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March 22, 2004

Mr. Raimund Grube
Trimont Wind I, LLC
1125 NW Couch, Suite 700
Portland, OR 97209

RE: Acceptance of Site Permit Application for a LWECS
Trimont Area Wind Farm
Martin and Jackson Counties, Minnesota
EQB Docket #03-72-LWECS-Trimont

Dear Mr. Grube:

On March 12, 2004, Trimont Wind I, LLC (Trimont), filed a Site Permit application for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for the Trimont Area Wind Farm to be located in Martin and Jackson counties.

MEQB staff has reviewed your application and has recommended that I find your application consistent with the requirements of Minnesota Rules, part 4401.0450. Based on the MEQB staff recommendation and my review, I am accepting the Trimont application with the understanding that if additional information is requested by the MEQB staff these requests will be addressed promptly.

Trimont has also applied to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a certificate of need (CON) for the proposed wind farm. Under rules recently adopted by the MEQB, Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7020, the EQB prepares an Environmental Report for the PUC on proposed projects as part of the CON process. Staff is currently preparing an Environmental Report document for the Trimont Area Wind Farm. The public has had an opportunity to participate in the process, and a Public Hearing on the CON is scheduled for April 5, 2004.



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Mr. David Birkholz will be the MEQB's staff project manager for this project, and you may direct any future questions to him. We look forward to working with Trimont to fully address any issues that may be raised in review of this application. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair
Environmental Quality Board