



# The *EQB Monitor*

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**Publication Date: March 27, 2017**  
Vol. 41, No. 13

**Publication Schedule:** Mondays at 8:00 AM  
**Submission Deadline:** [View 2017 Schedule](#)  
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

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](#).

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# Environmental Assessment Worksheets

## Project Title: Tire Aggregate, LLC

**Comment Deadline:** May 16, 2017

**Project Description:** Tire Aggregate, LLC (Proposer) plans to install and operate a tire shredder within an existing gravel mining operation located in Section 23, Brevator Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota (Project). The tire shredder will shred used whole tires into 12-inch pieces using a low speed, high torque electric shredder to produce Tire Derived Aggregate (TDA). The Proposer will store TDA in concrete bins for use in geotechnical applications such as road base, wall backfill, slope stabilization, and stormwater detention chambers.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will host a public informational meeting on Monday, May 1st, at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, regarding the Environmental Assessment Worksheet and the proposed solid waste permit for Tire Aggregate LLC. An open house for informal questions and answers will take place prior to the meeting outside the meeting rooms from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The meeting will be in Cloquet, Minnesota, at Community Memorial Hospital, 512 Skyline Blvd., Cloquet, MN 55720. Please use the main parking lot, and the Oak and Pine meeting rooms are on the Ground Floor.

A copy of the Notice of Availability and the EAW can be found on the MPCA website at the following address: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/environmental-review/environmental-assessment-worksheets-and-environmental-impact-statements.html>

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**RGU Contact Person:**

Charles Peterson  
520 Lafayette Rd N  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-757-2856  
[charles.peterson@state.mn.us](mailto:charles.peterson@state.mn.us)

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## Project Title: Woodbury Lakes Theatre

**Comment Deadline:** April 26, 2017

**Project Description:** A new movie theatre is proposed in a currently undeveloped portion of the Woodbury Lakes commercial center. Two restaurants had previously been considered at this location. The theatre will include approximately 1,000 seats and will include a bar/restaurant area primarily for theatre patrons. The project also includes enhancements to existing parking areas.

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** City of Woodbury

**RGU Contact Person:**

Sharon Doucette  
Environmental Resource Coordinator  
8301 Valley Creek Road  
Woodbury, MN 55125  
651-714-3538  
[sharon.doucette@woodburymn.gov](mailto:sharon.doucette@woodburymn.gov)

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## Notices

### NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AVAILABILITY

Issued: March 17, 2017

**In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit for the Blazing Star Wind Farm in Lincoln County, Minnesota**

**Docket Numbers: IP6961/CN-16-215 and IP6961/WS-16-686**

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has issued the Environmental Report (ER) for the proposed Blazing Star Wind Farm in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

The ER analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and methods to avoid and mitigate such impacts, including alternatives.

Electronic versions of the ER, maps of the proposed project, and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing on the Department's website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34561>, and on the State of Minnesota's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "16" and the number "215" or the year "16" and the number "686").

A print copy of the ER will be available at the following location:

- Hendricks Public Library, 100 W Garfield Street, Hendricks, MN 56136

A public hearing for the Project will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 3, 2017, at the Hendricks Public School in Hendricks, Minnesota. Notice of the hearing will be issued separately and is available on the above-noted websites.

If you have questions about the ER or would like a hard copy of the ER, contact the Department's environmental review manager for this project, Richard Davis, 651-539-1846, [richard.davis@state.mn.us](mailto:richard.davis@state.mn.us).

Kevin George is the public advisor for this project. Contact Mr. George at 651-201-2251 (1-800-657-3782), [kevin.george@state.mn.us](mailto:kevin.george@state.mn.us).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-539-1530.

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# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABILITY

Issued: March 17, 2017

**In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit for the up to 200 Megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County**

**PUC Docket Number:** IP-6961/CN-16-215 (Certificate of Need)  
IP-6961/WS-16-686 (Site Permit)

**OAH Docket Number:** 71-2500-34030

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing on the certificate of need and site permit applications by Blazing Star Wind, LLC, for its proposed 200 megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

**Date:** Monday, April 3, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Hendricks Public School, 200 Lincoln Street, Hendricks, Minnesota 56136

To find out if a meeting has been cancelled due to bad weather call 1-855-731-6208 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

The Honorable Jessica A. Palmer-Denig, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the Office of Administrative Hearings, will administer this hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments regarding the proposed project, the environmental report issued by the Department of Commerce, and the draft site permit issued by the Commission.

## **Project Description**

Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC, has filed certificate of need and site permit applications with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for an up to 200 megawatt large wind energy conversion system. The proposed large wind energy conversion system would be comprised of 57 to 100 wind turbines ranging from 2 to 3.5 megawatts in size. Associated facilities include a project substation, an operation and maintenance building, access roads, meteorological towers, light range or sonic range detecting units, underground communication and electrical collection lines, transformers, and an approximately 1,000-foot long 345 kilovolt transmission line. The proposed project footprint would occupy approximately 37,200 acres of land located in Hansonville, Hendricks, and Marble townships in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

## **Written Comment Period**

**Comment Period:** A comment period is open from the date of this notice until **Monday, April 17, 2017**. Please include the Commission's Docket Numbers (16-215 and 16-686) and OAH Docket Number (71-2500-34030) in all communications.

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

- Should the Public Utilities Commission issue a certificate of need and a site permit for the project?
- Is the proposed project needed and in the public interest and are there any of the factors under Minn. R. 7853.0130 (certificate of need criteria) that have particular importance in this case?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of the project under consideration and how can these impacts be addressed in the site permit?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

**Comments may be submitted via:**

**U.S. Mail:** Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

**Online:** [Visit mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select Speak Up!, select Open Discussions, and find this docket

**eFiling:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select eFiling and follow the prompts.

**Note:** All comments made at the public hearing indicated by this notice carry the same weight as written comments submitted during the written comment period.

**Important:** Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered. Comments will be made available to the public via the 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. The certificate of need and site permit applications are being processed jointly. This hearing satisfies the public hearing requirement for the certificate of need application (Minn. R. 7829.2500, subp. 9) and the public information meeting requirement for the site permit application (Minn. R. 7854.0800, subp. 4).

On Monday, February 27, 2017 the Commission issued a draft site permit for the 200 megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in accordance with Minn.R. 7854.0800, subp. 3. The draft site permit does not authorize a person to construct the project. The Commission may change the draft site permit in any respect before a final permit is issued or may deny the site permit. The draft site permit is available for review on the Commission's eDocket system.

On March 15, 2017, the Department of Commerce issued an environmental report for the certificate of need component of the project. The public hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to provide comments on the draft site permit and the environmental report.

Following the written comment period ending April 17, 2017, the applicant will have the opportunity to respond to the comments made. The ALJ will submit findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation to the Commission. The Commission will schedule a meeting to consider the matters, anticipated in July 2017.

### **Learn More**

**Full Case Record:** The documents filed in this matter are available at: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select eDockets, enter the year (16) and the docket number (215 or 686), select Search.

**Department of Commerce Website:** <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34561>.

**Subscribe to the Docket:** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select Subscribe, and follow the prompts.

**Project Mailing List:** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate in meetings and comment periods. Contact [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (16-215 or 16-686), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Community Locations:** Copies of the certificate of need and site permit applications are available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Hendricks Public Library, 100 West Garfield Street, Hendricks, Minnesota 56136

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules:** This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes chapters 216B and 216F and Minnesota Rules chapters 7829, 7849, and 7854, available at [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov).

### **Contacts**

#### **Public Utilities Commission**

Kevin George, Public Advisor: [kevin.george@state.mn.us](mailto:kevin.george@state.mn.us); 651-201-2251 or 1-800-657-3782

Scott Ek, Energy Facilities Planner: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us); 651-201-2255

#### **Department of Commerce**

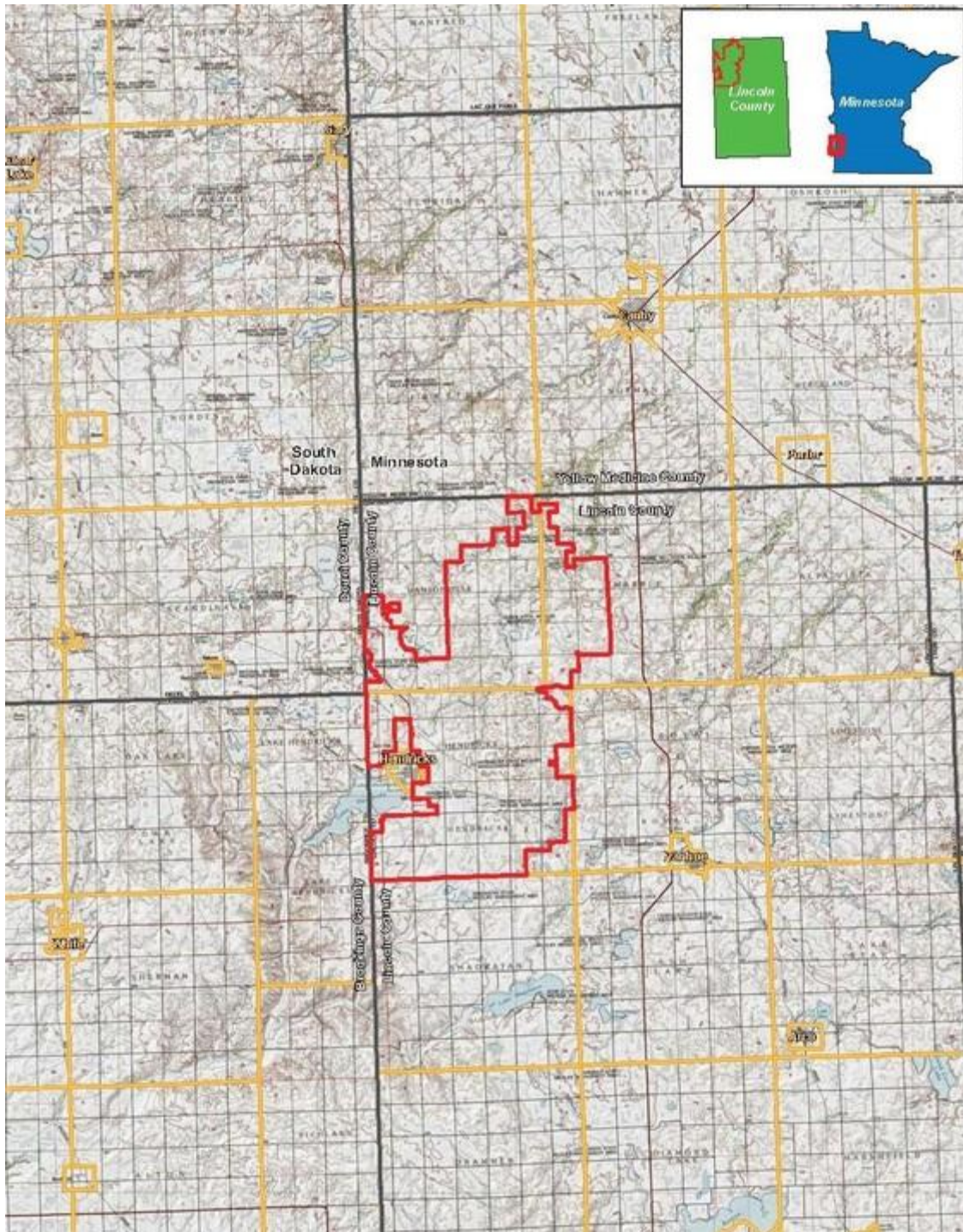
Richard Davis, Environmental Review Manager: [richard.davis@state.mn.us](mailto:richard.davis@state.mn.us); 651-539-1846 or 1-800-657-3794

#### **Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC**

Patrick Smith, Project Manager: [patrick@geronimo.com](mailto:patrick@geronimo.com); 952-988-9000

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service. Individuals with a disability who need reasonable accommodations to participate in these meetings please also contact the Public Utilities Commission at 651-296-0406 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

### **Proposed Project Location**



## Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-13	Syngenta Crop Protection LLC	Corn	IR – Insect Resistance HT-Herbicide Tolerance	Dakota, Faribault, Goodhue, Mower (2 sites), Rice, Waseca – Up to 10 acres each

Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC., filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-13. 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 17-059-104n. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, [clifford.watrin@state.mn.us](mailto:clifford.watrin@state.mn.us)

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-14	Bayer CropScience LP	Oilseed Rape	HT-Herbicide Tolerance OO – Method Development	Clay, 10 acres

Bayer CropScience LP, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-14. Notification is for genetically modified oilseed rape, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic oilseed rape, referenced as Application Number 17-060-101n. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, [clifford.watrin@state.mn.us](mailto:clifford.watrin@state.mn.us)

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-15	Dow AgroSciences	Corn	HT-Herbicide Tolerance AP - Agronomic Properties	Nicollet, Otter Tail, Renville, Sibley, Stearns, Wilkin – Up to 10 acres each site

Dow AgroSciences, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-15. 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 17-067-108n. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, [clifford.watrin@state.mn.us](mailto:clifford.watrin@state.mn.us)

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-16	Bayer CropScience LP	Soybean	HT-Herbicide Tolerance IR – Insect Resistance	Becker, Big Stone, Clay – Up to 10 acres each site

Bayer CropScience LP, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-16. Notification is for genetically modified soybean, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic soybean, referenced as Application Number 17-062-103n. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, [clifford.watrin@state.mn.us](mailto:clifford.watrin@state.mn.us)