NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABILITY
Issued: June 18, 2018

In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, LLC for a Site Permit for the Up To 200 MW Blazing Star Wind Project 2 in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: IP6985/WS-17-700 (Site Permit)
Associated Route Permit (separate proceeding): IP6985/TL-17-701 (Transmission Line)

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 8-2500-35225

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public hearing on Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, LLC’s (Blazing Star 2) site permit application for its proposed 200 megawatt Blazing Star Wind Farm 2 in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Date: June 28, 2018
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Hendricks Public School - Gym
200 Lincoln Street
Hendricks, MN 56136

Bad Weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the OAH, will administer this hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding the proposed project and the draft site permit issued by the Commission.

Project Description
Blazing Star 2 has filed a site permit application with the Commission for an up to 200 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS). The site permit application was accepted as complete by the Commission in January 2018. The Commission issued a draft site permit on May 11, 2018. The proposed LWECS would be comprised of 57 to 100 wind turbines ranging from 2 to 3.5 megawatts in size and associated facilities that include a project substation, an operation and maintenance building, access roads, meteorological towers, light range or sonic range detecting units, collection and feeder lines, and a temporary laydown area. The proposed LWECS project footprint would occupy approximately 57,800 acres of land located in Ash Lake, Diamond Lake,
Drammen, Hendricks, Marble, Royal, and Shaokatan townships in Lincoln County, Minnesota. Associated with this facility, but not part of the wind site permit application, is an approximately 7.5-mile 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL). The 115-kV HVTL is independently undergoing a review in Commission Docket No.TL-17-701.

**Public Hearing Information**

- Public hearings start on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Judge Lipman will preside over the public hearing.
- Commission, Department of Commerce, and Blazing Star 2 staff members will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.

**Submit Comments**

**Topics for Public Comment:**

- *Should the Commission issue a site permit?*
- *What are the costs and benefits of the proposed project?*
- *Are there other project-related issues or concerns?*

**Comment Period:** Comments will be accepted through July 9, 2018 at 4:30pm.

**Online** Visit mn.gov/puc, select Speak Up!, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

**Email** Comments can be emailed to publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

**eFiling** Visit mn.gov/puc, select eFiling, and follow the prompts.

**Important** Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission’s website, except in limited circumstances, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

**Process Information**

The Commission must approve a site permit before the project can be built. In November 2017, Blazing Star 2 submitted a wind site permit application. In January 2018, the application was accepted as complete. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. On May 11, 2018, the Commission issued a draft site permit. A draft site permit does not authorize the applicant to begin construction and the Commission may change a draft site permit before the final permit is issued, or the Commission may deny the final permit. The site permit application is available for review at the Siverson Public Library and the draft site permit is available online through the Commission’s eDocket system.
As part of the order issuing the draft site permit, the Commission requested the OAH to assign an ALJ in order to develop the factual record for this project. The judge will use the information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period to write a report for the Commission’s review. The final report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations about the site proposed for the project and will include a summary of the public comments received at the hearing. After the public hearing, the Commission reviews the ALJ’s report and other materials in the docket, and will make the final site permit decision at a separate meeting, expected by August 2018.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:  

Project Mailing List:  Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (17-700), your name, mailing address and email address.

Full Case Record:  See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission’s website - mn.gov/puc, select “Search eDockets,” enter the year (17) and the docket number (700), select “Search.”

Community Locations:  The site permit application is available at the following location:
•  Siverson Public Library, 100 West Garfield, Hendricks, Minnesota, 56136-1001

Minnesota Statutes and Rules:  This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216E, 216F, and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854, available at https://www.revisor.mn.gov/.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor  
Charley Bruce – publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us, or 651-201-2251

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner  
Tricia DeBleeckere – Tricia.Debleeckere@state.mn.us, or 651-201-2254

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager  
Louise Miltich – Louise.Miltich@state.mn.us, or 651-539-1853

Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, LLC Project Contact  
Patrick Smith, Director of Environmental Planning, patrick@geronimo.com, or 952-988-9000

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.
To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.