

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: March 16, 2018

In the Matter of the Site Permit Amendment Application for Proposed Upgrades to the Lake Benton Power Partners, LLC Wind Energy Generation Facility in Lincoln County, Minnesota

PUC Docket Number: IP-6908/WS-13-294

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Lake Benton Community Center
105 West Benton Street
Lake Benton, MN 56149

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.

Public Meeting Information

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the proposed project, the state's review process, and to accept verbal or written comments. Staff from the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Commerce and representatives for Lake Benton Power Partners, LLC (LBPP) will be available at the meeting to answer questions.

Project Description

The LBPP facility is an existing 107.25 megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) located in Lincoln County, Minnesota. The project received its first site permit on October 31, 1995, with subsequent permit amendments on June 19, 1997, and November 1, 2017.

As provided in the Site Permit Amendment Application, LBPP has proposed to upgrade the facility's turbines. The upgrades would consist of replacing equipment within the nacelle and turbine base (gearboxes, generators, and switchgear) and replacing the rotor assembly which

includes the installation of longer turbine blades. The upgrades would increase the existing rotor diameter by approximately two meters. The turbine locations and permitted site boundary would not change and the towers would remain the same height. The turbine upgrades would not increase the permitted nameplate capacity of the facility, but would instead increase overall efficiency. Specifically, LBPP has requested the following amendments to the existing site permit:

- Increase the permitted rotor diameter from 48 meters to 50 meters;
- Adjust the permitted wind access buffer setbacks to current Commission guidelines; and
- Approve an exception for those turbines that would no longer meet the current Commission guidelines.

Written Comment Period

Comment Period: Initial comments will be accepted through **Wednesday, April 18, 2018**.
Reply comments will be accepted through **Wednesday, April 25, 2018**.

Topics Open for Comment:

- What potential human and environmental impacts, if any, should the Commission consider when deciding on the proposed facility upgrades and requested permit amendments?
- Should the Commission approve the requested amendments to the LBPP LWECS site permit?

Comments may be submitted:

Online: Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!* or click [HERE](#) to find this docket and add your comments to the discussion.

Email: Email comments to publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

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

eFiling: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system.

Parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Please use the Commission's docket numbers in all correspondence. Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities 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.

How to Learn More

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (13) and the docket number (294).

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Jamie Eschbach at 651-201-2204.

Contacts

Public Utilities Commission

Charley Bruce, Public Advisor, publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251

Scott Ek, Energy Facilities Planner, scott.ek@state.mn.us or 651-201-2255

Department of Commerce

Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager, larry.hartman@state.mn.us or 651-539-1839

Lake Benton Power Partners, LLC/Allete Clean Energy

William Sawyer, Manager, wsawyer@alletecleanenergy.com or 218-355-3338

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.