
Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETING

Issued: February 2, 2018

In the Matter of the Applications of Flying Cow Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit Application for the Bitter Root Wind Project in Yellow Medicine County

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: IP-6984/CN-17-676 (Certificate of Need)
IP-6984/WS-17-749 (Site Permit)**

Date: February 27, 2018

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Canby Elementary School, 307 First Street W, Canby, MN 56220

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

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the proposed project, the state's review process, and to accept verbal or written comments on potential issues for the environmental report and draft site permit that will be prepared.

Project Description

On October 19 and November 9, 2017, Flying Cow Wind, LLC submitted applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to construct and operate a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Yellow Medicine County. In order to construct the Bitter Root Wind Project, the applicant must be granted a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission.

The proposed project would entail construction of 37 wind turbines for a combined nameplate capacity of 152 megawatts (MW). The project's associated facilities would also include gravel

access roads, an electrical collection system, temporary and permanent meteorological towers, a project substation facility, an interconnection facility, a temporary concrete batch plant for construction, a temporary staging/laydown construction area, and an operations and maintenance (O&M) facility. The project area includes approximately 22,888 acres in Florida, Fortier, and Norman townships in Yellow Medicine County.

The applicant asserts the Project is intended to meet the growing demand for additional renewable resources needed to meet the state's renewable energy requirements and other clean energy requirements in Minnesota and nearby states. If approved, Flying Cow anticipates beginning construction in the first quarter of 2019, and commencing operations in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Meeting Information

- The meeting starts on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- State agency staff members run the meeting.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Flying Cow Wind, LLC staff members are available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- The Department of Commerce uses comments received at the meeting and during the comment period to develop the scope of the environmental report and draft site permit for this project.

Submit Comments

Comment Period: Written comments will be accepted through **Monday, March 19, 2018**. Please include the Commission's Docket Numbers (17-676 and 17-749) in all communication.

Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions.

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the environmental document and the draft site permit?
- What are the **possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts** of the proposed project?
- Are there any **unique characteristics** of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
- Are there **any items missing or mischaracterized** in the certificate of need or site permit applications?

Comment Period Comments accepted through **Monday, March 19, 2018**

Please include the PUC Docket Numbers (*above*) in all communications.

- Online** mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment
- Email** bill.storm@state.mn.us
- U.S. Mail** William Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101
- Phone** 651-539-1844
- Important** Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities 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 Department of Commerce will issue an environmental report scoping decision, followed by an environmental report and a draft site permit. Upon completion of the environmental report and Commission approval of a draft site permit, a public hearing will be held. The public hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed project.

For process information, see Minnesota Statute § 216B and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7849 (certificate of need) and Minnesota Statute § 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854 (site permit).

After the public hearing, the Commission will review all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearings. The Commission's final decision on the certificate of need and site permit applications for this project is expected by October 2018.

How to Learn More

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (*17 for the certificate of need or for the site permit*) and the docket number (*676 for the certificate of need, 749 for the site permit*), select *Search*.

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34766>

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, your name, mailing address and email address.

Community Locations: The certificate of need and site permit applications are available at these locations:

- Canby Public Library, 110 Oscar Ave N, Canby, MN 56220
- Hendricks Public Library, 100 West Garfield Street, Hendricks, Minnesota 56136
- Ivanhoe Public Library, 401 N Harold St Ivanhoe, MN 56142
- Yellow Medicine County Property & Public Services, 180 8th Ave, Granite Falls, MN 56241
- Yellow Medicine County Planning & Zoning Office, 1000 10th Ave, Suite #2, Clarkfield, MN 56223
- Florida Township Board (c/o Curt Melby), 2789 120th Street, Canby, MN 56220
- Fortier Township Board (c/o Allen Livermore), 1097 200th Ave, Canby, MN 56220
- Norman Township Board (c/o Tim Hentges), 2102 200th Street, Canby, MN 56220

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes Chapters 216B.243 and 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapters 7849 and 7854, available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

William Storm – bill.storm@state.mn.us, 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

Public Utilities Commission

Charley Bruce, Public Advisor: Charley.Bruce@state.mn.us, 651-201-2251

Cezar Panait, Staff Analyst: Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us, 651-201-2207

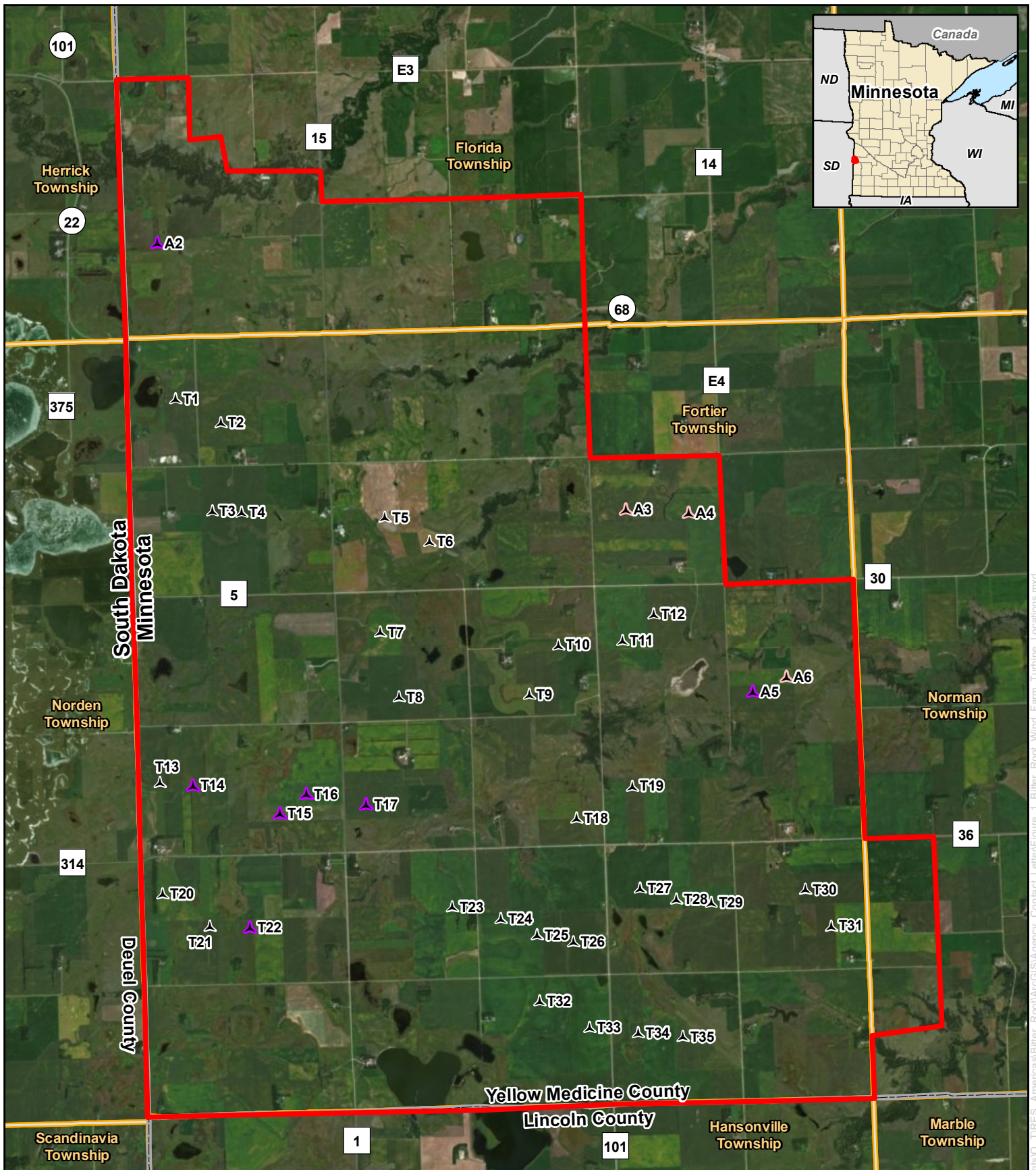
Flying Cow Wind, LLC Project Contact

Sean Flannery – Sean.Flannery@res-group.com or 612-455-8449

Andrew Gibbons, Attorney – Andrew.Gibbons@stinson.com or 612-335-1438

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

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.



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1 inch = 1 miles

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For Environmental Review Purposes Only

Turbine Layout

Bitter Root Wind Farm
Flying Cow Wind, LLC
Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota

- Proposed Vestas 136-3.45
- Proposed Alternate Vestas 136-4.2
- Proposed Vestas 136-4.2
- Project Boundary
- City/Township