STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Issued: June 21, 2007

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR SITE PERMIT
And
OPEN HOUSE and PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

July 11, 2007
5:30 p.m. Open House
6:30 p.m. Public Information Meeting

Mesabi Range Community and Technical College
1001 Chestnut Street West
Entrance 2S
Virginia, Minnesota

DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABLE
For the proposed Taconite Ridge I Wind Energy Center
MPUC Docket No. E015/WS-07-676

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Minnesota Power has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit to build and operate up to a 25 Megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) on U.S. Steel's Minntac facility in Mountain Iron, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) Energy Facilities Permitting staff will host a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. on July 11, 2007, in Lecture Hall C175 at the Mesabi Range Community and Technical College to provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the proposed draft site permit for the Taconite Ridge I wind project. The public information meeting and comment period will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about the project, the process and the draft site permit. Representatives of DOC and Minnesota Power will be at the meeting to describe the proposed Project and answer questions.

Prior to the Public Information Meeting, Minnesota Power will host an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Commons Area of the Messabi Range Community and Technical College. Staff from Minnesota Power will be available at the open house to discuss the project and answer questions.

Project Description
Minnesota Power proposes to build a 25 MW LWECS utilizing 10 Clipper Liberty 2.5 MW wind turbine generators mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The towers will be approximately 265 feet (80 meters) tall at the hub. The rotor diameter will be 305 – 315 feet. The maximum overall height of the wind turbines will be approximately 417 to 423 feet above grade when one blade is in the vertical position. Minnesota Power anticipates that the project will be in-service in 2008.

An electrical system consisting of 34.5 kV collection lines and facilities providing step-up transformation and 34.5 kV feeder line(s) will deliver power to Minnesota Power's Minntac Substation. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and turbine access roads.

Proposed Site Location

The proposed Project site is located at US Steel's Minntac facility in St. Louis County, near the city of Mountain Iron in the unorganized portion of Township 59 North and Range 18 West. Minnesota Power has wind development rights to approximately 475 acres of the Minntac facility. The project site is bounded by undeveloped land owned by US Steel to the north and east, the Minntac plant to the west and Minntac Mine active operations to the northwest and south.

MPUC Site Permit Review Process

Minnesota Power filed a site permit application with the PUC for the Project on May 29, 2007. PUC accepted the application as complete, made a preliminary determination that a permit may be issued, and issued a draft site permit on June 19, 2007. The Application and draft site permit are available from the web site and project contacts listed below. Landowners and governments within the project boundary will receive a copy of the Application directly from the developer.

The DOC is now initiating the public participation process under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4401). Minnesota's Wind Siting process provides opportunity for the public to comment on the permit application and draft site permit, which include information on the environmental impacts of the project and proposed mitigation measures. No separate environmental review document will be prepared under this process. Upon completion of the public participation process, the DOC will present the record of this matter to the PUC for a final permit decision.

Public Comments

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=19151

Copies of the site permit Application and draft site permit are also available for review at the following location:

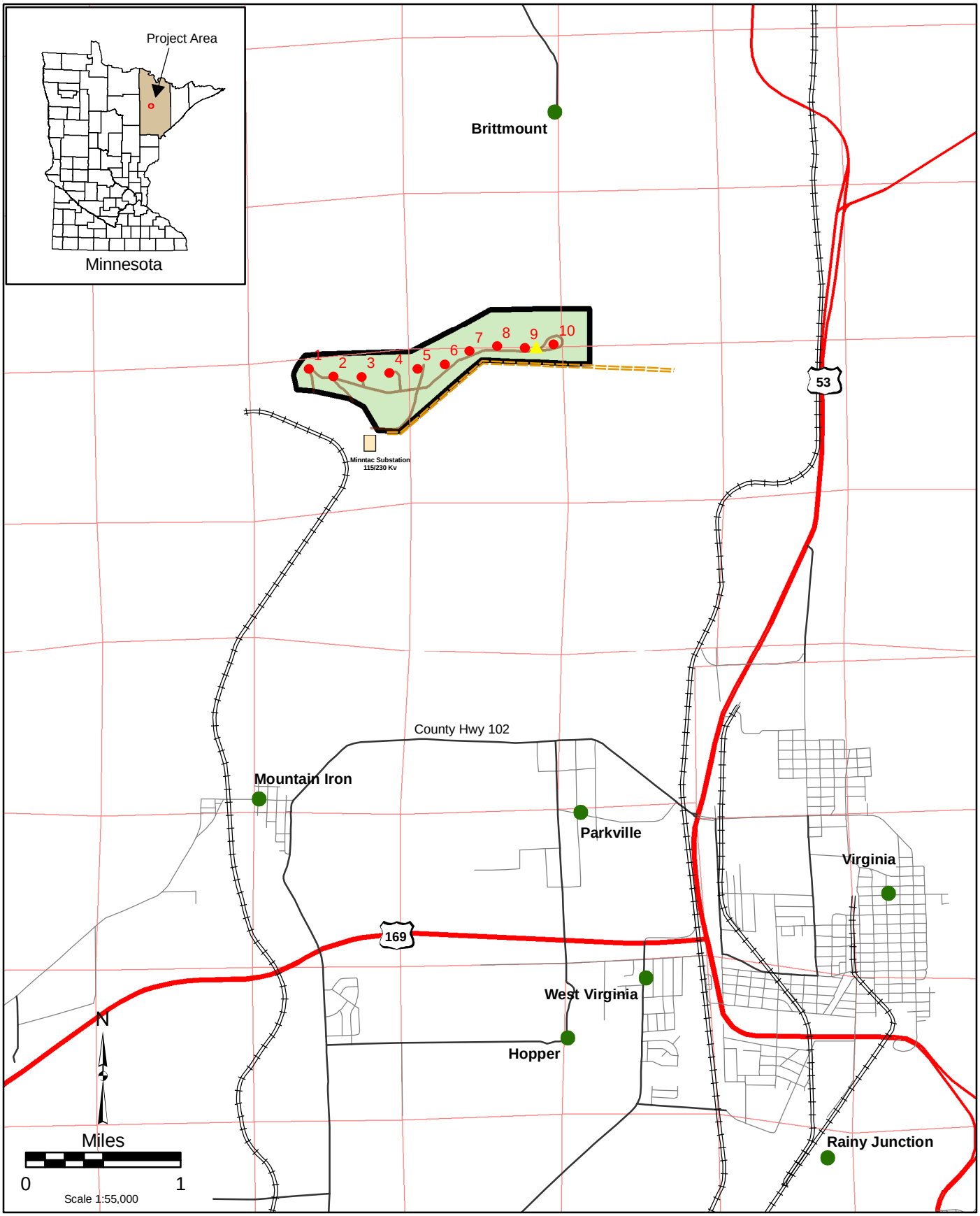
Virginia Public Library
215 S. Fifth Avenue
Virginia, MN
(218) 748-7525

Interested persons may comment on the Application and draft site permit at the public meeting or may submit written comments until 4:30 p.m. on **August 1, 2007.** Written comments can be sent by mail, fax or by email. Please include the following docket number (E015/WS-07-676) on written comments. Written or fax comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Fax: 651-297-7891.

DOC Project Contacts
Questions, comments and requests to add your name on the mailing list for this Project may be directed to: Suzanne Steinhauer, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; Tel: 651-296-2888; Fax: 651-297-7891; e-mail: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us . David Birkholz, with the DOC staff, has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. He can be contacted at: Tel: 651-296-2878; toll free at: 800-657-3794; or e-mail: david.birkholz@state.mn.us and the mailing address above.

Questions about the Taconite Ridge I site permit Application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Mr. Blake Francis, Minnesota Power 218-722-5642 x 3584; e-mail: bfrancis@allete.com .

Contested Case Hearing Request
Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter. Minnesota Rule 4401.0550. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with the Department of Commerce (address above) in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **August 1, 2007**. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reasons why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The PUC shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the hearing will aid the PUC in making a final decision on the site permit application and draft site permit.



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June 2007

Turbine Location
Meteorological Tower
Access Road
Major Road
Transmission Line
Railroad
Project Area
Substation

Taconite Ridge Wind Farm
St. Louis County, Minnesota
Minnesota Power