



Energy Facility Permitting
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July 25, 2013

Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Application Completeness Supplemental Filing

Dear Dr. Haar:

Attached are the review and comments of the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff in the matter of:

The Application of Stoneray Power Partners, LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversation System Site Permit for the 105 MW Stoneray Wind Project in Pipestone and Murray Counties (PUC Docket No. IP-6646/WS-13-216)

Stoneray Power Partners, LLC has submitted additional information as requested by the Commission to qualify their Site Permit Application as complete.

This filing was made on July 15, 2013, by:

Melissa Peterson, Senior Development Manager
EDF Renewable Energy
10 Second Street NE, Ste. 400
Minneapolis, MN 55413

EFP concludes the Applicant's filing satisfies the request for additional information from the Commission. Staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Birkholz", is written in a cursive style.

David Birkholz, EFP Staff

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PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILING REVIEW

PUC Docket No. IP-6646/WS-13-216

Stoneray Power Partners, LLC (Stoneray or Applicant) filed the following compliance documents pertaining to the Site Permit Application (Application) for a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on June 11, 2013, for the 105 megawatt (MW) Stoneray Wind Farm (Project) in Pipestone and Murray counties.

Filing No.	Description	eDocket Number	Date eFiled
1	Information on Filing a Draft Avian and Bat Protection Plan	20137-89145 (01)	July 15, 2013
2	Revised Site Permit Application Decommissioning Section	20137-89145 (01)	July 15, 2013
3	Revised Map Sheets	20137-89146 (01-09) 20137-89145 (02)	July 15, 2013

Application acceptance is guided by Minnesota Rule 7854.0600. The Commission may elect to accept, conditionally accept, or reject the Application. If the Commission conditionally accepts or rejects an application, the Commission must advise the Applicant of the deficiencies in the application and the manner in which the deficiencies can be addressed.

At its July 11, 2013, Agenda Meeting, the Commission acted to conditionally accept the Application, to be considered complete upon the Applicant's filing of:

- i. Further information on the project decommissioning plan and costs, as outlined by DOC EFP staff;
- ii. An indication that a draft ABPP (or BBCS) will be filed by the Applicant by the end of the Public Meeting comment period and prior to the Commission's decision on draft Site Permit issuance;
- iii. Require the Applicant to clarify the turbine layout maps as requested by the DOC EFP; and
- iv. Require the Applicant to provide Map 9 on a topographic background.

EFP Comments

EFP makes the following assessment of the Applicant's filing in response to the Commission's requests for additional information.

Decommissioning Plan

The one area of deficiency in the Stoneray Application, as determined by the Commission, was the discussion of a decommissioning plan. While a final plan is generally required by the Site Permit to be provided at the Pre-Operation Meeting, the Applicant is also expected to provide certain information at the beginning of the process in the Application as per Minnesota Rule 7854.0500. In its July 15, 2013 filing, Stoneray supplied additional information in a Revised Application as to:

the estimated decommissioning costs in current dollars;
the method and schedule for updating the costs of decommissioning and restoration; and
the method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration.

EFP will continue to work with the Applicant throughout the process to refine the Decommissioning Plan. However, the additional information supplied by Stoneray provides sufficient information to begin reviewing the Application.

Bird and Bat Conservation Strategies (BBCS)

EFP considers that the Avian and Bat Protection Plan, or in this case the BBCS, should be available for public comment before the Commission issues a Draft Site Permit (DP). The information is important in determining whether a DP should be issued, and, if so, what conditions should be included for conservation strategies in the Project Area, including post-construction monitoring.

In its filing, Stoneray has committed on the record to file a draft BBCS prior to the end of the Public Meeting comment period (which ends on August 30, 2013). EFP encourages the Applicant to provide this document for public comment as soon as practicable.

Project Maps

The Applicant reworked its map set to fully represent the impacts of choosing among four different turbine types and has clearly referenced them in legend. The Applicant also changed the background on Map 9 as requested.

EFP Recommendation

The Commission decision allows that the Application be considered complete upon the Applicant's filings. EFP considers the filings of the Applicant on July 15, 2013, fulfill the requests made by the Commission for additional information. EFP believes the Application, previously conditionally accepted, should now be considered complete.

EFP reserves the right to make additional requests for information from the Applicant during the LWECS Site Permit review process.

The fulfills Commission request:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially
Filing requires an action by the Commission:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
EFP suggests filing be brought to the Commission for decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Response letter to applicant is recommended:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>



July 25, 2013

*State Permit Manager
Energy Facility Permitting*

Date