applicant will need to apply for and obtain permits for those locations.

Any HVTL construction work, including delivery or storage of structures, materials or equipment that may affect Mn/DOT right-of-way is of concern such that Mn/DOT should be involved in planning and coordinating such activities. Please note that if work is required within Mn/DOT right of way for temporary or permanent access, such work should be coordinated with Mark Renn in Mn/DOT's District 3B Utility Permits Office at 320-223-6522 or Mark.Renn@state.mn.us or, for TH 23 Bypass, Geri Vick in Mn/DOT's District 8 Utility Permits Office at 320-214-6364 or Geri.Vick@state.mn.us.

Please note that Mn/DOT is uncertain at this time whether the Paynesville Wind Farm is an entity that has lawful authority to place its facilities in a public road right-of-way. This matter should be addressed in the ER.

Mn/DOT appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kotch
Utility Transmission Route Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Blvd., Mailstop 678
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone (651)366-4635
stacy.kotch@state.mn.us

Enclosures:
TH 23 Right of Way Plat

cc: Justin Pickar –Geronimo Wind Energy
Patrick Smith – Geronimo Wind Energy
Geri Vick – District 8
Mark Renn – District 3B
Steve Voss – District 3