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Submittal Deadline: March 1, 2010

# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: March 24, 2010

### Project Title: Manganese Bulk Sampling Project near Emily

**Description:** The project uses a small-scale application of water jet technology to collect bulk sample from an underground iron manganese formation. Water is injected into the mineral zone; mineral-water slurry is pumped to the surface and dewatered; and recovered solids are shipped offsite for study. The project is being proposed by Cooperative Mineral Resources (CMR), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Crow Wing Power.

The EAW addresses a number of issues relating to potential project impacts. These issues include but are not limited to: potential conflicts with past and surrounding land uses; cover types; wildlife resources; physical impacts on water resources; water use; erosion and sedimentation; surface water runoff; wastewaters; solid wastes, hazardous wastes, stationary source air emissions; visual impacts; infrastructure and public services; traffic; noise; and cumulative effects including: impacts to aquatic systems and wildlife; streamflow, and water quality.

A copy of the EAW is available online at [mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov). (Click on "Public Input", then select "Cooperative Minerals EAW" from the scroll-down list under "Environmental Review"). Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-5163.

Public comments on the EAW will be accepted during the 30-day public review period from February 22 to March 24, 2010. A copy of the EAW is available for public review at:

- MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155;
- MDNR Regional Headquarters, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

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  
658 Cedar St., 300 Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1388  
Phone: 651-201-2480  
Fax: 651-296-3698  
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55401;
- City of Brainerd Public Library, 416 South 5<sup>th</sup> St., Brainerd, MN 55401

Written comments on the EAW must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 to the attention of Kirk Rosenberger, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025.

Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to [environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us) with “Cooperative Minerals EAW” in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, please include your name and mailing address. Written comments may also be sent by fax to 651-297-1500.

**RGU:** Department of Natural Resources

**Contact Person:**

Kirk Rosenberger  
EAW Project Manager  
Environmental Policy and Review Unit  
Division of Ecological Services  
Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

**Project Title: Northbound I-35W MnPASS Express Lane Extension, City of Burnsville, Dakota County**

**Description:** The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) is proposing to construct an additional (third) lane on northbound Interstate 35W (I-35W) from approximately Southcross Drive to Burnsville Parkway in Burnsville, Minnesota. The additional lane will be a MnPASS express lane for high occupancy vehicles and single occupancy vehicles paying an electronic toll. Roadway construction is within the I-35W median. Ponding locations and a concrete median barrier with curb and gutter drainage system are also proposed. The project includes two 20-foot tall noise barriers proposed along the east and west sides of I-35W between Burnsville Parkway and McAndrews Road.

Copies of the EAW, which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning **February 22, 2010**, at the following locations:

- Mn/DOT Project Website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/burnsvillemnpass/>
- Mn/DOT Metro District Offices, 1500 West County Road B2, Roseville
- Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway, Burnsville
- Burnhaven Library, 1101 West County Road 42, Burnsville

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EAW, a public information/open house meeting has been scheduled for **Tuesday, March 9, 2010 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Burnsville City Hall in the Large Community Room (100 Civic Center Parkway, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337)**. Individuals with a disability, who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the

public meeting, please contact the Mn/DOT Project Manager (see below) or the Minnesota Relay Service at the telephone numbers listed below.

The EAW can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling Sheila Kauppi, Project Manager, at (651) 234-7718 or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 or (651) 296-9930 TTY.

Copies of the EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on **February 22, 2010**. Comments will be accepted through **Wednesday, March 24, 2010**.

**Project Proposer**

Minnesota Department of Transportation

**RGU**

Minnesota Department of Transportation

**Contact Person**

Sheila Kauppi

Mn/DOT Project Manager

Waters Edge Building, MS 050

1500 West County Road B2

Roseville, MN 55113

[sheila.kauppi@state.mn.us](mailto:sheila.kauppi@state.mn.us)

Phone(651) 234-7718

**FINAL AUAR ADOPTED****City of Carver  
RESOLUTION NO. 103-10****A RESOLUTION ORDERING ADOPTING THE FINAL ALTERNATIVE URBAN AREA WIDE  
REVIEW AND MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE CARVER FREEWAY COMMERCIAL AREA**

**WHEREAS**, there is an approximately 164-acre undeveloped property (“Subject Property”) located in Dahlgren Township adjacent to the City of Carver (“City”): and

**WHEREAS**, Mills Properties, Inc., a Wisconsin corporation, and Oppidan, Inc., a Minnesota corporation, and Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust, a Delaware statutory trust, collectively referred to herein as the developers (“Developers”) either own or have expressed interest in developing the Subject Property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Developers would like to develop the Subject Property within the City as a planned development containing a mix of commercial uses and associated infrastructure servicing the development; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has determined that the scale and intensity of anticipated development in the Carver Freeway Commercial Area has the potential for significant environmental impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the scale of future development in the Freeway Commercial Area, the City has determined that it is most appropriate to plan for the area under provisions of the Alternative Urban Area-wide (“AUAR”) process, as described by Section 4410.3610 of the EQB Rules; and

**WHEREAS**, Dahlgren Township and the City have agreed that the City will be the Responsible Governmental Unit (“RGU”);

**WHEREAS**, the City ordered the preparation of the Carver Freeway Commercial AUAR on September 8, 2009 through Resolution Number 130-09;

**WHEREAS**, the City ordered the distribution and publication of the Draft Carver Freeway Commercial AUAR on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 through Resolution Number 138-09;

**WHEREAS**, a public informational meeting was held by the City on November 24, 2009;

**WHEREAS**, written comments were received from the following agencies:

- a. Carver County
- b. Metropolitan Council
- c. Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- d. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- e. Minnesota Department of Transportation
- f. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- g. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

**WHEREAS**, the City prepared and distributed a revised environmental review document in January 2010 addressing the substantive comments received as prescribed by Section 4410.3610, Subpart 5 of the EQB Rules.

**WHEREAS**, no objections were received from any reviewing agencies pursuant to Minnesota Rules 441.3610, subpart 5, paragraph D.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Carver, that,

1. The Final Carver Freeway Commercial AUAR and mitigation plan are hereby adopted pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4410.3610, subpart 5, paragraph E.

Adopted and approved by the City Council of the City of Carver on a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2010.

## **AUAR ADOPTED UPDATE**

### **Project Title: Cedar Grove Redevelopment Area – City of Eagan**

The Eagan City Council at its meeting of December 15, 2009 approved the Updated Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) for distribution to the parties noted above and for publication. Notice was mailed on December 22, 2009 and published on December 28, 2009. The ten day objection period passed without any objections being submitted. A number of comments were received from various agencies. These will be reviewed with the commenting parties to determine whether additional response or clarification is required, but that may occur after formal adoption.

At its meeting of January 19, 2010, the Eagan City Council adopted and update of the AUAR for the Cedar Grove Redevelopment Area.

## **DRAFT EIS AVAILABLE**

### **STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security**

### **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**In the Matter of the  
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission  
Minnesota Power  
HVTL Route Permit Application  
Essar Steel Transmission Line Project**

**PUC Docket Number: E280/TL-09-512**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Essar Steel Transmission Line Project for public comment, as well as the date, location and time for the public meeting.

Copies of the DEIS can be obtained through the OES Project Manager and maybe viewed at the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) web site:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24526>

Copies will also be available for viewing, by February 19, 2010, at the following public libraries:

<b>Hibbing Public Library</b> 2020 East 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave Hibbing, MN 55746 218-362-5959	<b>Calumet Library</b> Gary Street & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Calumet, MN 55716 218-247-3108
<b>Grand Rapids Library</b> 140 NE 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. Grand Rapids, MN 218-326-7640	<b>Keewatin Public Library</b> 125 W 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave Keewatin, MN 55753 218-778-6377

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft EIS.

**Wednesday, March 10, 2010 – 6:00 PM**  
**Taconite Community Center**  
**26 Haynes Street**  
**Taconite, MN 55786**

Representatives from the OES and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the proposed project. The OES will accept written comments on the draft EIS until **March 26, 2010**. Written comments should be mailed to Bill Storm ([bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)), Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198.

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's energy facility permitting website:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>

### **Project Description**

NPUC and MP propose to construct four 230 kV transmission lines and two 230 kV substations. The purpose of the project is to supply reliable electric power to a single source entity - Essar Steel Minnesota (ESM). ESM has obtained state approvals to reactivate the former Butler Taconite mine by developing new facilities, including a taconite pellet plant and steel production plant. The Essar taconite pellet facility is expected to commence initial operation by early 2011, with initial steel plant operation planned for early 2014, at which time the projected demand would be approximately 300 megawatts. Although not committed to, ESM has site approvals for a second steel slab melt line, which would increase the ESM facilities' total electric power requirements to approximately 500-550 megawatts if constructed and at full operation.

The four routes would require approximately 37 miles of new transmission lines.

Additional information on the route permitting process is available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

### **Eminent Domain**

If issued a route permit by the Commission, NPUC/MP may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Stat. 216E.12.

### **Project Documents**

A more detailed explanation of the proposed project is contained in the NPUC/MP route permit application. An electronic version of the application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the PUC

website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24526> or on eDockets by entering “09” and “512” at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

Persons interested in adding their names to the project mailing list should contact the OES project manager or public advisor, or register online at the above PUC site.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651- 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

## NOTICES

### PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

#### **Southeast Regional Landscape Committee Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The Southeast Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the MN DNR office in Lake City, Minnesota.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at (320) 256-8300 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>

#### **Landscape Committee – Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Monday, March 1, 2010, from 10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. in St. Paul at the offices of The Trust for Public Land, 2610 University Avenue, Suite 300.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at (320) 256-8300 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>

### **Minnesota Department of Agriculture**

#### **Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms**

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
10-NO-004	Dow AgroSciences	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance	Dakota, Fillmore
10-NO-005	Pioneer	Corn	Altered Fertility, Insect Resistance, Drought Tolerance	Fillmore, Freeborn, Steele,
10-NO-006	Pioneer	Soybeans	Herbicide Tolerance, Altered	Fillmore,

			Fatty Acid Level, Insect Resistance	Freeborn, Steele
10-NO-007	Pioneer	Soybeans	Herbicide Tolerance, Altered Fatty Acid Level	Chippewa, Clay, Cottonwood, Faribault, Goodhue, Nicollet, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Sherburne, Sibley, Waseca
10-NO-008	Pioneer	Corn	Yield Enhancement, Altered Stalk Attributes, Plant Development, Starch Content, and Maturity, Insect Resistance, Increased Nitrogen Use Efficiency and Yield Stability, Drought Tolerance, Reduced Phytate,	Blue Earth, Clay

For more information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651/201-6277, [mary.hanks@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.hanks@state.mn.us).

## STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

**Issued: February 3, 2010**

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

**In the Matter of the Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC, Applications for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit and a Certificate of Need for the Pleasant Valley Wind Project in Dodge and Mower Counties.**

#### Site Permit and Certificate of Need Applications

**PUC Docket Numbers: IP-6828/WS-09-1197 and IP-6828/CN-09-937**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Office of Energy Security Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff will hold a public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the applications submitted by Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC (Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Renewable Energy Systems Americas



Inc. (RES Americas), to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Site Permit and Certificate of Need (CN) to build and operate the Pleasant Valley Wind Project (Project).

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010**  
**2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

**Each meeting will present the same information and opportunity  
for public discussion so you need only to attend one meeting.**

**WINDMILL HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**120 State Highway 16**  
**Dexter, Minnesota 55926**

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information about the proposed Project and to take public comment and input on the Pleasant Valley Wind Site Permit Application, issues to be considered in developing the Draft Site Permit, and on the scope of the Environmental Report (ER). EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy permitting process. The public is invited to review the Project applications, learn more about the Commission review process, make comments, and ask questions, including suggestions about alternatives to the Project and impacts to address in the ER. Representatives from RES Americas will be available to answer questions about the Project. **Prior to the public information meeting, the Applicant will host an open house beginning at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (a half hour prior to the public meeting) at the Windmill Hotel and Conference Center.**

### **Project Description**

Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC, proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 300 MW using between 130 and 200 utility scale wind turbine generators, depending on what turbines are ultimately selected. Turbines between 1.5 MW and 2.3 MW in nameplate capacity are under consideration. Two turbine models are under consideration; each has a hub height of 80 meters (262 feet). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, six temporary and two permanent meteorological towers, electrical collection system, three substations, and three transmission lines. Two substations will step up the voltage from the 34.5 kV feeder lines to the 138 kV high voltage lines and a third substation will step up the voltage from the 138 kV high voltage lines to a 345 kV high voltage line that will be adjacent to the existing Great River Energy's Pleasant Valley substation. A 6.4 mile 138 kV high voltage transmission line will extend from the north substation and a 7.0 mile 138 kV high voltage transmission line will extend from the south substation, which will both connect to the third proposed substation. A 345 kV high voltage transmission line of less than one half mile in length will be constructed from the third proposed substation to the Pleasant Valley substation. The Applicant expects to begin commercial operation in December 2012.

### **Proposed Site Location**

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 70,000 acres located in southern Dodge and northern Mower counties in Hayfield and Vernon townships of Dodge County and Waltham, Sargeant, Pleasant Valley, Red Rock, and Dexter townships of Mower County. A small portion of the Project is located in Rock Dell Township of Olmstead County. The Project area is located six miles northeast of the city of Austin and approximately 15 miles west of Rochester. Approximately 52,000 acres within the Project area are under the Applicant's control via wind easements. The Applicant has easements providing site control of over 99 percent of the required land for all turbines and infrastructure associated with the Project area.

### **Eminent Domain for Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC**

The Applicant 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 facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicant.

### **Commission Review Process**

Two separate Commission approvals are required to build a LWECs larger than 50 MW. A project developer must obtain a CN under Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243 and a Site Permit under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F.

The Applicant filed its CN application on October 27, 2009, and its Site Permit application on November 23, 2009. The Commission accepted both applications as complete on December 23, 2009, and January 19, 2010, respectively. The applications are available on the Commission's website and from the Applicant's representative listed below. Landowners and governmental units inside the LWECs boundary will receive a copy of the Site Permit application directly from the Applicant.

The EFP staff is responsible for conducting a public meeting and environmental review for the CN application under Minnesota Rule 7849.1400. After the public meeting, EFP staff will prepare an ER, which will consider issues related to the CN, such as size, type, timing, and general environmental impacts of the Project. After completion of the ER, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the CN application, presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under Minnesota law, the CN proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new electrical generating facility can be considered. These items will not be addressed in the Site Permit process.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 216E.05, the Applicant intends to apply to Mower County for a route permit for the two 138 kV lines, but has not done so as of this date. The 345 kV line does not require a route permit because it is less than 1500 feet in length. The Applicant will seek the necessary permits for its proposed transmission line and substations at the county level.

The EFP staff is also soliciting comments on issues that should be included in the Draft Site Permit for the 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. 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, then a public meeting will be held in the project area and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and present comments. Persons on the EFP Mailing List for this project (see below) will receive notice of all public and Commission meetings.

### **Public Comment Period**

The EFP staff will accept written comments on issues that should be considered in developing the Draft Site Permit and suggested alternatives to be evaluated in the ER until **March 15, 2010**. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Ingrid Bjorklund (see contact information below).

### **Project Contacts and Information**

The Site Permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25724>, and on the Department

of Commerce's eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 09-1197 for the Site Permit documents or 09-937 for the CN documents).

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the: Auditor's Offices in Dodge, Mower, and Olmsted counties; City Offices in Sargeant, Hayfield, Waltham, Brownsdale, and Dexter; Township Clerks of Hayfield, Vernon, Waltham, Sargeant, Pleasant Valley, Red Rock, Dexter, and Rock Dell; and the Grand Meadow Library in Mower County and the Dodge Center Public Library in Dodge County.

Questions about the Project and the Public Utilities Commission's permitting process may be directed to:

Ingrid Bjorklund, Project Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 297-7039  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us](mailto:ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us)

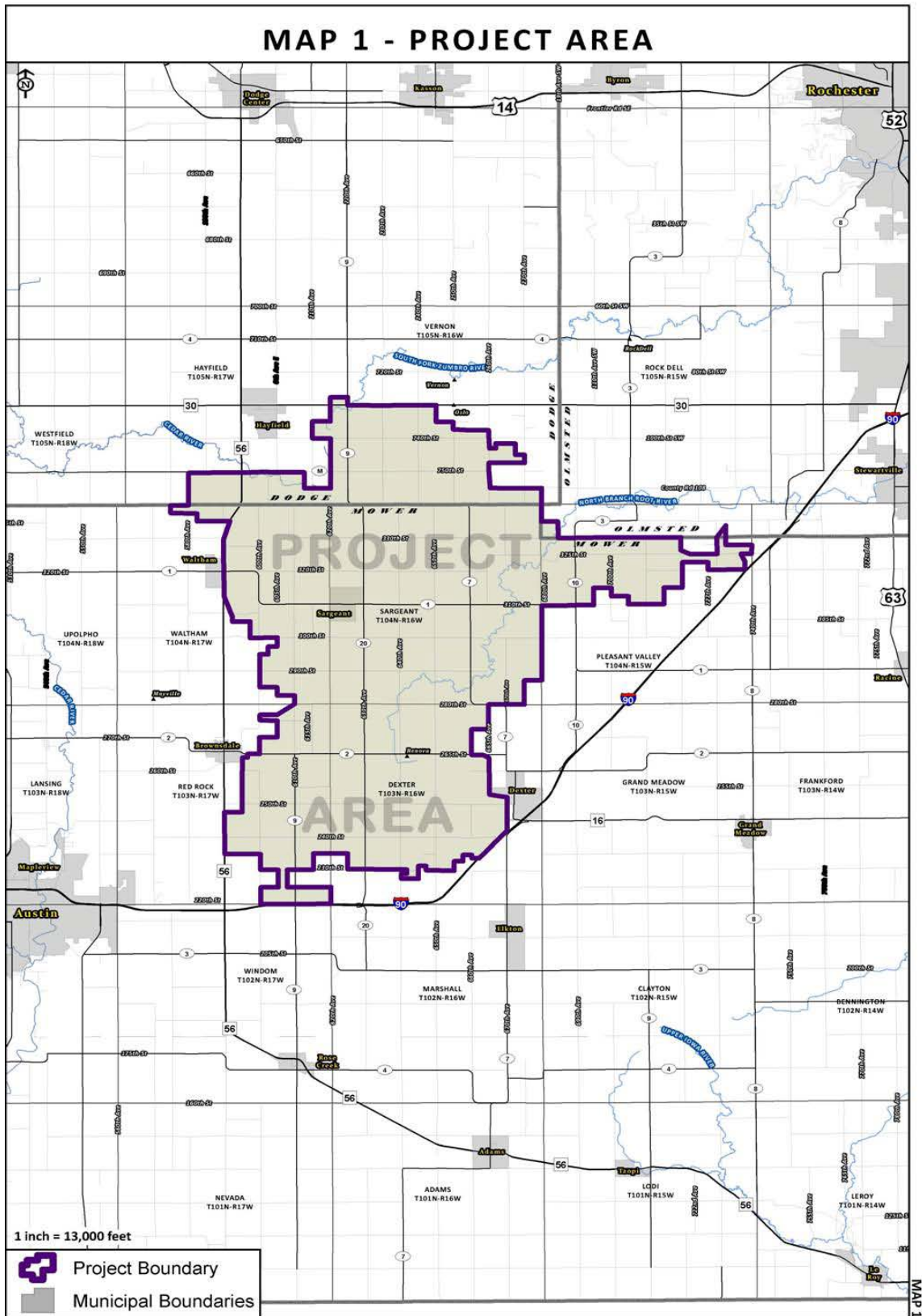
Larry Hartman, Public Advisor  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 296-5089  
Fax: 651-297-7891  
[larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)

Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP Project Mailing List for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at:  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25724>

Questions about the Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC, LWECS Site Permit Application can also be directed to the applicants by contacting the RES America's Permitting Director, Joseph Grennan, at 303-439-4281, [joe.grennan@res-americas.com](mailto:joe.grennan@res-americas.com).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651- 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

*The project map is on the next page...*



**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Office of Energy Security****Issued: February 12, 2010****NOTICED OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
AND  
SCOPING MEETING****AWA Goodhue, LLC, Applications for a Large Wind Energy Conversion  
System (LWECS) Site Permit and a Certificate of Need  
for the 78 MW Goodhue Wind Project  
in Goodhue County, Minnesota****Site Permit and Certificate of Need Applications****PUC Docket Numbers: IP-6701/WS-08-1233 and IP-6701/CN-09-1186**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Office of Energy Security Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff will hold a public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the applications submitted by AWA Goodhue, LLC, (Applicant), to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Site Permit and Certificate of Need (CN) to build and operate the 78 MW Goodhue Wind Farm (Project).

**THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010  
7:00 p.m.****Zumbrota-Mazeppa Middle School Cafeteria  
343 3rd Ave. NE, Mazeppa, MN**

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information about the proposed Project and to take public comment and input on issues to be considered in the scope of the Environmental Report (ER) to be prepared for the Certificate of Need. EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy permitting process. The public is invited to review the Project applications, learn more about the Commission review process, make comments, and ask questions, including suggestions about alternatives to the Project and impacts to address in the ER. Representatives from AWA Goodhue will be available to answer questions about the Project.

**Project Description**

AWA Goodhue, LLC, proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 78 MW using up to 52 of the General Electric (GE) XLE 1.5 MW wind turbine generators, with a 271 foot (82.5) meter rotor diameter. The GE XLE 1.5 MW wind turbine has a hub height of 262.5 feet (80 meters). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, two permanent meteorological towers, electrical collection system, junction boxes that deliver power to the two Project Substations. The two substations will step up the voltage from the 34.5 kV feeder lines to two separate 69 kV transmission lines, one existing and the other proposed.

**Proposed Site Location**

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 32,000 acres located in southern Goodhue County in the townships Belle Creek, Goodhue, Vasa, Minneola and Zumbrota townships just north, west and south of the city of Goodhue. The Applicant believes they have enough easements to provide flexibility in the micro-siting process.

**Eminent Domain for Goodhue Wind Project**

The Applicant **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 facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicant.

**Commission Review Process**

Two separate Commission approvals are required to build a LWECs larger than 50 MW. A project developer must obtain a Certificate of Need (CN) under Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243 and a Site Permit under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F.

The Applicant filed its CN application on October 15, 2009, and its Site Permit application on October 19, 2009. The Commission accepted both applications as complete on December 30, 2009, and November 30, 2009, respectively. The applications are available on the Commission's website and from the Applicant's representative listed below. Landowners and governmental units inside the LWECs boundary should have received a copy of the Site Permit application directly from the Applicant.

The OES EFP staff is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review for the CN Application under Minnesota Rule 7849.1400. The ER will consider issues related to the CN, such as size, type, timing, and general human and environmental impacts of the Project. The ER is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the Project, alternatives to the Project and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The ER must be prepared before the Commission can make a decision on the CN for the Project.

After completion of the ER, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the CN application, presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under Minnesota law, the CN proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new electrical generating facility can be considered. These items will not be addressed in the Site Permit process. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the OES Project mailing list.

In addition to the CN, a Site Permit for a LWECs under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F is required from the Commission before the Project can be constructed. The process for reviewing site permit applications is outlined in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854. After a site permit application is accepted by the Commission, the OES EFP staff initiates the review process in consultation with Commission staff. In this instance, the site permit application was made available for public review and comment until January 22, 2010. Following this comment period, the Commission will make a preliminary determination as to whether a permit should be issued or denied. If the determination is to issue a draft site permit, then a draft site permit is authorized and made available for public review. The Commission may hold a public hearing on the draft site permit in conjunction with the CN proceeding described above.

The Commission will make a final decision on both the CN and the Site Permit after it receives the record of the proceeding from the Administrative Law Judge. If the Project is approved, a CN and Site permit are issued with any conditions the Commission considers necessary to protect the environment, enhance sustainable development, and promote the efficient use of resources.

The Applicant will seek the necessary permits for its proposed transmission line and substations at the county level.

### ***Public Comment Period***

This public information meeting and comment period are the public's opportunity to participate in the determination of the content or "scope" of the ER.

The EFP staff will accept written comments on issues that should be considered and suggested alternatives to be evaluated in the ER until **March 26, 2010**. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Larry Hartman (see contact information below).

### **Project Contacts and Information**

The Site Permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed Project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25631>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 08-1233 for the Site Permit documents or 09-1186 for the CN documents).

Questions about the Project and the Public Utilities Commission's permitting process may be directed to:

Larry Hartman, Project Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
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(651) 296-5089  
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Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP Project Mailing List for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25631>

Questions about the Goodhue Wind Project and its applications can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ben Kerl, Senior Wind Developer, Tel (612) 746-6606, [bkerl@nationalwind.com](mailto:bkerl@nationalwind.com).

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the public library in Zumbrota, the Auditor's Office in Goodhue County, and the city offices in Goodhue and Zumbrota and with the clerks of Belle Creek, Goodhue, Minneola, Vasa and Zumbrota townships.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651- 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

