

## The *EQB Monitor*

520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 - [www.eqb.state.mn.us](http://www.eqb.state.mn.us)  
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**Publication Schedule:** Tuesdays at 12:00 PM  
**Submission Deadline:** [View 2021 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](#). You can find active projects in your community on the [Environmental Review Projects Interactive Map](#).



Check the [EQB Monitor Schedule](#) and [EQB calendar](#) for more details on *Monitor* deadlines and Board Meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the [EQB Website](#).

To manage your subscription to the *EQB Monitor*, [click here](#). Be sure to add [MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com) to your address book or safe sender list.

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# EQB Announcement

## Changes are coming to the EQB Monitor in 2021

EQB staff will be introducing a series of updates to the *EQB Monitor* throughout 2021. The updates will streamline and setup a user-friendly Monitor Submission process that will make environmental review project related data more easily accessible for everyone.

On January 5, 2021, the *EQB Monitor* publication date changed to Tuesdays at Noon. A Tuesday publication date allows for more flexibility in the submission timeline.

The 2021 *EQB Monitor* schedule is now available online: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/2021-egb-monitor-schedule>

To find out more and stay up to date, visit: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/eqb-monitor>

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## Environmental Assessment Worksheet Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) in response to a citizen's petition.

**Petition Title:** Twedt Rome 34 Swine Finishing Barns in Rome Township, Faribault County

**Decision:** Exempt from Minnesota Rules chapter 4410 (no EAW ordered), January 5, 2021

**Link to Document:** No link to electronic copies of the documents was provided by the RGU. For copies of the documents, see RGU contact information below.

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

**RGU Contact:** Charles Peterson, 651-757-2856, [charles.peterson@state.mn.us](mailto:charles.peterson@state.mn.us)

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## Environmental Assessment Worksheet

### Seven Acres Property

**Comment Deadline:** February 11, 2021

**Project Description:** The proposed project includes the demolition of two residential homes and their garages along the shore of Upper Prior Lake and the construction of one single-family home and a detached outbuilding in their place. The 1.01-acre wetland in the eastern

half of the property will be filled and graded. Comments will be accepted through February 11, 2021.

**Link to Document:** [www.cityofpriorlake.com/eaw](http://www.cityofpriorlake.com/eaw)

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** City of Prior Lake

**RGU Contact:** Nick Monserud, 952-447-9834, [nmonserud@cityofpriorlake.com](mailto:nmonserud@cityofpriorlake.com)

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## Environmental Impact Statement Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

### 70th and France Redevelopment

**Decision:** Negative, December 15, 2020

**Link to Document:** No link to electronic copies of the documents was provided. For copies of the documents, see RGU contact information below.

**RGU:** City of Edina

**RGU Contact:** Cary Teague, 952-826-0460, [cteague@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:cteague@EdinaMN.gov)

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## Draft Environmental Impact Statement

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ISSUED: January 11, 2021

**In the Matter of Plum Creek Wind, LLC's Certificate of Need, LWECS Site Permit, and  
HVTL Route Permit Applications for the Plum Creek Wind Project and associated  
facilities in Cottonwood, Murray, and Redwood counties in Minnesota**

Docket Numbers: IP6997/CN-18-699, WS-18-700, TL-18-701

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has released the draft environmental impact statement (draft EIS) for the proposed Plum Creek Wind Project.

## Draft EIS Availability

The draft EIS can be viewed on the Department's website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>. Select "Wind Turbines" and then select "Plum Creek Wind Project"

It can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: <http://mn.gov/puc>. Select "eDockets," enter the year ("18") and the docket number ("699," "700," or "701"), and then select "Search."

The draft EIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries (local hours maybe restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic):

- Tracy Public Library, 189 3rd St, Tracy, MN 56175
- Lamberton Public Library, 101 2nd Ave E, Lamberton, MN 56152
- Westbrook Public Library, 556 1st Ave, Westbrook, MN 56183

Print copies of the draft EIS will be available upon request; electronic copies of the draft EIS will also be available.

## Written Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **February 12, 2021, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket numbers (18-699, 18-700, or 18-701) in all communications.

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

- What information needs to be clarified or included in the draft EIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate?

## Comments may be submitted via:

**U.S. Mail:** Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul MN 55101

**Email:** [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

**Online:** <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

**Fax:** 651-539-0109

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.

## Project Description

Plum Creek, an affiliate of National Grid Renewables (formerly Geronimo Energy, LLC), is proposing to construct a 414 MW large wind energy conversion system consisting of 67 to 74 wind turbines ranging from 5.6 to 6.2 MW in size and an associated 31-mile 345 kV transmission line. The proposed wind facility would also include: above- or below-ground electric collection and communications lines; an above- ground electric feeder line; two collector substations; four permanent meteorological towers; a sonic or light detection and ranging unit; two aircraft detection lighting system radars; an operation and maintenance building, and new gravel access roads. The associated 345 kV transmission line would be

constructed on single-circuit monopole structures within a 150-foot right-of-way and would connect the wind facility to the existing Brookings-to-Hampton 345 kV transmission line via a new switching station.

The proposed project would be located in portions of Cottonwood, Murray, and Redwood counties.

### Process Information

The Commission must approve a certificate of need, a site permit, and a route permit before the proposed Plum Creek Wind Project can be built. The permitting process provides for extensive citizen participation and includes several opportunities for public input such as public meetings, public comment periods, and public hearings. The information gathered throughout the permitting process informs the Commission's final decision on a certificate of need and permit.

The applications are being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849 (certificate of need); Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854 (site permit); Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 (route permit). The rules and statutes are available for review at:

[www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov).

The Department will hold a public information meeting to provide opportunities for public comment on the draft EIS. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings have been suspended.

Remote-access technology will be used to conduct the meeting to ensure continued public participation and information sharing opportunities. Notice of the DEIS will be published separately.

### How to Learn More

- Department of Commerce Website: <http://www.mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>
- Full Case Record. See all documents filed in these dockets via the Commission's website, <http://www.mn.gov/puc>. Select "eDockets," ("18") and the docket number ("699," "700," or "701"), and then select "Search."
- Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate. Contact [puc@state.mn.us](mailto:puc@state.mn.us), 651-201-2246, with the docket numbers (18- 699, 18-700, 18-701), your name, mailing address, and email address.
- Subscribe to the Dockets. To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the project dockets, go to the Commission's website, <http://www.mn.gov/puc>, select "Subscribe," and follow the

### Project Contacts

- **Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor**
  - Charley Bruce – [publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us), 651-201-2251 or 1-800-657-3782
- **Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner**
  - Scott Ek – [ek@state.mn.us](mailto:ek@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2255

- **Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**
  - William Storm – [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us), 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794
- **Plum Creek, LLC Permitting Specialist**
  - Jenny Monson-Miller – [jenny@nationalgridrenewables.com](mailto:jenny@nationalgridrenewables.com) or 952.358.5687

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## General Notice

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND DRAFT SITE PERMIT

In the Matter of the Applications of Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC for a Certificate of Need, Site Permit, and Route Permit for an up to 414 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System and 345 kV Transmission Line in Cottonwood, Murray, and Redwood Counties, Minnesota

**PUC Docket Numbers:** IP6997/CN-18-699 (Certificate of Need), IP6997/WS-18-700 (Site Permit), and IP6997/TL-18-701 (Route Permit)

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and the Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold a public information meeting on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and the draft site permit for the 414 megawatt large wind energy conversion system and the associated 345 kilovolt high-voltage transmission line proposed by Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC (Plum Creek).

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings have been suspended. Remote-access technology will be used to conduct the meeting to ensure continued public participation and information sharing opportunities. The remote-access public meeting will be held on the following date and time:

**Date:** February 1, 2021

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

**Location:** Remote-Access (telephone and internet)

To find out if the meeting is canceled call 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

The meeting will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded. Written comments may be submitted during the comment period following the meeting using the methods described in this notice.

You can participate in the meeting in multiple ways:

- To listen to the meeting and provide verbal comments, follow the directions below to access the meeting over the telephone. You must join the meeting by telephone if you are interested in listening to the meeting.
- To view the speaker presentations, follow the directions below to access the meeting over the internet. You must join the meeting over the internet if you are interested in viewing the speaker presentations.

- If you wish to listen to the meeting while watching the presentations, you must join the meeting by both telephone and internet.

Join by Telephone	Join by Internet (Video Only – No Audio)
Phone: 1-866-609-6127	Website: <a href="https://minnesota.webex.com">https://minnesota.webex.com</a>
Conference ID: 4136159	Event Number: 146 589 5982
An operator will assist you	Event Password, if needed: DQucamr5T25

**Please join the meeting 5-10 minutes prior to the start time.**

Please contact Charley Bruce at 651-201-2251 or [charley.bruce@state.mn.us](mailto:charley.bruce@state.mn.us), if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble participating.

**Meeting Questions.** An opportunity to ask questions and provide comments will be provided at the end of the meeting presentation; **you must join the meeting by telephone in order to participate in the question and comment portion of the meeting.** To submit a question in advance of the meeting, please email your question to [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us) with “Meeting Question” in the subject line. There will be time set aside during the meeting to answer these questions.

**Meeting Materials.** Prior to the meeting, presentation materials and handouts will be available on the Department of Commerce project website: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13894/>. Following the meeting, questions and answers from the meeting will be compiled and made available for viewing on the same website. If you do not have adequate access to the internet and want to review the materials being presented, contact Bill Storm (contact information provided below) to receive print copies via U.S. Mail prior to the meeting date.

#### Written Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **February 12, 2021, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket numbers (18-699, 18-700, or 18-701) in all communications.

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

- What information needs to be clarified or included in the draft EIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate?
- What additional conditions or requirements should be included in the draft site permit to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project?

**Comments may be submitted via:**

**U.S. Mail:** Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul MN 55101

**Email:** [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

**Online:** <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

**Fax:** 651-539-0109

**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.

### **Project Description**

Plum Creek, an affiliate of National Grid Renewables (formerly Geronimo Energy, LLC), is proposing to construct a 414 megawatt large wind energy conversion system consisting of 74 to 110 wind turbines ranging from 2.8 to 5.6 megawatts in size and an associated 31-mile 345 kilovolt transmission line. The proposed wind facility would also include: above- or below-ground electric collection and communications lines; an above-ground electric feeder line; two collector substations; four permanent meteorological towers; a sonic or light detection and ranging unit; two aircraft detection lighting system radars; an operation and maintenance building, and new gravel access roads. The associated 345 kilovolt transmission line would be constructed on single-circuit monopole structures within a 150-foot right-of-way and would connect the wind facility to the existing Brookings-to-Hampton 345 kilovolt transmission line via a new switching station. The proposed project would be located in portions of Cottonwood, Murray, and Redwood counties.

### **Process Information**

The Commission must approve a certificate of need, a site permit, and a route permit before the proposed Plum Creek Wind Project can be built. The permitting process provides for broad citizen participation and includes several opportunities for public input such as public meetings, public comment periods, and public hearings. The information gathered throughout the permitting process informs the Commission's final decisions.

The applications are being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849 (certificate of need); Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854 (site permit); Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 (route permit). The rules and statutes are available for review at: [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov).

**Environmental Review.** The Department of Commerce is tasked with preparing, for the Commission, an environmental report for the certificate of need application and an EIS for route permit application. In this case, environmental review was combined and an EIS has been prepared instead of an environmental report. The EIS evaluates the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, identifies measures that could reasonably be implemented to avoid or minimize identified impacts, and includes the analysis of alternatives required under the certificate of need application review process.

**Draft Site Permit.** As part of the application review process for the wind facility portion of the project, a draft site permit was issued by the Commission on October 30, 2020, in accordance with Minnesota Rules 7854.0800. The issuance of a draft site permit affords the public an opportunity to review and provide comments on the requirements and conditions of the permit. A draft site permit does not authorize construction of the wind facility. The Commission may change the draft site permit in any respect before final issuance or may deny the site permit.

**Public Hearing.** After the close of the public comment period on the draft EIS and the draft site permit, a public hearing will be held. The hearing will be conducted by an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of the applicant and agency staff, provide comments, and submit evidence. Upon completion of the public hearing process, the administrative law judge will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation.



## Additional Information

**Draft Environment Impact Statement.** A copy of the draft EIS can be found on the Department of Commerce website at: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13894/> or the Commission's website: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc). Select *eDockets*, enter the year (18) and the docket number (699, 700, or 701), and select *Search*.

The draft EIS is also available for review at these locations:

- Tracy Public Library, 189 3rd St, Tracy, MN 56175
- Lamberton Public Library, 101 2nd Ave E, Lamberton, MN 56152
- Westbrook Public Library, 556 1st Ave, Westbrook, MN 56183

**Draft Site Permit.** A copy of the draft site permit can be found on the Commission's website: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc). Select *eDockets*, enter the year (18) and the docket number (699, 700, or 701), and select *Search*.

**Filing Requirements.** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eDockets*, and follow the prompts.

**Full Case Record.** See all documents filed in this matter on the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eDockets*, enter the year (18) and the docket number (699, 700, or 701), and select *Search*.

**Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to Dockets* and follow the prompts.

**Project Mailing List.** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or to change your mailing preference. Email [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246 with the docket number (18-699, 18-700, or 18-701), your name, mailing address, and email address.

## Contact Information

### Public Utilities Commission

Charley Bruce, Public Advisor, [publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2251

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

### Department of Commerce

Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us) or 651-539-1844

### Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC

Jenny Monson-Miller, Permitting Specialist, [jenny@nationalgridrenewables.com](mailto:jenny@nationalgridrenewables.com) or 952-988-9000

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate, 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](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

\*Links to environmental review documents were provided by the RGU. In the event that the link does not work, you may contact the RGU directly to request either a paper or electronic copy of the documents. If you are not able to connect with the RGU, please email EQB staff at [Env.Review@state.mn.us](mailto:Env.Review@state.mn.us), call 651.757.2873, or visit our [website](#).\*



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