

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: May 7, 2019

In the Matter of a Site Permit Amendment to Repower the 30 MW Community Wind North Large Wind Energy Conversion System and Associated Facilities in Lincoln County, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: IP-6712/WS-08-1494

Date: May 28, 2019
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Lake Benton Community Center
114 South Center Street
Lake Benton, MN 56149

Bad Weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled by calling 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213, or by visiting mn.gov/puc

Comment Period

Comment Period: Initial comments accepted through **June 12, 2019 at 4:30 PM.**
Reply comments accepted through **June 24, 2019 at 4:30 PM.**

Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics for Public Comment:

- What potential human and environmental impacts should the Commission consider when deciding whether to authorize the decommissioning, removal and construction of the proposed facility upgrades?
- Should the Commission approve the requested amendments to the Community Wind North project site permit?
- How should the environmental and human impacts be addressed in the site permit amendment?
- Should any permit conditions be modified or added if the requested amendments are approved?

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. Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and the Department of Commerce (Department) staff and representatives for Community Wind North will be available at the meeting to answer questions.

Project Description

Community Wind North, LLC (Community Wind North or Applicant), a subsidiary of Longroad Energy Management, LLC has requested a site permit amendment to repower the existing 30-megawatt Community Wind North Project (Project) in Verdi Township, Lincoln County. The project would entail replacement of all 12 existing Clipper 2.5 MW wind turbine generators with the Vestas 2.2 MW repower package to improve turbine technology, maximize annual energy production, and extend the service life of the wind farm. The Applicant has also requested that the expiration date for the site permit be changed from April 30, 2039 to 30 years after the issuance date of the amended site permit.

Construction is anticipated to take eight months. The Applicant aims to begin construction in the second quarter of 2020. Construction includes first extending the towers, and then installing new nacelles, larger rotors, and other associated components. Tower, access road, collection line, and other infrastructure locations will not change. The existing operation and maintenance facility will continue to be used, but the existing meteorological tower will be removed. Minor upgrades to roads and the control building may be required. Grading of a five-acre temporary laydown area and one-acre construction areas around each turbine will be necessary. Community Wind North will use a large crane that will require a temporary 50-foot crane path to each turbine. As a result of repowering, the turbine height will increase from 420 feet to 464 feet and the rotor diameter will increase from 315 feet to 361 feet.

The Applicant and Xcel Energy have entered into an Amended Power Purchase Agreement (Amended PPA), and an Option Agreement that provides Xcel Energy the option to purchase the Project under certain conditions. In a separate proceeding, Xcel Energy has filed a petition with the Commission seeking approval of the Amended PPA and Option Agreements for the Project in Commission Docket E002/M-10-734. Community Wind North has indicated its intent to sell the Project to Xcel Energy upon the approval of the Option Agreement and the successful completion of negotiations. A separate approval from the Commission would be required to transfer the site permit.

Process Information

Before the Project can be built, the Commission must approve a site permit amendment. Community Wind North's site permit amendment application was submitted on March 25, 2019. A draft amended site permit for the Project was proposed by the Department on April 17, 2019. A draft amended site permit does not allow for construction to commence and the Commission

may change a permit before final issuance or deny it. The Commission is expected to make a final decision in 2019.

How to Submit Comments

Online Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

Email Comments can be emailed to publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail Charley Bruce, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E, Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

eFiling Visit mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

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.

For More Information

Department of Commerce Project Website: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13549/>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201- 2204 with the docket number (08-1494), your name, mailing address and email address.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, and enter the year (08) and the docket number (1494).

Subscribe to the Docket: To receive email notification when new documents are filed, go to the Commission's website, mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Contact consumer.puc@state.mn.us, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Analyst

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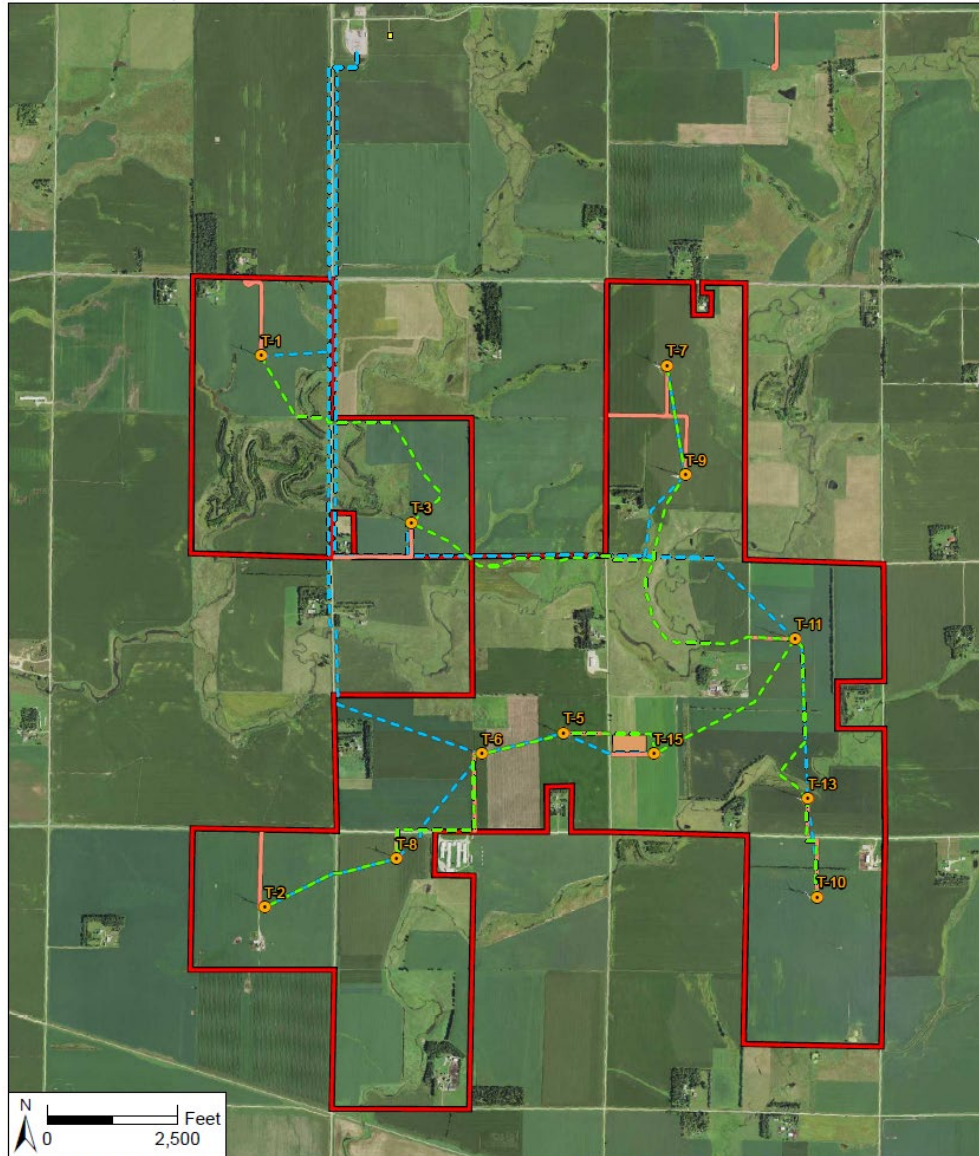
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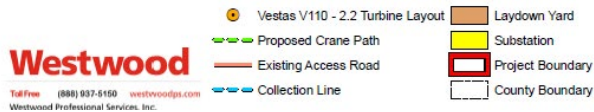
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Community Wind North Project

Lincoln County, Minnesota



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Turbine Layout

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.