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Submit to [EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us](mailto:EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us)

**The *EQB Monitor* Publication Calendar for 2012 is included in this edition.**

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**EQB MONITOR**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET**

*EAW Comment Deadline: January 11, 2012*

**Project Title: Matt Holland Farm Sec 27**

**Description:** Matt Holland proposes to expand his existing feedlot by constructing a second 51-foot x 392-foot wean-to-finish hog barn in Section 27 of Berlin Township in Steele County, Minnesota. The proposed barn will house 2,400 wean-to-finish hogs (720 animal units, or AUs) in total confinement. Upon completion of the project, the feedlot will house 4,800 wean-to-finish hogs (1,440 AUs) and 20 cows (in pasture) for a total of 1,464 AUs at the site. Manure will be collected and stored in reinforced poured concrete pits beneath the barns. Manure will be land applied to cropland in the fall after October 1 in accordance with the approved Manure Management Plan.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Permit will also be available for public comment beginning December 12, 2011. The contact person for the NPDES/SDS Permit is Steve Schmidt at 507-206-2618.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>.

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

The *EQB Monitor* is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The *EQB Monitor* is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>.

Upon request, the *EQB Monitor* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Department of Administration. For information on the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
520 Lafayette Road – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 651-296-6300  
Fax: 651-297-2343  
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

**Contact Person:** Charles Peterson, Planner Principal  
Environmental Review Unit  
Prevention and Assistance Division – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
651-757-2856  
[charles.peterson@state.mn.us](mailto:charles.peterson@state.mn.us)

## EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparation of an EIS. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the EAW notice was published in the *EQB Monitor*.

- Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Highway 7 and Louisiana Avenue Interchange Project, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, November 14, 2011 (May 16, 2011)
- Township Cooperative Planning Association (Elmira and Orion Townships, Olmsted County, MN), Griffin Quarry Expansion, November 2, 2011 (September 19, 2011)

## CORRECTION

### EIS SCOPING EAW PREPARATION NOTICE

The notice on the **Perham Resource Recovery Facility Expansion Project** published EQB Monitor on November 28, 2011, contained a typographical error: the day of the public meeting appeared incorrectly as “Thursday.” The correct day and date of the public meeting is **Wednesday, December 14, 2011, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** The public meeting will be held in the **Perham City Council Chambers, 125 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, Perham, Minnesota.** The corrected notice is shown below with the correction highlighted. The comment deadline remains January 5, 2012. We apologize for any inconvenience.

#### **PROJECT TITLE: Perham Resource Recovery Facility Expansion Project**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is public noticing a Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet as the basis for the scoping process for the voluntary Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.

An EIS is being prepared by the MPCA on a proposal by the Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority to modify the Perham Resource Recovery Facility by adding a second heat boiler, as well as a material recovery facility at the site. The expansion would increase the municipal solid waste processing capacity of the facility from 116 to 200 tons per day.

The public comment period on the Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document will end January 5, 2012. There will be a public meeting held at the Perham City Council Chambers, 125 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, Perham, Minnesota, on ~~Thursday~~ **Wednesday**, December 14, 2011, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The event will begin with informal discussions from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This public meeting will be open to the public for interested parties to comment and ask questions regarding the Draft Scoping Document for the preparation of the EIS.

A copy of the Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet/Draft Scoping Decision Document will be posted on the MPCA website, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>.

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**CONTACT PERSON:** Kevin Kain

Planner Principal  
Environmental Review Unit – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Resource Management and Assistance Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
651-757-2482  
[kevin.kain@state.mn.us](mailto:kevin.kain@state.mn.us)

## NOTICES

### MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION Notice of Annual Hearing

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will hold the annual public hearing on the Power Plant Siting and Transmission Line Routing Program at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 29, 2011, in the Large Hearing Room at the Commission's offices, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101. Administrative Law Judge Eric L. Lipman will preside.

The annual hearing is required by Minnesota Statute §216E.07, which provides that:

*The commission shall hold an annual public hearing at a time and place prescribed by rule in order to afford interested persons an opportunity to be heard regarding any matters relating to the siting of large electric generating power plants and routing of high-voltage transmission lines. At the meeting, the commission shall advise the public of the permits issued by the commission in the past year.*

While the Commission grants permits for many different types of energy facilities, this hearing will focus on the process for siting large electric power plants and the routing of high-voltage transmission lines. Also, please be advised that any comments made in this proceeding will not be part of the record in any other Commission docket. Accordingly, if you have comments as to a specific project that is now under review, please be sure to submit those items during the comment period for that docket.

The agenda for the Annual Hearing is available on the Commission's website at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us) under Upcoming Events. The Honorable Eric L. Lipman will take oral or written statements from any person at the Annual Hearing. Written comments may also be submitted until 4:30 PM, February 1, 2012. Please refer to docket number E999/M-11-324 in all correspondence. Comments should be submitted directly to Judge Lipman at:

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
PO Box 64620  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620  
Fax: 651-361-7936  
Email: [Eric.Lipman@state.mn.us](mailto:Eric.Lipman@state.mn.us)  
Web: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), click on “Comment on An Issue”

At the close of the written comment period, Judge Lipman will provide a written summary of testimony given at the hearing and comments received during the comment period to the Commission.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to PUC staff at (651) 296-0406 or via email at [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us).

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Energy Facility Permitting**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND**  
**AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Orono Substation Replacement  
and new 115 kV Transmission Line Project**

**PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-11-223**  
**OAH Docket Number: 8-2500-22429-2**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application by Xcel Energy for the Orono Substation Replacement and new 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Orono, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. Hearings may conclude earlier where all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

December 15, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Orono City Hall  
Council Chambers  
2750 Kelley Parkway  
Orono, MN 55356  
952-249-4600

The purpose of the hearing is to gather public comments on the most prudent route for the Orono Substation Replacement and new 115 kV Transmission Line Project and issues that should be addressed in a route permit for the project. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Eric L. Lipman will preside at the hearing. Any person who

would like to comment on the project route or issues that should be addressed in a route permit may do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Lipman.

The hearing record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Friday, January 6, 2012**, for the receipt of written comments. Comments should be submitted directly to Judge Lipman at:

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
P.O. Box 64620  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620  
Fax: (651) 361-7936  
[Eric.Lipman@state.mn.us](mailto:Eric.Lipman@state.mn.us)

**Conduct of Hearing.** The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. § 216E, Minn. R. 7850.3800). Members of the public will have an opportunity to offer testimony, submit materials into the record, and ask questions. Any person who wishes to ask a question, but does not want to ask the question personally, may submit it in writing to the ALJ who will then ask the question during the hearing. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If necessary, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ. Upon completion of the hearing, a transcript of the proceedings will be available at local libraries.

At the close of the written comment period, Judge Lipman will provide a report including a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the comment period to the Commission. Upon receipt of the ALJ's report, the Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application.

**Request for Accommodation.** Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

**Environmental Assessment.** Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff has completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project. The EA analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project as well as possible mitigative measures. Electronic versions of the EA, maps of the proposed project, and other documents relevant to this matter will be available for viewing after November 30, 2011, on the Commission's energy facility permitting website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32082>. Additionally, documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "223").

The EA will also be available after November 30, 2011, at the locations noted below:

Orono City Hall Planning and Zoning Department 2750 Kelley Parkway Orono, MN 55356	Maple Plain Library 5184 Main Street East Maple Plain, MN 55359	Long Lake Library 1865 Wayzata Boulevard West Long Lake, MN 55365
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**Project Description.** The Project, as proposed by the Applicant, would replace the existing 69 kV Orono Substation with a new 115 kV Substation at the same location, but with a larger footprint. The Project would connect the new substation to the existing Xcel Energy 115 kV transmission line 0831 through new double

circuit 115 kV transmission lines of approximately 0.4 miles. The Project, as proposed, would also relocate approximately 0.2 miles of 115 kV transmission line. While not part of the Route Permit requested by Xcel Energy, approximately 400 feet of the existing Great River Energy 69 kV transmission line BD would be rerouted around the new Orono Substation.

Xcel Energy proposes to use steel single-pole structures with spans of approximately 300 to 500 feet between poles; structure heights are anticipated to range from 70 to 90 feet for the single-circuit structures to 75 to 115 feet for the double-circuit structures. Xcel Energy is requesting a route width of approximately 400 feet, or 200 feet either side of the proposed alignment shown in the Application maps. The anticipated right-of-way for the new transmission line would be 75 feet.

The Project is located entirely within the city of Orono in Hennepin County. Xcel Energy estimates the cost for the Project at approximately \$5.3 million dollars.

**Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like further information about this project, please contact:

Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-2888 or 1-800-657-3794  
[suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)

Raymond Kirsch, Public Advisor  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-2878  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

Information about the project may also be obtained by contacting Joseph G. Sedarski at Xcel Energy (612-330-6435, [joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com](mailto:joseph.g.sedarski@xcelenergy.com)). Mr. Sedarski may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, MP-8, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

**Project Mailing List.** Interested persons can add their names to the mailing list for this project by contacting the state permit manager or public advisor, or by registering on-line at: [www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us).

## STATE OF MINNESOTA

### Department of Commerce

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE AND COMMENT PERIOD

**In the Matter of the Site Permit Application of Ellerth Wind LLC  
for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Marshall County**

**PUC Docket Number: IP-6855/WS-11-608**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Ellerth Wind LLC (EW) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a site permit to build and operate Ellerth Windpark, a 98.9 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Marshall County. The Commission issued an order accepting the site permit application on December 7, 2011.

**Site Permit Review Process.** Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff, on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the permit review process for the Ellerth Windpark under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes chapter 216F) and Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules chapter 7854). Upon completion of this process, the EFP staff will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision.

**Comment Period.** EFP staff is soliciting comments on issues that should be considered in developing a draft site permit for this project. Such issues include unique characteristics of the proposed site or project that should be considered and items that may be missing or mischaracterized in the site permit application. **EFP staff will accept written comments on issues to consider in developing a draft site permit until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2012.** Please include the PUC Docket No. IP-6855/WS-11-608 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Larry B. Hartman  
State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198  
Fax: 651-296-7588  
[larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)

Comments can also be entered on the Commission's energy facility permitting website,  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>.

Based on comments received, EFP staff will prepare and submit a draft site permit to the Commission for consideration. If the Commission issues a draft site permit for public review and comment, a public meeting will be held in the project area and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide additional comments. Persons on the EFP mailing list for the project will receive notice of all public and Commission meetings.

**Project Description.** The proposed Ellerth Windpark project site (see map below) is comprised of approximately 33,709 acres of mostly agricultural land in the townships of Wright (Sections E½ SE¼ 36), West Valley (S1/2 30, 31-35), Foldahl (1, 2, 11-13, 24, 25, 36), Marsh Grove (1-13, 19-23, 26-35), Comstock (1), and Viking (2-6) in Marshall County. Ellerth Wind is considering use of one of three different wind turbines that vary from 1.6 to 2.3 MW in size and has identified preliminary site layouts for the General Electric 1.6 MW, Vestas 1.8 MW V90, and Siemens 2.3 MW SWT – 101 wind turbines in its site permit application.

The application provides maps illustrating preliminary turbine layouts, sound contour profiles and shadow flicker analysis for these three turbine models. However, Ellerth also indicates that they may also select a different turbine model than those specified. Regardless of the turbine model selected, the hub heights would range from 80 to 100 meters (262.5 to 328.1 feet) and the rotor diameter from 90 to 101 meters (295.3 to 331 feet).

The turbines will be connected by a series of 34.5 kV underground electrical collection cables and communication fiber-optic lines. Overhead or underground 34.5 kV feeder lines will carry electrical energy from interconnection points to the project substation, where the power will be transformed from 34.5 kV to 115 kV via a new transformer that will deliver electrical energy to the grid on an Otter Tail Power Company 115 kV transmission line.

Other associated facilities will include pad mounted transformers, all weather gravel access roads to the turbines, one to three permanent free standing meteorological towers and an operations and maintenance facility.

**Eminent Domain.** Ellerth Wind does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the project must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and Ellerth Wind.

**Project Documents.** Electronic versions of the site permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed project are available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32308> and on the Commission's eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "608").

The site permit application is also available for review at the locations noted below:

<b>Godel Memorial Library</b> 314 East Johnson Warren, MN 56762	<b>Newfolden Community Center</b> 145 East First Street Newfolden, MN 56738
<b>Marshall County Auditor's Office</b> 208 East Colvin Warren, MN 56762	Clerks in Wright, West Valley, Foldahl, Marsh Grove, Comstock, and Viking Townships
<b>Thief River Falls Public Library</b> 102 Main Avenue South Thief River Falls 56701	

**Mailing List.** Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP mailing list for this project should contact the state permit manager or the public advisor, or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>.

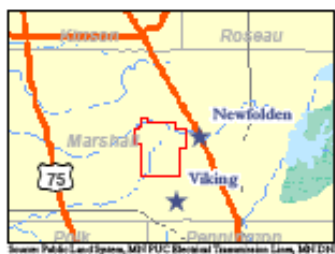
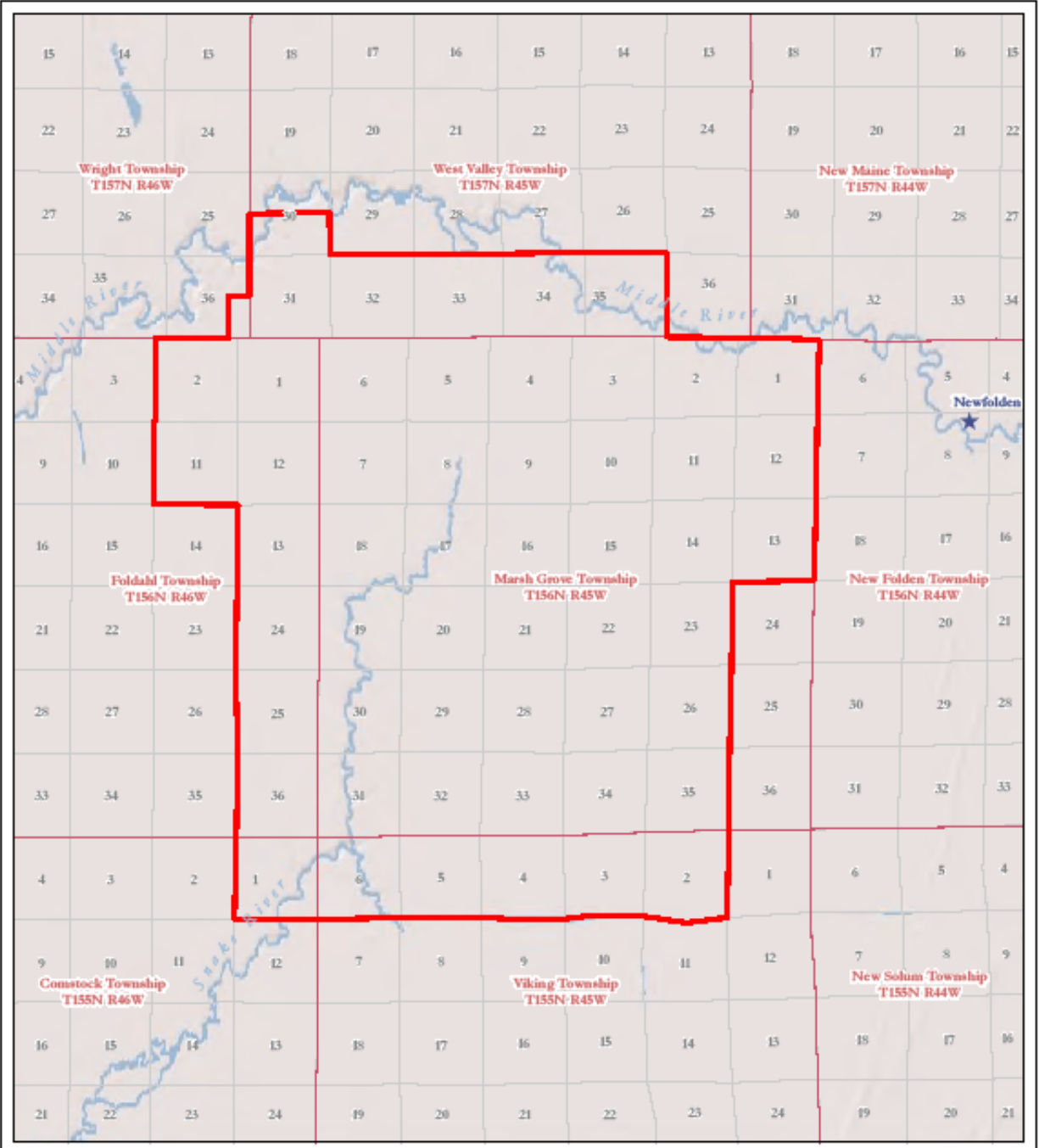
**Project Contacts and Information.** If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project please contact:

Larry Hartman, State Permit Manager  
 Minnesota Department of Commerce  
 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
 St. Paul, MN 55101  
 (651) 296-5089  
 Fax: 651-297-7891  
[larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)

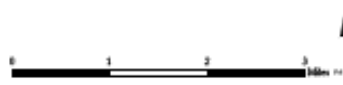
Jamie MacAlister, Public Advisor  
 Minnesota Department of Commerce  
 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
 St. Paul, MN 55101  
 (651) 297-1335  
[jamie.macalister@state.mn.us](mailto:jamie.macalister@state.mn.us)

Questions about the project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Rory Cantwell, at 514-842-1923 or [rory.cantwell@tcir.net](mailto:rory.cantwell@tcir.net).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.



- Project Boundary
- Township Boundary



Project Boundary  
Ellerth Windpark  
Ellerth Wind LLC  
Marshall County, Minnesota



Source: Public Land Survey, MN PUC Electrical Transmission Lines, MN DNR Public Water Inventory, ESRI USA Base Map and Shapefiles, and Project data provided by TCI Renewable (12/14/2010).

### ***EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2012***

<b>Volume Number</b>	<b>Deadline for Submission</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>EAW Comment Deadline</b>
36-1	December 30 <b>(Friday)</b>	January 9	February 8
36-2	January 13 <b>(Friday)</b>	January 23	February 22
36-3	January 30	February 6	March 7
36-4	February 13	February 20	March 21
36-5	February 27	March 5	April 4
36-6	March 12	March 19	April 18
36-7	March 26	April 2	May 2
36-8	April 9	April 16	May 16
36-9	April 23	April 30	May 30
36-10	May 7	May 14	June 13
36-11	May 21	May 28	June 27
36-12	June 4	June 11	July 11
36-13	June 18	June 25	July 25
36-14	July 2	July 9	August 8
36-15	July 16	July 23	August 22
36-16	July 30	August 6	September 5
36-17	August 13	August 20	September 19
36-18	August 27	September 3	October 3
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36-20	September 24	October 1	October 31
36-21	October 8	October 15	November 14
36-22	October 22	October 29	November 28
36-23	November 5	November 12	December 12
36-24	November 19	November 26	December 26
36-25	December 3	December 10	January 9, 2013
36-26	December 17	December 24	January 23, 2013