

**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.

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, select *Speak Up!*, select *Open Discussions*, and find this docket

eFiling: Visit 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, 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, 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 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.

Contacts

Public Utilities Commission

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Department of Commerce

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Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC

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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

