

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABILITY

Issued: February 2, 2018

In the Matter of the Application of Freeborn Wind Energy LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 84 Megawatt Freeborn Wind Farm in Freeborn County

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: IP-6946/WS-17-410
Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 80-2500-34633

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will hold public and evidentiary hearings on Freeborn Wind Energy LLC's site permit application for its proposed 84 megawatt Freeborn Wind Project in Freeborn County, Minnesota.

Date(s) and Time (s): Public Hearing: February 20, 2018, 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Evidentiary Hearings: February 21 and 22, 2018, 9:00 AM Start Time

Note – The public hearings will adjourn with the last speaker, even if it is prior to the stated hearing end time, but not earlier than 7:00 PM. The public hearing may be extended, depending on the number of individuals wishing to provide comment.

Location: Albert Lea Armory
410 Prospect Ave
Albert Lea, MN 56007

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 LauraSue Schlatter, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the Office of Administrative Hearings, will conduct this hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow the public to ask questions, cross-examine witnesses, and present comments or other concerns regarding the project. At the evidentiary hearing, parties shall examine and cross-examine witnesses.

Project Description

Freeborn Wind Energy LLC (Freeborn Wind, or Applicant), an affiliate of Invenergy LLC, plans to develop an up to 200 megawatt (MW) Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) in Freeborn County in Minnesota and Worth County Iowa. Freeborn Wind has filed a site permit application with the Commission for the Minnesota portion of the project, which is comprised of an up to 84 MW LWECS in Freeborn County. The project is located in Hayward, London, Oakland, and Shell Rock Townships.

The project would include construction of up to 42 2.0-MW nameplate capacity wind turbines in Minnesota. The project would also include an electrical and fiber optic communication system, associated equipment, gravel access roads, buried electric collection lines, an operations and maintenance facility, a project substation, a permanent meteorological tower, and an overhead transmission line. Freeborn Wind, LLC has filed a separate high-voltage transmission line route permit application with the Commission as Docket #IP6946/TL-17-322.

The project boundary encompasses approximately 26,273 acres, of which 17,435 acres are currently under lease in Minnesota. Freeborn Wind has indicated that additional lands may be secured under lease and/or easement as necessary to complete the project. Freeborn Wind has entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) with Xcel Energy and Invenergy Wind Development North America LLC. Under this PSA, Xcel Energy will purchase the project following permitting and prior to construction, and will construct, own, and operate the project.

Public Hearing Information

- Public hearings start on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Administrative Law Judge LauraSue Schlatter presides over the meeting.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Freeborn Wind 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.

Submit Comments

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

- Should the Public Utilities Commission issue a site permit for the project?
- 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?

Comment Period: February 1, 2018 through March 15, 2018 at 4:30pm.

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

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

U.S. Mail Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101.
Please include the Commission's docket number (17-410) in all communications.

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

Important 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.

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the applicant must obtain a site permit from the Public Utilities Commission (Commission). Freeborn Wind Energy LLC's site permit application was accepted as complete in August 2017. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes between six and nine months.

On January 4, 2018, the Commission voted to approve a draft site permit for the project. Comments about the draft site permit can be submitted through March 15, 2018.

Judge Schlatter will use the information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period to write a report for the Commission. The report will include a summary of comments received, findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation on whether to approve a site permit. After receiving the report, the Commission will make a final decision on the project at a separate meeting, expected in June 2018.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=34728>

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 (17-410), your name, mailing address and email address.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed. Please note that subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. mn.gov/puc
2. Select *Subscribe*
3. Type your email address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select *17* in the first box, type *410* in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

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*) and the docket number (*410*), select *Search*.

Community Locations: The site permit application and draft site permit are available at these locations:

- Freeborn County Auditor's Office, 411 S. Broadway Albert Lea, MN 56007
- City of Hayward, 20532 810th Avenue Hayward, MN 56043
- Hayward Township, 18893 800th Ave. Hayward, MN 56043
- London Township, 87340 135th St. Glenville, MN 56036
- Oakland Township, 88141 180th St. Austin, MN 55912
- Shell Rock Township, 80747 River Road Glenville, MN 56036
- Albert Lea Public Library, 211 E. Clark Street Albert Lea, MN 56007

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: The site permit application is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 216E and 216F, and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854. Minnesota Statutes and Rules are available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Contact Charley Bruce - publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us, 651-201-2251 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

Michael Kaluzniak – mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Richard Davis – richard.davis@state.mn.us, 651-539-1846 or 1-800-657-3794

Freeborn Wind Energy LLC Project Contact

Dan Litchfield – dlitchfield@invenergyllc.com or 312-582-1057

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.

