

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: *May 17, 2018*

In the Matter of the Application of Freeborn Wind Energy LLC for a Route Permit for the 161 kV Freeborn Wind Farm Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Freeborn County

Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Docket Number: IP6946/TL-17-322

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 5-2500-35036

Date: May 31, 2018

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Riverland Community College
2200 Riverland Drive, Room #124
Albert Lea, MN 56007

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

Project Description

Freeborn Wind Energy LLC (an affiliate of Invenergy LLC) has filed a route permit application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for an approximately 7-mile long, 161-kilovolt high-voltage transmission line (HVTL) designed to connect the proposed Freeborn Wind Farm to an existing substation near the city of Glenville. Freeborn Wind Energy LLC has also filed a separate site permit application for the Freeborn Wind Farm as Commission Docket Number IP6946/WS-17-410.

Public Hearing Information

- The public hearing provides an opportunity to comment on the project.
- 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 James Mortenson will preside over the hearing.

- Representatives from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and Department of Commerce will be available to answer questions about the application review process and the environmental assessment.
- Representatives from Freeborn Wind Energy LLC will be available to answer questions about the proposed project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.

Submit Comments

Topics for Public Comment:

- Should the Public Utilities Commission issue a route permit for the project?
- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed project?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of each route under consideration and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Comment Period: **May 17, 2018** through **June 12, 2018** at 4:30pm.

Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered.

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 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Attn. Public Advisor (17-322), 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 250; 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 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

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) must approve a route permit before the project can be built. Freeborn Wind Energy LLC submitted its route permit on September 20, 2017, and the application was accepted by the Commission as complete on December 5, 2017. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about twelve months.

The Department of Commerce prepared an environmental assessment for this project. The environmental assessment is a review of the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address impacts. The environmental assessment was issued May 14, 2018.

After the public hearing, the Commission will review all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received during the comment period. The Commission's final decision on the route permit for this project is expected summer 2018.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=34748>

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 (17-322), 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," enter the year (17) and the docket number (322), select "Search."

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed.

1. mn.gov/puc
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5. For *Docket Number*, select 17 in the first box, type 322 in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
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*Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Community Locations: The route permit application and environmental assessment are available at these locations:

- Albert Lea Public Library, 211 E. Clark Street Albert Lea, MN 56007

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/>.

Project Contacts

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Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

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Freeborn Wind Energy LLC Project Contact

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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.

