

Appendix K

Agency Correspondence

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Representative Project Notification Letters

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October 1, 2018

[name]
[agency]
[address 1]
[address 2]



RE: Requesting Comments on the Plum Creek Wind Farm in Cottonwood, Murray, and Redwood Counties, Minnesota

Dear [name],

Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC (“Plum Creek”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Geronimo Energy, LLC, is gathering information and requesting agency comments for a proposed wind energy project in Cottonwood, Murray, and Redwood counties, Minnesota.

Plum Creek will be submitting a Site Permit Application for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”).

The planned nameplate energy capacity for the project is up to 400 megawatts of nameplate wind energy capacity. The project’s permanent facilities will include:

- Wind turbines and related equipment;
- New gravel access roads and improvements to existing roads;
- Underground electrical collection lines;
- An operations and maintenance building;
- A substation facility;
- A transmission line; and
- Up to four permanent meteorological towers up to 80 meters tall.

The project’s temporary facilities will include:

- A temporary concrete batch plant area
- A staging/laydown area during the construction phase of the project;
- A staging area for delivery trucks;
- Temporary meteorological towers before and after construction; and
- Temporary improvements to public roads, including wide-turn radii.

The turbine locations, access roads, and electrical connections have not been finalized at this time. Table 1 provides the sections of land that Plum Creek is evaluating for siting the wind energy project.

Table 1: Sections within the Plum Creek Project Boundary

State	County	Civil Township Name	Township	Range	Sections
MN	Cottonwood	Ann	108N	38W	1-24, 26-35
MN	Cottonwood	Highwater	108N	37N	2-11, 14-23
MN	Cottonwood	Westbrook	107N	38W	2-10, 18-19
MN	Murray	Dovray	107N	39W	1-4, 9-16, 21-24
MN	Murray	Holly	108N	39W	1, 11-15, 21-28, 33-36
MN	Redwood	Lamberton	109N	37W	31-36
MN	Redwood	North Hero	109N	38W	31-36

To facilitate your review, I have enclosed a map of the Plum Creek wind farm location and the associated preliminary project boundary.

We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the permit application process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.




If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 952-988-9000 or at jenny@geronimoenergy.com.

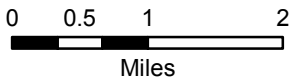
Sincerely,

Jenny Monson-Miller
Permitting Specialist
Geronimo Energy
on behalf of Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Minneapolis, MN 55408

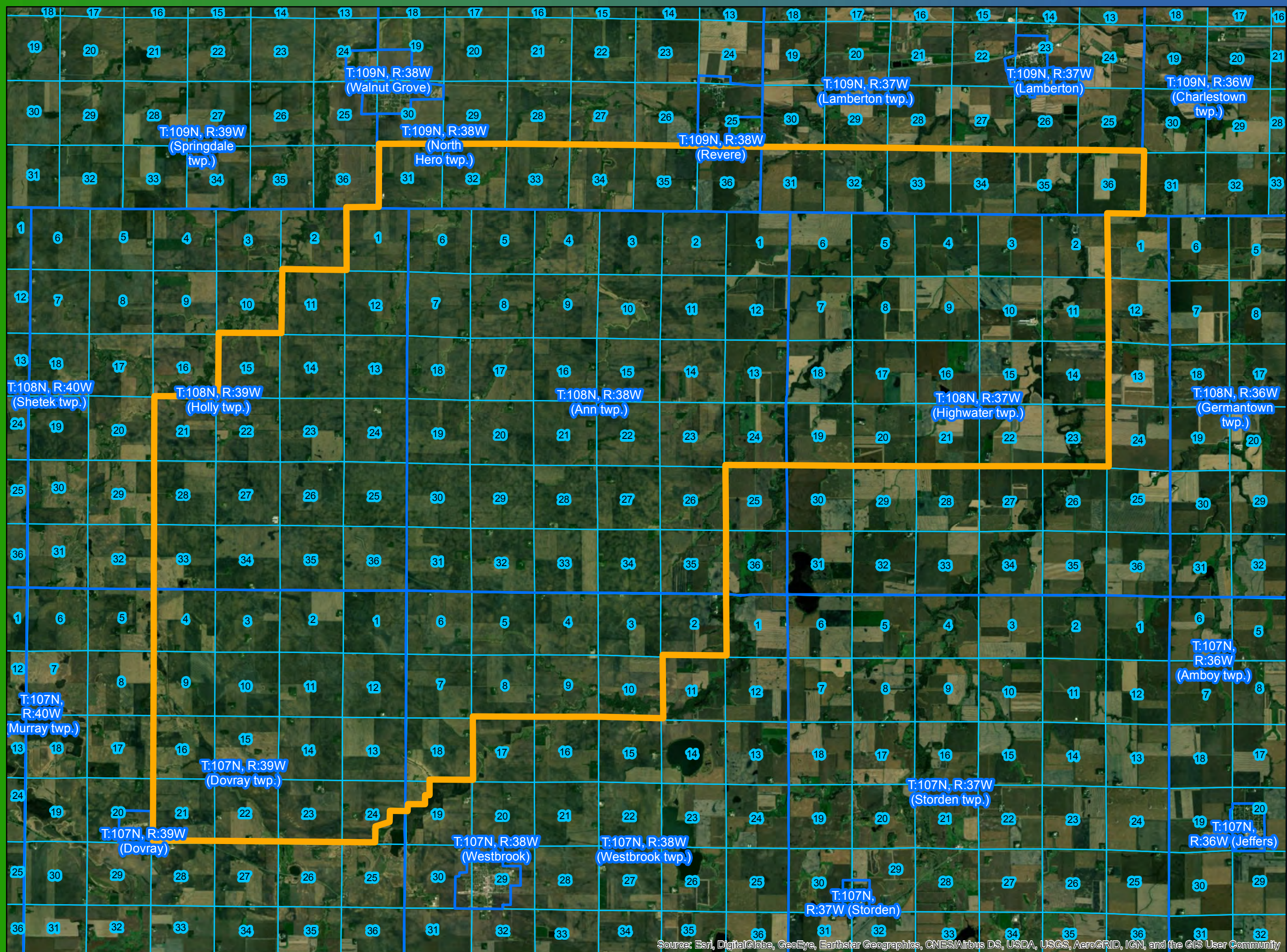
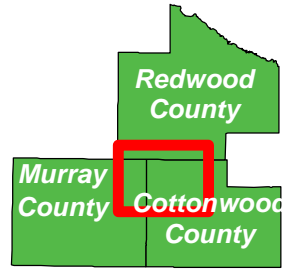
Enclosure:
Plum Creek Location Map

Plum Creek
Wind Farm
Preliminary
Project Boundary

-  Project Boundary
-  Township/
Range
-  Section



44.082818, -95.250177



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

September 20, 2019



[Address Block]

RE: Requesting Comments on a High Voltage Transmission Line in Cottonwood and Redwood Counties, Minnesota

Dear [Name],

Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC ("Plum Creek"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Geronimo Energy, LLC, is gathering information and requesting agency comments for a proposed High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) in Cottonwood and Redwood counties, Minnesota.

The HVTL is needed to interconnect the Plum Creek Wind Farm to the transmission grid. The HVTL will consist of approximately 25 miles of 345 kV transmission line. As proposed, the HVTL will extend north from the Wind Farm's project substation to the existing Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line. Two alternative routes are currently being considered, each terminating at the existing Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line. A switching station will be constructed to connect the proposed Transmission Line to the existing Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line.

The enclosed Project Area map depicts the area within which routes may be proposed. Plum Creek must obtain two approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") to construct the proposed Transmission Line: a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. In the Certificate of Need proceeding, the Commission determines whether a proposed transmission line project is needed and the appropriate size, configuration, and timing. If the Commission determines that the Transmission Line is needed, the Commission will then determine the route for the Transmission Line.

To facilitate your review, I have enclosed a map of the Transmission Line Routing Area within which the routes for the HVTL will be proposed. We welcome any comments your agency may have at this time and throughout the permit application process. Any written agency comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the PUC's review process.

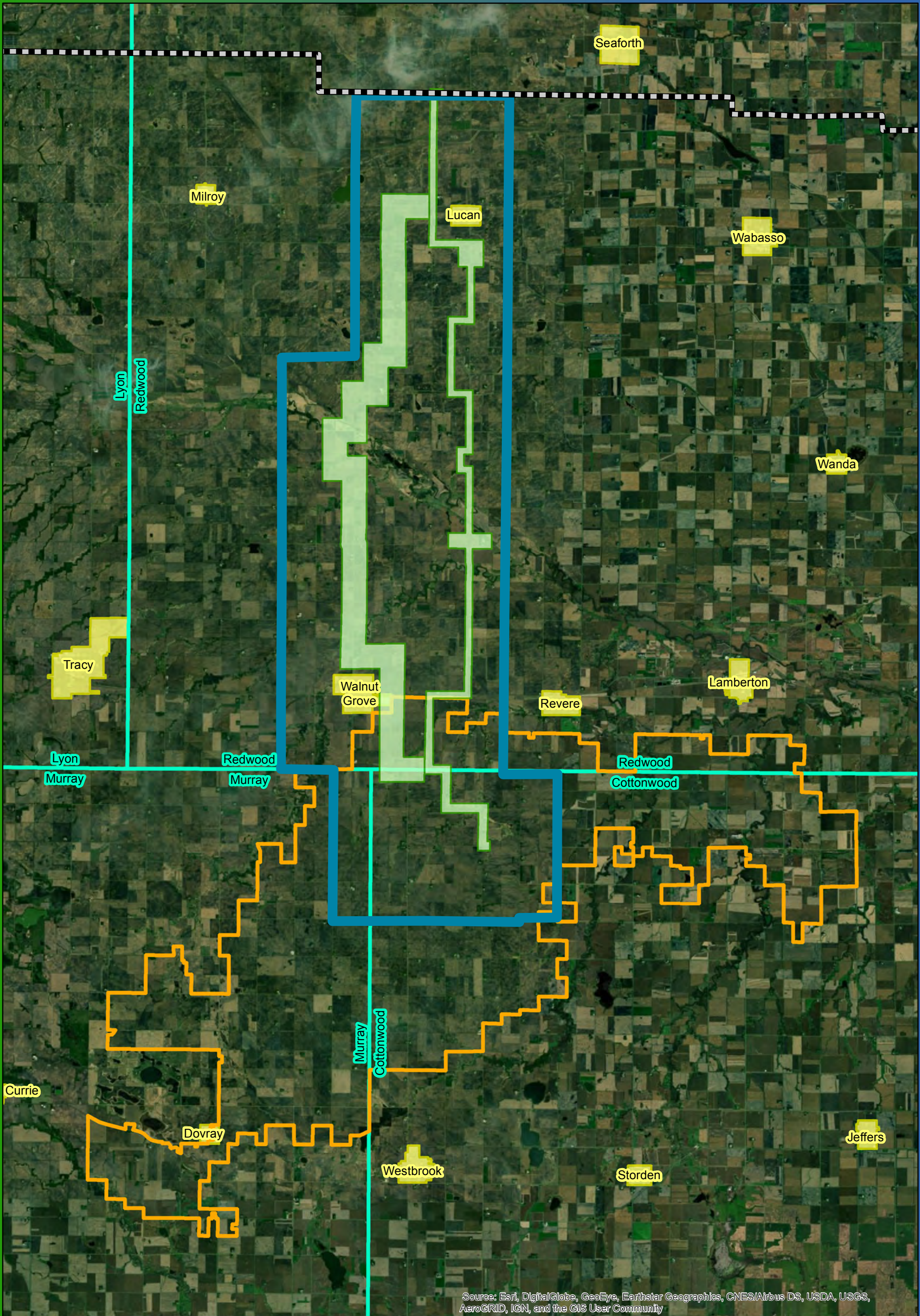
If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 952-988-9000 or at jenny@geronimoenergy.com.

Sincerely,

Jenny Monson-Miller
Permitting Specialist
Geronimo Energy

on behalf of Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Enclosure:
HVTL Location Map



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Plum Creek Wind Farm Project Boundary and Transmission Line Corridor

- Existing Brookings-Hampton 345-kV HVTL
- HVTL Routing Area
- Proposed Route Alternatives
- Wind Farm Boundary

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



44.082818, -95.250177



Agency Responses

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1678
October 15, 2018

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF
REGULATORY BRANCH

Regulatory File No. MVP-2018-03071-BBY

Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC
c/o Jenny Monson-Miller
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Dear Ms. Monson-Miller:

This letter responds to your request for comments about a project of Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC to construct a Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Cottonwood, Murray, and Redwood Counties, Minnesota. This letter provides some brief details about the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program with respect to utility activities. Please consider this information as you develop a clearer understanding of your project and what the impacts to aquatic resources may be.

The placement of aerial lines that cross navigable waters of the U.S. requires authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Underground utility lines through waters of the U.S., including wetlands, as well as navigable waters of the U. S. are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act if there is a discharge of dredged or fill material. Any discharge would require authorization by a general permit or letter of permission.

Underground lines installed by vibratory plow and directional bore method through waters of the U.S., including wetlands, do not involve a discharge and a permit is not required. However, if installation of connecting points requires excavation and backfill in waters of the U.S., including wetlands, a permit would be required.

The placement of poles, overhead wiring, and/or buried wiring at upland locations is not within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers, provided the work does not involve the placement of dredged or fill material into any waterbody or wetland.

Temporary placement of fill material into any waterbody or wetland for purposes such as bypass roads, temporary stream crossings, cofferdam construction, or storage sites may require a Department of the Army permit.

If any of the proposed projects would involve the placement of fill material, either permanent or temporary, please notify our office.

You may also need city, county, or State permits for the project. You should contact the appropriate agencies for their permit requirements. If the project includes the placement of dredged or fill material in a Federal regulated waterbody, we will notify the responsible State agency for water quality (401) certification.

Regulatory Branch (File No. 2018-03071-BBY)

You should also contact the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) to determine if there are any known historic or archeological sites in the area or if any cultural resource survey would be required.

If you have any questions, please contact me in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5975 or Brian.B.Yagle@usace.army.mil. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory file number shown above.

Sincerely,

Brian Yagle
Project Manager



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1678

10/10/2018

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF
REGULATORY BRANCH

Regulatory File No. MVP-2018-03071-BBY

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

Jenny Monson-Miller
Geronimo Energy
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 750
Edina, MN 55435

Dear Ms. Monson-Miller:

We have received your submittal described below. You may contact the Project Manager with questions regarding the evaluation process. The Project Manager may request additional information necessary to evaluate your submittal.

File Number: MVP-2018-03071-BBY

Applicant: Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC

Project Name: Plum Creek Wind Farm

Received Date: 10/03/2018

Project Manager: Brian Yagle
(651) 290-5975
Brian.B.Yagle@usace.army.mil

Additional information about the St. Paul District Regulatory Program, including the new Clean Water Rule, can be found on our web site at
<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory>.

Please note that initiating work in waters of the United States prior to receiving Department of the Army authorization could constitute a violation of Federal law. If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager.

Thank you.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District
Regulatory Branch



Topic: Introduction Meeting for the Plum Creek Wind Farm

Location: USFWS Ecological Services Field Office, 4101 American Boulevard East, Bloomington, MN 55425

Date: November 26, 2018

Attendees: Mags Rheude (USFWS), Brie Anderson (Merjent), Adam Kreger (WEST), Jenny Monson-Miller (Geronimo)

- BA and JMM gave a project introduction and schedule overview
 - Project Area is 90% cultivated crops
- AK gave an update on wildlife surveys to date
 - Bat acoustics and NLEB presence/absence for 2019
 - MR: Need mist-net handling permit for those surveys – for USFWS to track surveys that are done. Mags will send more information.
 - Eagle use: 27 eagle minutes as of October over four months of surveys
 - Eagle nests: four nests within 2 miles that were monitored throughout season
 - Nest 2023 failed early on after was observed
 - Flight paths were around the nests, did not observe any foraging behavior within project area
- Mags asked if Geronimo can share nest data; Adam or Jenny to provide as a shapefile
- 2019 eagle nest surveys: Mags recommended checking on nests from last year, additional 10-mile survey not needed, but should search areas within 10 miles of new boundary that were not previously surveyed
- Brie asked if USFWS had any recommendations for transmission routing? Mags: nothing in particular
- Jenny to send over shapefile of wind project footprint to assess for habitat features
 - Topeka shiner, Dakota skipper, Poweshiek skipperling? Not in shiner watershed, Great Plains toad, Poweshiek skipperling, and Wilson's phalarope are in the NHIS response. May require formal consultation for if the Project requires a 404 wetland permit.
 - There are some Sites of Biodiversity Significance within the Project Area, but they are below threshold (lower-quality) so not likely to cause significant issue.
- Center for Biological Diversity is challenging the northern-long eared bat 4(d) rule; Mags will send info over.
- Mags asked about waterfowl observations of WMA use?
 - Adam indicated not yet, but surveys started in the summer, so fall migration and next year will be more informative.

January 29, 2019

Conference call – 1:30-2:00



Plum Creek Meeting with Lower Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Attendees: Cheyenne St. John (Lower Sioux), Jenny Monson-Miller and Melissa Schmit (Geronimo), Brie Anderson and Mike Madson (Merjent)

- People introductions and roles in the Project
- Project Intro
 - Wind farm – 400 MW – Redwood, Cottonwood, Murray Counties
 - Transmission line – 345 kV transmission – Cottonwood and Redwood Counties
 - Route Permit Application (RPA) and Site Permit Application (SPA) submittal to PUC – anticipated early Q2
 - 2 routes for transmission RPA – almost entirely along roads, all roads and parcel lines
 - Early in development process
 - Environmental studies in 2019-2020
 - This meeting is in response to the Lower Sioux responding to the Notice Plan for the Route Permit indicating they have interest in the Project.
- Cheyenne St. John
 - THPO – since end of 2016; prior to that historic site manager (2014-2016)
 - Office is restructuring – adopted an organization plan that includes action-oriented objectives to serve as roadmap. Established cultural department.
 - Tribal Counsel, which includes herself, are reviewing large energy projects
- Cultural resources and areas of interest in Redwood and Cottonwood Counties
 - Red Rock Ridge – sensitive and significant to multiple tribes
 - Jeffers Petroglyphs – on Red Rock Ridge
 - Jeffers Petroglyphs itself ~8 miles east of project
 - Cottonwood River
 - Old wild rice sloughs
 - Habitation sites between Morton and Jeffers on the Cottonwood and tributaries
 - On-going tribal surveys with NextEra project that won't be on OSA portal
 - OSA portal does not take into consideration impact on viewshed
 - Contemporary sites – i.e., boys gathering area
- Brie provided an overview of the Route Permit process, including opportunities to participate. As the project is still under development and considering many environmental features and signing voluntary easement on private land, she mentioned it would be helpful to know of sites or other features that should be considered while routing. It's possible that not all sites can be avoided.
- Cheyenne requested digital data to help facilitate the tribe's review. A kmz of the Notice Area will be provided. Routes are still under development and cannot be shared at this time.
- Cheyenne will provide tribal areas to be considered by the end of February.

From: [Jenny Monson-Miller](#)
To: [Ben Leonard](#)
Subject: RE: Plum Creek Transmission Line Project
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Ben,

As I measure it, the closest point of the project area to the Petroglyphs is about 9.5 miles.

We are considering a range of turbine models at this point, but the high end of the range is around 550 feet in height.

Please reach out with any further questions.

Thank you,

Jenny

Jenny Monson-Miller

Permitting Specialist

7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725

Edina, MN 55435

Main: 952.988.9000

Direct: 952.358.5687

Cell: 651.894.3481

[Geronimo Energy](#)



From: Ben Leonard <ben.leonard@mnhs.org>
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 11:28 AM
To: Jenny Monson-Miller <jenny@geronimoenergy.com>
Subject: Plum Creek Transmission Line Project

Thank you for your November 16, 2018 letter detailing the Plum Creek wind farm and transmission line project. I would like to confirm a few questions.

It appears that the wind farm boundary is about 7 miles west of Jeffers Petroglyphs (27160 Co Rd 2, Comfrey, MN 56019). Is that accurate?

How high will the proposed wind generators be?

Thank you,

Ben

--

Ben Leonard, *Director, Greater Minnesota & Partnership Sites*
Learning Initiatives
Minnesota Historical Society
PO Box 556
St. Peter, MN 56082
507-340-7463



Topic: Introduction Meeting for the Plum Creek Wind Farm

Location: MnDNR Headquarters, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN

Date: October 22, 2018

Attendees: Kevin Mixon (MnDNR), Cynthia Warzecha (MnDNR), Brie Anderson (Merjent), Adam Kreger (WEST), Jordan Burmeister (Geronimo), Jenny Monson-Miller (Geronimo)

BA and JMM did a brief introduction to the project.

KM asked about the western route, and expressed concern about where the route crosses the Cottonwood River, as that particular crossing could negatively impact avian resources. He also noted that he did not feel that that flight diverters would reduce his concerns since they are not completely effective.

BA asked if moving the route slightly west at that point would alleviate KM's concerns.

KM said that it would, and suggested a change. He also noted that he had no concerns with the eastern route, except where both routes enter the project area.

KM asked about site control status for the routes, and JB gave an overview of the current status.

KM then noted concern about the path of the routes running into the project area due to potential impacts to a forested corridor at a PWI feature. He suggested moving the routes east to reduce PWI crossings and the forested areas more.

BA and JMM said Geronimo and Merjent would look at those changes.

CW also noted that Geronimo would need to submit a new NHIS request as they are only good for one year. She suggested sending a letter to Samantha Bump at the DNR asking for confirmation that the resource assessment is still the same, and submitting a new request for the transmission routes.

KM noted that getting a positive letter stating that the project avoids NHIS resources demonstrates positive and specific agency feedback for the project.

KM also suggested avoiding putting turbines within 1,000 feet of the Highwater and Dutch Charley creeks, as there are some trees along those creeks in particular that look like good bat habitat. KM also stated that he was not concerned about setbacks for the project from RIM easements.



AK gave an overview of the aerial raptor nest surveys for the project. He stated that the nests were monitored up to fledging time. He said that WEST did not observe any flight paths into the project, as there is not good foraging habitat within the project area.

KM recommended 2019 eagle nest surveys in addition to the ones done in 2018, at least within the project area.

AK further described the point count results for the project, and stated that while there were no eagle observations in June, July, or August, there were thirteen observations in September.

KM asked about timing for acoustics, and suggested that the acoustic surveys follow the MnDNR acoustic guidelines.

JMM asked about the guidelines. CW said she would send over the MnDNR's guidance documents.

AK said that WEST would look at observed nests adjacent to the transmission routes to determine how close they are (namely nests 1699 and 2035).

KM said that Geronimo could send the final route once permitted to the MnDNR to identify flight diverter locations.

KM also asked Geronimo to send over proposed layouts for review, and asked that Geronimo include a number of alternative sites.



November 4, 2019
Jenny Monson-Miller
Permitting Specialist
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Edina, MN 55435

Dear Jenny Monson-Miller,

The Minnesota Department of Natural resources received your letter (dated September 20, 2019) requesting comments on a proposed High Voltage transmission line needed to interconnect the proposed Plum Creek Wind Farm to the transmission grid.

Alternate route segment:

Based on DNR records, DNR and Geronimo staff met in October 2018 to discuss the two projects. At this meeting, DNR made a recommendation for an alternate route segment that would run east along Highway 14, turn south at Fairview Avenue, and turn south at County Highway 6 to its end point at the wind farms substation. This alternate route segment could avoid crossing four DNR public water streams. At the same meeting, the DNR recommended looking into route design that would avoid crossing the floodplain surrounding Plum Creek, particularly along the western route alternative. Maps showing the suggested alternate route segment and the avoidance area were provided by Kevin Mixon in an email after the meeting. These maps can be provided again, if needed.

NHIS review and Permitting:

According to DNR records, NHIS data was requested and received in 2017. As a reminder, NHIS reviews are valid for one year. As the project planning progresses, please remember to submit for a new NHIS review to DNR staff.

As a reminder, the DNR Division of Lands & Minerals is responsible for granting permission to companies that propose to cross public lands and waters with utility infrastructure projects; as shown in the provided map, both proposed transmission line route alternatives would cross DNR public waters and a utility license will be required from the DNR. Information can be found at the [DNR Utility Crossing website](#). Bird diverters may be required as part of the License application upon review by DNR staff.

Should work include impacts to public waters below the ordinary high water level (OHWL) of the public water crossings that would alter the course, current, or cross section of the public water, a Public waters work permit may also be required. A water use permit is required for all water users in

Minnesota withdrawing more than 10,000 gallons of water per day, from surface or groundwater, or one million gallons per year. Permit information and permit application forms can be found on the [DNR Water Permits websites](#) should this activity apply to this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments at this time. As the project design and permit application process continues, we may have additional comments and recommendations to provide.

Sincerely,

/s/Rebecca Horton

Planner Principal

CC: Cynthia Warzecha

Websites:

DNR Lands and Minerals Utility Crossing Website:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/utility_crossing/index.html

DNR Water Permits website:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/index.html>

From: [Roos, Stephan \(MDA\)](#)
To: [Melissa Schmit](#)
Subject: RE: Plum Creek Trans Line
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 11:48:49 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[02_Appendices.pdf](#)
[CapX2020 AIMP Final 23 Sep 09.pdf](#)

Hi Melissa,

I've attached some example powerline AIMPs for you folks to use as guides. In reality, there is a great deal of similarity between these and the ones you've done for solar sites, with the exception that transmission lines don't have to worry about vegetation re-establishment on ag lands since farming will likely continue (pasture land will need a vegetation plan, though). These deal mostly with pole placement, soil management, drain tiles, accommodating agricultural production, and weed control.

I'd imagine that the trans line AIMP should be much simpler and could be adapted directly from the ones you've already done for solar development.

BTW, the Xcel Huntley/Wilmarth trans line project required a full EIS so the AIMP was part of the appendices (attached). I can send you the rest of the EIS if you'd like but it's a pretty big file (70mb0).

From: Melissa Schmit <melissa@geronimoenergy.com>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 1:47 PM
To: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>
Cc: Jenny Monson-Miller <jenny@geronimoenergy.com>; Brie Anderson <brie.anderson@merjent.com>
Subject: RE: Plum Creek Trans Line

Hi Steve,

Thank you for the note and feedback. If you could provide examples that would be helpful. Jim Arndt will be assisting us with the AIMP and a call in early December would be helpful once he familiarizes himself with the project. If you can send me a few dates/times that would work for a call to touch base the first week in December I can set up a conference line and reserve the date.

Thanks again,



Melissa Schmit

Permitting Manager

E: melissa@geronimoenergy.com

P: 612-259-3095

[7650 Edinborough Way, Ste. 725,](#)



Edina, MN 55435
952-988-9000

From: Roos, Stephan (MDA) <stephan.roos@state.mn.us>

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2019 12:08 PM

To: Melissa Schmit <melissa@geronimoenergy.com>

Subject: Plum Creek Trans Line

Hi Melissa,

Just checking in on you phone message about the Plum Creek transmission line. I left a message a few days ago and haven't heard back so I'm not sure that it got through to you.

I just brushed up on the letter we got about the transmission line for the Plum Creek wind project . The proposed project is for a 25 mile 345kV line so we normally do ask for an AIMP on a transmission line of that scale, however, those are most often utility projects which have eminent domain rights so we feel justified in protecting the landowner and the productive capacity of the farmland soil.

In your case, you likely don't have eminent domain rights so we've never dealt with this situation before. We do think that there would be benefit in preparing an AIMP, not just for the land owners, but also for you in that it might be well received by the PUC and serve as a pretty solid management plan to present to land owners that has been approved by MDA and the PUC.

We don't want to add hoops to the process for you that don't serve any use and we can help you prepare one by providing examples from other trans line projects. We can schedule a call to talk this over.

Sorry for any inconvenience the delayed response has caused,
Steve

Steve Roos, PLA, ASLA

Environmental Planner

Energy and Environment Section

Agricultural Marketing and Development Division

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

625 Robert Street North

Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538

Ph: 651-201-6631



www.mda.state.mn.us

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From: [Jenny Monson-Miller](#)
To: [Dahlseide, Darlene \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: RE: Plum Creek Wind Farm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Darlene,

We are still undergoing engineering and turbine selection for the project, so I don't yet have the below-mentioned turbine and FAA items for your review. I will keep it on my list to provide each in the list once we have them in hand – likely within the next month.

The nearest airport to the project is the Tracy Municipal Airport, which is ~7.2 miles away from the closest possible turbine location.

Please let me know if any further information comes up that you'd like me to provide when available.

Thank you,

Jenny

Jenny Monson-Miller

Permitting Specialist

7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725

Edina, MN 55435

Main: 952.988.9000

Direct: 952.358.5687

Cell: 651.894.3481

[Geronimo Energy](#)



From: Dahlseide, Darlene (DOT) <darlene.dahlseide@state.mn.us>

Sent: Monday, October 8, 2018 9:22 AM

To: Jenny Monson-Miller <jenny@geronimoenergy.com>

Subject: Plum Creek Wind Farm

Jenny,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Plum Creek Wind Farm.

I have attached our brochure for tall structures in MN. Please be aware of the 6 mile buffer surrounding all MN Public Use Airports.

Do you have the following items that you can send me for further review of the project:

1. Potential Turbine Site locations (can be a pdf)
2. Height of turbines
3. Distance from any MN public use airports (can be combined with #1 above)
4. FAA 7460-1; ASN's

Thank you,

Darlene

Darlene Dahlseide | MnDOT Aeronautics

222 Plato Blvd E | St. Paul, MN 55107

651-234-7248

cid:image001.png@01D24FD4.DEF5D6C0



From: [Jenny Monson-Miller](#)
To: [Nick Klisch](#)
Cc: [Alex Schultz](#); [Jed Rhubee](#); [Gretchen Warner](#); [Kyle Pillatzki](#); [Jim Schmidt](#); [Donna Gravley](#)
Subject: RE: Plum Creek Wind Farm Request for Comment
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Nick,

Just left you a message. I appreciate the feedback, and please do give me a call if you want to discuss your comments or the project further. I will likely have some follow-up questions about the timing and contents of the agreement and transmission route review you mention once we are a little further along in the project's development timeline.

Looking forward to receiving feedback from others at the County as well.

Thanks,

Jenny

Jenny Monson-Miller

Permitting Specialist

7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725

Edina, MN 55435

Main: 952.988.9000

Direct: 952.358.5687

Cell: 651.894.3481

[Geronimo Energy](#)



From: Nick Klisch <Nick.Klisch@co.cottonwood.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, October 8, 2018 4:18 PM
To: Jenny Monson-Miller <jenny@geronimoenergy.com>
Cc: Alex Schultz <Alex.Schultz@co.cottonwood.mn.us>; Jed Rhubee

<Jed.Rhubee@co.cottonwood.mn.us>; Gretchen Warner
<Gretchen.Warner@co.cottonwood.mn.us>; Kyle Pillatzki <Kyle.Pillatzki@co.cottonwood.mn.us>;
Jim Schmidt <Jim.Schmidt@co.cottonwood.mn.us>; Donna Gravley
<Donna.Gravley@co.cottonwood.mn.us>

Subject: Plum Creek Wind Farm Request for Comment

Jenny, I received the attached request for comment. I have the following comments:

1. The County will require a Development Agreement that will include items such as a road use and repair agreement, ROW permitting (driveways, drainage, and utilities within road ROW), and a public drainage system agreement.
2. The County would like to review any transmission line routes adjacent to public roadways to ensure a safe and reasonable setback as it relates to traffic safety.

I also copied Alex Schulz who is the Planning and Zoning Director. He may have additional comments.

Nick Klisch, PE

Cottonwood County Public Works Director

1355 9th Ave

Windom, MN 56101

Phone: 507-831-1389 Ext # 8811

Fax: 507-831-2367

From: [Jean Christoffels](#)
To: [Jenny Monson-Miller](#)
Subject: Development Agreement
Date: Friday, December 7, 2018 12:03:56 PM
Attachments: [04-24-18 Murray County Development & Road Use Agreements and Road Bond.pdf](#)

Hi Jenny –

It was a pleasure visiting with you today regarding the Plum Creek wind farm in Murray County. As we discussed, please find attached a copy of the Development Agreement and Road Use Agreement used for another project located in both Murray and Pipestone counties. Let me know if you have any problems opening the document.

I look forward to continue working with you on this project, and if there is anything that changes with the County's Renewable Energy Ordinance, or that I find they are agreeable to a lesser setback for the project, I will let you know.

Have a great weekend.

Jean M. Christoffels

Jean M. Christoffels
Murray County Zoning/Environmental Administrator
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Redwood County Board of Commissioners

403 South Mill Street

P.O. Box 130

Redwood Falls, MN 56283

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redwoodcounty-mn.us



November 5, 2019

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Pl E #350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Letter of Support for the Plum Creek Wind Farm and associate 345 kV transmission line

Dear Commissioners,

The Redwood County Board of Commissioners are writing to express their support for the up to 414-megawatt (MW) Plum Creek Wind Farm and associated 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, which are currently being developed by Geronimo Energy in Redwood, Cottonwood, and Murray Counties, Minnesota. We believe the Plum Creek Wind Farm represents cost effective renewable energy generation, and we look forward to the project adding economic development to our region.

We believe these projects will bring significant economic development and will have a long-term financial benefit to the area. Once constructed, the Plum Creek Wind Farm will provide a boost in the local economy through production tax payments to Redwood, Cottonwood, and Murray Counties and the local Townships, to the local community through the community fund, and full-time jobs.

Overall, we are excited about the economic benefits of the Plum Creek Wind Farm, as well as the beneficial community impact the projects will have while providing clean renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Jim Salfer, Board Chair
Redwood County Board of Commissioners

1st District

LON WALLING

27784 County Hwy. 5
Milroy, MN 56263
(507) 828-4940

Lon_W@co.redwood.mn.us

2nd District

JIM SALFER

865 Pine Street
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3rd District

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4th District

BOB VANHEE

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(507) 616-1000

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5th District

DAVE FORKRUD

P.O. Box 235
Belview, MN 56214
(507) 430-1907

Dave_F@co.redwood.mn.us

From: [Jenny Monson-Miller](#)
To: [Annette Fiedler](#)
Subject: RE: Plum Creek Wind
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Thank you, Annette! We plan on initiating county outreach shortly here and will bring up your suggested development agreement when doing so.

Jenny

Jenny Monson-Miller

Permitting Specialist

7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725

Edina, MN 55435

Main: 952.988.9000

Direct: 952.358.5687

Cell: 651.894.3481

[Geronimo Energy](#)



From: Annette Fiedler <phydev@swrdc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 4:32 PM
To: Jenny Monson-Miller <jenny@geronimoenergy.com>
Cc: Lindsey Bruer (lindsey.bruer@state.mn.us) <lindsey.bruer@state.mn.us>;
nick_b@co.redwood.mn.us; Jared Morrill (jared.morrill@co.cottonwood.mn.us)
<jared.morrill@co.cottonwood.mn.us>; ronda.allis@state.mn.us; Piltaver, Angela (DOT)
<angela.piltaver@state.mn.us>; Keith Berndt <keith_b@co.redwood.mn.us>; Randy Groves
<rgroves@co.murray.mn.us>; Nick Klisch <Nick.Klisch@co.cottonwood.mn.us>; Jean Christoffels
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<Kevin.stevens@co.cottonwood.mn.us>; Magnus, Gerald <gmagnus@co.murray.mn.us>; Jens,
James <jjens@co.murray.mn.us>; Groebner, Dennis <dennis_g@co.redwood.mn.us>; Walling, Lon
<Lon_w@co.redwood.mn.us>; Annette Fiedler <phydev@swrdc.org>
Subject: Plum Creek Wind

Dear Jenny,

The SRDC will wait until you have the permit application into the PUC before we make comment on the project.

I wanted to just bring to your attention as you do the planning for the project:

1. The project is in two MnDOT districts. This link will give you an idea of state highway and bridge projects that may affect your project – it also has the contact information for the Planning Directors at District 7 and District 8
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/10yearplan/index.html>.
2. I would encourage you to work with all three counties in the development of a Development Agreement. We have noticed that a single point of contact between the developer and the county makes projects go smoother.

I look forward to reviewing your permit application.

Netty Fiedler

Annette Fiedler
SRDC Physical Development Director
RMEB Staff
SW CERT Coordinator
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www.swrdc.org



www.rmeb.org

Responsibility - Connectedness – Deliberative – Adaptability - Relator