

Appendix A

Agency Correspondence

Representative Project Notification Letters

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.

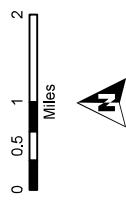
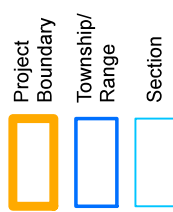
If you require further information or have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 952-988-9000 or at jenny@geronimoenergy.com.

Sincerely,

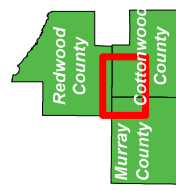
Jenny Monson-Miller
Permitting Specialist
Geronimo Energy
on behalf of Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Enclosure:
Plum Creek Location Map

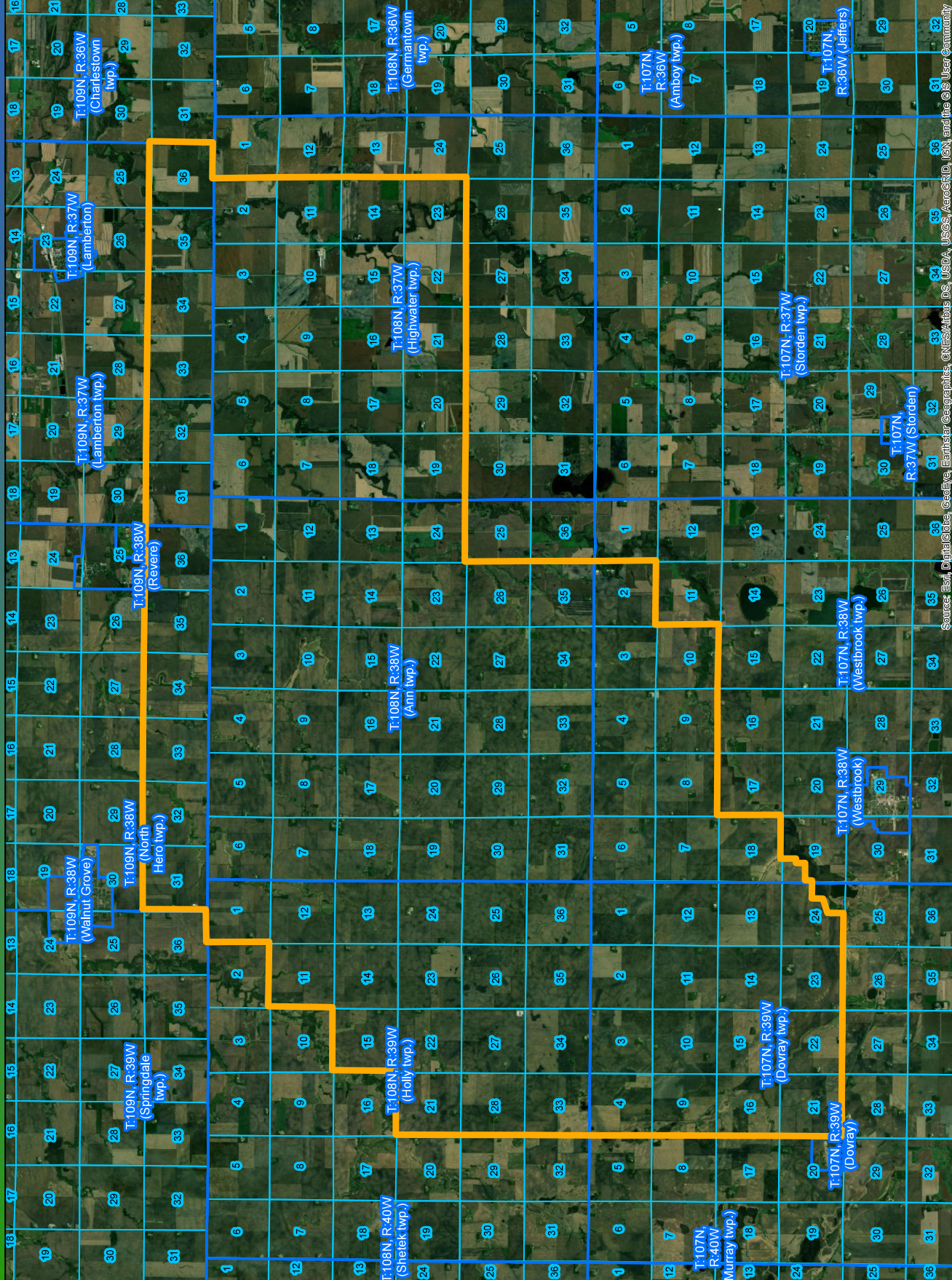
Plum Creek Wind Farm Preliminary Project Boundary



44.082818, -95.250177



Minnesota - 10/20/2015



June 28, 2019



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

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

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

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MN	Cottonwood	Ann	108N	38W	1-36
MN	Cottonwood	Germantown	108N	36W	7, 18
MN	Cottonwood	Highwater	108N	37N	1-14, 16-18, 20-21, 24-25
MN	Cottonwood	Westbrook	107N	38W	2-9
MN	Murray	Des Moines	106N	39W	4-5
MN	Murray	Dovray	107N	39W	1-16, 20-24, 28-33
MN	Murray	Holly	108N	39W	1-2, 11-15, 21-28, 30-33
MN	Murray	Murray	107N	40W	1, 12, 23-26, 36
MN	Redwood	Lamberton	109N	37W	31-36
MN	Redwood	North Hero	109N	38W	27-36

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

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

Sincerely,

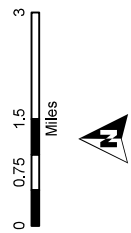
Jenny Monson-Miller
Permitting Specialist
Geronimo Energy
on behalf of Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Enclosure:
Plum Creek Location Map

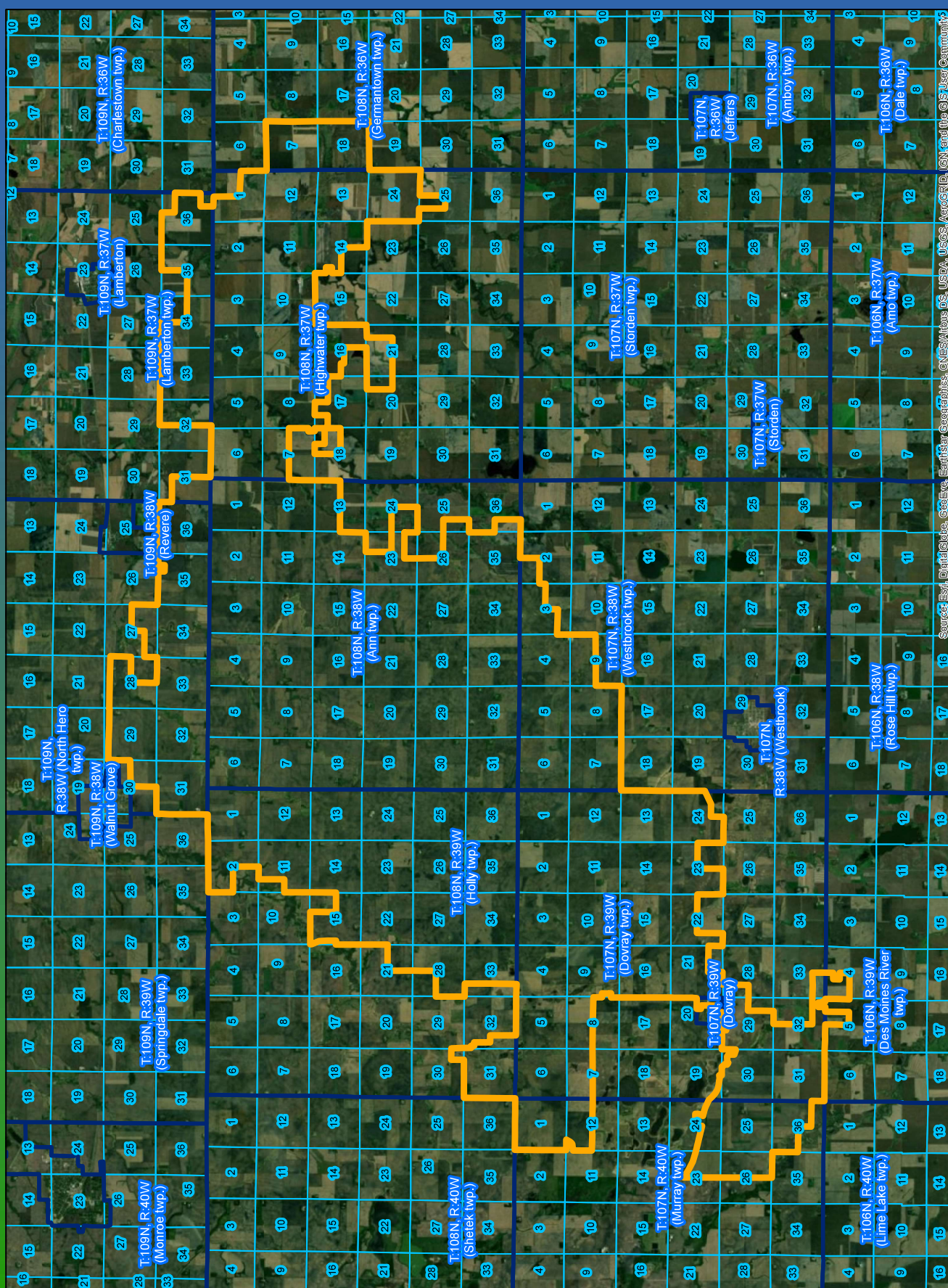
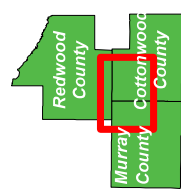
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44.082818, -95.250177



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Agency Responses

Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC sent project notification letters to the following agencies listed below on October 1, 2018 and June 28, 2019. Representative letters for each project notification mailing are provided below. The table below lists agencies that were provided notification letters and their responses.

Plum Creek Wind Farm Agency Correspondence	
Agency	Response
Federal	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, St. Paul District – Regulatory Branch	October 10, 2018 (Agency response) October 15, 2018 (Agency response)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office	November 26, 2018 (Meeting)
National Telecommunications Information Administration	November 12, 2019 (Agency response)
State	
Minnesota Historical Society – State Historic Preservation Office	November 6, 2018 (Agency response) November 26, 2018 (Agency response) November 28, 2018 (Applicant follow-up) July 9, 2019 (Agency response)
Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist	No response to date
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources –Energy Projects Review – State Office and Region 4 (South Region)	October 22, 2018 (Meeting)
Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Development and Financial Assistance Division	No response to date
Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) – District 8 (Southwest Region)	No response to date
MNDOT – District 7 (South Central Region)	No response to date
MNDOT – Aeronautics	October 8, 2018 (Agency response) October 9, 2018 (Applicant follow-up)
Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development	No response to date
Minnesota Department of Health	No response to date
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Environmental Review Unit	No response to date
Minnesota Department of Public Safety	No response to date
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	January 8, 2019 (Applicant call)
County	
Cottonwood County – Environmental Office	October 8, 2018 (Agency response) October 9, 2018 (Applicant response)
Cottonwood County – Public Works	October 8, 2018 (Agency response) October 9, 2018 (Applicant response)
Murray County Board of Directors	June 4, 2019 (Agency response)

Plum Creek Wind Farm Agency Correspondence	
Agency	Response
Murray County – Economic Development	No response to date
Murray County - Highway Department	No response to date
Murray County – Zoning	December 7, 2018 (Meeting)
Redwood County Board of Directors	November 5, 2019 (Letter of support)
Redwood County – Economic Development	No response to date
Redwood County – Environmental Office	No response to date
Redwood County – Highway Department	No response to date
Local Government Units	
Southwest Regional Development Commission	November 7, 2018 (Agency response) November 12, 2018 (Applicant response)
City of Lucan	No response to date
City of Walnut Grove	No response to date
Ann Township	No response to date
North Hero Township	No response to date
Johnsonville Township	No response to date
Gales Township	No response to date
Granite Rock Township	No response to date
Springdale Township	No response to date



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.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Jenny Monson-Miller
Permitting Specialist
GERONIMO ENERGY
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Edina, MN 55435

Re: Plum Creek Wind Farm: Redwood, Cottonwood & Murray Counties, MN

Dear Ms. Miller:

In response to your request on September 26, 2018, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration provided to the federal agencies represented in the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) the plans for the Plum Creek Wind Farm, located in Redwood, Cottonwood, and Murray Counties, Minnesota.

After a 45+ day period of review, no agencies had issues with turbine placement in this area.

While the IRAC agencies did not identify any concerns regarding radio frequency blockage, this does not eliminate the need for the wind energy facilities to meet any other requirements specified by law related to these agencies. For example, this review by the IRAC does not eliminate any need that may exist to coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration concerning flight obstruction.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these proposals.

Sincerely,

John R. McFall
Deputy Chief, Spectrum Services Division
Office of Spectrum Management



**DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

November 6, 2018

Ms. Jenny Monson-Miller
Permitting Specialist
Plum Creek Wind Farm
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Edina, MN 55435

RE: Proposed Plum Creek Wind Farm
Cottonwood, Murray and Redwood Counties
SHPO No. 2019-0097

Ms. Monson-Miller:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase IA literature review and archaeological assessment be completed to assess the potential for intact archaeological sites in the project area. If, as a result of this assessment, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended, this survey should be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation, and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking this type of research and archaeological surveys, please visit the website <http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/preservation-directory>, and select "Archaeologists, Contract" in the "Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact our Environmental Review Program at (651) 201-3285.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Environmental Review Program Manager

MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

50 Sherburne Avenue □ Administration Building 203 □ Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 □ 651-201-3287

mn.gov/admin/shpo/ □ mnshpo@state.mn.us

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICE PROVIDER

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

July 9, 2019

Ms. Jenny Monson-Miller
Permitting Specialist
Geronimo Energy
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Edina, MN 55435

RE: Proposed Plum Creek Wind Farm
Cottonwood, Murray and Redwood Counties
SHPO No. 2019-0097

Ms. Monson-Miller:

We have received the boundary update for the Plum Creek Wind Farm Project in your letter dated June 28, 2018. This information has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Office by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

In our November 6, 2018, letter to you, we recommended a Phase Ia literature review and archaeological assessment, due to the nature and location of the proposed project. After reviewing the updated boundary information, we continue to recommend a Phase Ia literature review and archaeological assessment. If, as a result of this assessment, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended, this survey should be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation, and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking this type of research and archaeological surveys, please visit the website <http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/preservation-directory>, and select "Archaeologists, Contract" in the "Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact our Environmental Review Program at (651) 201-3285.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Environmental Review Program Manager



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.

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

Brie Anderson

From: Alex Schultz <Alex.Schultz@co.cottonwood.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 10:45 AM
To: Nick Klisch; Jenny Monson-Miller
Cc: Jed Rhubee; Gretchen Warner; Kyle Pillatzki; Jim Schmidt; Donna Gravley
Subject: RE: Plum Creek Wind Farm Request for Comment

Jenny, The county Planning and Zoning will also require a Conditional Use Permit for the use of this land

Here is the link to an application: <http://www.co.cottonwood.mn.us/county-departments/planning-and-zoning/applications-and-forms/>

The download is under conditional use permit application

Thanks,

Alex Schultz

Planning and Zoning Technician
Cottonwood County
339 9th St
Windom, MN 56101

From: Nick Klisch
Sent: Monday, October 8, 2018 4:18 PM
To: 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



Murray County Board of Commissioners
2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57
Slayton, MN 56172

June 4, 2019

Ms. Jenny Monson-Miller
Geronimo Energy
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Minneapolis, MN 55435

Dear Ms. Monson-Miller,

It is our understanding that Geronimo Energy is developing and siting a 400 MW wind farm, known as Plum Creek Wind (Project), in the northeast corner of Murray County and in parts of Cottonwood and Redwood counties. It is also understood that this Project requires a Site Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) due to the size being greater than 25 MW.

Under Minnesota Statute Section 216F.081, "The commission, in considering a permit application for LWECS [a large wind electric conversion system,] in a county that has adopted more stringent standards, shall consider, and apply those more stringent standards, unless the commission finds good cause not to apply the standards." Geronimo Energy has questioned whether the Murray County Renewable Energy Ordinance (Ordinance), Section 8, Subdivision 1, Subpart 7, specifically the 3 Rotor Diameter (RD) east-west and 5 RD north-south axis setback was intended to be more restrictive than the PUC 3/5 prevailing winds setback language, and if it was truly Murray County's intent to regulate setbacks on all United States Fish and Wildlife (USFW) wetlands types III, IV, and V.

The Murray County Planning Commission (Commission) and the Murray County Board of Commissioners (Board) would like to clarify that it was not the County's intent to be more restrictive than the PUC pertaining to the 3 RD and 5 RD prevailing wind language. Furthermore, Murray County did not intend to regulate all types III, IV, and V wetlands, but rather only those Public Water Wetland types III, IV, and V which are 10 acres or greater.

Based on this information, the Commission is proposing to amend the Ordinance to only regulate those wetland types III, IV, and V that are 10 acres or greater. It is understood that Geronimo Energy is planning to incorporate this updated language into the site plan development for the Project. However, the Commission and the Board cannot guarantee the amendment will pass until the proposal has been fully vetted during the public hearing process and receives final approval of the Board.

District 1
James Jens

District 2
Lori Gunnink

District 3
Dennis Welgraven

District 4
James Kluis

District 5
David Thiner

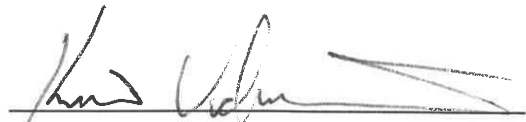
Ms. Jenny Monson-Miller
Geronimo Energy
June 4, 2019
Page 2

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Jean Christoffels, Murray County Zoning/Environmental Administrator at (507) 836-1166 or via email: jchristoffels@co.murray.mn.us.

Sincerely,



David Thiner
Murray County Board Chairman



Kevin Vickerman
Murray County Planning Commission Chairman

District 1
James Jens

District 2
Lori Gunnink

District 3
Dennis Welgraven

District 4
James Kluis

District 5
David Thiner

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
PO Box 57 – 2500 28th Street
Slayton, MN 56172
507-836-1166
Fax 507-836-8904
jchristoffels@co.murray.mn.us
www.murraycountymn.com

Redwood County Board of Commissioners

403 South Mill Street

P.O Box 130

Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Phone: (507) 637-4016 Fax: (507) 637-4017

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
Wabasso, MN 56293
(507) 342-2431

Jim_S2@co.redwood.mn.us

3rd District

DENNIS GROEBNER

250 Center Street
Clements, MN 56224
(507) 692-2235

Dennis_G@co.redwood.mn.us

4th District

BOB VANHEE

503 Fallwood Road
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
(507) 616-1000

Bob_V@co.redwood.mn.us

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
<jchristoffels@co.murray.mn.us>; Appel, Tom <Tom.Appel@co.cottonwood.mn.us>; Stevens, Kevin
<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
2401 Broadway Ave
Slayton, MN 56172
507.836.1631 FAX 507.836.8866
phydev@swrdc.org



www.swrdc.org



www.rmeb.org

Responsibility - Connectedness – Deliberative – Adaptability - Relator