The PUC’s rules provide that any party or a person aggrieved and directly affected by a commission decision may file a Petition for Reconsideration. Minn. R. 7829.3000. As an aggrieved resident and snowmobiler in Goodhue County, I request you reconsider the following item in the site permit. All parties will receive a copy of this filing.

On August 5, 2010, the Minnesota DNR sent a letter (Docket no. 20109-54095-05) to Administrative Law Judge Eric Lipman expressing its comments and concerns with the AWA Goodhue Wind project. In this letter, they said, “The Site Permit Application includes the locations of DNR administered ‘Grant-In-Aid’ snowmobile trails (Exhibit A-9). Turbines should be placed a sufficient distance from ‘Grant-In-Aid’
snowmobile trails so that ice does not fall on to the trails and create a hazard for recreational trail users. The Draft Site Permit does not contain language regarding these trails. A permit condition requiring either a setback from the snowmobile trails for safety reasons, similar to other right-of-way setbacks, or requiring coordination with trail contacts and DNR staff regarding trail location, would address this topic. The West Stevens Wind Site Permit contains permit condition language addressing a similar situation.”

Outdoor recreational activities are very important to county residents. Snowmobiling is one of these. The county hosts hundreds of miles of grant-in-aid trails. Snowmobiling brings in thousands of people every winter which helps boost the local economy.

No mention of snowmobile trail setbacks is included in the current site permit. I echo the sentiments of the DNR when I petition to put language in the permit to protect this important activity in the county.

General Electric sent a letter to Commissioner David Boyd and Dr. Burl Haar dated November 15, 2011. In this letter, Seth Dunn, Renewables Policy Leader, writes. “GE Energy issues setback recommendations to mitigate the risk of ice throw and component liberation for utility scale wind projects. The setback recommendation for the AWA Goodhue project is 1.5 X (Hub Height + Rotor Diameter), which is approximately 800 feet.”

Following the recommendations of the MN DNR and GE, I petition to have language added to the site permit to reflect this.
The added statement should say that no turbines shall be placed closer than 800 feet from the nearest edge of any existing Grant-In-Aid snowmobile trail location.

Dated: 9-9-11

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