

The *EQB Monitor*

520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 - www.eqb.state.mn.us
EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us - (651) 757-2873

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Publication Schedule: Mondays at 8:00 AM
Submission Deadline: [View 2018 Schedule](#)
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

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The *EQB Monitor* is a weekly publication announcing environmental review documents, public comment periods and other actions of the Environmental Quality Board. For more information on environmental review, please visit the [EQB website](#).

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Check the [EQB Calendar](#) for more details on *Monitor* deadlines and Board Meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the [EQB Website](#). You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



EQB Announcements

Citizen Environmental Review Survey

The Environmental Quality Board, which oversees the state's Environmental Review program, is undergoing a continuous improvement project to monitor and improve the effectiveness of Environmental Review. Minnesota citizens who have participated in the Environmental Review process are asked to consider taking 10 minutes to complete the survey at the link below. Engagement in the process may include: reviewed a document, attended a public meeting, wrote a comment, contacted staff, etc.

<http://survey.mn.gov/s.asp?k=151335922389>

Contact Person:

Kristin Mroz
Environmental Review Program Staff
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-757-2873
env.review@state.mn.us

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Park 81 Industrial Park

Comment Deadline: March 21, 2018

Project Description: The developer is proposing to redevelop an existing industrial site at 10655 County Road 81 in Maple Grove. The site is approximately 48 acres and currently contains a vacant concrete manufacturing plant. The proposed development includes up to 905,000 square feet of industrial use with associated truck docks, automotive and trailer parking, rail access, stormwater treatment, and landscaping.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Maple Grove

RGU Contact Person:

Dick Edwards
Community Development Director
12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway
Maple Grove, MN 55368
763-494-6045
dedwards@maplegrovern.gov

Notices

NOTICE RESCHEDULING PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETING

NOTICE RESCHEDULING PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETING

Issued: February 12, 2018 In the Matter of the Applications of Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit Application for the Nobles 2 Wind Project in Nobles County.

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: IP6964/CN-16-289 (Certificate of Need) IP6964/WS-17-597 (Site Permit)

Date: February 28, 2018 Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Wilmont Community Center, 316 4th Avenue, Wilmont, MN

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

This meeting was previously scheduled for February 15, 2018. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the proposed project, the state's review process, and to accept verbal or written comments on potential issues for the environmental report and draft site permit that will be prepared.

Project Description On October 13, 2017, Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC submitted applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to construct and operate a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Nobles County. In order to construct the Nobles 2 Wind Project, the applicant must be granted a certificate of need and a site permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The proposed project would entail construction of between 65 to 82 wind turbines for a combined nameplate capacity of up to 260 megawatts (MW) in Bloom, Larkin, Leota, Lismore, Summit Lake, and Wilmont townships in Nobles County. Facilities associated with the project include underground electrical collection and communication lines, a project substation and interconnection switchyard, an operations and maintenance building, and permanent meteorological towers and gravel access roads. The applicant does not have eminent domain authority to acquire land necessary for the project. All leases or easements secured to acquire land for the project are voluntary. The applicant has entered into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Minnesota Power to provide renewable energy for its utility customers in northeastern Minnesota. If approved, Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC anticipates beginning construction in the 3rd quarter of 2018, and commencing operations in the 4th quarter of 2019.

Meeting Information

- The meeting starts on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- State agency staff members run the meeting.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC staff members are available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- The Department of Commerce uses comments received at the meeting and during the comment period to develop the scope of the environmental report and draft site permit for this project.

Submit Comments

Comment Period Written comments will be accepted through Tuesday, March 20, 2018. Please include the PUC Docket Numbers (16-289 and 17-597) in all communications. Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions.

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the environmental document and the draft site permit?
- What are the possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
- Are there any items missing or mischaracterized in the certificate of need or site permit applications?

Online mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment Email david.birkholz@state.mn.us U.S. Mail David Birkholz, Environmental Review Manager Minnesota Department of Commerce 85 7th Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul MN 55101 eFiling Visit mn.gov/puc, select eFiling and follow the prompts. Fax 651-539-0109 Important Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions. Process Information The Commission must approve a certificate of need and a site permit before the project can be built. This is the only proceeding in which the no-build alternative and the size, type, timing, and system configuration will be considered.

The Department of Commerce will issue an environmental report scoping decision, followed by an environmental report and a draft site permit. Upon completion of the environmental report and Commission approval of a draft site permit, a public hearing will be held. The public hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed project. After the public hearing, the Commission reviews all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings. The Commission's final decision on the certificate of need for this project is expected by October 2018. For all process information, see Minnesota Rules 7849 (certificate of need) and 7854 (site permit for large wind energy system).

How to Learn More Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select Search eDockets, enter the year (16 for the certificate of need, 17 for the site permit) and the docket number (289 for the certificate of need, 597 for the site permit), select Search. Department of Commerce Project Website: <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=34736> 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, your name, mailing address and email address.

Community Locations: The certificate of need and site permit applications are available at these locations:

- Nobles County, Treasurer's Office, 315 Tenth Street, Worthington, MN 56187
- City of Wilmont, 316 4th Avenue, Wilmont, MN 56185 • City of Lismore, 249 E 2nd Street, Lismore, MN 56155
- Bloom Township, c/o Nan Henning, 11761 Knauf Avenue, Fulda, MN 56131
- Larkin Township, c/o William Slater, 17731 Erickson Avenue, Rushmore, MN 56168 • Leota Township, c/o Brent Feikema, 15344 120th Street, Lismore, MN 56155
- Lismore Township, c/o Jeffrey Lynn, 17852 Bulick Avenue, Lismore, MN 56155
- Summit Lake Township, c/o JoAnn Burkard, 17679 McCall Avenue, Reading, MN 56165
- Wilmont Township, c/o Mary Brake, 12171 Erickson Avenue, Wilmont, MN 56185
- Nobles County Public Library, 407 12th Street, Worthington, MN 56187. Minnesota Statutes and Rules:

This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes Chapters 216B, 216E, and 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapters 7849 and 7854, available at www.revisor.mn.gov

Project Contacts Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager Jamie MacAlister – jamie.macalister@state.mn.us, 651-539-1875 or 1-800-657-3794 David Birkholz – david.birkholz@state.mn.us, or 651-539-1838 Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor Contact Charley Bruce, publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251 Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Permitting Planner Michael Kaluzniak – mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257 Nobles 2 Power Partners, LLC Project Contact Jeremy Duehr – jduehr@fredlaw.com or 612-492-7413 Scott Seier – sseier@tenaska.com or 402-691-9510

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 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.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Department of Commerce

RGU Contact Person:

Jamie MacAlister
Environmental Review Manager
85 7th Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101
651-539-1775
jamie.macalister.@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Project Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-05. Notification is for genetically modified CORN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number 18-016-103n. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-2 locations with up to 25 acres per location; Brown-1 location with 25 acres, Fillmore-1 location with 4.5 acres, and Swift-1 location with 15 acres. Project categories include OO (Other), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), AP (Agronomic Properties), MG (Marker Gene), FR (Disease Resistance).

Project Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-06. Notification is for genetically modified CORN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number 18-016-104n. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-2 locations with up to 25 acres per location; Brown-1 location with 25 acres, Fillmore-1 location with 4.5 acres, and Swift-1 location with 15 acres. Project categories include OO (Other), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), AP (Agronomic Properties), MG (Marker Gene), FR (Disease Resistance).

Project Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-07. Notification is for genetically modified SOYBEAN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number 18-017-101n. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-1 locations with 80 acres. Project categories include OO (Other), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), AP (Agronomic Properties), MG (Marker Gene), FR (Disease Resistance), PQ (Product Quality).

Project Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-08. Notification is for genetically modified SOYBEAN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number 18-017-102n. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-1 locations with 80 acres. Project categories include HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Gene), FR (Disease Resistance), PQ (Product Quality).

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Plant Protection Division

RGU Contact Person:

Denise Thiede
Section Manager
625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-6531
denise.thiede@state.mn.us

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING

In the Matter of the Applications of Flying Cow Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit Application for the Bitter Root Wind Project in Yellow Medicine County. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the proposed project, the state's review process, and to accept verbal or written comments on potential issues for the environmental report and draft site permit that will be prepared.

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: IP-6984/CN-17-676 (Certificate of Need) and IP-6984/WS-17-749 (Site Permit)

Date: February 27, 2018 Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Canby Elementary School, 307 First Street W, Canby, MN 56220

On October 19 and November 9, 2017, Flying Cow Wind, LLC submitted applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to construct and operate a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Yellow Medicine County. In order to construct the Bitter Root Wind Project, the applicant must be granted a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission. The proposed project would entail construction of 37 wind turbines for a combined nameplate capacity of 152 megawatts (MW). The project's associated facilities would also include gravel access roads, an electrical collection system, temporary and permanent meteorological towers, a project substation facility, an interconnection facility, a temporary concrete batch plant for construction, a temporary staging/laydown construction area, and an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility. The project area includes approximately 22,888 acres in Florida, Fortier, and Norman townships in Yellow Medicine County.

Comment Period: Written comments will be accepted through Monday, March 19, 2018. Please include the Commission's Docket Numbers (17-676 and 17-749) in all communication. Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions.

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the environmental document and the draft site permit?
- What are the possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
- Are there any items

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Department of Commerce

RGU Contact Person:

William Cole Storm
Environmental Review Manager
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
651-539-1844
bill.storm@state.mn.us